

South Indian River Water Control District New Outreach Program Implemented to Ensure Communication with Landowners

It takes all of us to be good neighbors to ensure our community is ready for the storm events that are headed our way over the next few months. Prepare for wet weather when it is dry. South Indian River Water Control District has instituted a new outreach effort to ensure that landowners receive notification when there are issues such as obstructed driveway culverts or vegetation on their property that require landowner action to do their part to keep our community ready for hurricane season. Landowners are legally responsible for their driveway culvert and an 18-inch diameter culvert must have 12 inches of vertical open flow to be considered operable.

In the past, door hangers, certified letters, hand-delivered letters, and Federal Express delivery were used to educate and prompt landowner action. However, these notifications have consistently failed to persuade landowners to do their part to keep the community stormwater management system functioning properly.

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Civil Process team has agreed to deliver the notification letters at no charge to the District to ensure the landowner has received proper notice. This new communication will document the date the landowner is notified and start the 30-day clock consistent with state law.

The roadside swales (ditches) in the South Indian River Water Control District are a critical tool to move water and protect life and property. The typical lifespan for a corrugated metal culvert pipe is roughly 30 years. A significant number of these culverts in our community have structurally failed. The District will be focused on persistently problematic areas to ensure conveyance from the problem/flood area to the regional canal. Flow will be reestablished by recontouring the swales and identifying obstructed culverts. If a culvert is obstructed, that landowner will receive a notification letter.

The District provides a very low-cost program to remove the existing culvert and replace it with a new one with a rip rap header wall. The cost is \$1000 for a typical 18-inch diameter, 20-foot-long culvert most often used in the District. A 40-foot-long culvert is also available for \$2000. This also includes installation and removal of old pipe. This is a substantial savings over commercially installed culverts. For detailed information about the District's low-cost culvert replacement program and a sample of the notification letter please see: <https://www.sirwcd.org/culverts.html>.