

e-Resource is a monthly electronic communiqué designed to keep you apprised of the community and legislative activities undertaken by the Southwest Florida Water Management District and provide up-to-date information on important water issues.



Issue 15
 October–November 2006
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Cooperative Funding Changes Adopted

The District’s Cooperative Funding Initiative allows local governments and other partners to share costs for projects that assist in creating sustainable water resources, provide flood protection and enhance conservation efforts.

At its October meeting, the Governing Board adopted several changes to the District’s Cooperative Funding Initiative. The goal of the changes is to provide cooperators with clear direction related to the Governing Board’s policy for alternative water supply project coordination and allocation of state and federal grant appropriations.

Last spring, the Governing Board adopted conditions pertaining to District funding eligibility for alternative water supply projects. Specifically, the Board agreed that local governments who are members of a water supply authority must work through the authority to meet their potable water supply needs in order to be considered for District funding. If a member government proposes a potable water supply project, it needs to be

submitted by the water supply authority, and the authority must retain some element of ownership and control of the completed project. Local governments who are located within the service area of a water supply authority but not a member of the authority must coordinate their water supply needs with the authority to ensure that the project is compatible with the authority’s regional plans. The authority must submit an affirmative written statement recommending that the District provide alternative water supply funding.

The most recent Board action adds to this policy direction. The policy advises cooperators that any state or federal appropriations will be applied toward the total cost of the proposed project. Governing and Basin Boards will then consider funding up to half of the remaining project costs.

Applications for fiscal year 2008 cooperative funding are due to the District no later than 2 p.m. on December 1, 2006.



CLA staff recently facilitated a tour of Tampa Bay Water’s Desalination Plant in Apollo Beach for State Representative Ron Reagan. The District is a partner in the plant, which, when operational, will be the largest desalination facility in the United States.

Central Florida Planning Efforts Move Forward

In the spring of 2006, the executive directors from the Southwest Florida Water Management District, St. Johns River Water Management District and South Florida Water Management District directed staff to begin meeting to develop a plan for formal communication and coordination of water supply efforts in central Florida where the boundaries of the districts come together. The goal is to meet the growing water supply needs of a five-county region while also protecting the water and related natural resources.

All three district governing boards have now approved the Action Plan for the Central Florida Coordination Area (CFCA). This plan recognizes within the coordination area that there is limited traditional groundwater supplies and that

there is a need to not only develop alternative water supplies, but to do so with a coordinated and consistent approach.

Short-term objectives of the plan (to be completed within 18 months) include regulatory consistency, equitable distribution of groundwater supplies and identification of alternative water supply projects and potential participants. There is a commitment to the long-term viability of water supplies in the CFCA. And to that end, long-term objectives are also outlined and include better and more consistent planning coordination; consistent and improved data, models and tools; equitable distribution of any additional ground water identified; and the implementation of alternative water supplies.



District Hosts African Delegation

On October 19, a 14-member delegation from three countries in Africa — Cameroon, Senegal and Cape Verde — visited the District’s Tampa Service Office. Rand Baldwin, senior community affairs coordinator and Ed Kouadio, professional geologist/engineer in the District’s Tampa Regulation Department, presented a program on water management in Florida.

The United States Trade and Development Agency sponsored the visit. The mission of the agency is to advance economic development and U.S. commercial interests in developing and middle-income countries. To that end, the agency funds various forms of technical assistance, investment analysis, training, orientation visits and business workshops that support

the development of a modern infrastructure and a fair and open trading environment. The delegation also visited Washington, D.C., and Dallas, Texas.

All the participants have responsibility for various aspects of water management in their respective countries. They were particularly interested in the structure of water management districts in Florida, learning about the latest best management practices for drinking water and wastewater systems, and the development of alternative sources such as reclaimed water. The group also met with representatives from the City of Tampa, Tampa Bay Water and Pinellas County Utilities.

Over the years, the District has participated in technology transfer with many countries, including Morocco, Egypt, Jordan, Pakistan,

Saudi Arabia, Australia, Madagascar and China. The District was a co-founder of the Inter-American Dialogue on Water Management. Now located within the Organization of American States, the Dialogue is a vehicle for the transfer of policy and technology on water management throughout this hemisphere. The Fifth Inter-American Dialogue on Water Management was held in October 2005.



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