

**Report on the South Florida Water Management District's
September 26th Water Resources Advisory Commission
Lower West Coast Water Supply Plan Update Meeting**

The meeting was held at the District's Lower West Coast Service Center in Fort Myers. Governing Board member Alice Carlson opened the meeting. She introduced John Mulliken, who serves as Director of the Planning and Resource Evaluation Division of the District.

- ◆ Mr. Mulliken provided an overview of the process being used to update the Water Supply Plan.
 - Senate Bill 444, which passed during Florida's 2005 legislative session, changed the role of water supply plans, revised the content requirements of water supply plans, and provided funding for projects.
 - While the original deadline for the Water Supply Plan Update was this fall, the passage of SB444 delayed the work, and the new timeline the District intends to follow calls for all Updates to be completed by July of 2006.
 - Required Plan elements include:
 - Updated demand estimates to 2025
 - Resource analysis
 - Issue identification
 - Water source evaluation
 - Water resource development projects
 - Water supply development projects
 - There will be NO NEW MODELING in the process to update the Water Supply Plan (this gives many utility representatives and others at the meeting heartburn, as it was an issue five years ago when the Plan was last updated).
 - In the past, local governments have been required to "consider" Water Supply Plan recommendations. Now, approval of Water Supply Plans by Water Management Districts will require local governments to respond to recommended projects within 12 months and update their Comprehensive Plans in 18 months.

- ◆ Carl Woehlke, Lead Economist in the District's Water Supply Department, presented information related to revised demand projections.
 - Information was limited to population and public water supply demand projections. Data regarding natural system needs, agricultural use and irrigation demands was not presented. After being asked about this, Mr. Mulliken responded that modeling for agriculture and irrigation is being based on land use, and that modeling work for reservations of water throughout the greater Everglades is about 40 days behind schedule. He also said he hopes to have this information this fall.
 - Projections have been updated to match population figures from BEBR and TAZ projections. Collier County population numbers reflect DCA approved figures.
 - John Capece noted that the numbers for Hendry County are significantly off. Raw water pumpage figures provided at the meeting do not reflect new water plants that have been permitted. This will need to be corrected.

- ◆ Jane Bucca, Senior Supervising Planner in the District's Water Supply Department, shared information about funding for Initial Alternative Water Supply Projects.
 - For 2006, \$30 million in State funding is being provided for alternative water supply *construction* projects.
 - Alternative Water Supply includes:
 - Saltwater and brackish water
 - Surface water captured during wet weather

- Sources made available through new storage
 - Reclaimed water
 - Stormwater (for consumptive use)
 - Other nontraditional sources
- 48 Projects have been submitted for funding consideration by entities in Southwest Florida
 - 33 from Collier County
 - 13 from Lee County
 - 2 from Hendry County
- ◆ Linda Hoppes, Lower West Coast Plan Manager for the District's Water Supply Department, spoke about Future Water Supply Projects (Fiscal Years 2007-2025)
 - The South Florida Water Management District's share of State funding will be \$18 million, and the District will supplement that with an additional \$18 million.
 - State funding may be provided to local governments and water suppliers for the *construction* of projects.
 - Supplemental funding may be used to assist with planning, design, feasibility studies and other preliminary development activities.
 - 80% of projects funded must be listed in Water Supply Plans. Up to 20% of the funding can be used for projects not listed in Water Supply Plans.

The District will soon provide potential project sponsors with the paperwork they will need to submit in order for projects to be considered for funding. The turn around time will be short – the paperwork will be due back to the District in October.

As a result of this meeting, a small group will meet on October 5th to discuss the Recycleable Water Containment Area concept and its potential to help meet future water supply needs.