



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

STATEMENT

August 23, 2007

Statement from the South Florida Water Management District

Re: Notice of Intent to Sue from the Florida Sugar Cane League

"We are disappointed and concerned about the monumental burden this action, if successful, would place on the State's resources and the District's ability to manage Florida's waters for the safety and welfare of its citizens.

The consequences of misapplying the Clean Water Act and the far-reaching effects on the District's ability to provide flood control, protect water supplies and restore the environment have been our deepest concern from the start.

As today's action demonstrates, implications of the S-2, S-3 and S-4 case extend well beyond these three Lake Okeechobee structures. Federal permits could potentially be imposed on hundreds of District structures, impacting our urban areas, the Everglades and the entire South Florida ecosystem.

As reflected in the District's appeal of the Judge Altonaga order, Florida's robust permitting system already ensures that our operations comply with State law and adhere to the standards of the Clean Water Act. We will continue to pursue all available legal avenues to protect our ability to manage Florida's water resources on behalf of our citizens and the natural environment."

Copy of the [Notice of Appeal](#)
Copy of the [Permit Application](#) and [Cover Letter](#)
[Previous statement and Q & A](#)

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About the South Florida Water Management District

The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.