

Memorandum



Date: August 20, 2012

To: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez and Members
Board of County Commissioners

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor 

Subject: South Florida Water Management Approves the Second Amendment to the
County's 20-Year Water Use Permit

I am pleased to inform you that the South Florida Water Management District has approved a second amendment to the County's 20-Year Water Use Permit to authorize use of the Floridan aquifer as the major source of water supply for the South Miami Heights Water Treatment Plant. The permit, as originally issued, had required the construction of a reclaimed water facility to replenish the Biscayne aquifer for the South Miami Heights Water Treatment Plant. Approval of this second amendment enables the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department (WASD) to avoid costs of about \$300 million required for the construction of the reclaimed water facility, along with the operating costs of such a facility.

As a result of groundwater modeling work undertaken by WASD Staff, the second amendment also increases the total authorized Biscayne aquifer withdrawal from 347 million gallons per day to 349.5 million gallons per day, by increasing the permitted withdrawal rate from one of the wellfields supplying the Alexander Orr Water Treatment Plant. This is significant because the Biscayne aquifer is the County's lowest cost source of water.

WASD is planning to submit a third amendment in the next 12 to 18 months when new population projections based upon the 2010 census and long term planning forecasts become available. If the consistently lower per capita water consumption rates that have resulted from a successful water conservation program continue, the 20-year water demand forecast will be reduced, thereby further reducing the need to expand expensive water supply capacity in the future.

WASD continues to work in a productive partnership with the South Florida Water Management District staff and Governing Board to balance the many competing needs for water supply, stormwater management, and protection of the Everglades and our natural systems. I am committed to maintaining this positive relationship as we address the many water management challenges that the future will surely bring.

If you have any questions, please contact John W. Renfrow, P.E., at 786-552-8086.

c: Alina T. Hudak, County Manager/Deputy Mayor
John W. Renfrow, P.E., Director, Water and Sewer Department