

## **South Florida Water Management District**

Holding public meetings is part of the District's implementation of comprehensive water management legislation known as Senate Bill 2080 (SB2080). Among other things, SB2080 delegates authority for approvals of environmental resource and consumptive use permits to executive directors at Florida's five water management districts.

In addition to the meetings, the District is using its Web site and ePermitting portal to post weekly lists of newly received and completed permit applications and a monthly list of individual permits that have been issued. The SFWMD Governing Board is also maintaining a standing agenda item for the public to provide input on regulatory policy issues.

The public will have additional opportunities during the review process to comment on projects determined to be of heightened concern or where there is the likelihood of a request for an administrative hearing. Examples may include 20-year permits for public utilities, applications within or adjacent to a Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) project or permits that have generated significant public interest.

For more information on public meetings and ePermitting, or to access permit information and subscribe to the SFWMD's electronic noticing service, visit [www.sfwmd.gov/permitting](http://www.sfwmd.gov/permitting).

## **South West Florida Water Management District**

[Senate Bill 2080](#) directs the governing boards of the water management districts to delegate their authority to approve permits to their executive directors. The executive directors may designate other District staff to approve permits.

In preparation to comply with the legislation, the Southwest Florida Water Management District's Governing Board voted on June 23, 2009, to delegate its authority to take final action on permit applications recommended for approval to the District executive director, or his designee, pending the bill becoming effective, which it did on July 1.

Beginning in August 2009, a new monthly report of permits approved by the executive director will be included as an information item on the Governing Board agenda.

### **Public Participation**

Public input is an important part of the permitting process. As the District implements the new legislation, the public participation process may evolve to ensure adequate

opportunities for public involvement. The following information explains how and when the public can become engaged in the process.

### ***Public Meetings for Pending Permit Applications***

To ensure that the public continues to have opportunities to provide “in person” input into the District’s permitting process, the executive director will hold public meetings prior to making permitting decisions.

These meetings initially will be held monthly, commencing August 5, 2009 (view our [events calendar](#) and look for any scheduled “*Public Meeting for Pending Permit Applications*”). This public input process will continue to be evaluated and changes made as needed.

### ***To Become Aware of Permit Applications, Intended Actions or to Comment on an Application***

The District posts all information about e-permitting and permit applications on its web site. To view pending permit applications, visit the District’s permitting pages ([well construction permits](#), [water use permits](#) or [environmental resource permits](#)). Here you can search for pending applications by permit application number, project name or by county.

There are additional ways to receive information about permit applications or to provide comments on a permit application:

- Write to the Southwest Florida Water Management District, 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, FL 34604-6899.
- Present comments to service office directors or the executive director via mail or [email](#), or schedule an appointment for discussion of comments.

Public meetings will be held prior to permitting decisions. To comment in person, attend the appropriate permitting public meeting when the pending permit application of interest is on the agenda. If you have submitted a comment via one of the written or electronic means described above, you are not required to attend the meeting to have your comment considered prior to the permitting decision.

### **Contact Information**

For additional information about the permitting process, contact **District Headquarters** at 1-800-423-1476

## **St. Johns River WMD**

On July 1, 2009, Senate Bill 2080 became law, amending Chapter 373, *Florida Statutes* and changing the process in which [water resource permits](#) are approved by the state's five water management districts.

The new law directs the governing boards of the water management districts to delegate their authority to approve permits to their executive directors. The executive directors may designate other District staff to approve permits. Permit applications that are recommended for denial will continue to be considered by the governing boards.

In preparation to comply with the legislation, the St. Johns River Water Management District's Governing Board voted on June 9, 2009, to delegate its authority to take final action on permit applications recommended for approval to the District executive director, or his designee, pending the bill becoming effective, which it did on July 1.

Beginning in August 2009, a new monthly report of permits approved by the executive director will be included as an informational item on the [Governing Board agenda](#).



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### **Public participation**

Public input is an important part of the permitting process. The following information explains how and when the public can become engaged in the process. As the District implements the new legislation, the public participation process may evolve to ensure adequate opportunities for public involvement.

Certain permits may be issued by District staff, and these permits are called standard permits. Other permits are considered by the District's executive director or designee, and these permits are called individual permits. As of July 1, 2009, about 87 percent of the permits were standard permits and about 13 percent of the permit applications were for individual permits.

The following thresholds determine if a permit application will be considered by the executive director or designee. This is the same criteria previously used to determine if a permit application was to be considered by the Governing Board.

#### **Consumptive Use Permits (CUPs)**

- The use of water is more than 500,000 gallons of water per day, or
- There is a timely substantial objection to the permit application.

## **Environmental Resource Permits (ERPs)**

- The project size is 100 acres or greater, or
- The project has 120 acre-feet or greater of storage capacity, or
- The project has one or more acres of wetland impact, or
- There is a timely substantial objection to the permit application.

All staff recommendations of denial are considered by the Governing Board.



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## **Public permitting meetings**

To ensure that the public continues to have opportunities to provide “in person” input into the District’s permitting process, the executive director will hold public meetings prior to making permitting decisions.

The meetings initially will be held monthly, with the first meetings scheduled for 10 a.m. to noon on July 28, Aug. 25 and Sept. 29. The meetings will be held at District headquarters, 4049 Reid St., Palatka, and [agendas](#) will be posted on the District’s Web site seven days prior to the meetings.

This meeting process will continue to be evaluated and changes made as needed. The District is currently evaluating the process for those permit applications challenged by an objector and referred to a neutral Administrative Law judge for a public administrative hearing.

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## **To become aware of permit applications, intended actions or to comment on an application**

The District posts all information about permit applications on its Web site. To view pending permit applications, visit the District’s [permitting pages](#). Here you can search for pending applications by permit application number, project name or by county.

Once you locate the application of interest, click on the permit number to view details about the specific permit application. From the details page, you can request notifications about permit actions and provide comments on the application.

There are additional ways to receive information about permit applications or to provide comments on a permit application.

- Write to St. Johns River Water Management District, Gloria Lewis, Division of Regulatory Information Management, P.O. Box 1429, Palatka, FL 32178-1429.
- E-mail **applicationsupport@sjrwmd.com**.
- Present comments to the service center directors or the executive director via mail or e-mail, or schedule an appointment for discussion of comments.

Public meetings will be held prior to permitting decisions. To comment “in person,” attend the appropriate permitting public meeting when the pending permit application of interest is on the [agenda](#). If you have submitted a comment via one of the written or electronic means described above, you are not required to attend the meeting to have your comment considered prior to the permitting decision. The District is currently evaluating the process for those permit applications challenged by an objector and referred to a neutral Administrative Law judge for a public administrative hearing.

For additional information about the permitting process, e-mail **applicationsupport@sjrwmd.com** or contact **District headquarters** at (800) 451-7106