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Brian J. Armstrong, P.G.

Executive Director

October 20, 2025

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor, State of Florida
The Capitol
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

Subject: Proposed 2026 Five-Year Water Resource Development Work Program

Dear Governor DeSantis:

Pursuant to subsection 373.536(6)(a)(4), Florida Statutes, each water management district is required to furnish a five-year water resource development work program within 30 days after the adoption of the final budget. The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) approved its proposed 2026 Five-Year Water Resource Development Work Program at its Governing Board meeting held on September 23, 2025 and adopted its fiscal year 2025-2026 budget at a public hearing held on September 23, 2025.

Enclosed please find the District's proposed 2026 Five-Year Water Resource Development Work Program. After receiving comments from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the District will respond to the evaluation within 45 days if needed. Any revisions prompted by DEP's evaluation will be incorporated into the final report that will be included as part of the District's Consolidated Annual Report. The Consolidated Annual Report is due no later than March 1, 2026, pursuant to subsection 373.036(7), Florida Statutes.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Armstrong, P.G.
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Alexis Lambert, Secretary, Department of Environmental Protection (w/enclosure)

Distribution List (President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, chairs of all legislative committees and subcommittees having substantive or fiscal jurisdiction over the districts, as determined by the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives as applicable, and the governing board of each county in which the district has jurisdiction or derives any funds for the operations of the district)

Note: The District's proposed 2026 Five-Year Water Resource Development Work Program and referenced data has been published and is available on the District website at:

<https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/resources/plans-reports/water-resource-development-work-program>.

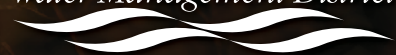
Should any recipients of this letter require a hard copy of the draft report, please contact the District at 352-2639-5611; or email your request to: paige.tara@watermatters.org.

2026 Five-Year **Water
Resource
Development**
Work Program

PROPOSED



Southwest Florida
Water Management District



Introduction/Purpose

The Water Management Districts are required to prepare a Five-Year Water Resource Development Work Program (Work Program) as a part of their annual budget reporting process. The Work Program describes the District's implementation strategy relating to water resource development (WRD) and water supply development (including alternative water supply development) components over the next five years. The Work Program must be submitted annually to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the chairs of all legislative committees and subcommittees having substantive or fiscal jurisdiction over the Districts, the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and the governing board of each county. Pursuant to Subsection 373.536(6)(a)4, Florida Statutes (F.S.), the Work Program must:

- Address all the elements of the WRD component in the District's approved Regional Water Supply Plans (RWSPs), as well as the water supply projects proposed for District funding and assistance;
- Identify both anticipated available District funding and additional funding needs for the second through fifth years of the funding plan;
- Identify projects in the Work Program which will provide water;
- Explain how each water resource and water supply project will produce additional water available for consumptive uses;
- Estimate the quantity of water to be produced by each project;
- Provide an assessment of the contribution of the District's RWSPs in supporting the implementation of minimum flows and minimum water levels (MFLs) and water reservations; and
- Ensure sufficient water is available to timely meet the water supply needs of existing and future reasonable-beneficial uses for a 1-in-10-year drought event and to avoid the adverse effects of competition for water supplies.

This report represents the District's 25th Work Program and covers the period from fiscal year (FY) 2026 through FY2030. In August of 2025 the DEP provided a guidance document and template spreadsheets to improve the consistency among the Water Management Districts' Work Program submittals. This Work Program is consistent with the planning strategies of the Central Florida Water Initiative 2020 Regional Water Supply Plan (CFWI RWSP) and the District's 2020 Regional Water Supply Plan (RWSP) which can be found at:

<https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/resources/plans-reports/rwsp/previous-regional-water-supply-plans>

The water resource and water supply development components of the District's Work Program are presented in three sections:

- WRD Data Collection and Analysis Activities that include routinely funded programmatic efforts by the District to monitor and support the health of natural systems, evaluate and establish MFLs, conduct watershed management planning, and improve water quality and stormwater storage and conveyance.
- WRD Projects that are undertaken by the District and/or partnering entities for evaluating aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) feasibility, the Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems (FARMS) projects to reduce groundwater withdrawals and improve natural systems, and environmental restoration efforts including MFL recovery projects.
- Water Supply Development Projects, which are usually led by other entities with District funding assistance, to develop and deliver new alternative potable water supplies, reclaimed water and reuse, aquifer storage and recovery and aquifer recharge systems, and numerous conservation projects to help manage water needs.

Also included is an overview of funding mechanisms, a summary of the adequacy of District expenditures to ensure the availability of water for reasonable-beneficial uses and natural systems and an appendix listing projects with District funding to implement projects identified in the Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs).

Water Resource Development

Water resource development is defined in Section 373.019(24), F.S., as “*the formulation and implementation of regional water resource management strategies, including the collection and evaluation of surface water and groundwater data; structural and nonstructural programs to protect and manage water resources; the development of regional water resource implementation programs; the construction, operation, and maintenance of major public works facilities to provide for flood control, surface and underground water storage, and groundwater recharge augmentation; and related technical assistance to local governments, government-owned and privately owned water utilities, and self-suppliers to the extent assistance to self-suppliers promotes the policies as set forth in s. 373.016.*”

The intent of WRD activities and WRD projects is to enhance the amount of water available for reasonable-beneficial uses and for natural systems. The District is primarily responsible for implementing WRD activities and projects; however, additional funding and technical support may come from state, federal, and local entities.

WRD Data Collection and Analysis Activities

Data collection and analysis activities are a critical part of the water resource development component implemented by the District. The District has budgeted approximately \$24.4 million in FY2026 to implement and continue activities to collect scientific data necessary to manage water resources and evaluate new water supplies, support the evaluation and establishment of MFLs, conduct watershed management plans, improve groundwater quality, and implement best management practices (BMPs) for stormwater storage and conveyance. These activities are summarized in **Table 1**.

Funding for these activities is primarily from the District's Governing Board; in some cases, additional funding that supports these efforts comes from local governments, and the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Each item was included in the District's Tentative Budget Submission Appendix C and can be referenced by the sub-activity code. Each activity is further described below.

Scientific Data Collection

The District has a comprehensive scientific data monitoring program that includes the assembly of information on key indicators such as rainfall, surface water and groundwater levels, water quality, hydrogeology, and stream flows. The program includes data collected by District staff as well as data collected as part of the District's cooperative funding program with the USGS. Data collected allows the District to gage changes in the health of water resources, monitor trends in conditions, identify and analyze existing or potential resource problems, and develop programs to correct existing problems and prevent future problems from occurring. The data collection activities support District structure operations, water use and environmental resource permitting and compliance, MFLs evaluation and status assessments, the Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) program, the Northern Tampa Bay Water Use Caution Area (NTBWUCA), the Southern Water Use Caution Area (SWUCA), and the Dover/Plant City Water Use Caution Area (DPCWUCA), water supply planning in the District and CFWI regions, modeling of surface water and groundwater systems, cooperative and district initiative project development and monitoring, and many resource evaluations and reports.

The categories of scientific data that are collected and monitored by District staff are discussed by station type and collection entity below. At the time of writing, the District and USGS are working

together to reduce data collection performed by the USGS due to changes in their available FY 2026 funding and staffing. A portion of their data collection may be assumed by the District or restarted by the USGS in future fiscal years. Therefore, the numbers in the text below and Table 1 may change. In addition to data collection completed or contracted by the District, scientific data submitted by Water Use Permit (WUP) holders are also considered to assess compliance with permit conditions.

- a) Surface Water Flows and Levels. Funding supports data collection at the District's approximately 795 surface water level gauging stations, and cooperative funding with the USGS for long-term discharge and water-level data collection at 137 river, stream, and canal stations. The USGS data are available to District staff and the public through the District's Environmental Data Portal (EDP) and the USGS National Water Dashboard.
- b) Hydrogeologic Data. The District collects hydrogeologic data including lithologic, hydraulic, and water quality through exploratory coring, testing, and construction of monitor wells at sites across the District. Administered by the Geohydrologic Data section, the Regional Observation and Monitor Well Program (ROMP) has been the District's primary source of hydrogeologic data and monitor well construction since its establishment in 1974. These hydrogeologic data support projects such as the CFWI, Water Resource Assessment Projects (WRAPs), MFLs, sea level rise, and development of alternative water supplies. The monitor wells constructed through the ROMP also serve as essential infrastructure for long-term monitoring of groundwater levels and water quality.
- c) Meteorologic Data. The meteorologic data monitoring program consists of measuring rainfall totals at 171 rain gauges, all of which provide near real-time data. The funding is for costs associated with measurement of rainfall including sensors, maintenance, repair, and replacement of equipment. Funding allows for the operation of one District evapotranspiration (ET) station for reference near Lake Hancock, and for District participation in a cooperative effort between the USGS and all five Florida water management districts to map statewide potential and reference ET using data measured from the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites (GOES). Funding also includes a collaborative effort between the five districts to provide high-resolution gauge adjusted radar rainfall data that are used for hydrologic conditions reporting and modeling purposes.
- d) Water Quality Data. The District collects data from water quality monitoring networks for springs, streams, lakes, wells, and coastal and inland rivers. The well monitoring networks include the Coastal Groundwater Quality Monitoring Network (CGWQMN), Inland Floridan Aquifer System Monitoring Network (IFASMN), and the Upper Floridan Aquifer Nutrient Monitoring Network (UFANMN). Data from monitor well stations are used to evaluate seasonal and long-term changes in groundwater levels and quality, as well as the interaction and connectivity between groundwater and surface water bodies. The Coastal Groundwater Quality Monitoring Network, which involves sample collection and analysis from approximately 380 wells across the District, monitors saltwater intrusion and/or the upwelling of mineralized waters into potable aquifers. The USGS collects long-term water quality data at 21 stations, which are available from their website.
- e) Groundwater Levels. The funding provides for the maintenance and support of about 1,655 monitor wells in the data collection network. Data may be collected in 15-minute intervals, hourly, daily, or monthly. The District also uses funding to contract with the USGS to obtain continuous and monthly water levels at 15 sites. Groundwater level data are available to the public through the District and USGS websites.

Table 1. FY2026 - FY2030 Water Resource Development Data Collection and Analysis Activities

WRD Data Collection and Analysis Activities²	Budget Reference¹	FY2026 Costs (\$)	FY2027 Costs (\$)	FY2028 Costs (\$)	FY2029 Costs (\$)	FY2030 Costs (\$)	Total Costs (\$)	Funding Source²
1) Research, Data Collection, Analysis & Monitoring a) Surface Water Flows & Levels Data b) Geologic (includes ROMP) Data c) Meteorologic Data d) Water Quality Data e) Groundwater Levels Data f) Biologic Data g) Data Support	1.2.1, p.62	\$3,980,641	\$3,980,641	\$3,980,641	\$3,980,641	\$3,980,641	\$19,903,205	District, Local Cooperators, USGS
		\$3,057,888	\$3,057,888	\$3,057,888	\$3,057,888	\$3,057,888	\$15,289,440	
		\$285,384	\$285,384	\$285,384	\$285,384	\$285,384	\$1,426,920	
		\$836,642	\$836,642	\$836,642	\$836,642	\$836,642	\$4,183,210	
		\$1,064,385	\$1,064,385	\$1,064,385	\$1,064,385	\$1,064,385	\$5,321,925	
		\$962,172	\$962,172	\$962,172	\$962,172	\$962,172	\$4,810,860	
		\$4,243,906	\$4,243,906	\$4,243,906	\$4,243,906	\$4,243,906	\$21,219,530	
2) Minimum Flows and Levels Program a) Technical Support b) MFL Establishment/ Evaluation	1.1.2, p.58	\$959,646	\$959,646	\$959,646	\$959,646	\$959,646	\$4,798,230	District
		\$765,563	\$765,563	\$765,563	\$765,563	\$765,563	\$3,827,815	
3) Watershed Management Planning	1.1.3.2, p.60	\$5,848,499	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,500,000	\$3,000,000	\$15,348,499	District, Local Cooperators, DEP
4) Quality of Water Improvement Program	2.2.3, p.84	\$781,515	\$781,515	\$781,515	\$781,515	\$781,515	\$3,907,575	District
5) Stormwater Improvement- Implementation of Storage and Conveyance BMPs	2.3.1, p.86	\$1,661,383	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,661,383	District
Totals		\$24,447,624	\$18,937,742	\$18,937,742	\$19,437,742	\$19,937,742	\$101,698,592	

Source: SWFWMD FY2025-26 Tentative Budget Submission.

¹ The Program Activity/Sub-Activity and page number in the Tentative Budget Submission where the WRD Data Collection and Analysis Activities reside. The funding amounts within this table are subsets of the referenced Program Activity/Sub-Activity.

² Acronyms: BMPs - Best Management Practices, DEP - Florida Department of Environmental Protection, MFL - Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels, ROMP - District Regional Observation and Monitor-well Program

- f) Biologic Data. The District monitors ecological conditions as they relate to both potential water use impacts and changes in hydrologic conditions. Funding for biologic data collection includes support for routine monitoring of approximately 149 wetlands annually to document changes in wetland health and assess level of recovery in impacted wetlands. Funding also supports SWIM Program efforts for mapping of seagrasses every two years along the Suncoast (Tampa Bay south to Charlotte Harbor), and every four years along the Springs Coast (Anclote Key to Waccasassa Bay). Additionally, submerged aquatic vegetation mapping occurs twice annually for each of the first-magnitude springs, all five of which are listed as SWIM Priority Water Bodies.
- g) Data Support. This item provides administrative and management staff support for the hydrologic, water quality, meteorologic and hydrogeologic data programs as well as the chemistry laboratory, surveying, and the District's LoggerNet data acquisition system and Kister's Water Information System (WISKI) and associated Environmental Data Portal used for database management, storage and reporting.

Minimum Flows and Levels Program

Section 373.042, F.S., requires the state water management districts or the DEP to establish minimum flows and minimum water levels (MFLs) for aquifers, surface watercourses, and other surface water bodies to identify the water level or limit at which further withdrawals would be significantly harmful to the water resources or ecology of the area. Minimum flows for rivers, streams, estuaries, and springs, and minimum water levels for lakes, wetlands and aquifers are adopted into the District's Water Levels and Rates of Flow rules, Chapter 40D-8, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), and are used in the District's water use permitting and water supply planning programs.

Reservations are rules that reserve water from use by permit applications, as necessary for the protection of fish and wildlife or public health and safety. Reservations are adopted into the District Consumptive Use of Water rules, Chapter 40D-2, F.A.C., pursuant to Section 373.223, F.S., and are also used for water use permitting and water supply planning.

The District's processes for establishing MFLs and reservations include opportunities for interested stakeholders to review and comment on proposed MFLs or reservations and participate in public meetings. A publicly noticed independent scientific peer review process is used to support establishment of MFLs for flowing systems and aquifers, for establishing MFLs for other system types that are based on methods that have not previously been subjected to peer review, and for establishing reservations. Stakeholder input and peer review findings are considered by the Governing Board when deciding whether to adopt proposed MFLs and reservations. District monitoring programs provide data for evaluating compliance with the adopted MFLs and reservations, determining the need for MFLs recovery or prevention strategies, assessing the recovery of water bodies where significant harm has occurred, and also support MFL's and reservation reevaluations.

As of June 2025, the District has planned to monitor and assess the status of 207 adopted MFLs, including MFLs for 28 river segments, 10 springs or spring groups, 126 lakes, 34 wetlands, 9 aquifer sites including 7 Upper Floridan Aquifer (UFA) wells in the NTBWUCA, and the UFA in the Most Impacted Area (MIA) of the SWUCA and the UFA in the DPCWUCA. The District also plans to monitor and assess the status of 2 adopted reservations, including a reservation for water stored in Lake Hancock and released to Lower Saddle Creek for recovery of MFLs adopted for the Upper Peace River, and a reservation for water from Morris Bridge Sink for recovery of MFLs adopted for the Lower Hillsborough River. In addition, the District is scheduling the establishment or reevaluation of 26 MFLs and 1 reservation through calendar year 2028.

The District's annual MFLs Priority List and Schedule and Reservations List and Schedule is

approved by the Governing Board in October, submitted to FDEP for review in November, and published in the Consolidated Annual Report the following March. The currently approved and proposed priority lists and schedules are also posted on the District's Minimum Flows and Levels Documents and Reports webpage at: <https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/mfl/documents-and-reports>.

Watershed Management Planning

The District addresses flooding problems in existing areas by preparing and implementing Watershed Management Plans (WMPs) in cooperation with local governments. The WMPs define flood conditions, identify flood level of service deficiencies, and evaluate BMPs to address those deficiencies. The WMPs include consideration of the capacity of a watershed to protect, enhance, and restore water quality and natural systems while achieving flood protection. The plans identify effective watershed management strategies and culminate in defining floodplain delineations and constructing selected BMPs.

Local governments and the District combine their resources and exchange watershed data to implement the WMPs. Funding for local elements of the WMPs is provided through local governments' capital improvement plans and the District's Cooperative Funding Initiative. Additionally, flood hazard information generated by the WMPs is used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to revise flood insurance rate maps. This helps to better define flood risk and is used extensively for land use planning by local governments and property owners. Since the WMPs may change based on growth and shifting priorities, the District also cooperates with local governments to update the WMPs when necessary, giving decision-makers opportunities throughout the program to determine when and where funds are needed.

Quality of Water Improvement Program (QWIP)

Established in 1974, the Program's primary goal is to preserve groundwater and surface water resources by providing funding assistance to incentivize landowners to properly plug abandoned, deteriorating, or improperly constructed artesian wells on their property. Thousands of wells constructed prior to current well construction standards are often deficient in casing, interconnecting aquifers with distinct water qualities. This enables mineralized groundwater to migrate upward, potentially altering the natural water quality of overlying aquifers and surface water bodies. When an abandoned artesian well is plugged with cement and/or bentonite from the bottom to the top, it re-establishes the natural isolation between aquifers and eliminates the upward flow of groundwater to the surface. Artesian wells within the District typically occur where the upper Floridan aquifer is confined, so the region of emphasis for the Program is primarily in the Southern Water Use Caution Area (SWUCA). Historically, the Program has proven to be a cost-effective method to promote the plugging of artesian wells.

Stormwater Improvements - Implementation of Storage and Conveyance BMPs

The District's WMPs and SWIM programs implement stormwater and conveyance BMPs for preventative flood protection, particularly in urban areas, and to improve surface water quality for SWIM Priority Water Bodies. The BMPs involve construction of improvements identified and prioritized in the development of watershed management plans or in SWIM Plans. While the District may take the lead for some projects, most of these activities are developed through cooperative funding with a local government entity, DEP, or other state funding.

WRD Projects

The District has budgeted for 25 WRD projects that are ongoing. At the start of FY2026 (October 1, 2025), the District has allocated approximately \$5 million in the budget for 5 of these projects. If a project received funding in prior years and is still ongoing it remains in the Work Program until completion. District funding for a number of the projects is matched to varying degrees by local cooperators including municipalities, state agencies, private agricultural operations, and others. The total cost of these projects, including the cooperator shares, is approximately \$34.1 million. It's estimated that approximately 52.29 million gallons per day (mgd) of additional water supply

will be produced or conserved. The projects are listed in **Table 2** and are consistent with Programmatic Code 2.2.1 in the District's FY2026 budget. The WRD projects are organized into three groups:

Aquifer Storage and Recovery Feasibility and Pilot Testing

These projects are research and/or pilot projects designed to further the development of the innovative alternative water sources described in the RWSP. The projects for investigation of the Lower Floridan aquifer are primarily District-led initiatives. The ASR and Aquifer Recharge projects may involve both technical and financial assistance from the District.

Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems (FARMS)

The FARMS Program is an agricultural BMP cost-share reimbursement program. The program is a public/private partnership developed by the District and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). The program provides incentives to the agricultural community within the District to implement agricultural BMPs that will provide resource benefits including the reduction of groundwater withdrawals from the Upper Floridan aquifer, improvement of ground and surface water quality impacted by groundwater withdrawals, and improvement of natural-system functions within wetlands and priority watersheds.

The FARMS Program operates under District Governing Board Policy to fund projects that provide these benefits while assisting in the implementation of the District's RWSP. This plan identifies strategic initiatives and regional priorities to meet the District's water management goals. These goals are based on improving and/or maintaining the water resource conditions of several regions within the District. Five primary goals for the FARMS Program are to:

1. Improve surface water quality which has been impacted by groundwater withdrawals with a priority given to projects in the Shell, Prairie, and Joshua Creek, or Horse Creek watersheds;
2. Conserve, restore or augment the water resources and natural systems in the Upper Myakka River Watershed;
3. Reduce groundwater use in the SWUCA;
4. Reduce groundwater use for Frost/Freeze Protection within the DPCWUCA;
5. Reduce Upper Floridan aquifer groundwater use and nutrient loading impacts in the Northern District.

The FARMS projects implement FDACS-approved BMPs that offset groundwater use with surface water and/or increase the overall efficiency of irrigation water use. Many projects have the added benefit of reducing agricultural impacts to surface water features. Properly implemented BMPs protect and conserve water resources and may increase crop production.

Environmental Restoration and MFL Recovery Projects

These projects include MFL recovery projects for the Hillsborough River Recovery Strategy, , and SWUCA Salt Water Intrusion Minimum Aquifer Level (SWIMAL) in support of the SWUCA Recovery Strategy.

At the DEP's guidance, additional project details are available in spreadsheet format. The DEP will present Work Program project data from each of the water management districts on their website for public review, in accordance with Section 373.536(6)(b), F.S. The detailed spreadsheet includes project descriptions, schedules, cooperator and state funding levels, and the water bodies and planning regions supported. The District's proposed Work Program spreadsheet is available online at: <https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/resources/plans-reports/water-resource-development-work-program>

Table 2. FY2026 - FY2030 District Funding and Total Project Cost for Water Resource Development Projects

Project Number	WRD Projects ¹	Total Prior District Funding	FY2026 District Cost	FY2027 District Cost	FY2028 District Cost	FY2029 District Cost	FY2030 District Cost	Total Cost District + Cooperator	Funding Source	Quantity developed or conserved (mgd) ¹
1) Aquifer Storage and Recovery Feasibility and Pilot Testing (Programmatic Code 2.2.1.1)										
N855	Southern Hillsborough Aquifer Recharge Program (SHARP) Phase 2	\$4,800,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$9,700,000	District, Hillsborough County	4
P925	Optical Borehole Imaging Data Collection from LFA Wells	\$100,200	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$167,000	District, USGS	NA
P926	Sources/Ages of Groundwater in LFA Wells	\$368,300	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$736,600	District, USGS	NA
Q050	City of Venice Reclaimed Water Aquifer Storage Recovery	\$2,744,876	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,489,752	District, City of Venice	Storage
Q064	Direct Aquifer Recharge - North Hillsborough Aquifer Recharge Program Phase 2	\$750,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,500,000	District, Hillsborough County	Study
Q159	Bee Ridge Water Reclamation Facility Aquifer Recharge	\$915,511	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,831,022	District, Sarasota County	5
P189	Aquifer Recharge Testing at Flatford Swamp	\$760,000	\$451,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,211,000	District	NA
2) Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems (FARMS) (Programmatic Code 2.2.1.2)										
H017	FARMS Projects (H017) ²	Annual Request	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	Annual Request	District	33.6
H807	Sizemore Group Automation	\$182,857	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$243,809	District, Sizemore Group Automation	0.0307
H817	B 8 Turf Co., LLC	\$751,229	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,001,639	District, B 8 Turf Co., LLC	0.130
H821	James Keen 62	\$380,400	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$662,700	District, James Keen 62	0.082
H825	Berry Red Farms, LLC	\$164,640	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$219,251	District, Berry Red Farms, LLC	0.060
H826	FD Berries USA LLC - Twitty Road South	\$119,129	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$171,129	District, FD Berries Usa LLC - Twitty Road South	0.025
H828	G & G Farms LLC - North 40	\$212,246	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$282,995	District, G & G Farms LLC - North 40	0.045

Project Number	WRD Projects ¹	Total Prior District Funding	FY2026 District Cost	FY2027 District Cost	FY2028 District Cost	FY2029 District Cost	FY2030 District Cost	Total Cost District + Cooperator	Funding Source	Quantity developed or conserved ¹
H830	McClure Properties, LTD - Phase 2	\$195,706	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$296,355	District, McClure Properties, LTD - Phase 2	0.045
H831	Gapway Mixon Cups, LLC	\$64,171	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$85,562	District, Gapway Mixon Cups, LLC	0.020
H832	T&T Environmental, LLC - Desoto Groves	\$652,782	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$870,377	District, T&T Environmental, LLC - Desoto Groves	0.130
H833	Midway Farms, LLC - Raulerson Road	\$45,468	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$60,624	District, Midway Farms, LLC - Raulerson Road	0.020
H834	Jim Rash, Inc - Zoffay Road	\$64,214	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$85,619	District, Jim Rash, Inc - Zoffay Road	0.018
H835	Green Grass Farms of Hardee County	\$771,933	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,173,838	District, Green Grass Farms of Hardee County	0.18
H529	Mini-FARMS Program ²	Annual Request	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	Annual Request	District	3.000
3) Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels Recovery³ (Programmatic Code 2.2.1.3)										
H089	MIA Recharge SWIMAL Recovery at Flatford Swamp	\$6,635,702	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,635,702	District	2
H404-1 ³	Lower Hillsborough River Recovery Strategy Morris Bridge Sink	\$ 1,329,982	\$ 20,000.00	\$0	\$0	\$ 0	\$0	\$ 1,349,982	District	3.90
H400-7 ³	Third Five-Year Assessment of the Lower Hillsborough River Recovery Strategy	\$263,944	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$263,944	District	NA
H400-13 ³	Lower Hillsborough River Biological Data Collection	\$40,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$90,000	District	NA
Water Resource Development Project Totals		\$22,313,290	\$5,021,000	\$4,500,000	\$4,500,000	\$4,500,000	\$4,500,000	\$34,128,900		52.29

1. Acronyms: NA - not applicable, mgd - million gallons per day, MIA - Most Impacted Area of the SWUCA, SWIMAL - Salt Water Intrusion Minimum Aquifer Level, USGS - United States Geological Survey, ASR – Aquifer Storage Recovery, LFA – Lower Floridan Aquifer.

2. The FARMS lead program (H017) and Mini-FARMS quantities conserved represents period of record offsets plus estimated conserved in future during WRDWP planning. Sub-projects list active project savings as of July 2025.

3. H400 and H404 consists of many sub-projects. WRDWP only represents ongoing efforts and aligns with STAR reporting.

Water Supply Development Assistance

Water supply development is defined as the planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of public or private facilities for water collection, production, treatment, transmission, or distribution for sale, resale, or end use (Section 373.019(26), F.S.). Regional water supply authorities, local governments, and public and privately-owned water utilities typically have the lead role in implementing water supply development projects (Section 373.705, F.S.). The District provides funding assistance to these entities for projects that are consistent with the District's Strategic Plan, Surface Water Improvement and Management Plans, and the District and CFWI RWSPs. Final decisions regarding the funding of projects are the exclusive responsibility of the District's Governing Board. The District's primary funding mechanism for water supply development assistance is the Cooperative Funding Initiative (CFI) Program, which is described in the Funding Sources section of this Work Program.

The District has 40 budgeted or ongoing water supply development projects in FY2026, including 1 water supply planning projects that support water supply development. As shown in **Table 3-h**, the District is funding approximately \$93.2 million in FY2026 for 8 projects that achieve water supply development assistance. The project budgets shown are consistent with the District's Programmatic Budget under activity codes 2.2.2 (water supply development) and 1.1.1 (water supply planning). The water supply projects are listed in **Table 3-a** to **3-g**, grouped by the following budget sub-categories and sorted by project code number:

- Surface Water Projects
- Regional Potable Water Interconnect Projects
- Reclaimed Water Projects
- Brackish Groundwater Development Projects
- ASR and Aquifer Recharge Projects
- Conservation Projects
- Water Supply Planning Projects

Most water supply development projects are funded within one year, but large projects may have construction budgets over multiple years to coincide with each year's predicted expenses. Since the District budget is adopted on an annual basis, the future funding for ongoing projects is estimated based on projected costs and schedules. Additional future funding will be needed for new projects that aren't yet proposed through the CFI Program. The District anticipates new reclaimed water and conservation projects will require funding levels less than previous years. The amount needed for new regional interconnects and water treatment facilities can vary greatly from year to year, peaking as large infrastructure projects move from design to construction phases.

Significant new funding has been proposed in the FY2026-30 timeframe for the PRMRWSA Reservoir No.3, next phases of the PRWC's Southeast and West Polk Lower Floridan Aquifer Wellfields, and Tampa Bay Water's Southern Hillsborough County Transmission Expansion.

The listed projects that have no FY2026 or future funding are ongoing with prior year funding. Projects are omitted from the Work Program when they are completed, and final reimbursement is provided.

Table 3-a. Surface Water Projects

Project Number	Water Supply Development Assistance - Surface Water Projects (Programmatic Budget 2.2.2.1)	Prior District Funding	FY2026 Funding	FY2027 Funding	FY2028 Funding	FY2029 Funding	FY2030 Funding	Total Project Cost	Supply (mgd)
Q272	PRMRWSA - Reservoir No. 3	\$32,682,867	\$14,000,000	\$14,000,000	\$14,000,000	\$14,000,000	\$14,000,000	\$375,077,000	NA
Total Surface Water Projects		\$32,682,867	\$14,000,000	\$14,000,000	\$14,000,000	\$14,000,000	\$14,000,000	\$375,077,000	0.000

Table 3-b. Regional Potable Interconnects

Project Number	Water Supply Development Assistance - Regional Potable Water Interconnects (Programmatic Budget 2.2.2.2)	Prior District Funding	FY2026 Funding	FY2027 Funding	FY2028 Funding	FY2029 Funding	FY2030 Funding	Total Project Cost	Supply (mgd)
Q216	PRWC Regional Transmission Southeast	\$35,482,459	\$26,083,215	\$14,447,326	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$174,100,600	NA
Q241	TBW - Southern Hillsborough County Transmission Expansion	\$15,859,207	\$17,500,000	\$37,231,598	\$37,231,598	\$37,231,597	\$0	\$438,709,630	NA
Q313	PRMRWSA- Regional Integrated Loop System Ph 3C	\$26,550,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$63,850,000	NA
Q355	PRMRWSA- Regional Integrated Loop System Ph 2b	\$25,746,094	\$10,403,906	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$87,440,545	NA
Total Regional Potable Water Interconnect Projects		\$103,637,760	\$53,987,121	\$51,678,924	\$37,231,598	\$37,231,597	\$0	\$764,100,775	0

Table 3-c. Reclaimed Water Projects

Project Number	Water Supply Development Assistance - Reclaimed Water Projects (Programmatic Budget 2.2.2.3)	Prior District Funding	FY2026 Funding	FY2027 Funding	FY2028 Funding	FY2029 Funding	FY2030 Funding	Total Project Cost	Benefit (mgd)
N339	Winter Haven #3 Reclaimed Interconnect, Storage, and Pumping	\$2,750,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$9,466,000	0.3
N791	Pasco County Starkey Ranch Reclaimed Water Transmission Phase C	\$456,800	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$913,600	0.29
N868	Polk County Utilities NERUSA Ernie Caldwell Blvd Reclaimed Water Transmission	\$1,056,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,113,000	0.414
Q066	Polk County Utilities- NERUSA Lake Wilson Road Reuse	\$262,750	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$525,500	0.18
Q067	Polk County Utilities-NERUSA Southeast Reuse Loop	\$2,186,750	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,373,500	0.522
Q105	Citrus County Sugarmill Woods Golf Course Reuse	\$1,834,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,918,000	0.5
Q113	City of Plant City McIntosh Park Indirect Potable Reuse Feasibility Study	\$300,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$600,000	Study
Q139	North Port Direct Potable Reuse Feasibility	\$125,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$250,000	Study
Q160	Sarasota County Honore Avenue Reclaimed Water Transmission	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,000,000	0.533
Q209	Polk County Direct Potable Reuse Feasibility and Pilot Demo	\$795,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,591,582	Study
Q268	Braden River Utilities Taylor Road Area Transmission	\$3,550,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,100,000	1.57
Q274	Zephyrhills - Zephyr to Pasco Reclaimed Water Interconnect	\$880,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,760,000	NA
Total Reclaimed Water Projects		\$15,696,800	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$36,611,182	4.309

Table 3-d. Brackish Groundwater Projects

Project Number	Water Supply Development Assistance - Brackish Groundwater Development Projects (Programmatic Budget 2.2.2.4)	Prior District Funding	FY2026 Funding	FY2027 Funding	FY2028 Funding	FY2029 Funding	FY2030 Funding	Total Project Cost	Supply (mgd)
Q184	PRWC - Southeast Wellfield Implementation	\$29,334,987	\$14,500,000	\$14,500,000	\$14,500,000	\$14,500,000	\$14,500,000	\$247,530,000	12.5
Q308	PRWC - West Polk Wellfield	\$13,015,498	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$228,144,000	10
Q309	PRWC - Test Prod Well #2 West Polk Wellfield	\$1,448,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,125,000	Study
Total Brackish Groundwater Projects		\$43,798,985	\$24,500,000	\$24,500,000	\$24,500,000	\$24,500,000	\$24,500,000	\$479,799,000	22.5

Table 3-e. Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) and Aquifer Recharge Projects

Project Number	Water Supply Development Assistance - Aquifer Recharge/ Storage and Recovery Projects (Programmatic Budget 2.2.2.5)	Prior District Funding	FY2026 Funding	FY2027 Funding	FY2028 Funding	FY2029 Funding	FY2030 Funding	Total Project Cost	Benefit (mgd)
N435	City of Bradenton Surface Water Aquifer Storage Recovery 2	\$2,350,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,700,000	Storage
Q142	Pinellas County Chestnut Park Aquifer Storage, Recovery & Recharge	\$893,500	\$0	\$2,779,875	\$926,625	\$0	\$0	\$9,200,000	Storage
Total Aquifer Recharge/ASR Projects		\$3,243,500	\$0	\$2,779,875	\$926,625	\$0	\$0	\$13,900,000	0

Table 3-f. Conservation Projects

Project Number	Water Supply Development Assistance - Conservation Rebates, Retrofits, Etc. Projects (Programmatic Budget 2.2.2.7)	Prior District Funding	FY2026 Funding	FY2027 Funding	FY2028 Funding	FY2029 Funding	FY2030 Funding	Total Project Cost	Benefit (mgd)
B015	Water Incentives Supporting Efficient (WISE) Program	Annual Request	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	Annual Request	0.652
N973	Winter Haven Consumption/Conservation Programs Data Management Software	\$60,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$120,000	0.016
Q145	Longboat Key Club - Advanced Irrigation System	\$508,516	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,115,000	0.095
Q215	TBW - Demand Management Program Phase 2	\$1,432,238	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,864,476	0.93
Q245	Pinellas County AMI Metering Analytics	\$139,414	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$278,828	0.111
Q256	St. Petersburg - Sensible Sprinkling Program - Phase 10	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	0.055
Q265	North Port - Water Distribution Ridgewood/ Lamplighter Area Looping	\$173,950	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$347,900	0.015
Q266	Polk County - Florida Water Star Builder Reimbursement Program	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$40,000	0.005
Q267	PRWC- Demand Management Implementation	\$102,679	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$205,358	0.064
P964	Water Use Evals for Non-Ag Users	\$103,400	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$103,400	0.011
Q304	Venice Toilet Rebate and Retrofit Phase 9	\$16,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$33,000	0.005

Table 3-f. Conservation Projects (continued)

Project Number	Water Supply Development Assistance - Conservation Rebates, Retrofits, Etc. Projects (Programmatic Budget 2.2.2.7)	Prior District Funding	FY2026 Funding	FY2027 Funding	FY2028 Funding	FY2029 Funding	FY2030 Funding	Total Project Cost	Benefit (mgd)
Q306	WRWSA Irrigation Eval Program, Phase 7	\$51,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$102,000	0.025
Q311	Bay Laurel CCDD Water Conservation Program Phase 2	\$191,900	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$383,800	0.055
Q319	Manatee County Toilet Rebate Phase 15	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	0.017
Q371	Polk County Irrigation System Evaluation Program, Phase 8	\$72,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$178,750	0.053
Q387	St. Pete Sensible Sprinkling Program, Phase 11	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	0.055
Q414	TBW Demand Management Plan Implementation	\$0	\$528,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,056,000	0.45
Total Conservation Rebates, Retrofits, Etc.		\$3,022,097	\$753,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$7,128,512	2.614

Table 3-g. Water Supply Planning Projects

Project Number	Water Supply Planning (Programmatic Budget 1.1.1)	Prior District Funding	FY2026 Funding	FY2027 Funding	FY2028 Funding	FY2029 Funding	FY2030 Funding	Total Project Cost	Supply (mgd)
Q324	WRWSA Regional Water Supply Plan 2024 Update	\$175,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$350,000	NA
Total Planning Projects		\$175,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$350,000	0

Table 3-h. Summary of Funding for Water Supply Development Projects

Water Supply Development Assistance Project Totals (Programmatic Budget 2.2.2 & 1.1.1)	Prior District Funding	FY2026 Funding	FY2027 Funding	FY2028 Funding	FY2029 Funding	FY2030 Funding	Total Project Cost	Supply (mgd)
Surface Water Projects	\$32,682,867	\$14,000,000	\$14,000,000	\$14,000,000	\$14,000,000	\$14,000,000	\$375,077,000	0.00
Regional Potable Water Interconnect Projects	\$103,637,760	\$53,987,121	\$51,678,924	\$37,231,598	\$37,231,597	\$0	\$764,100,775	0.00
Reclaimed Water Projects	\$15,696,800	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$36,611,182	4.31
Brackish Groundwater Development Projects	\$43,798,985	\$24,500,000	\$24,500,000	\$24,500,000	\$24,500,000	\$24,500,000	\$479,799,000	22.50
Aquifer Recharge/ Storage and Recovery Projects	\$3,243,500	\$0	\$2,779,875	\$926,625	\$0	\$0	\$13,900,000	0.00
Conservation Projects	\$3,022,097	\$753,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$7,128,512	2.61
Water Supply Planning Projects	\$175,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$350,000	0.00
Total Funding for Water Supply Development Projects	\$202,257,009	\$93,240,121	\$93,183,799	\$76,883,223	\$75,956,597	\$38,725,000	\$1,676,966,469	29.42

Acronyms: ASR - aquifer storage and recovery, BMPs - best management practices, ET - evapotranspiration, mgd - million gallons per day, NERUSA/NWRUSA - Northeast/Northwest Regional Utility Service Areas of Polk County Utilities, PRMRWSA - Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority, PRWC - Polk Regional Water Cooperative, WRWSA - Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority, TBW - Tampa Bay Water, CDD - Community Development District

Funding Sources

The District provides significant financial assistance for water resource development and water supply development projects through the District's Cooperative Funding Initiative (CFI) and District Initiatives. The financial assistance is provided primarily to governmental entities, but private entities may also participate in these programs. Portions of state funding are allocated to the District through the DEP and legislative appropriations for the Springs Initiative, the Florida Forever Program, the Water Protection and Sustainability Program, and the District's FARMS Program. These sources are described below.

District Funding

Cooperative Funding Initiative –The District's primary funding mechanism is its CFI program, which includes funding for major regional water supply and water resource development projects and localized projects throughout the District's 16-county jurisdiction. The CFI program is a matching grant program that enables the Governing Board to jointly participate with local governments and other entities to ensure proper development, use, and protection of the regional water resources of the District. Projects of mutual benefit are generally funded 50 percent by the District and 50 percent by the public or private cooperators. Communities or counties qualifying under the Rural Economic Development Initiative (Section 288.0656, F.S.) may be eligible for greater matching shares.

Projects with construction costs exceeding \$5 million will undergo a third-party review to confirm costs, schedules, and ability to meet its resource benefits. Any state and federal funds received for the projects are applied directly against the project costs, with both parties benefitting equally.

Beginning in 2023, state and federal funds may be applied to eligible cost increases incurred above the Governing Board approved total project cost, before equally reducing both parties' share. The District is committed to solving the region's water resource issues through cooperative programs, such as the CFI program which has been in place since 1988. These efforts have been highly successful resulting in a combined investment (District and cooperators) of more than \$4.3 billion in incentive- based funding assistance for a variety of water resource projects addressing the District's four areas of responsibility: water supply, natural systems, flood protection and water quality.

District Initiatives – Projects implemented through District Initiatives are of great importance or a regional priority and, in most cases, are fully funded by the District. Examples of these initiatives include Water Resource Development (WRD) projects such as: (1) the Quality of Water Improvement Program (QWIP) to plug deteriorated, free-flowing wells that waste water and cause inter-aquifer contamination; (2) the Utilities Services Group to conserve water by assisting utilities in controlling their water loss; (3) data collection and analysis to support major District initiatives such as the MFLs program; (4) the FARMS program and other various agricultural research projects designed to increase the water-use efficiency of agricultural operations; (5) WRD investigations and MFLs Recovery projects which may not have local cooperators; and (6) the WISE (Water Incentives Supporting Efficiency) program launched in 2019 offers cost-share funding for a wide variety of water conservation projects (50 percent match with a maximum of \$20,000 per project) to non- agricultural entities.

State Funding

DEP Springs Initiative – A legislative appropriation specific to providing for the protection and restoration of Florida's major springs systems has enabled the DEP to assist local governments in achieving restoration goals through its Springs Initiative program. Eligible project types include agricultural best management practices, water conservation, hydrologic restoration, reuse, land acquisition, septic-to-sewer, wastewater treatment upgrades and stormwater treatment. Projects

funded by this initiative within the District's boundaries include the re-establishment of aquatic and shoreline vegetation near spring vents; construction of infrastructure necessary to convey wastewater in a priority focus area of Outstanding Florida Springs currently treated in septic systems or package plants to a centralized wastewater treatment facility which may increase reclaimed water production; and implementation of other BMPs within springshed basins. Projects that have been awarded funding from the DEP Springs Initiative grant may also be eligible for funding through the District's CFI program. These projects are listed in the Work Program Appendix A - Projects for Implementing BMAPs. The District did not receive applications for FY2026 for new funding.

The Florida Forever Program – The Florida Forever Act, as originally passed by the Florida Legislature in 1999, established the 10-year \$3 billion statewide Florida Forever Program. The program was extended by the Legislature during the 2008 legislative session, allowing the program to continue for 10 more years at \$300 million annually. A specific \$30.8 million appropriation in the state's FY2026 budget was provided to the District for the acquisition of Kirkland Ranch property, approximately 947 acres in Pasco County, for water and land conservation. Previously, FY2011 was the last year the District received any new funding for the program. Since 1999, the District has allocated \$95 million (\$81.6 million for land acquisition and \$13.4 million for water body restoration) of Florida Forever funding Districtwide in support of water resource development.

A "water resource development project" eligible for funding under the Florida Forever program is defined in Section 259.105, F.S., as a project that increases the amount of water available to meet the needs of natural systems and the citizens of the state by enhancing or restoring aquifer recharge, facilitating the capture and storage of excess flows in surface waters, or promoting reuse. Implementation of eligible projects under the program includes land acquisition, land and water body restoration, aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) facilities, surface water reservoirs, and other capital improvements. Numerous tracts have been acquired in the northern region including Potts and Flying Eagle preserves, Three Sisters Springs, and coastal preserves at Weeki Wachee and Chassahowitzka Rivers. A primary example of how the funds were used by the District for water resource development was the purchase of lands around Lake Hancock within the Peace River watershed, as the first step in restoring minimum flows to the Upper Peace River. In addition, the District Governing Board expended \$35.7 million in ad valorem-based funding to complete the acquisition of lands associated with the Lake Hancock project which were acquired on a voluntary basis and through eminent domain proceedings. In FY2023, the District expended the final balance of its prior-year funds held in the state's Florida Forever Trust Fund.

Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems (FARMS) Program – The District's FARMS Program is an agricultural best management practice (BMP) cost-share reimbursement program that involves both water quantity and water quality. This public/private partnership program was developed by the District and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) in 2003. The purpose of the FARMS Program is to implement production-scale agricultural BMP projects that will provide water resource benefits including water quality improvement, reduction of Upper Floridan withdrawals, conservation, and restoration or augmentation of the area's water resources and ecology. Since 2003 the District has co-funded \$57.1 million dollars towards \$97.7 million dollars in total project costs for 262 FARMS projects resulting in 33.1 million gallons per day (mgd) of water resource benefits. Operating under District Governing Board Policy, the program utilizes state funding when available. Since inception of the program, the District has utilized \$7.3 million in state appropriations and \$1.2 million from the FDACS. No funding has been provided by state appropriations since FY2009.

NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) – The EQIP provides technical, educational, and financial assistance to eligible farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners to address soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on their lands while complying with federal, state of Florida, and tribal environmental laws that encourage environmental

enhancement. The District's FARMS Program partners with the NRCS on both financial and technical levels and has coordinated dual cost-share projects whenever possible. The maximum funding for using both FARMS and EQIP is 75 percent of the total project cost.

Water Protection and Sustainability Program – Large areas of Florida do not have sufficient traditional water resources to meet the future needs of the state's growing population and the needs of the environment, agriculture and industry. The state's Water Protection and Sustainability Program Trust Fund (WPSPTF) was created in the 2005 legislative session through Senate Bill 444 to accelerate the development of alternative water sources and later recreated in Chapter 373, F.S., as part of the 2009 legislative session. Legislation focused on encouraging cooperation in the development of alternative water supplies and improving the linkage between local governments' land use plans and water management districts' regional water supply plans (RWSP). The program provides matching funds to the District for alternative water supply development assistance. From FY2006 through FY2009, the District was appropriated a total of \$53.75 million by the Legislature through the WPSPTF for water supply development projects. An additional \$700,000 in appropriations were allocated to the District between FY2020 and FY2021.

Program funds are applied toward a maximum of 20 percent of eligible project construction costs. In addition, the Legislature established a goal for each water management district to annually contribute funding equal to 100 percent of the state funding for alternative water supply development assistance, which the District has exceeded annually. The legislation also requires that a minimum of 80 percent of the WPSPTF funding be related to projects identified in a district water supply plan. The District's RWSP is utilized in the identification of the majority of WPSPTF-eligible projects. Projects are evaluated for funding based on consideration of the 14 factors described in Subsections 373.707(8)(f) and (g), F.S., and additional District evaluation factors as appropriate.

Water Supply and Water Resource Development Grant Program – In FY2020, the state appropriated funds in addition to the Water Protection and Sustainability Program through the establishment of a Water Supply and Water Resource Development grant program in order to maximize the effort of addressing the demands on Florida's water supply to meet the future needs of the state's growing population and the needs of the environment. By identifying and researching all viable alternative water supply resources, the grant program is intended to help communities plan for and implement conservation, reuse, and other water supply and water resource development projects. Projects selected for funding are prioritized by areas of greatest need and greatest benefit, including timeliness of implementation. From FY2020 through FY2025, more than \$61 million has been awarded to the District by DEP for alternative water supply development through this grant program with an additional \$10 million anticipated in FY2026.

Summary/Conclusions

The Work Program presented herein is adequate to ensure water is available to timely meet the water supply needs of existing and future reasonable-beneficial uses for a 1-in-10-year drought event and to avoid the adverse effects of competition for water supplies. Over the next five years, this Work Program outlines the District's commitment to ensure the availability of adequate water supplies for all reasonable-beneficial uses and to maintain the function of natural systems. It additionally illustrates the contributions of the District in support of MFLs and water reservations.

This Work Program outlines activities and projects that will make available 81.71 mgd of water upon completion, including reuse water and new potable supply. These benefits are associated with approximately \$122.7 million budgeted for FY2026. The proposed funding for the 5-year Work Program is approximately \$502.7 million through FY 2026-30. **Table 4** below summarizes the funding categorized in the Work Program as WRD data collection and analysis activities, WRD Projects, and Water Supply Development Projects.

Table 4. Work Program Summary

WRD Data Collection and Analysis Activities	Sum of Current Year District Funding (FY2026)	Sum of Five-Year District Funding (F2026-30)	Sum of Water Made Available (mgd)
Water Resource Development - Data Collection and Analysis Activities (Table 1)	\$24,447,624	\$101,698,592	NA
Water Resource Development - Projects (Table 2)	\$5,021,000	\$23,021,000	52.29
Water Supply Development - Projects (Table 3-h)	\$93,240,121	\$377,988,740	29.42
Totals	\$122,708,745	\$502,708,332	81.71

At the DEP's guidance, specific project details are provided in spreadsheet format. The DEP will present Work Program project data from each of the water management districts on their website for public review, in accordance with Section 373.536(6)(b), F.S. The detailed spreadsheet includes project schedules, cooperator and state funding levels, and the waterbodies and planning regions supported. The District's proposed Work Program projects spreadsheet is available online at: <https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/resources/plans-reports/water-resource-development-work-program>

The WRD and water supply projects set forth a commitment to develop projects associated with the implementation of MFLs, recovery/prevention strategies, and water reservations. The majority of projects are located within the SWUCA or NTBWUCA and support their recovery strategies by reducing impacts to the Upper Floridan aquifer. The remaining projects are located in the District's Northern Planning Region, where a proactive, preventative approach is taken to optimize available water resources.

The data collection and analysis activities are a critical part of the WRD component implemented by the District. These activities support the District's MFLs programs. At the beginning of FY2026, the District has established and continues to monitor 207 adopted MFLs and has scheduled the establishment or revaluation of 26 MFLs through FY2028. The District's annual MFLs Priority List and Schedule and Reservations List and Schedule is published in the Consolidated Annual Report, and can also be found on the District's webpage at: <https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/mfl/documents-and-reports>

Other data collection and analysis activities include conducting watershed management planning, the QWIP program to preserve water resources through proper well abandonment, and the Implementation of stormwater storage and conveyance BMPs.

Appendix A

District Projects for Implementing Basin Management Action Plans

Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs), led by the DEP, provide technical direction for restoring impaired waters by achieving pollutant reductions established by a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). In 2016, the Florida Legislature amended Section 373.036, F.S., to require the identification of all specific projects that implement a BMAP or a recovery or prevention strategy in the Work Program. Consistent with section 373.036, F.S., and in a manner directed by the DEP and coordinated with all five water management Districts, this Appendix A of the Work Program provides a five-year funding outlook for projects that are BMAP related and include District funding. The District budgeted for thirteen BMAP projects, each benefitting the water quality of first- magnitude springs in the District's northern planning region.

Kings Bay/Crystal River Basin Management Action Plan

- Citrus County Cambridge Greens Septic to Sewer (W432)
- Crystal River Preserve State Park Redfish Hole Restoration (W401)
- Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Mapping (WS01)
- Three Sisters Education Campaign (W466)

Chassahowitzka, Homosassa Springs Basin management Action Plan

- Citrus County Old Homosassa West Septic to Sewer Project (WH04)
- Citrus County Old Homosassa East Septic to Sewer project (Q134)
- Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Mapping – Chassahowitzka (WS01)
- Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Mapping – Homosassa (WS01)
- NW Hernando Septic to Sewer Feasibility Study (Q419)

Weeki Wachee Springs Basin Management Action Plan

- Hernando County Weeki Wachee Springshed Nitrogen Removal Stormwater Retrofits (WW05)
- Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Mapping (WS01)
- Weeki Wachee Education Campaign (W466)
- NW Hernando Septic to Sewer Feasibility Study (Q419)

Rainbow Springs Basin Management Action Plan

- Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Mapping (WS01)

The projects are categorized under various District Programmatic Budget activity codes. District funding shares are presented in **Table A-1**. Funding awarded from the DEP is reflected in the funding columns. Additional funding from the local cooperator shares, including state appropriations are reflected under the total project cost. Project details are available in the Work Program BMAP spreadsheet available online at:

<https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/resources/plans-reports/water-resource-development-work-program>

Table A-1. Projects for Implementing BMAPs.

BMAPs Projects	Prior Funding	FY2026 Funding	FY2027 Funding	FY2028 Funding	FY2029 Funding	FY2030 Funding	Total Project Cost	Funding Sources
Citrus County Cambridge Greens Septic to Sewer (W432)	\$7,200,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,243,000	District, DEP, Citrus County, State
Citrus County Old Homosassa West Septic to Sewer Project (WH04)	\$8,950,800	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,333,000	District, DEP, Citrus County, State
Citrus County Old Homosassa East Septic to Sewer Project (Q134)	\$15,660,800	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$18,131,600	District, DEP, Citrus County, State
Hernando County Weeki Wachee Springshed Nitrogen Removal Stormwater Retrofits (WW05)	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000,000	District, County
Crystal River Preserve State Park Redfish Hole Restoration (W401)	\$197,601	\$0	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,197,601	District
Weeki Wachee Education Campaign (W466)	Annual Request	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	Annual Request	District
Three Sisters Education Campaign (W466)	Annual Request	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	Annual Request	District
Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Mapping (WS01)	Annual Request	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000	Annual Request	District
Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Mapping (WS01)	Annual Request	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000	Annual Request	District
Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Mapping (WS01)	Annual Request	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000	Annual Request	District

Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Mapping (WS01)	Annual Request	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000	Annual Request	District
Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Mapping (WS01)	Annual Request	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000	Annual Request	District
NW Hernando Septic to Sewer Feas. Study (Q149)	\$0	\$75,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	District, Hernando County
Totals	\$33,009,701	\$365,000	\$2,290,000	\$290,000	\$290,000	\$290,000	\$43,055,201	