

# **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Media Information

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## **SWFWMD NAMES TAMPA LAWYER GENERAL COUNSEL**

On Friday, the Southwest Florida Water Management District Executive Director, Blake Guillory selected Laura Jacobs Donaldson as General Counsel. Laura leaves the Manson Law Group to accept the position. Having spent time a staff in the Florida Legislature, as a Land Use lawyer and lobbyist, she has experience with both the administrative and legislative implications of water management in Florida.

"I've known Laura for many years," said Senator Mike Bennett, District 21. "She's a great lawyer, first rate person and smart, capable professional. People will be able to talk straight with Laura and they'll be able to count on her straight talk, too."

"Having worked with Laura Donaldson on water policy issues over the years I can say that she is the right person for the SWFWMD General Counsel role," said Eric Draper, Florida Audubon Society. "She has extensive knowledge and understanding of the challenges of balancing water supply and environmental protection."

"Laura has been my friend and colleague for many years," said Doug Manson. "I believe that she'll strike that challenging balance between protecting the public resource and private rights."