

**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 13**  
July/August 2006  
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## Florida League of Cities Conference

The Community and Legislative Affairs Department recently participated in the Florida League of Cities 80th Annual Conference in Jacksonville. The District's booth at the conference focused on communicating three primary issues: alternative water supply development, regional water supply planning and regional

cooperation. Additionally, the venue provided an opportunity for staff to become more familiar with both the challenges faced by local governments and opportunities that may be created to enhance existing partnerships.

"This conference provides an excellent opportunity for us to network with our municipal officials

in a less formal setting," said Jimmy Brooks, Senior Community Affairs Coordinator for the District. "I believe that this promotes a better understanding of the issues we all face in accomplishing our goals."

More than 300 local elected officials from throughout Florida attended the conference.

## Senate Passes Water Resources Development Act *Federal Update*

The Senate approved the 2006 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) last month — a year after the House passed its latest version, and six years after the most recent WRDA was passed into law. This legislation could have deep implications for aging U.S. water infrastructure and environmental restoration.

Following more than ten hours of debate, the \$12 billion Army Corps project bill passed by a voice vote. The legislation authorizes hundreds of water projects around the country, including \$1.2 billion for Indian River Lagoon restoration and roughly \$1.6 billion for Everglades restoration.

Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Russ Feingold (D-WI) were successful in obtaining approval on an amendment that passed 54-46. The amendment requires independent peer review of Army Corps projects that cost more than \$40 million and would mandate independent review of the economic and environmental effects of projects. A state governor and the secretary of the Army could also call for such reviews. "Clearly the system needs to be fixed," McCain said. "What we're asking for is rather modest." The amendment also would establish an outside safety review for flood damage reduction projects.

The bill will now move to a conference committee where lawmakers from the House and Senate will compare bills and resolve differences.





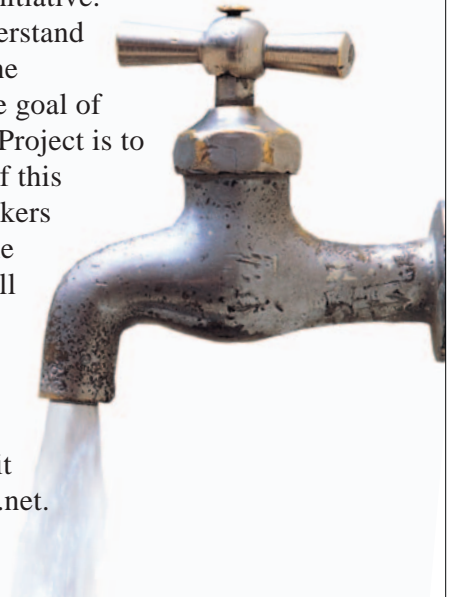
## The Water Governance Project

Senior Community Affairs Coordinator Rand Baldwin has been coordinating with Ph.D. candidate Ramiro Berardo on the Water Governance Project. The Water Governance Project is a research effort funded by the National Science Foundation (SES-0519459) and located at Florida State University. It is not affiliated with any governmental agency including the Southwest Florida Water Management District (District). In addition to Berardo, the research team is composed of other graduate and undergraduate students, as well as several professors.

The Water Governance Project research team is currently exploring the role of policy networks. In particular, the team of researchers seeks to analyze how policymakers in the jurisdiction of the District create projects to improve or protect water resources. Over the past two months, the research team has been collecting

information on projects from cooperators who have applied for financial support from the District's Cooperative Funding Initiative.

The objective is to understand what factors enhance the success of projects. The goal of the Water Governance Project is to share the conclusions of this research with policymakers across the country in the hope that the results will help all agencies and stakeholders work together more successfully. For more information, please visit [www.watgovernance.net](http://www.watgovernance.net).



## CLA Welcomes New Community Affairs Coordinator

The Community and Legislative Affairs (CLA) Department is pleased to welcome Terri Behling, APR, as the new Community Affairs Coordinator (CAC) covering Sarasota, Manatee, DeSoto and Charlotte counties. Terri has been in the community for more than ten years and most recently was the director of media relations for KSC Advertising and Public Relations. She also served as the public relations manager for Mote Marine Laboratory. She earned her Accreditation in Public Relations (APR) in 2004 and brings extensive public and community relations experience to the position.

As the new CAC, Terri will coordinate activities with state and regional agencies, local governments,



*Terri Behling, Community Affairs Coordinator*

civic groups and other organizations. She is also the four-county contact for the District's Basin Board cooperative funding program. This includes annual communication of Basin Board priorities, soliciting proposals from local governments

and others, and coordinating review of projects in the budget adoption process.

Terri and her husband reside in Bradenton and have two children. She can be reached via the Sarasota Service Office at (941) 377-3722, ext. 6528, or [Terri.Behling@WaterMatters.org](mailto:Terri.Behling@WaterMatters.org). We are pleased to have her on board.

**Southwest Florida**  
*Water Management District*

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