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*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

**GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR C-4 (TAMIAMI CANAL)
EMERGENCY DETENTION BASIN TO TAKE PLACE FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4**

WHAT: Groundbreaking ceremony to initiate construction by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) of the C-4 (Tamiami Canal) Emergency Detention Basin. Elected officials and community leaders will ceremoniously break ground, officially beginning the construction of the detention basin, designed to hold over 1,700 acre-feet of water. This project is the third in a series of four District flood protection improvements projects intended to provide flood relief to the cities located within the C-4 basin: Sweetwater, West Miami, and the Flagami neighborhood of the City of Miami.

WHEN: Friday, October 4, 2002, 3 p.m.

WHO: Governor Jeb Bush is invited to the ceremony.

U.S. Representatives Lincoln Diaz-Balart and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Florida Senator Rudy García and Representative Gastón Canténs, along with other members of the Florida Legislature are also invited.

Miami-Dade County Mayor Alex Penelas, Miami Mayor Manny Diaz, Sweetwater Mayor and Commissioner-elect José “Pepe” Diaz, Miami-Dade County Commissioners Rebeca Sosa and Javier Souto, South Florida Water Management District Governing Board Members Jerry Fernandez and Nicolás Gutiérrez and SFWMD Executive Director Henry Dean, are also expected. Col. James G. May of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Todd Davison Regional Director of FEMA as well as other state and local officials will be on hand for the occasion.

WHERE: There will be a meeting place set up at the intersection of SW 137th Ave. and Tamiami Trail. SFWMD staff will shuttle attendees to the site. Parking is located at the rear of the Walgreens Pharmacy at 13698 SW 8th street, and a shuttle service will transport participants to the site.

The South Florida Water Management District, Miami-Dade County, the State of Florida, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and other local, county, state and federal agencies have cooperated to create the impoundment project that will cover an area of 433.5 acres. Surrounding the impoundment will be over 3 miles of levees (17,500 linear feet). Depending on the severity of rainfall events, the impoundment is designed to hold water up to a depth of 4 feet or 1,734 acre-feet of water. **When flooding levels subside, the sequence is reversed, sending water from the impoundment into the C-4 (Tamiami Canal), from where the water will be discharged to the ocean.** The inflow pump station, G-420 and G-421 outflow spillway are part of this project.

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Two other flood mitigation projects are the S-25B and S-26 pump stations. The completed S-25B pump station on the C-4 (Tamiami Canal) allows the District to pump water and continue providing storm water drainage when conditions would prevent this from happening. It is designed to pump 16 million gallons per hour of excess stormwater from the C-4 canal. Currently under construction is the S-26 pump station, a structure similar to the S-25B station.

Drawing on experience learned from the storms of October 1999 and 2000, the South Florida Water Management District designed and is constructing these projects in order to quickly move stormwater, thus alleviating flooding.

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