

## LAND ACQUISITION EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- DATE:** January 13, 2009
- PROJECT:** South Florida Water Management District Florida Forever Work Plan
- PURPOSE:** 2009 Annual Update Contained in Chapter 6A, Volume II of the South Florida Environmental Report
- RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt the SFWMD Florida Forever Work Plan, 2009 Annual Update, contained in Chapter 6A, Volume II of the 2009 South Florida Environmental Report; providing an effective date.

**HIGHLIGHTS:** The 2009 SFER – Volume II, Chapter 6A presents the 2009 Florida Forever Work Plan. The Plan identifies the projects eligible for funding under the Florida Forever Act, along with the projected revenues and expenditures for fiscal years 2009 - 2013. In addition, a summary of land acquisition activity as of September 30, 2008 is provided. Details on the District's land management activities are presented in Volume II, Chapter 6B.

The 2009 FFWP identifies a total of 61 eligible projects that includes the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), expedited CERP, Florida Forever/Save Our Rivers (FF/SOR), Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP), and other related projects. Seven new projects were added, one for recreation and six for NEEPP. Also, the River of Grass Acquisition Project is included as an eligible project, in accordance with the October 9, 2008 adopted amendment adding the project to the 2008 Florida Forever Work Plan.

The projected five-year expenditures for eligible projects is \$1.1 billion, of which \$175 million will be used to acquire land; \$836 million to construct projects; and \$53 million to fund other water quality and supply initiatives, plans, and studies. This Plan marks a major shift by the SFWMD to fund construction projects, water quality and supply initiatives, plans, and studies under the Florida Forever Program. The planned construction of the Kissimmee River Boat Ramp represents the first time funds will be used for a land management/recreation purpose.

**FLORIDA'S LEGISLATURE CONTINUES ITS COMMITMENT TO FUND EVERGLADES RESTORATION:** In 2008, the Florida legislature, through Senate Bill 542, renewed FF funding for 10 more years at \$300 million, annually; bringing the 20-year total up to \$6 billion. The SFWMD's new yearly allocation of FF funds will be \$31.5 million, scheduled to begin in 2010. Over the next five years anticipated revenues total \$1 billion, of which FF funds totaling \$162.75 million will be used for land acquisitions, while the majority of the \$850 million SOETF funds will be used to construct projects. The District will seek additional funding alternatives, including Certificates of Participation, to fund the costs of eligible projects.

**DISTRICT ACQUIRES LAND FOR WATER RESOURCE PROJECTS:** Several key acquisitions were achieved within the Northern Everglades – the 1,773-acre Boma parcel was acquired for \$37 million to construct the Caloosahatchee River Basin Water Quality Treatment and Testing Facility; and the 1,822-acres Brady Ranch parcel was acquired for \$30 million to construct the Lake Okeechobee Water Quality Treatment Facility. Totalling over 229,000 acres, nearly 59 percent of the land required for CERP has been acquired as of the end of the fiscal year.

**FY2008 LAND ACQUISITION RESULTS**

- 22,796 acres of land acquired for \$196 million, which includes obligations to make future payments totaling \$38.7 million
  - 9,588 acres through purchase, 13,019 through donation and exchanges
- Local governments contributed \$16.2 million for land acquisitions
- Federal government contributed \$9.56 for land acquisitions
- FF/SOETF, respectively, funded \$40 million and \$43.4 million for land acquisitions
- Expended \$1.3 million of P-2000 funds for land acquisitions
- Mitigation funds totaling \$4.6 million were used to acquire natural lands in the Pennsuco Wetlands Project

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