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Community Invited to Public Meeting on Desalination Project

Palm Coast, Fla. – The community is invited to learn more about the Coquina Coast Seawater Desalination Project at a public meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 17, 2011, at Whitney Laboratory at Marineland, 9505 Ocean Shore Blvd., St. Augustine, FL 32080. The purpose of the meeting is to present possible areas where the plant may be located, provide attendees with an update on the project status, and discuss the next steps of the project.

The meeting will start with an open house from 6:00-6:30 p.m., during which attendees can view display boards and speak with project team members. At 6:30 p.m., the St. Johns River Water Management District will kick off the evening's presentations with a brief talk on wetland impacts and the resultant need for alternative water supplies. A project update presentation will follow.

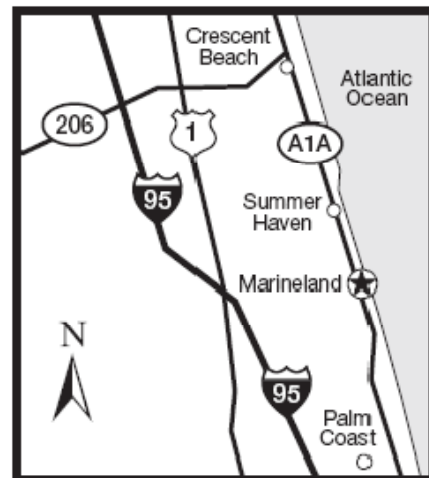
The proposed desalination facility is currently scheduled to produce 10-15 million gallons of water per day by approximately 2020. Work completed over the past year includes developing a short list of 14 potential facility site areas, evaluating coastal wells as possible source water for the plant, determining permitting needs and identifying outside funding opportunities.

In addition to showing the possible facility sites, the meeting will include a discussion on the project schedule, which may be slowed to allow participants to get a clearer picture of economic trends and water demand.

The Coquina Coast Seawater Desalination Project is investigating the feasibility of a seawater desalination plant to be located in the Flagler County region. Future groundwater withdrawals in the region will be limited to protect the environment and ensure a sustainable resource. Projections show that 10-15 million gallons per day of new drinking water is needed by 2020. Alternative water supplies, such as seawater desalination, must be developed to reduce reliance on groundwater supplies and to meet the public's future drinking water needs.

The project participants include Palm Coast, Leesburg, DeLand, and St. Johns County. This phase of the project is being funded by the participating local governments and the St. Johns River Water Management District.

For more information on the Coquina Coast Seawater Desalination Project, go to coquinacoastdesal.org or follow the project on Twitter at [Twitter.com/CoquinaDesal](https://twitter.com/CoquinaDesal).



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