



March 11, 2002

BROWARD'S COUNTYWIDE WATER PLAN

An Integrated Water Resource Plan

STATUS REPORT

INTRODUCTION

Water plays a critical role in South Florida's economy, environment and quality of life. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners through their Department of Planning and Environmental Protection and the Office of Environmental Services began a planning process in 1997 with the goals of coordinating the sources and users of water for effective and efficient local water management and meeting the County's present and future urban water needs. The principle of Broward's Countywide Water Plan (an Integrated Water Resource Plan - IWRP) is that water must be viewed from a regional perspective, blind to municipal or service area boundaries. The intent of the plan is to take a comprehensive view of the needs of the users over the long term while taking strategic action on projects needed immediately on which a consensus exists. This could only be done by working with each of the other water managers in the Broward County. All aspects of water management functions were considered including drainage regulations, aquifer recharge, flood protection, maintenance of groundwater levels for wetlands, abatement of saltwater intrusion and public water supply. The process to developing Broward's Countywide Water Plan had to include a technical approach to resolve water resource issues, a coordination component to create acceptance of the plan by a diverse water management community and a conduit to reach the political bodies who would eventually fund implementation. Currently, through cost share funding from the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), implementation activities are being pursued. Over a five year period, Broward County will continue working closely with utilities, water control and other special districts, and environmental groups to unite all users behind a common goal of maximizing and protecting our water resource.

BACKGROUND

Broward's Countywide Water Plan is an outgrowth of other water resource planning efforts ongoing in the South Florida region. The Lower East Coast Regional Water Supply Plan (LECRWSP) was initiated by the SFWMD in 1991. The LECRWSP was intended to provide an integrated approach to regional and local water management that included cost-effective methods of supplying water to meet the future needs of the environment, urban areas and agriculture through the year 2010. Activities related to Everglades Restoration slowed the