

**e-Resource** is a monthly electronic communiqué designed to keep you apprised of the community and legislative activities undertaken by the Southwest Florida Water Management District and provide up-to-date information on important water issues.



**Issue 34**  
November 2008

To subscribe, email us at  
CommunityAffairs@WaterMatters.org

## Tampa Bay Restoration

With assistance from Senator Dennis Jones and Representative Ed Hooper, the District secured \$1 million in state funding during the 2008 legislative session for ongoing Tampa Bay restoration projects. This restoration is an ongoing initiative and Tampa Bay is the District's top Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Program priority water body. Since 1950, about 50 percent of the bay's natural shoreline and 40 percent of its seagrass acreage have been lost as a result of physical destruction and water quality impairment. This resulted in a decline in the aesthetic, recreational and commercial value of the bay, as well as a loss of habitat for native plants and animals.

There are four SWIM projects that will be receiving a portion of this appropriation. The Shore Acres Stormwater Vaults is a cooperative funding project with the City of St. Petersburg to design, permit and construct water quality and flood protection vaults in the city's low-lying Shore Acres area. The removal of trash, debris and heavy solids from the stormwater runoff will provide an improvement to the surrounding receiving water bodies and ultimately to Tampa Bay.

The MacDill Air Force Base Phase 3 project is a cooperative restoration effort between SWIM and the U.S. Air Force. The project involves lands associated with the base golf course, a drainage canal, a borrow pit/stormwater pond and preserve areas. Restoration will involve stormwater treatment; the creation of a low-salinity lagoon, tidal channels, tidal marshes; and estuarine wetland and upland enhancement.

The Rock Pond Ecosystem Restoration project involves the design, permitting and construction of an ecosystem restoration effort in southwestern Hillsborough County. This project will restore coastal wetland communities along with various upland habitats. Restoration of these communities will help offset habitat losses suffered throughout Tampa Bay and will prove valuable for the public and thousands of coastal species that use the Tampa Bay ecosystem.

Finally, the Tropic Hills Drainage Improvement project is a cooperative funding project with the City of Clearwater to implement the best management practices of the District's Watershed Management Program. The project provides water quality benefits to Tampa Bay through channel alterations that will provide stormwater treatment, reduce downstream erosion and improve habitat.



*Photos, from top to bottom: Tampa Bay skyline; Tampa Bay shoreline and habitat; and aerial of Tampa Bay.*

Cooperative  
Funding  
Initiative



**Don't Forget!**

Cooperative Funding applications are  
due December 5, 2008, by 2 p.m.



## District Welcomes New Community Affairs Program Manager

The District's Community and Legislative Affairs Department is pleased to welcome Cori Cuttler, Community Affairs Program Manager covering Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas counties. A Florida native, Cori has worked with the Florida Legislature for over five years as a legislative aide in the House of Representatives and served two members from the Tampa Bay area. Most recently she was the legislative aide for Representative Rich Glorioso.



As a community affairs program manager, Cori will coordinate activities with state and regional agencies, local governments, civic groups and other organizations. She is the contact for the District's cooperative funding program. This includes communicating Basin Board priorities annually, soliciting proposals from local governments and others and coordinating review of projects in the budget adoption process. Cori can be reached at the Tampa Service Office at (813) 985-7481, ext. 2036, or at [cori.cuttler@WaterMatters.org](mailto:cori.cuttler@WaterMatters.org). We are pleased to have her on board.

### Federal Update Stimulus Package Expected in January

The new Presidential administration and Congress is laying the groundwork for quick enactment in January of a two-year economic stimulus package that would possibly total over \$500 billion dollars. This stimulus package would provide funding for a variety of infrastructure projects. Funding mechanisms in the stimulus package may include Private Activity Bonds, Tax Credits Bonds, and an increase to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) State Revolving Fund. The National Rural Water Association (NRWA), of which the District is a member, is urging Congress to fund ready-to-go infrastructure projects through the United States Department of Agriculture.

### District Speakers Bureau

The District's Speakers Bureau has professional staff members available to share their knowledge and expertise on a wide variety of topics. Programs are presented at no charge within the District's 16-county area. The District's Speakers Bureau can offer various presentations on topics such as District 101, land management, water resources for the future, water conservation, and statewide water management issues.

If you would like to request a speaker, please contact Susan Kessel at 1-800-423-1476, ext. 4760.

### Water Shortage Order Tightens Restrictions in Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas

At the October Governing Board meeting, at the request of Tampa Bay Water, Board members approved Water Shortage Order No. SWF 08-044, which modifies the existing water shortage restrictions in Pinellas, Pasco and Hillsborough counties. This new order tightens the provisions for fountains and certain lawn and landscape irrigation practices. It also requires public suppliers to take additional action, including increased restriction enforcement. This District declaration, combined with the recent extension of Water Shortage Order No. SWF 07-02, restricts lawn watering to once per week through June 30, 2009, unless other action is taken.

and desalination plant, Tampa Bay Water remains on track to meet the pumping cutback of 90 million gallons per day.

For more details about the current restrictions, please visit the District's web site at [WaterMatters.org](http://WaterMatters.org).



The additional measures were enacted because of decreased surface water availability. The regional reservoir currently contains 4.5 billion gallons, which Tampa Bay Water anticipates using through the end of the calendar year. With the use of the reservoir

Southwest Florida  
Water Management District

WATERMATTERS.ORG · 1-800-423-1476

*The District does not discriminate based on disability. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the Community and Legislative Affairs Department at (352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only).*