

**SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (SFWMD)
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION (WRAC)
SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS
JANUARY – DECEMBER 2006:**

SFWMD STRATEGIC PLAN:

- Recommended that the FY 2006-07 SFWMD Strategic Plan emphasize restoring Biscayne and Florida Bays and adding more water storage to protect Lake Okeechobee, and the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries.

WRAC PRIORITY PLAN:

- Proposed an updated WRAC Priority Plan to the SFWMD Governing Board. The Governing Board approved the plan in October, 2006.

EVERGLADES RESTORATION:

- Recommended moving forward with:
 1. C-44 Reservoir Preliminary Design;
 2. Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir Structures Preliminary Design;
 3. Picayune Strand Canals/Levees/Roads Basis of Design.
 4. Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Basis of Design;
 5. C-111 Spreader Canal Basis of Design and improvements to the C-111 Project Implementation Report.

- Recommended expedited permits for maintaining Tamiami Trail Water Control Structures (S-12 Structures) to improve water flow from Water Conservation Area 3 (WCA-3) into Everglades National Park.

- Recommended using Acceler8 funds to acquire land for the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands project.

- Recommended changes to the federal Draft Interim Goals and Targets Agreement including a statement that federal and state agencies would expedite permit reviews for Everglades restoration projects. Changes were agreed to by the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force in September, 2006.

- Supported the Draft Land Acquisition Strategy for presentation to the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

- Recommended that the SFWMD Governing Board urge the U.S. Congress to fully fund the President's Fiscal Year 2007 Budget for Everglades Restoration.

LAKE OKEECHOBEE AND ESTUARY PROTECTION/RESTORATION:

- Recommended to the SFWMD Governing Board that adjustments be made to the Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule to protect the health of the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries through appropriate pulse releases.
- Recommended that SFWMD staff work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Florida Department of Community Affairs, Division of Emergency Management, and local officials, to address Herbert Hoover Dike repair studies and emergency planning issues.
- Recommended that SFWMD conduct a feasibility study about the use of deep injection technology in Lake Okeechobee basins to reduce harmful discharges to the estuaries.
- Recommended that the Lake Okeechobee Committee review the Corps of Engineers' "Tentatively Selected Plan" for lake regulation schedule revisions, and forward consensus recommendations to the Governing Board as stakeholder recommendations and comments.

WATER SUPPLY:

- Recommended that the SFWMD Governing Board approve the Upper East Coast, Lower West Coast, and Kissimmee Basin Water Supply Plans, with suggestions for clarification.
- Supported moving forward with Florida Bay Minimum Flows and Levels proposed rule.
- Endorsed the Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 Alternative Water Supply program (80 projects funded for \$43.1 million) and supported moving forward with the FY 2007 Alternative Water Supply program.

WATER QUALITY:

- Recommended moving forward with revisions to "The Long Term Plan to Improve Water Quality", and enhancements to the Stormwater Treatment Areas.
- Recommended that the Governing Board approve a request to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, to extend the deadline by one month for comments regarding a proposed "Total Maximum Daily Loads" (TMDLs) for Lake Okeechobee tributaries.

RECREATIONAL USE AND PUBLIC ACCESS ON SFWMD LANDS:

- Recommended that the SFWMD Governing Board approve a Test Hunt for Alligators on Stormwater Treatment Area 5 (STA-5), to be managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

- **The WRAC endorsed staff recommendations to the Governing board regarding 2006 waterfowl hunting on the Stormwater Treatment Areas, and small game hunting on several vacant land parcels.**