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MEDIA ADVISORY

South Florida Legislators and South Florida Water Management District secure \$11.5 million for Biscayne Bay Restoration Projects Recognition luncheon and check presentation July 12

On July 12th at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center, the South Florida Water Management District and members of the Miami-Dade County State Legislative Delegation will present a check for \$11.5 million to the Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Coordination Team to further the vital Biscayne Bay restoration efforts. In accordance with the intent of the Legislature, this amount includes a commitment by Henry Dean, Executive Director of the South Florida Water Management District, to allocate up to \$8 million for acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands bordering southern Biscayne Bay. These funds, secured by State Rep. Carlos Lacasa, Chair of the Fiscal Responsibility Council, State Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart and State Sen. Rudy Garcia, will include critical land acquisition, habitat restoration and a South Dade Watershed Plan.

These elected officials will be recognized for their diligent efforts last year to convince fellow lawmakers of Biscayne Bay's importance to Miami-Dade County and all residents of South Florida. Their interest and concern led them to secure the \$11.5 million for the projects this year.

Representative Carlos Lacasa said, "Biscayne Bay is vital to our community, it needs to be preserved and enhanced."

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Henry Dean, Executive Director for the South Florida Water Management District says, “Continuing to work together with the District, the Coordination Team and Representatives Lacasa and Diaz-Balart and Senator Garcia will allow us to proceed with the critical restoration of this great natural resource.”

Members of the Florida Legislature and the South Florida Water Management District submitted requests for the Biscayne Bay funds to the Florida Legislature’s General Appropriations Act for FY 2002-2003. On-going restoration efforts on the Bay will be greatly enhanced by the funds secured by these members. The South Florida Water Management District Governing Board is expected to approve the disbursement of the funds at its July 11 monthly meeting.

What: Recognition luncheon and SFWMD check presentation for Biscayne Bay Restoration

When: Friday, July 12 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Where: Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center

**6767 Crandon Boulevard
Key Biscayne, FL
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