



Sustaining Our Water Resources

Annual Report on
Regional Water Supply Planning
March 2010



This report, prepared by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) according to the statutory requirements of sections 373.0361(6) and 373.536(6)(a)4, Florida Statutes (F.S.), summarizes the water management districts' progress on their:

- Regional water supply plans,
- Five-year water resource development work programs, and
- Development of alternative water sources through funding provided by the Water Protection and Sustainability Program.

By the year 2025, it is estimated that Floridians will use an additional 2.0 billion gallons of water per day. As Florida continues to grow, pressure is put on the water resources of the state and the need to ensure these resources are available for future generations becomes increasingly important. Floridians have always enjoyed a quality of life that is inextricably linked to the health of our water resources. Tourists come here to enjoy pristine beaches, swim in our fresh water springs, and experience unique fishing opportunities. Florida's water resources also support large agricultural industries. If Florida did not maintain its high quality natural systems, the effects would be felt throughout the entire economy. Fortunately, Florida is taking many steps toward meeting those future needs in a manner that will sustain our natural resources.

Florida's system of water management is implemented primarily through the five water management districts (Figure 1). These districts implement regional water supply plans and assist with the development of alternative water supplies. During the past four years, the districts identified 327 alternative water supply projects to receive funding assistance from the Water Protection and Sustainability Trust Fund. The construction of these projects has already resulted in an additional 267 million gallons per day of water being made available. When all the projects are complete and operational, it is estimated that 761 mgd of water will be made available. This estimate is slightly less than last year's report because recent revenue declines have resulted in several projects being cancelled.

This is a good start on meeting the future needs, but more needs to be done. The state needs to continue:

- Analyzing and estimating trends in water use.
- Developing and implementing regional water supply plans.
- Funding the development of alternative supplies.
- Developing and implementing effective water conservation strategies.
- Incorporating climate change considerations in management decisions.

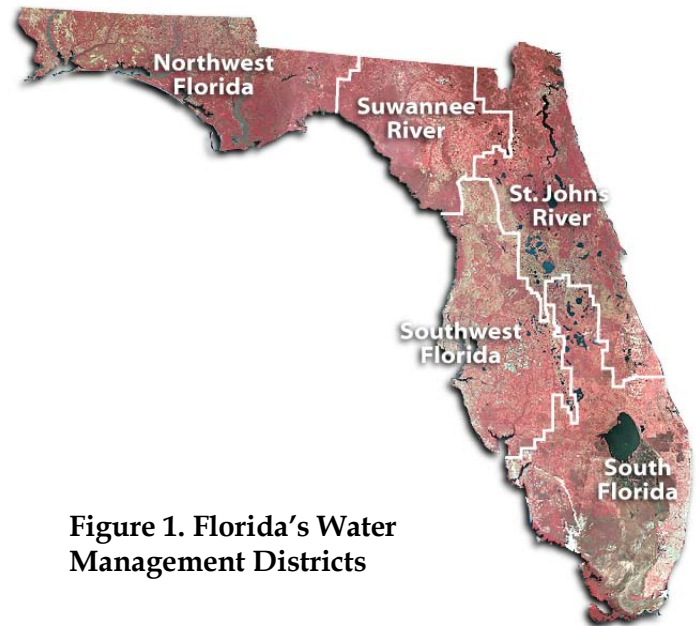


Figure 1. Florida's Water Management Districts

Sustaining Our Water Resources

Florida's current system of water management provides a firm framework for ensuring that our water resources are managed in a sustainable manner. The Florida Water Resources Act, Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, directs the Department of Environmental Protection and the governing boards of the five water management districts to "take into account cumulative impacts on water resources and manage those resources in a manner to ensure their sustainability." There are a number of sections that guide water managers toward sustainable water resource management.

For example, in section 373.016, F.S., there is direction to:

- Promote the conservation, replenishment, recapture, enhancement, development, and proper utilization of surface and ground water.
- Promote the availability of sufficient water for all existing and future reasonable-beneficial uses and natural systems.
- Preserve natural resources, fish and wildlife.

Additionally, the statute governing the establishment of minimum flows and levels, section 373.042, F.S., promotes sustainability by requiring the districts to set limits for water bodies beyond which further withdrawals of water for human use would be significantly harmful to the water resources or ecology of the area. This helps ensure that resources such as rivers, lakes, springs, wetlands and estuaries – resources important to both the state's economy and the quality of life of its citizens – do not suffer irreparable harm in order to meet human needs for water.

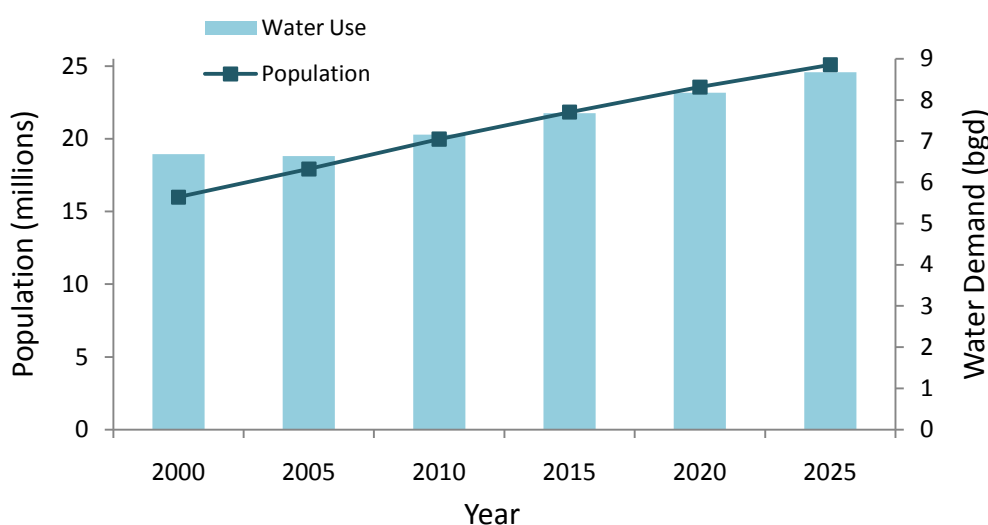
Sustainable water management should also target waste and inefficiency. Section 373.227, F.S., states that the overall water conservation goal of the state is "to prevent and reduce wasteful, uneconomical, or unreasonable use of water resources." It makes sense to use any precious resource in a manner that is both appropriate and efficient. This includes using water from the lowest quality source appropriate for the intended use. For example, with a few exceptions, it is generally preferable to use reclaimed water rather than potable water for uses such as landscape irrigation, cooling towers, and commercial or industrial processes.

While much progress has been made, especially through the implementation of regional water supply plans and the development of alternative water supplies, there is still much work that can be done to ensure Florida's water resources are sustained for future generations. This report will summarize the recent progress toward implementing the regional water supplies plans, the development of alternative supplies, and other strategies to create a sustainable water management system.

Water Use Trends

In order to sustain our water resources it is important to understand the historical water use trends and the future demands on the system. Florida faces many challenges in meeting competing demands for water. In 2000, Floridians used an estimated 6.7 billion gallons per day (bgd) of fresh water. This is estimated to increase by about 30 percent to 8.7 bgd a day in 2025 (Figure 2). During this same period, Florida's population is expected to increase by 57 percent, from 15.9 million to approximately 25 million.

Figure 2. Statewide Demand and Population Projections



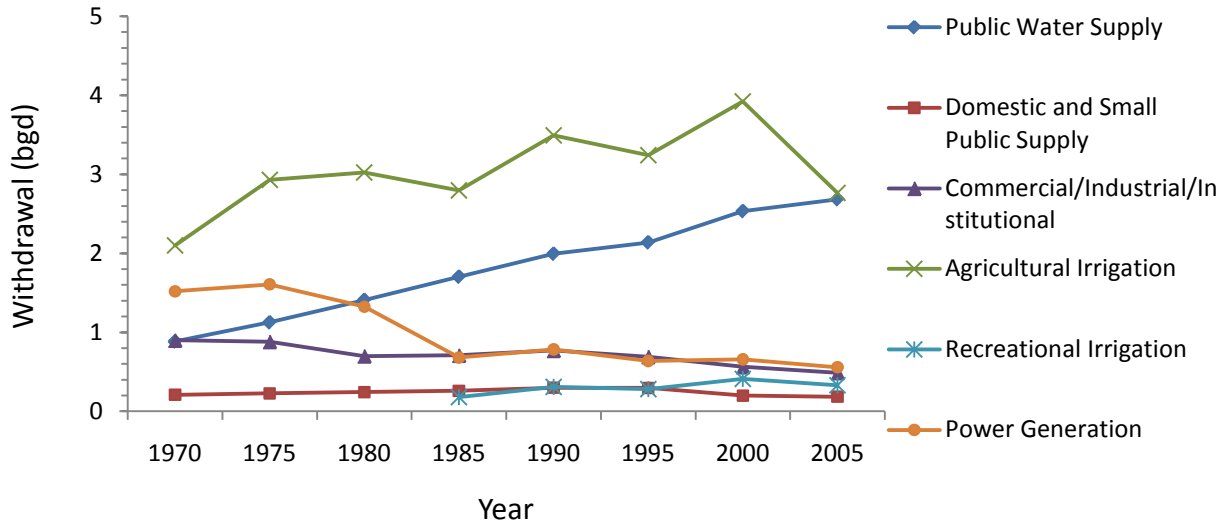
Looking at past and estimated future water trends can help water managers develop strategies to ensure the sustainability of water resources throughout the state. For several years, the Department has contracted with the United States Geological Survey to compile and report on water use patterns in the state. The historical data used in this report is the result of that effort and may be viewed at: <http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2009/5125/>. The estimated future water use is provided by the Water Management Districts.

Historical Fresh Water Withdrawals

Figure 3, shows fresh water withdrawals between 1970 and 2005. Fresh water withdrawals decreased for domestic and small public supply, power generation and commercial/industrial/institutional sectors. Total public supply withdrawals increased 80% between 1980 and 2005, while population increased 84%. Fresh water withdrawals for agricultural irrigation decreased 21% between 1990 and 2005, and nearly 30% between 2000 and 2005. Although agricultural irrigation varies annually because of rainfall fluctuations, the observed decreasing trend results from losses in irrigated acreage attributed to diseases, weather, urbanization, improved conservation methods, better

management practices, and long-term water restrictions. Fresh water withdrawals for recreational irrigation (primarily golf courses) increased 17% between 1990 and 2005, while golf course acreage increased 60%.

Figure 3. Historical Water Withdrawal by Sector

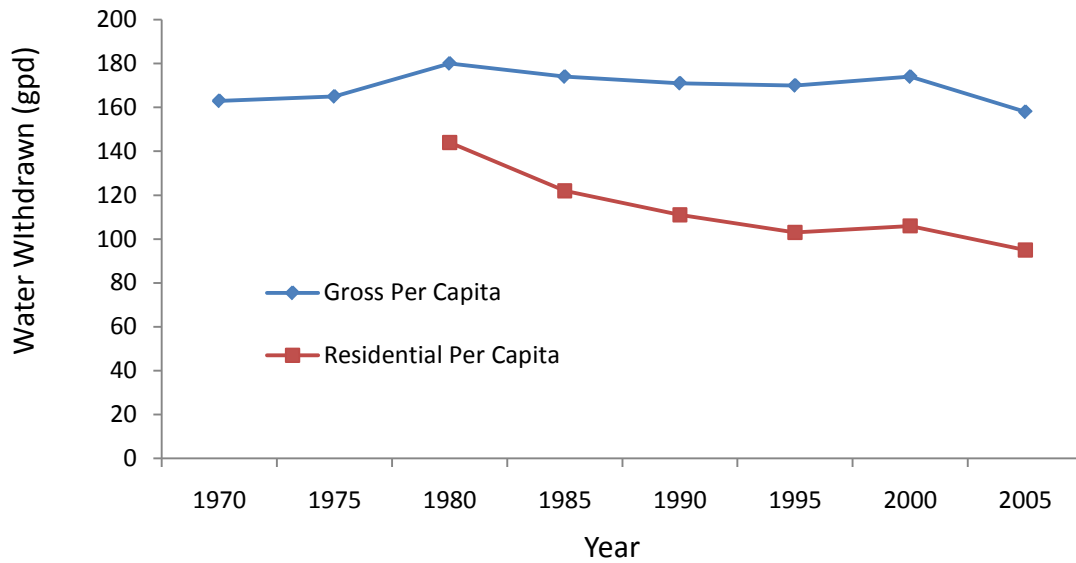


Per capita water use estimates are an important tool for identifying how water is being used, projecting future water demand, targeting water conservation efforts, and assessing the success of water conservation efforts and other water management policies. For public supply, per capita use can be calculated as a gross measurement or as a residential measurement. The USGS calculates gross per capita as the total public supply withdrawn divided by the total population served by the public supply. Gross per capita includes all public water withdrawn for residential, commercial, industrial, and other public uses. The USGS' residential per capita measures water delivered for domestic uses only and excludes the other uses of public supply as well as losses. The USGS estimates that, during certain times of the year, 25-75% of residential water use is for outdoor purposes (primarily lawn watering).

Statewide in 2005, the gross per capita average was 158 gallons per day (gpd) and the residential per capita average was 95 gpd. These averages are lower than the respective 2005 national averages of 200 gpd and 100 gpd, which are driven up by the arid western states.

Gross and residential per capita water uses have both declined since 1980 (Figure 4). These decreases result from the effects of water conservation, water restrictions, the increased use of reclaimed water, and Florida-Friendly landscaping techniques.

Figure 4. Per Capita Water Use Trends

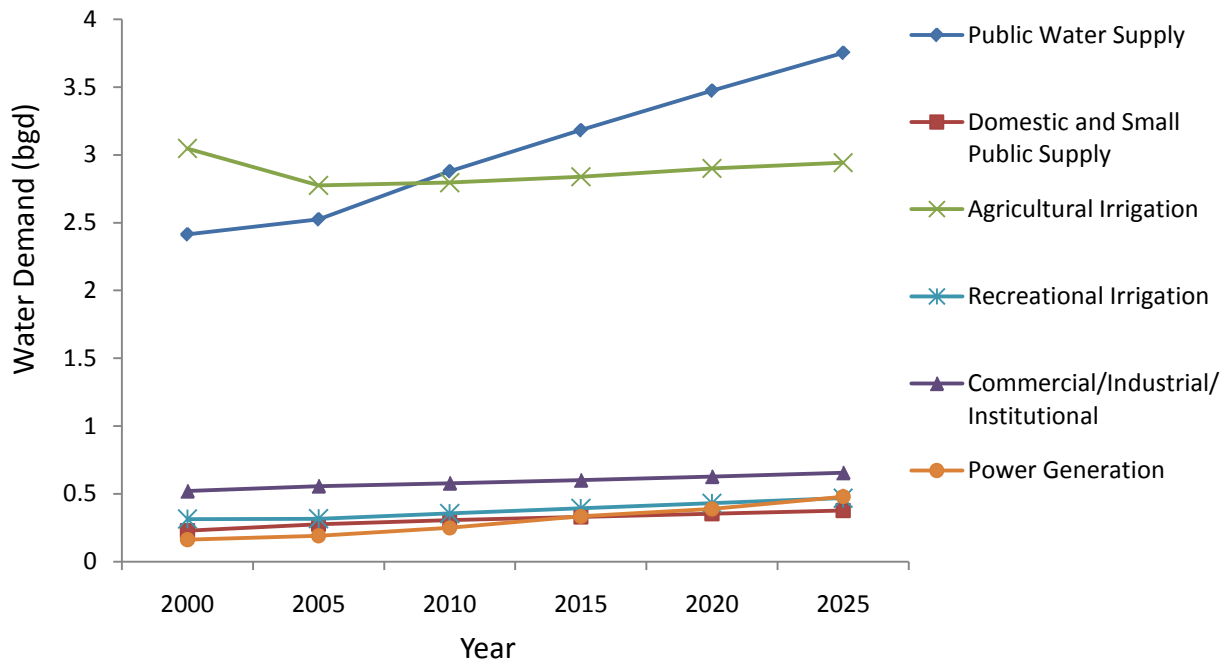


Future Fresh Water Demand Projections

Water demand projections estimate the amount of fresh water used in the future. In this report, demand differs from withdrawal. Water demand does not account for losses occurring during withdrawal, treatment, or distribution of the water. The demand projections in this report cover the planning period from 2000-2025.

Agricultural irrigation and public supply are by far the largest categories of water use (Figure 5). During the 2000-2025 time period, public supply is expected to increase by about 49% and account for the majority of the increase in statewide demand. Agricultural irrigation will increase by about 6%. The other water use sectors show small increasing trends as well.

Figure 5. Projected Water Demand by Sector



In addition, public supply, currently the second largest use category, will become the largest water user in the next few years (Figure 5). Water managers will need to focus on ways to improve water conservation and water use efficiency in these sectors as part of their strategies to sustain fresh water supplies.

The analysis of demand projections is a critical step in determining how best to meet future demands in a sustainable manner. It is also critical to periodically update these projections and extend further out into the future. Currently, the water management districts are in the process of updating their demand projections, which will project out to 2030.

Regional Water Supply Planning

Regional water supply planning, which is the primary subject of this report, is a major element of Florida's strategy to sustainably manage the state's water resources. Section 373.0361, F.S., directs the governing boards of the water management districts to conduct water supply planning for any region where they determine that existing sources of water are not adequate to meet existing and future reasonable-beneficial uses and to sustain the water resources and related natural systems for at least a 20-year planning period.

The water management districts accomplish this by assessing water resources within the district, projecting future demand, and identifying areas where resources are insufficient to meet future demands without causing environmental harm. For each such area, the districts develop a Regional Water Supply Plan (RWSP), which identifies sufficient additional sources to more than meet projected 20-year demands. At least every five years, the districts evaluate the need to develop new RWSPs or update existing ones.

Northwest Florida Water Management District

The Northwest Florida Water Management District has developed regional water supply plans for Regions II, III and V, which include Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay, Gulf and Franklin Counties (Figure 6).

In 2009, the District initiated two of the major water supply development initiatives that were identified in their regional water supply plans. First, was the initiative to develop a coastal water systems interconnection. The district will work with coastal

utilities to develop interconnection plans that will increase the resistance to droughts, major storms, and other contingencies. The second is the development of a district-wide plan for the reuse of reclaimed water, identifying opportunities for future projects. Other highlights include the following:

- Assisting local governments, Department of Community Affairs, and DEP in the implementation of comprehensive planning requirements associated with regional water supply planning.

Figure 6. Planning Regions of NFWMD



- Completion of four Water Protection and Sustainability projects, which include construction of reuse facilities in Tallahassee and Chipley and an alternative surface water treatment plant in Port St. Joe.
- The inland wellfield project in Walton County is nearing completion, as are a water reclamation facility in Okaloosa County and an inland ground water source evaluation in Bay County.

The district-wide Water Supply Assessment update was completed in 2008 (approved May 2009), extending water demand projections and evaluation of sources through 2030. The 2008 WSA concluded that no additional RWSPs are required, and that water supply planning and implementation efforts should continue in Regions II, III, and V.

Suwannee River Water Management District

Currently, the Suwannee River Water Management District (Figure 7) does not have a regional water supply plan. In previous years, district analysis of demands indicated that there were sufficient sources to meet 2025 demands. A district-wide water supply assessment is currently underway to evaluate the availability of water to meet projected 2030 demands. The district is coordinating its water supply assessment with the St. Johns River Water Management District, Northwest Florida Water Management District, and Southwest Florida Water Management District for counties that are shared. The target date for completing the district's water supply assessment is December 2010.

Figure 7. Suwannee River Water Management District



Analysis conducted during the establishment of minimum flows and levels in the Upper Santa Fe River Basin has indicated that alternative water supply sources will be required to meet water supply needs within the next 20 years. The district is coordinating with the St. Johns River Water Management District to develop an Upper Santa Fe River Basin water supply plan by December 2010.

St. Johns River Water Management District

During 2009, the St. Johns River Water Management District continued to implement its 2005 District Water Supply Plan; and prepared a fourth addendum to its plan (Technical Publication SJ2006-2D), which added a new Water Conservation chapter, removed four water supply projects, provided additional project specific descriptions, and updated project status. This fourth addendum, as well as the third addendum, is currently the subject of legal challenges.

SJRWMD prepared and published its draft 2008 Water Supply Assessment (WSA 2008). The draft WSA 2008 identified approximately 98 percent of the district as priority water resource caution areas or potential priority water resource caution areas. The draft WSA 2008 is being reviewed through the 2010 water supply

Figure 8. Planning Regions of SJRWMD

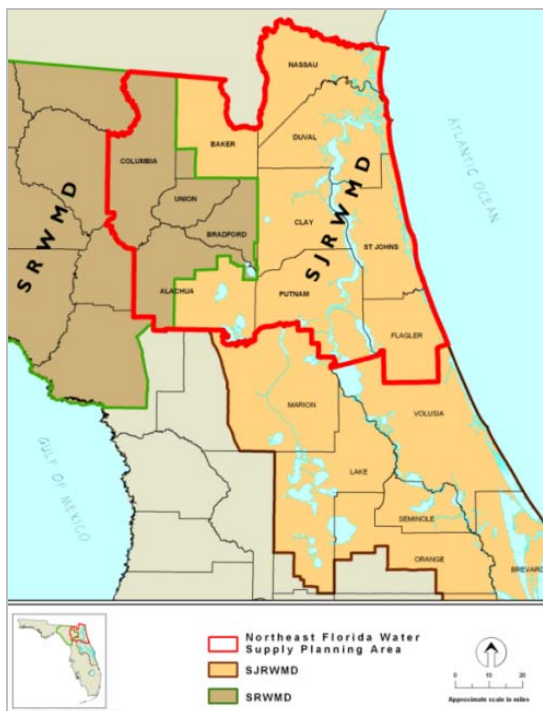
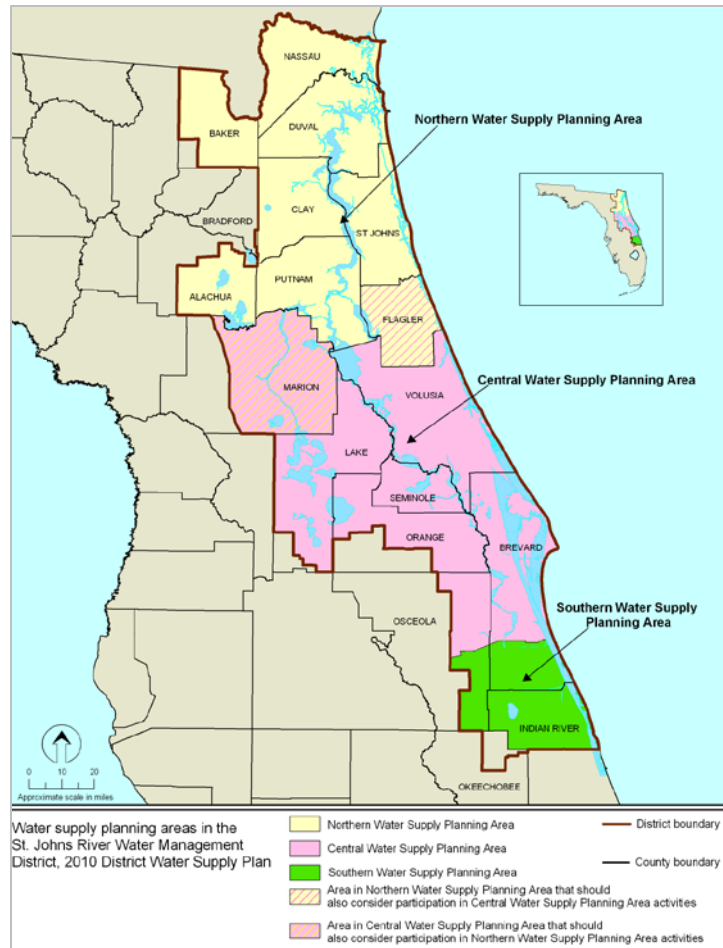


Figure 9. Northeast Florida Water Supply Planning Area

planning process and will be published as an appendix to the 2010 District Water Supply Plan.

Three planning areas are the focus of the 2010 water supply planning process: northern, central, and southern water supply planning areas (Figure 8). SJRWMD has established work groups for each planning area. These work groups are open to all interested parties. SJRWMD has established special topic subgroups for subjects needing levels of attention that cannot be provided in regular work group meetings. Examples of subgroup topics are water conservation, groundwater modeling, minimum flows and levels recovery and prevention strategies, and identification of alternative water supply and water resource development projects.

Coordination with neighboring water management districts is ongoing through the Central Florida Coordination Area process, special coordination with the Southwest Florida Water Management District for areas along the shared boundaries in Lake and Marion counties, and a joint planning process with Suwannee River Water Management District for the Northeast Florida Water Supply Planning Area (Figure 9).

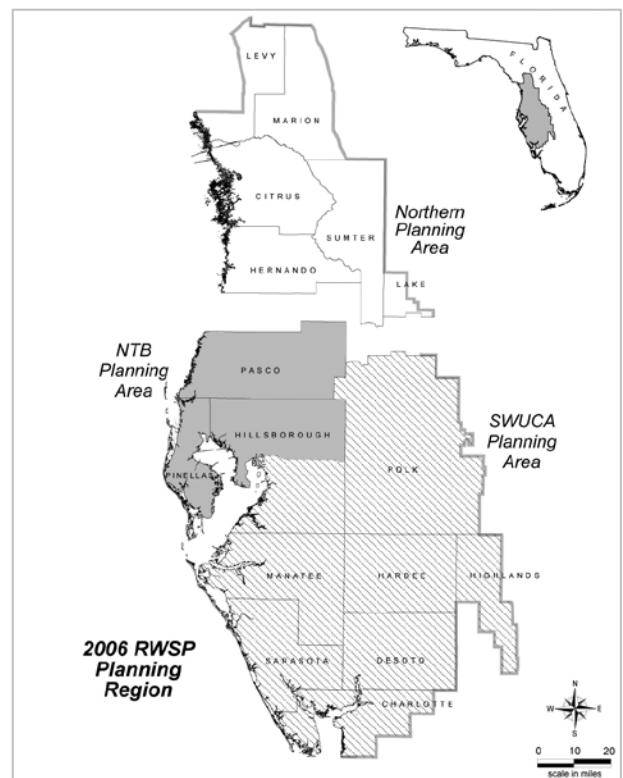
DWSP 2010 is scheduled to be presented to the district's Governing Board for consideration in December 2010.

Southwest Florida Water Management District

In 2006, the district's Governing Board approved the updated Regional Water Supply Plan, which covers a 10-county planning region from Pasco County south to Charlotte County and inland to Polk and Highlands Counties. Significant progress was made in the last year in implementing the current plan. Some highlights include the following:

- Provided funding for the construction of a six billion gallon, above ground reservoir and expansion of the surface water treatment facilities from a capacity of 24 million gallons per day (mgd) to 48 mgd for the Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority.
- Provided funding for the expansion of the City of Punta Gorda's water treatment capacity from 8 mgd to 10 mgd.
- Continued to provide funding assistance on the Tampa Bay Water's (TBW) System Configuration II project, which will expand surface water treatment capacity, interconnect key system components and upgrade infrastructure, eventually providing an additional 25 mgd to the 3-county service area.
- Provided funding assistance for the construction of a major interconnect between the TBW regional system and the Starkey wellfield, (serving areas of western Pasco County and the City of New Port Richey), which will provide operational flexibility for TBW. This will help reduce the environmental impacts of wellfield pumping.
- Entered into cooperative funding agreements with the Cities of Tarpon Springs and Oldsmar to develop brackish groundwater supplies to serve the two communities.
- Provided funding assistance for a reclaimed water project in Polk County which will beneficially reuse 6 mgd of reclaimed water from the City of Lakeland to facilitate expansion of a Tampa Electric Company (TECO) power station.

Figure 10. Planning Regions of SWFWMD



- Approved 22 new projects for the district’s agricultural water conservation program, Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems (FARMS), which will offset almost 1.5 mgd of current groundwater withdrawals through implementation of best management practices.
- The District worked with Polk County and the South Florida WMD to fund a comprehensive water supply plan for Polk County and its municipalities, completed this year.
- Constructed a deep well into the Lower Floridan aquifer in northeast Polk County.
- Expanded the District’s data collection network to include two new Lower Floridan wells in the northern part of the District.
- The District established nine additional minimum flows or levels (MFLs) in the past year and funded projects to implement MFL recovery strategies for the Northern Tampa Bay and Southern Water Use Caution Areas and the Lower Hillsborough River.

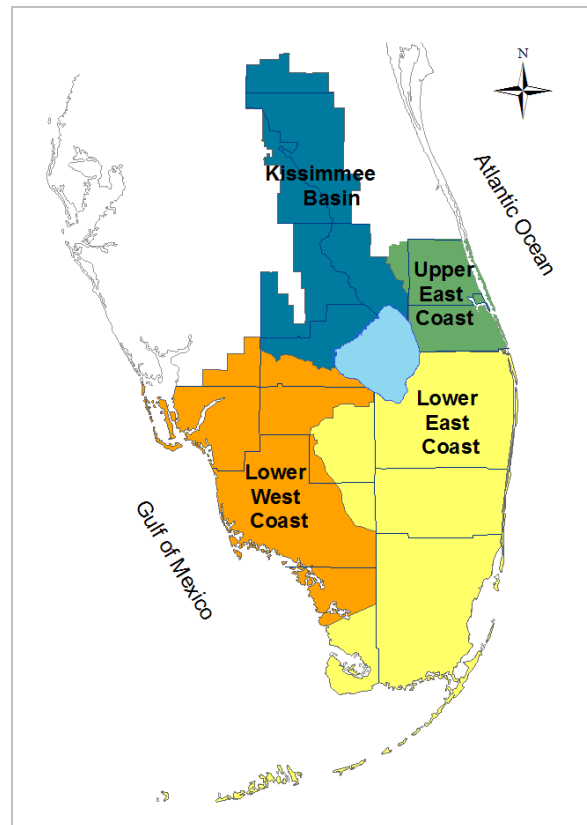
The SWFWMD is updating its Regional Water Supply Plan (RWSP) with Governing Board approval scheduled for late 2010. The 2010 update will also include, for the first time, the northern planning area. The plan will have four volumes, corresponding to four Planning Regions covering the entire 16-county District (Figure 10).

South Florida Water Management District

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMMD) adopted plans for each of its four planning regions (Figure 11). As a part of the process, the SFWMMD worked with the utilities to identify specific alternative water supply projects that would provide enough water to meet future needs. Many of these projects are funded through the Water Protection and Sustainability Program. Additionally, the District identified several projects that support the development of alternative water supplies such as feasibility studies, groundwater monitoring and assessment, and a comprehensive water conservation program. In 2009, the district allocated approximately \$5.2 million for those support projects. Some highlights of implementing the plans include:

- The district’s comprehensive water conservation program is estimated to have made 2.44 mgd of additional water available in FY 2009.
- Adopted a reservation of water for the North Fork of the St. Lucie River and completed the

Figure 11. SFWMD Planning Regions



technical work necessary to adopt a reservation of water for the Kissimmee River and several lakes in the Kissimmee Chain.

- Completed phase II of the Upper Kissimmee Basin Regional Water Supply effort, which evaluated surface water availability.
- Continued Central Florida Coordination Area studies in cooperation with the St. Johns River Water Management District and the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

The updated plans for the Upper East Coast and the Lower West Coast planning regions will be completed in FY 2011 and the plans for the Kissimmee Basin and the Lower East Coast planning regions will be completed in FY 2012.

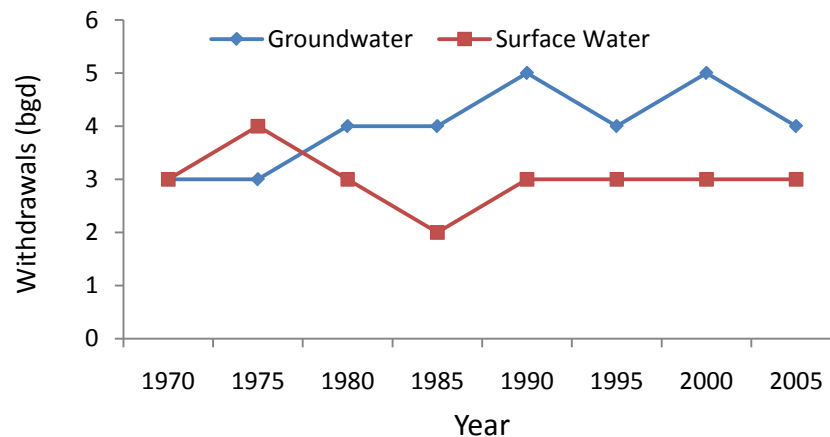
Water Resource Development Work Programs

Each year, the water management districts prepare Five-Year Water Resource Development Work Programs, which describe the districts' implementation of the water resource development portion of their regional water supply plans. DEP reviewed this year's work programs and determined that they were consistent with the regional water supply plans and the expenditures appeared to be adequate.

Developing Alternative Supplies

The regional water supply plans promote sustainability in a variety of ways. The most obvious is through the identification of alternative sources of water. Source diversification is an important consideration in developing and managing sustainable water supplies. Too much reliance on a single water source results in a system that is not sustainable and can lead to water shortages and environmental damage. Most of Florida has traditionally relied on fresh groundwater (Figure 12) to meet demands for potable water, agricultural irrigation, commercial and industrial uses, landscape irrigation, and other uses. Supplies of fresh, inexpensively treated groundwater are increasingly limited in many parts of the state. For example, the Central Florida region is almost completely dependent upon groundwater. Water management district studies indicate that there is only enough ground water to meet regional demands through 2013. Already, in some instances, groundwater withdrawals have damaged wetlands and reduced spring flows. As a result, the South Florida, Southwest Florida, and St. Johns River Water Management Districts are working together to identify alternative sources of water to meet Central Florida's water demands.

Figure 12. Historical Fresh Water Withdrawals



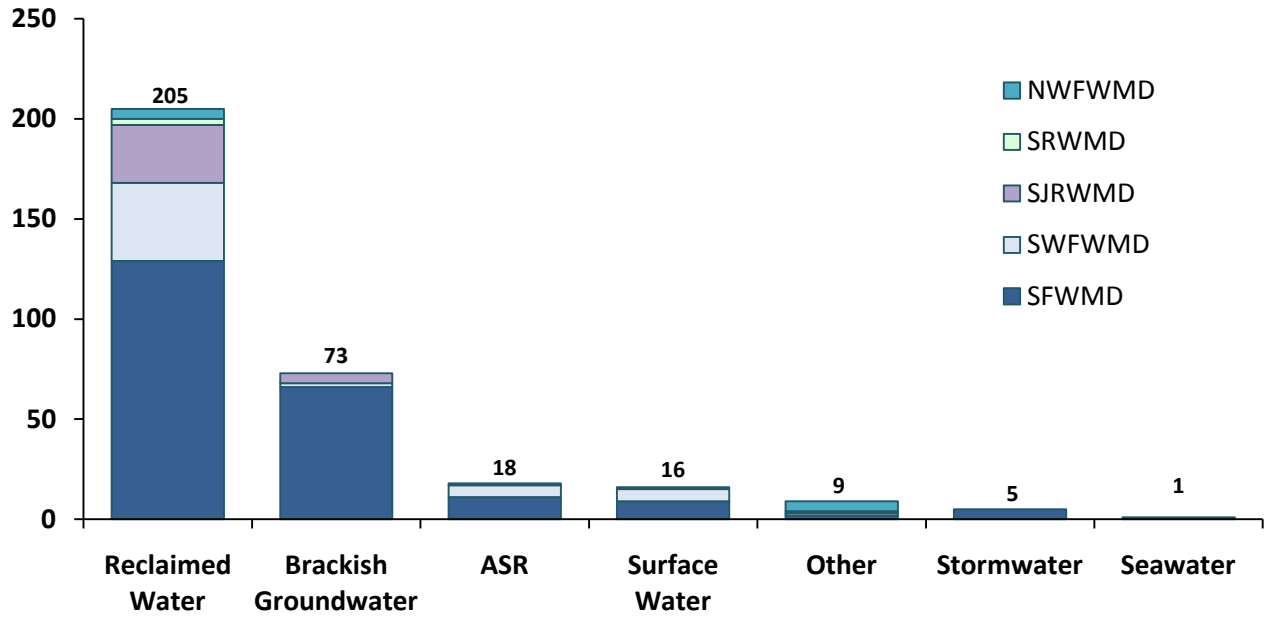
To help diversify the state's water supply sources, the State Legislature, in 2005, created the Water Protection and Sustainability Trust Fund and appropriated \$100 million to be used to promote the development of alternative water supplies. These funds, along with matching district funds, are awarded as grants to local water suppliers. Florida Statutes do not require the Suwannee River and Northwest Florida Water Management Districts to provide matching funds. Funding was reduced in subsequent years until 2009 when no funding at all was appropriated (Table 1). A stable source of funding would hasten development of alternative supplies and lead to greater source diversification in Florida.

Table 1. Funding Distributions for Alternative Water Supply Development through the Water Protection and Sustainability Program

| Water Management District | FY 2005 - 2006 (\$ millions) | FY 2006 - 2007 (\$ millions) | FY 2007- 2008 (\$ millions) | FY 2008 - 2009 (\$ millions) |
|----------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| South Florida | 30 | 18 | 15.6 | 4.25 |
| Southwest Florida | 25 | 15 | 13 | 0.75 |
| St. Johns River | 25 | 15 | 13 | 0 |
| Suwannee River | 10 | 6 | 5.2 | 0.27 |
| Northwest Florida | 10 | 6 | 5.2 | 0.27 |
| Total | 100 | 60 | 52 | 5.54 |

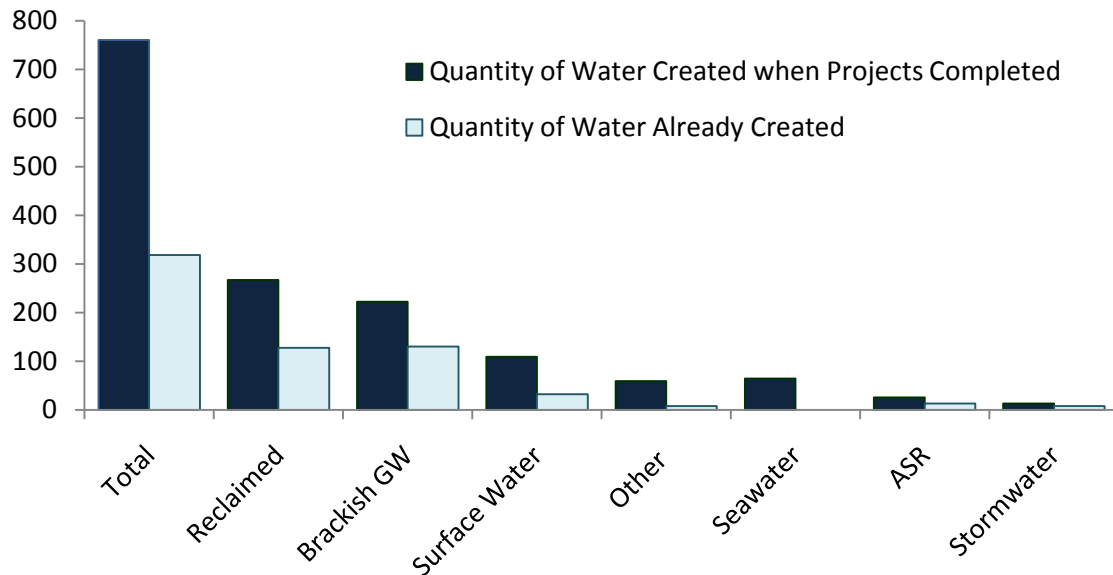
During the four years of the Water Protection and Sustainability Program, the water management districts provided funding assistance to local water suppliers for the construction of 327 projects. Because of budget constraints both at local and regional levels, several projects were cancelled. The total number of projects selected for funding has declined from last year by 17 projects. Figure 13 shows that approximately 63 percent of the projects funded were reclaimed water projects. This is not surprising since Florida is a national leader in the reuse of reclaimed water, overall reusing some 43% (663 million gallons a day) of treated wastewater for beneficial purposes. About 86% (475) of Florida's large wastewater plants produce reclaimed water. Reclaimed water projects are a key element of RWSPs, and are important to sustainable management of water resources. The next most common group of projects funded were brackish groundwater projects, which comprised approximately 22 percent of the total.

Figure 13. Statewide Summary of Types of Alternative Water Supply Projects Funded



The districts estimate that when construction of all currently planned alternative water supply projects is complete they will help create approximately 761 mgd of “new water” available for consumptive use, which is about 38 percent of the additional 2 bgd of water needed by 2025 (Figure 14). Since some projects were cancelled due to budget reductions, the estimate of water made available declined from last year’s estimate by 81 mgd. Figure 14 shows that reclaimed water projects are expected to produce the largest amount of water, approximately 267 mgd. That is about 13 percent of the additional water needed by 2025 (though not all of the reclaimed water will completely offset groundwater use).

Figure 14. Quantity of Water Made Available by AWS Projects

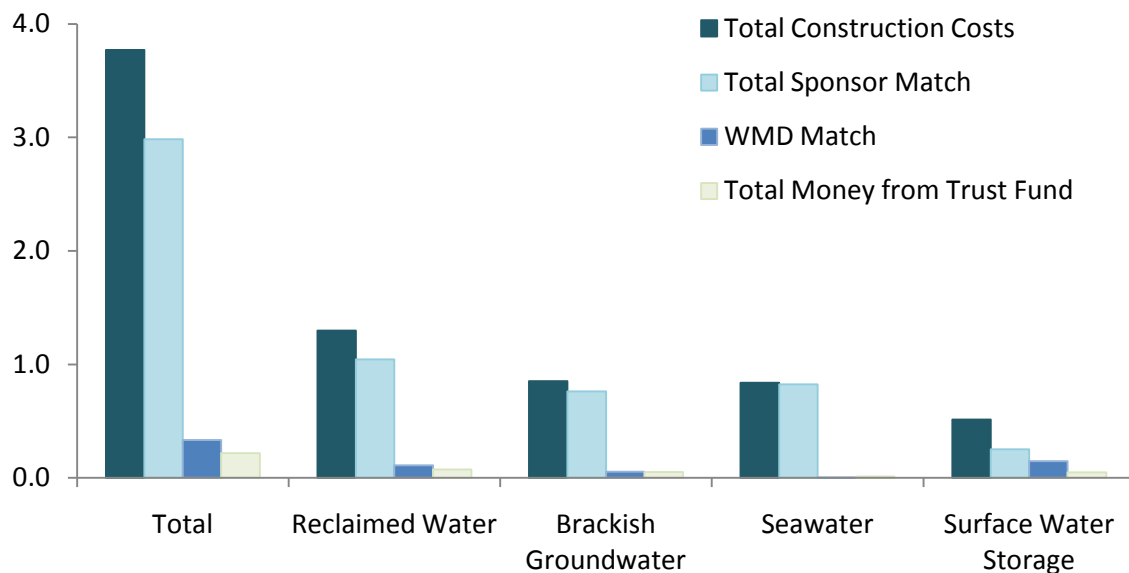


Brackish groundwater projects are expected to produce the next largest amount of water, approximately 223 mgd. That is about 11 percent of the additional water needed by 2025.

The total construction costs of the projects selected for funding assistance are approximately \$3.8 billion (Figure 15). In the first four years, the Water Protection and Sustainability Program, including the match provided by the water management districts, provided about \$551.8 million. This represents about 15 percent of the total construction costs. The statute requires, in most cases, that the local sponsor ultimately be responsible for at least 60 percent of the total project construction costs.¹ The water suppliers have committed to providing about \$3.0 billion toward construction of these projects, which represents about 79 percent of the total.

In addition to total costs, Figure 15 shows the cost breakdown for the four types of projects with the highest construction costs. The estimated costs for reclaimed water projects are \$1.3 billion and account for approximately 35 percent of the construction costs for all the alternative water supply projects. There is only one seawater desalination project proposed for funding assistance (by SJRWMD), yet the cost of that project is expected to be \$839 million and accounts for approximately 19 percent of the construction costs for all the alternative water supply projects.

Figure 15. Statewide Costs of Alternative Water Supply Projects



¹ The total construction costs are reported for the life of the project which may have been funded before the Water Protection and Sustainability Program started. Additionally, some projects receive funds from other sources, which is why the total of sponsor match, WMD match, and Water Protection and Sustainability Program match may not equal total construction costs.

Additional Efforts

Water suppliers are making good progress toward meeting projected 2025 demands, but it is not feasible to build enough infrastructure to meet all demands in periods of extreme drought. Developing alternative water sources is simply one element of a diverse, sustainable water supply system.

Water Conservation

Perhaps the cheapest way to develop new water is through effective water conservation practices. Each regional plan also employs conservation as a sustainability strategy. Historically underutilized, conservation could meet a significant portion of projected 2030 demand if it were given greater emphasis. Water already in the distribution pipeline, and not wasted through inefficient or inappropriate use, is usually cheaper than developing new sources. Conservation projects should be evaluated equally with new source development, and funded equally when determined to be the most cost-effective source of supply. Many areas of the state could meet much of their short and mid-term water demand, and delay the capital costs of new water supply infrastructure, with the implementation of additional water use efficiencies.

Climate Change

Any discussion of sustainability must include the challenges posed by climate change. Climate change will affect every aspect of water resource management, including water quantity and quality, natural systems protection, flood protection, and drought management. The department has taken several steps to both better understand and address the potential effects on water management from climate variability and change.

Department representatives serve on the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) State and Tribal Climate Change Council of the National Water Program. The Council's purpose is to encourage and enhance cooperation among State, Tribal and EPA water program managers on climate change and water quality issues. To better understand the potential effects of climate change, the department also supports the Agency for Water Environment Research Foundation's (WERF) grant application, for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration funding, for an in-depth review of the impacts of climate change on wastewater and stormwater infrastructure.

Because climate change has significant potential to affect water supply sources and change patterns of water demand, the department has asked the water management districts to include climate change considerations in the 2010 update to their regional water supply plans. For this update, the districts expect to present only qualitative information because climate change models with probable scenarios for sea level rise, temperature change, and altered rainfall patterns for Florida do not exist yet. However, the department anticipates the districts will provide quantitative information in subsequent RWSP updates, as the needed climate change models develop.

In April 2009, the department prepared the Framework for Action: Water Management and Climate Change in Florida. This document summarizes the scientific evidence of how climate change will affect Florida water resources, presents an inventory of actions already taken throughout the state and nation, and concludes with 18 recommended actions for the department and water management districts that build directly upon the recommendations of the Governor's Action Team on Energy and Climate Change. In accordance with one of the recommendations, a Steering Committee has been established, which is in the process of prioritizing the recommendations.

Century Commission "2008 Water Congress"

In September of 2008, delegates from government, industry and non-governmental sectors from around the state convened in Orlando for a Water Congress to address issues related to water management in Florida. A total of 18 consensus recommendations were approved by the delegates. Not surprisingly, a number of the recommendations relate to regional water supply planning. The complete set of Water Congress Recommendations can be found at the Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida's website at: <http://www.centurycommission.org/recommendations.asp>.

Sustainability Outlook

It is clear that Florida's water managers have been directed by the legislature to manage the state's water resources in a sustainable manner, and have been given the authority to do so. It is clear, also, that much has been done to move Florida toward sustainable management of its water resources. However, continued effort will be needed to face the state's challenges of growth and climatic variability as evidenced by:

- Regional water supply planning is now needed in nearly all of the SJRWMD.
- For the first time, parts of the SRWMD will need to have a plan.
- The SWFWMD is adding the northern portion of that district to its planning effort.
- The NFWWMD has plans for three of its coastal regions to protect public supply wells against saltwater intrusion.
- Many areas of south and southwest Florida are subject to Minimum Flow and Level "recovery strategies" because they are not meeting their established MFLs.
- In the Central Florida Coordination Area, which encompasses parts of the SJRWMD, SFWMD and SWFWMD, rules have been adopted to cap groundwater withdrawals at only the amount needed to meet 2013 demands. Demands beyond 2013 will have to be met through conservation, reuse of reclaimed water and the development of alternative water supplies.
- The prolonged severe droughts in 1999-2001 and 2006-2008 put significant strain on Florida's water supplies. It was necessary to impose significant limitations on landscape and agricultural irrigation, as well as other uses in order to avoid irreparable environmental harm.

The good news is that Florida has the mechanisms in place to develop solutions to these issues. We need to expand our efforts to protect and preserve our water resources using the tools the legislature has provided, and Regional Water Supply Planning is a means to put those tools to work.

For more information about *Regional Water Supply Plans* please call or write:

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