

*Fiscal Year 2027*

**Cooperative Funding Initiative Applications**

# Tampa Bay Region





Project Name	Project Number	District Funding Requested
Demand Management Plan Implementation - Phase 7	Q438	\$2,500,769
Citywide Watershed Master Plan – BMP Alternatives Analysis	Q440	\$450,000
Stevenson Creek Watershed Management Plan Update	Q444	\$325,000
Southern Hillsborough County Supply Expansion: Pipeline	Q241	\$145,054,000
Hillsborough County Utilities Advanced Metering	Q446	\$340,450
Church Creek Phase II Flood Mitigation	Q448	\$2,500,000
South County Regional Watershed Management Masterplan Update	Q452	\$1,200,000
Town of Belleair Bluff Restoration and Erosion Abatement - Phase 2	Q454	\$2,350,000
Plant City Potable Reuse Facility Final Design and Construction	Q455	\$101,580,000
FY2027 Tampa Bay Environmental Restoration Fund	W024	\$350,000
Pinellas County Countywide Coastal Real-Time Flood Forecasting	Q457	\$176,550
Overall Total		\$256,826,769



# SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## FY 2027 Cooperative Funding Initiative Application Form

**Project Name:** Demand Management Plan Implementation - Phase 7  
**Project Number:** Q438 **Cooperator:** Tampa Bay Water  
**Contact Person:** Amelia Brown **Department:** Tampa Bay Water  
**Address:** 2575 Enterprise Rd **Phone #:** 8137436417  
**City State Zip:** Clearwater, FL 33763 **Ext:**  
**Email:** abrown@tampabaywater.org

**Project Type:**

Water Supply

**Strategic Initiatives:**

Conservation

**Project Description/Benefit/Cost**

**Description:**

Tampa Bay Water provides drinking water to six member governments: the counties of Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas, and the cities of New Port Richey, St. Petersburg and Tampa. These member governments in turn provide drinking water to about 2.6 million people. Water supplies include groundwater, surface water, and desalinated water. In anticipation of the population growth over the next ten years, the agency has decided to pursue the expansion of the Tampa Bay Regional Surface Water Treatment Plant and has also invested in demand-side water efficiency programs to meet the growing demand for water in the region.

In March 2020, Tampa Bay Water (agency) launched the regional water conservation rebate program called Tampa Bay Water Wise in coordination with its members, and with support from the District's Cooperative Funding Initiative. The program is managed by the agency and guided by a Working Group comprised of staff from all six member governments and the District. EGIA was retained as the third-party administrator for this program. EGIA processes the rebates, manages the website and manages the marketing. Outreach and promotional activities are conducted by the program's outreach managers (2.25 full time equivalent employees), and marketing tactics also include in-store signage, utility bill stuffers, social media, e-newsletters, digital ads and search engine optimization.

Lastly, each year the true water savings from the program are determined through water bill analyses for each rebate type issued. This improves our assumed water saving estimates, and we use this information to help us evaluate the cost-effectiveness of the program.

As proposed herein, a variety of rebate types would be offered, and the condensed list is as follows:

1. Homeowner High Efficiency Toilet (\$40- \$200 for replacing old toilets with 1.28 or 0.8 gpf WaterSense toilets)
2. Single Family SMS/ET Irrigation Controller – Professional Installation (\$250 rebate or free to customers)
3. Single Family Sprinkler System Rebate – (varied rebates for visits, rain shut off device and capped heads)
4. Multi-Family/Hotel High Efficiency Toilet (\$40 - \$200 for replacing old toilets with 1.28 gpf or 0.8 gpf WaterSense toilet)



# SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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5. Multi-Family & Non-Residential showerhead (\$15)
6. Multi-Family & Non-Residential faucet aerator (\$5)
7. Non-Residential Valve-Type, Tank Type Toilets and Urinals (\$40 – 200 for installing WaterSense toilets, based on gpf differential)
8. Cooling Tower (sliding scale, ~ \$10,000)
9. Florida Water Star Single Family (\$1,000)
10. Florida Water Star Multi-Family (\$100 per unit, \$850 per 6,000 sq ft. irrigated area)

The price range for the toilet rebates reflects a trial period during which the rebate price will be increased, in an effort to encourage more participation in the program. If the impact on participation is significant, the working group may decide to permanently adopt these higher toilet rebate prices. The original toilet rebate structure and trial period toilet rebate structure are detailed in the attached excel file called "TBWW FY27 Projections and Cost" and the District's cost effectiveness calculator.

### **Benefit:**

Tampa Bay Water, as part of its Long-Term Water Supply Plan update, is required to evaluate and update the Demand Management Plan every five years. The most recent version of this plan from 2023 has been attached to this application. This plan outlines the goals for demand management which include implementing the Tampa Bay Water Wise conservation program to cost effectively delay the need for new water supplies. The program goal is to save 3.8 million gallons per day by 2030, at a lower cost than developing new supplies.

Since its launch, the program has grown year after year, saving over 870,000 gallons per day through September 2025. In the program's first six months, which coincided with the onset of covid-19, the program saved 3,540 gallons per day (gpd). In fiscal year 2021 the program saved 39,649 gpd, in 2022 it saved 113,410 gpd, in 2023 it saved 157,134 gpd, and in 2024 the program saved 374,206. This year over year growth is a direct result of the program's maturation, as we have been able to modify the rebates to better align with our target customer interests and through increased promotional activities.

Importantly, the Tampa Bay Water Wise program has proven to have a substantially lower cost - \$0.78 per thousand gallons in 2024 - than the cost of developing new water supplies. Tampa Bay Water's current new supply project, the Surface Water Treatment Plant Expansion costs approximately \$4-\$5/kgal. Beyond that, early estimates for other, future supply project costs are estimated to cost approximately \$4/kgal in the most cost-effective scenarios, however no specific projects have been selected. The lower cost of water conservation is expected to continue as the program progresses, and this is a substantial benefit to the agency, its members and the rate payers.

The member governments have acknowledged the benefits that this program provides to their customers. As such, all six member governments dedicate time and resources to promote the program and guide its development. Tampa Bay Water sends a customer satisfaction survey to all rebate participants, and this is a way to gauge the value that we provide to customers. The survey reveals that out of 531 survey responses, 89% are extremely or very likely to recommend the program to others, and 92% of respondents rated the program as excellent or good. These results are nearly identical to the last two years, indicating a sustained approval rating. As we look ahead to 2026 and 2027, we aim to work more with HOAs and businesses to increase the variety of customers we work with and provide benefits to more customer segments around the region.

# SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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### Cost:

The total costs for the 18 rebates eligible under the CFI program are \$1,539,756, and the District's share would be \$540,702 by covering 50% of rebate costs, administrative and inspection costs and 7% of promotion costs.

The costs for this program consist of 1) the rebates paid to customers, 2) the administrative costs paid to the 3rd party administrator (EGIA) to process the rebates, 2) the cost to have customer eligibility and actual water savings calculated by a consultant, 3) inspections, and 4) program promotion and customer education. Using the District's conservation calculator, the total weighted average cost of the program is \$1.34/1000 gallons. The cost-effectiveness of each rebate type ranges from \$0.41/1000 gallons and \$4.49/1000 gallons except for the aerator rebate which are \$7.46/kgal. The reason for the high aerator cost is because the administrative costs are distributed equally among all rebate types, which creates a high cost per kgal for this low water savings rebate (5 gpd). However, those are not the actual administrative costs paid per unit and based on our experience with multi-family projects and savings calculations, aerators are considered a very cost-effective measure on their own.

### Describe your complementary efforts in developing, implementing and enforcing water conservation, water quality and flood protection ordinances.

Tampa Bay Water uses a complex model to optimize and balance use of its existing supplies, which considers the impact on the environment, water quality, and reliability of the source water while meeting the overall system demands. Potential new supplies are incorporated into the model to evaluate the ability of the new supplies to meet future system demands while balancing the use of Tampa Bay Water's existing sources. The modeled demands include water conservation, which overall provides Tampa Bay Water with an effective tool for assessing and utilizing its existing and future water sources.

Conservation has long been an important element of Tampa Bay Water's regional water supply strategy, before the Tampa Bay Water Wise program. For more than two decades Tampa Bay Water planned and coordinated conservation programming in the region with our member governments and has funded Florida Friendly Landscaping programs in each county to work directly with residents to reduce their water use. The Florida Friendly Landscape program is a key part of Tampa Bay Water's strategy to educate residents about water conserving landscape practices, and the agents also assist residents with irrigation system evaluations in preparation for the installation of a smart irrigation controller through the Tampa Bay Water Wise program.

Funding Source	Prior Funding	FY2026	FY2027	Future Funding	Total Funding
Applicant Share	1,432,238	1,562,315	1,539,756	0	4,534,309
District Share	1,432,238	527,829	540,702	0	2,500,769
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,864,476</b>	<b>2,090,144</b>	<b>2,080,458</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,035,078</b>

### Matching Fund Reduction

Check here if requesting a reduction in matching funds requirement pursuant to s.288.06561, F.S.

# SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## FY 2027 Cooperative Funding Initiative Application Form

### Timelines

Commence	1/01/2027
Implementation & Program Promotion	
Complete Implementation & Program Promotion	12/31/2027
Complete Savings Analysis	3/01/2028
Complete Draft Final Report	6/01/2028
Complete Final Report	7/01/2028



# SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## FY 2027 Cooperative Funding Initiative Application Form

**Project Name:** Citywide Watershed Master Plan – BMP Alternatives Analysis

**Project Number:** Q440

**Cooperator:** City of Tampa

**Contact Person:** Ben Allushuski

**Department:** City of Tampa

**Address:** 306 E. Jackson St 6N

**Phone #:** 8132743257

**City State Zip:** Tampa, FL 33602

**Ext:**

**Email:** ben.allushuski@tampagov.net

**Project Type:**

Flood Protection Water Quality

**Strategic Initiatives:**

Floodplain Management Water Quality Maintenance and Improvement Emergency Flood Response

**Project Description/Benefit/Cost**

**Description:**

The City of Tampa is developing a comprehensive Watershed Master Plan (WMP) to better identify flood-prone areas and prioritize future stormwater capital improvement projects (CIPs) using advanced predictive modeling. In 2023, the City completed a Gap Analysis of previously studied drainage basins, evaluating which areas remain unstudied, assessing the quality of existing models, and determining the effort needed to update them. The review also ensured alignment with current and future Community Rating System (CRS) requirements. Once detailed basin modeling is finished, the City will pursue the Best Management Practices (BMP) Alternatives Analysis phase of the WMP. Ultimately, this plan will establish the long-term framework for stormwater management in the City of Tampa, protecting residents and infrastructure for generations.

**Benefit:**

The BMP Alternatives Analysis phase of the Watershed Master Plan (WMP) will provide the City of Tampa with the tools to make data-driven, cost-effective decisions on stormwater management. Through a comprehensive evaluation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) and advanced predictive modeling, this phase will identify priority areas for water quality and flood mitigation improvements, ensuring investments deliver maximum impact.

The outcomes of this analysis will directly benefit residents by improving the City's Community Rating System (CRS) classification, lowering flood insurance premiums, and reducing economic burdens on households. In addition, it will position the City of Tampa to secure future sustainability and resiliency grants by demonstrating a commitment to proactive, evidence-based planning.

By streamlining construction planning, minimizing costly rework, and addressing flooding across basin boundaries, the BMP Alternatives Analysis will create long-lasting efficiencies. Most importantly, it will establish a citywide framework for stormwater criteria in future development and redevelopment projects,

# SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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ensuring that the City of Tampa grows in a resilient, sustainable, and economically responsible way.

**Cost:**

Total project cost: \$1,000,000 (BMP Alternatives Analysis)

City of Tampa: \$550,000

District: \$450,000

**Describe your complementary efforts in developing, implementing and enforcing water conservation, water quality and flood protection ordinances.**

The City of Tampa is a CRS Class 5 community with a strong record of implementing and enforcing ordinances that advance water conservation, water quality, and flood protection.

The City has adopted a Flood Damage Control Ordinance to regulate development in flood-prone areas and ensure compliance with FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program. Tampa also operates a Stormwater Assessment Program consisting of a Service Assessment (2003) for maintenance activities such as pond cleaning, ditch maintenance, and system cleaning, and an Improvement Assessment (2016) that funds capital upgrades including new pipelines, culverts, pump stations, and roadway regrading to reduce flooding risks.

Since 1992, Tampa has enforced year-round, once-a-week watering restrictions to reduce unnecessary water use. Irrigation is prohibited between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., and curtailed when rainfall has occurred within the past 24 hours. The City requires all automatic irrigation systems to include rain-sensing devices and provides free rain sensors to customers to support compliance. These measures are codified in City Code Section 26-97 and are actively enforced through fines and dedicated reinvestment in conservation education.

The City's Fertilizer Ordinance prohibits the use of nitrogen- and phosphorus-containing fertilizers from June 1–September 30, when runoff potential is highest. The ordinance also establishes a 10-foot fertilizer-free buffer near waterbodies, bans the disposal of yard waste and clippings into streets, and requires deflector shields on spreaders. Commercial applicators must complete training and certification, further reducing nutrient pollution. Together, these measures protect Tampa Bay and local waterways by reducing harmful algal blooms and stormwater impacts.

Through these ordinances and programs, the City of Tampa demonstrates a proactive and integrated approach to water conservation, water quality, and flood protection. These ongoing efforts directly complement the City's Watershed Master Plan and BMP Alternatives Analysis, strengthening resilience and ensuring sustainable stormwater management for the community.

Funding Source	Prior Funding	FY2026	FY2027	Future Funding	Total Funding
Applicant Share	0	100,000	450,000	0	550,000
District Share	0	0	450,000	0	450,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>900,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>

**Matching Fund Reduction**

Check here if requesting a reduction in matching funds requirement pursuant to s.288.06561, F.S.

# SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## FY 2027 Cooperative Funding Initiative Application Form

### Timelines

Project Commencement 10/01/2026

BMP Alternatives Analysis 12/31/2027

# SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## FY 2027 Cooperative Funding Initiative Application Form

**Project Name:** Stevenson Creek Watershed Management Plan Update

**Project Number:** Q444

**Cooperator:** City of Clearwater

**Contact Person:** Sarah Kessler

**Department:** City of Clearwater

**Address:** 100 S Myrtle Ave

**Phone #:** 7274448233

**City State Zip:** Clearwater, FL 33756

**Ext:**

**Email:** sarah.kessler@myclearwater.com

**Project Type:**

Water Quality Flood Protection

**Strategic Initiatives:**

Water Quality Monitoring Water Quality Maintenance and Improvement Floodplain Management

**Project Description/Benefit/Cost**

**Description:**

This project involves the development of a comprehensive update to the Stevenson Creek and Spring Branch watershed management plan (WMP) that results in recommendations for drainage, water quality, and natural systems improvement projects.

The Stevenson Creek Watershed, the largest most urbanized watershed within the city of Clearwater, drains 6,286 acres in west central Pinellas County. A formal watershed management plan was completed in 2001.

The Spring Branch watershed falls mainly within the boundaries of Dunedin and Clearwater and consists of 1.9 mile stream that drains 2,135 acres in west central Pinellas County. A formal watershed management plan was completed in 2001 and an update to the Dunedin portion was completed in 2020 as part of Dunedin's Stormwater Master Plan.

With the city of Clearwater being a highly urbanized area with continuous redevelopment, the watershed has seen major alterations to hydrology, water quality, and hydraulics. The city will coordinate with municipal partners in the watershed, including Dunedin and Pinellas County, to ensure it obtains the best available data for the project. The city will provide the funds match required as part the CFI. Additionally, Pinellas County Public Works will act as the project management over the project to ensure the project meets District and County standards.

**Benefit:**

The contractual Measurable Benefit will be the completion of an updated WMP that identifies floodplains, establishes level of services (LOS), and evaluates BMPs to address flooding concerns, water quality, and natural systems in the watershed.

**Cost:**

The total cost of this project is expected to be \$700,000 over three fiscal years. The first year cost (FY 2027) will be \$200,000, the second year cost (FY 2028) will be \$300,000, and the third year cost (FY2029) is anticipated to be \$200,000. These costs will cover consultant work for both the WMP and a peer review of the

# SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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WMP deliverables.

**Describe your complementary efforts in developing, implementing and enforcing water conservation, water quality and flood protection ordinances.**

The Clearwater Comprehensive Plan obligates the city to protect, enhance, and improve water quality through water quality monitoring, developing and updating watershed management plans, implementation of projects, and environmental enforcement. In addition, the city is obligated by the Comprehensive Plan to work to improve flood protection and natural systems. The city has opted into Pinellas County's fertilizer ordinance, which restricts using fertilizer containing nitrogen or phosphorus during the rainy season with a related sales ban. The city also has a pet waste ordinance, and a comprehensive city-wide street sweeping program. All three of these programs designed to reduce nutrient pollution to receiving waters. The city has a stormwater utility fee that collects money to fund surface water programs, which includes stormwater maintenance and related public outreach/education programs. In addition, several city stormwater vehicles are wrapped with stormwater education messages. The city actively participates in FEMA's Community Rating System Program which incentivizes flood protection actions that go beyond regulatory minimums; the city is a Class 5.

Funding Source	Prior Funding	FY2026	FY2027	Future Funding	Total Funding
Applicant Share	0	0	100,000	225,000	325,000
District Share	0	0	100,000	225,000	325,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>450,000</b>	<b>650,000</b>

### Matching Fund Reduction

Check here if requesting a reduction in matching funds requirement pursuant to s.288.06561, F.S.

### Timelines

Procurement	12/31/2026
Project Development	3/31/2027
Watershed Evaluation	12/31/2027
Floodplain Analysis	9/30/2028
SWRA and BMPs for Water Quality	7/31/2029
FPLOS and BMP Alternative Analysis	7/31/2029

# SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## FY 2027 Cooperative Funding Initiative Application Form

**Project Name:** Southern Hillsborough County Supply Expansion: Pipeline

**Project Number:** Q241

**Cooperator:** Tampa Bay Water

**Contact Person:** Eliana Lara

**Department:** Tampa Bay Water

**Address:** 2575 Enterprise Road

**Phone #:** 8139294570

**City State Zip:** Clearwater, FL 33763

**Ext:** 4570

**Email:** elara@tampabaywater.org

**Project Type:**

Water Supply

**Strategic Initiatives:**

Regional Water Supply Planning Alternative Water Supply Strategic Initiative

**Project Description/Benefit/Cost**

**Description:**

The Southern Hillsborough County Pipeline project will supply additional alternative water from Tampa Bay Water's High Service Pump Station to Hillsborough County. This project is a new asset consisting of approx. 60-inch diameter pipeline. The pipeline will be approximately 26 miles in total length with one delivery location at the County's Lithia Water Treatment Plant, and a second delivery at a new Point of Connection south of the Lithia Water Treatment Plant. The purpose of this project is two-fold; 1) it addresses hydraulic constraints which currently hinder Tampa Bay Water's ability to deliver additional quantities of existing alternative supplies to southern Hillsborough County whose demands are increasing at a faster rate than other parts of the region. Southern Hillsborough County's demands will exceed system's hydraulic capacity by 2028; and 2) to allow for delivery of future alternative supplies, up to additional 65 mgd, from the regional system to southern Hillsborough County as Tampa Bay Water expands existing facilities in order to meet regional demands over the 2040 planning horizon. Tampa Bay Water and Hillsborough County have entered in a Memorandum of Understanding on August 2020 for this project that includes a capital funding agreement that was executed between Hillsborough County and Tampa Bay Water for an approximate 8-mile portion of the pipeline between Lithia Water Treatment Plant and the new point of delivery in southern Hillsborough County. When completed, the project will be able to provide additional 65 mgd of new supply to Hillsborough County.

**Benefit:**

This project will have the benefit of increasing capacity by 65 mgd in order to deliver alternative supply to southern Hillsborough County. This portion of the County is experiencing growth faster than other Tampa Bay region, and as such, will need additional supply capacity by 2028. This project will ensure that the available regional supplies are delivered to southern Hillsborough County before the demand surpasses available supply.

**Cost:**

The total cost of this project is \$438,709,630 which excludes property acquisition, legal services, contingencies



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and preliminary design. The project's cost estimate was reviewed by the District's third party reviewer.

**Describe your complementary efforts in developing, implementing and enforcing water conservation, water quality and flood protection ordinances.**

Tampa Bay Water uses a complex model to optimize and balance use of its existing supplies, which considers the impact on the environment, water quality, and reliability of the source water while meeting the overall system demands. Potential new supplies are incorporated into the model to evaluate the ability of the new supplies to meet future system demands while balancing the usage of Tampa Bay Water's existing sources. The model provides Tampa Bay Water with an effective tool for assessing and utilizing its existing and future water sources. Conservation is an important element of Tampa Bay Water's regional water supply. Tampa Bay Water plans and coordinates conservation programming in the Tampa Bay region through its Demand Management Program. Member governments are responsible for implementing programs that quantifiably reduce water demand. Due to the successful conservation planning and implementation efforts by Tampa Bay Water and its members, the per capita use rate of approximately 100 gpcpd in the Tampa Bay region is significantly lower than the State average and exceeds District goals. Tampa Bay Water supports local government conservation programs by funding programs quantifying water conservation potential and cost, providing region-wide educational and marketing programs, and various research and development-based programs. Tampa Bay Water worked with its member governments in creating model irrigation and landscape ordinance language that was adopted by most members, has evaluated implementation of those ordinances, and is working with members to increase ease and effectiveness of implementation. Tampa Bay Water is a wholesale drinking water provider to our member governments and has no regulatory purview of any kind. Flood protection ordinances fall under the purview of the members and are implemented by them. Tampa Bay Water continues to seek better ways of serving its customers and protecting the environment. In addition to comprehensive hydrologic and environmental monitoring at Tampa Bay Water facilities, technologies employed include the Optimized Regional Operations Plan (OROP), short term and long-term demand forecasting, and surface water forecasting methods to ensure that we keep pace with our member government demands, react quickly to changed conditions, and manage our facilities for the protection of the environment and the benefit of our customers.

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Prior Funding</b>	<b>FY2026</b>	<b>FY2027</b>	<b>Future Funding</b>	<b>Total Funding</b>
Applicant Share	15,859,207	118,494,417	100,000,000	56,402,006	290,755,630
District Share	15,859,207	17,500,000	17,500,000	94,194,793	145,054,000
FDEP	2,900,000	0	0	0	2,900,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,618,414</b>	<b>135,994,417</b>	<b>117,500,000</b>	<b>150,596,799</b>	<b>438,709,630</b>

**Matching Fund Reduction**

Check here if requesting a reduction in matching funds requirement pursuant to s.288.06561, F.S.

**Timelines**

30% Design                      9/13/2023

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Third Party Review	6/30/2024
Complete Design	1/26/2026
Bidding	2/06/2026
Construction Substantial Completion	1/22/2029
Closeout	5/08/2029

# SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## FY 2027 Cooperative Funding Initiative Application Form

**Project Name:** Hillsborough County Utilities Advanced Metering

**Project Number:** Q446

**Cooperator:** Hillsborough County Water Department

**Contact Person:** Lauren Storch, Esq.

**Department:** Hillsborough County Water Department

**Address:** 925 E. Twiggs Street

**Phone #:** 8134936780

**City State Zip:** Tampa, FL 33602

**Ext:**

**Email:** storchla@HCFL.gov

**Project Type:**

Water Supply

**Strategic Initiatives:**

Conservation

**Project Description/Benefit/Cost**

**Description:**

This project will support the Hillsborough County Water Resources Department's (HCWRD) continued implementation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) for 120,760 customers. The County's AMI program started in May 2020, and over 98,000 smart meters have been installed throughout the County to date.

This phase of the County's overall transition to advanced metering will incorporate Neptune 360 cloud-based software and develop a new customer interface portal. SWFWMD's Cooperative share will fund the first year of software and implementation of the customer portal. Funding will support data analysis via the customer portal for inclusion in the final report.

The advanced customer interface is designed to deliver metrics and feedback beyond what is offered by the Neptune 360 system. During the development of the AMI program, the County identified several gaps in the feedback available to customers for assessing their usage and making informed adjustments to reduce water consumption. To address these needs, the County will engage a developer to create a customer interface system with enhanced metrics. This supplemental system will provide valuable information to both customers and HCWRD, supporting the achievement of County, SWFWMD, and regional conservation objectives. The system will also extend the period of data provided to customers from the current 12 months to at least 15 months.

The County plans to install meters as part of this next phase to replace all existing analog metering technology. This will improve meter reading accuracy and efficiency, while reducing operation costs for the Department. The County will pay for meter hardware and installation, as well as the installation of communications antennas to serve the new meters and those to be installed in future phases and for future development. These meter costs are excluded from the software-portal request to SWFWMD.

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The Neptune 360 software-as-a-service (SaaS) software will provide hourly, daily and monthly smart meter readings for customer accounts, which is an essential function in ensuring the accuracy of monthly billing. This system seamlessly integrates with metering equipment, supporting efficient field meter investigations without requiring access to customer properties. The reliable data provided will enable HCWRD to deliver accurate meter readings, issue timely bills, and promptly report water usage. This will help in responding quickly to customer inquiries remotely, and on-site, if necessary, to maintain high service standards for customers.

As part of program rollout, HCWRD will continue to encourage customers to enroll in digital billing to control cost of mailing and hard copy billing. Customers will still have the option to receive hard copy bills if they prefer. Notifications regarding the newly developed customer portal will be communicated via digital or hard copy communication based on customers' preference. These communications will be sent along with monthly bills at least three months in advance of changes to the County's billing system.

### **Benefit:**

Hillsborough County is committed to advancing water conservation and delivering an exceptional experience to our customers. As part of ongoing modernization initiatives, the adoption of Neptune 360 SaaS into our billing and metering operations helps us put these commitments into practice. The County will enhance the following methods of promoting water conservation through this initiative:

- Provide a customer portal to log-in and graph customer water use over a minimum of 15 months, with mobile access.
- Notify customers of suspected leaks as they occur.
- Regularly analyze actual daily or hourly water usage and notify customers of potential violations of watering restrictions.
- Alert customers to a pre-set threshold usage amount.

By adopting advanced software and customer interfaces, HCWRD will keep pace with changes in demand and technology, scaling our services efficiently without disruption. Secure data management will enable our team to access and act upon critical information no matter where we're working. The platform's 24/7 data center monitoring and disaster recovery also provide continuity of data ensuring that operations remain uninterrupted and the community's data stays protected.

For our customers, this advanced system will also provide greater control over water use. The new customer portal will enable residents to monitor consumption in real time, set personalized alerts, and gain insight into usage habits. This empowered self-service will avoid high bill surprises, encourage responsible water usage, and support our shared conservation goals. Faster responses to questions and issues will foster deeper trust and satisfaction among those we serve.

Currently, bill messages are manually added for customers with high consumption, and group notifications are sent via printed and emailed bills, primarily about conservation programs. With the new metering software, messages and alerts will reach customers faster and more reliably via email and text. The customer portal will also display banner alerts and allow users to review detailed usage history, including hourly trends for specific dates and times. The portal will further provide links to HCWRD web pages with details on watering days and restrictions and is expected to incorporate an AI-driven chatbot to help customers find pertinent information

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or reach a service representative. The alerts and portal will increase the likelihood that customers receive important communications and are able to respond quickly.

This initiative is also directed at enhancing HCWRD's operational efficiency by eliminating analog meters. In some cases, these meters are manually read by operators in the field, which is staff intensive, intrusive to private property, and potentially unsafe for Department workers. Some readers can transmit data by radio, but still require Department staff to drive nearby with a truck and antenna to collect readings. This remains an inefficient process and requires allocation of resources and vehicles with specialized equipment.

With mobile and web access available to staff on iOS and Android devices, our team can manage metering and billing from the field or office. Data aggregation from multiple collection sources streamlines our workflow and improves accuracy, while GIS mapping and alerts provide visual representations to proactively identify and address potential problems before they impact service. This enables HCWRD to make better, data-driven decisions to improve our system, resulting in better service and value for our customers.

The seamless integration with our existing systems means we can continue to build on what works, connecting Neptune 360 and the advanced customer portal. Modernizing our water management infrastructure will contribute to the goals and objectives of SWFWMD while improving service, security, and transparency for every resident we serve.

### Cost:

The total cost for this project is \$860,240, which includes the Neptune 360 metering software, development of the advanced customer portal, data analysis and reporting, and enhancements to the Quality on Tap outreach program.

The District share for this project will be \$340,450. This will include the following costs:

- First year cost of metering software
- Development of the advanced customer portal, which will be completed by a vendor.
  - UI/UX Design
  - System Architecture
  - Data Pipeline Development
  - Integration with Existing Data and Systems
  - Alerting/Notification Architecture
  - Security and Authentication Engineering
  - Testing and Quality Assurance
  - Hosting and Monitoring
  - Maintenance during 1st year of Operation

HCWRD will cover the remaining costs of \$519,790, which includes:

- Metering software for years 2 and 3
- Data analysis, reporting, and outreach conducted by the County and/or consultant.

The local share for this project has been approved for inclusion in HCWRD's budget and purchase orders will

# SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## FY 2027 Cooperative Funding Initiative Application Form

be issued under existing budgetary authority. A letter is included as an attachment documenting the Department's commitment.

A tabular breakdown of the project budget is included as an attachment.

### **Describe your complementary efforts in developing, implementing and enforcing water conservation, water quality and flood protection ordinances.**

Hillsborough County's AMI builds on a robust foundation of existing water conservation and quality initiatives. The County's commitment to public engagement extends to educational presentations on water conservation, irrigation, leak detection, and water waste issues. This starts with actively enforced restrictions by ordinance that limit irrigation to two days a week. Transparency and accessibility remain central to these and other key efforts. Consistent tracking has shown a meaningful reduction in restricted-day watering enforcement actions, a result attributed to an increase in issuing warnings to first-time offenders. In 2025, for example, the County issued more than 1,500 warnings through July 31, compared to less than 600 the previous year. This contributed to a 16% decrease in restricted enforcement actions for ordinance violations.

The Hillsborough County Land Development Code promotes water efficiency through strict landscape and irrigation requirements. It requires irrigation systems to minimize waste by using seasonal controller adjustments, rain sensors, and low-volume or micro-irrigation when possible. The Code limits turf to half of landscaped areas, with the rest planted in drought-tolerant vegetation, and mandates that irrigation systems use reclaimed or non-potable water whenever available.

In 2021, the American Society for Public Administration awarded the County leaders for its innovative approach to code enforcement. Instead of penalizing first-time ordinance violators, the County directs them to educational sessions with experts from the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. This hands-on instruction focuses on proper irrigation practices and the university's Florida-Friendly Landscaping program. The County combines education with enforcement of its Water Use Ordinance, which aligns with SWFWMD regulations. Penalties increase for repeat violations, emphasizing compliance while still prioritizing outreach and correction.

In 2020, the County faced high potable water use south of the Alafia River due to dry weather, pandemic-related home stays, and rapid residential development that outpaced infrastructure. The County intensified enforcement of water use restrictions while offering exemptions for new landscaping and providing an appeal process for homeowners. Recognizing that many violations were the result of irrigation malfunctions, the County waived fines for first-time offenders who completed educational sessions. This turned enforcement into an opportunity for long-term behavioral change. Collaboration among Public Utilities, Code Enforcement, and Cooperative Extension departments has reduced repeat violations and improved water customer outcomes.

Public outreach remains a priority through the Quality on Tap campaign, which will serve as a conduit for communicating project updates and information related to the upcoming Advanced Metering Initiative. The County's participation in rebate programs, such as Tampa Bay Water Wise and SWFWMD's cost-share reimbursement offerings, further incentivize water-saving measures across residential and non-residential customers. Rebates cover items like high-efficiency toilets, smart irrigation controllers, and shallow wells, encouraging widespread adoption of water-saving technologies.



# SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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The AMI will advance this commitment by giving customers more power to measure and control their consumption. The integration of real-time data and personalized consumption alerts through the forthcoming customer portal will empower residents to make informed decisions and reinforce the County’s broader strategy of proactive water management and customer engagement. Together, these initiatives create a holistic approach that maximizes the impact of advanced metering and ensures sustainable water use for the community.

Funding Source	Prior Funding	FY2026	FY2027	Future Funding	Total Funding
Applicant Share	0	0	519,790	0	519,790
District Share	0	0	340,450	0	340,450
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>860,240</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>860,240</b>

### Matching Fund Reduction

Check here if requesting a reduction in matching funds requirement pursuant to s.288.06561, F.S.

### Timelines

Project Initiation:	10/01/2026
Customer Portal Developer Starts Work	
Customer Portal Outreach/Marketing Begins	7/01/2027
Customer Portal Outreach/Marketing Begins	7/01/2027
Customer Portal Outreach/Marketing Begins Ahead of Customer Portal Activation	7/01/2027
Customer Portal Activated	10/01/2027
Customer Portal Activated	10/01/2027
Customer Portal Delivered by Developer and Activated	10/01/2027
Data Analysis	4/01/2028
Data Analysis	4/01/2028

# SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## FY 2027 Cooperative Funding Initiative Application Form

Final Report Delivered 7/01/2028

Final Report Delivered 7/01/2028

Data Analysis 2/01/2029

Final Report Delivered 5/01/2029

# SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## FY 2027 Cooperative Funding Initiative Application Form

**Project Name:** Church Creek Phase II Flood Mitigation

**Project Number:** Q448

**Cooperator:** City of Largo

**Contact Person:** Jerald Woloszynski, P.E.

**Department:** City of Largo

**Address:** 201 HIGHLAND AVE N

**Phone #:** 7275876713

**City State Zip:** Largo, FL 33770

**Ext:**

**Email:** jwoloszy@largo.com

**Project Type:**

Flood Protection

**Strategic Initiatives:**

Floodplain Management

**Project Description/Benefit/Cost**

**Description:**

Church Creek is a major open conveyance facility, owned and maintained by the City of Largo, located within the Church Creek watershed (a subwatershed of McKay Creek). This project is a Stormwater Improvement project and represents the second Phase of work done within the immediate area (Phases I and III are already completed, application only for this single phase). Improvements proposed in this application consist of expanding the channel's hydraulic capacity through channel lining. Pursuing improvements to this Intermediate conveyance facility will reduce floodplain elevations within the channel as well as in surrounding areas. Prior phases of the work have been self funded by the City of Largo and include the construction of seawall along downstream channel segments (Phase I) and replacing offsite piping through a resident's yard to address piping at the end of it's service life (Phase III). This multi-phased approach to improvements to the Church Creek subwatershed stems from structural and roadway flooding being experienced by the public which has been correctly captured within the stormwater model. Construction of the improvements, as an independent project, will reduce the flooding experienced for multiple storm events.

**Benefit:**

From a Resource Benefit standpoint, lining this intermediate conveyance system will decrease the floodplain for the following design storm events; 100-Year/24-Hour, 50-Year/24-Hour, 25-Year/24-Hour, 10-Year/24-Hour and 5-Year/24-Hour. Reducing floodplain elevations (and in certain storms the physical extends of the floodplain) will reduce roadway inundation depths and durations and also provide additional protection to structures. The Measurable Benefit for this project will be the construction of approximately 2,500 linear feet of channel lining along the banks and channel bottom. Associated piping and structure modifications will also be made where outfalls discharge into the facility.

**Cost:**

Project costs are projected at \$5,000,000.00 per the Engineer's Estimate done for the job. This Engineer's Estimate utilized up to date unit pricing based upon recently received bids and contractor coordination.

# SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## FY 2027 Cooperative Funding Initiative Application Form

Quantity itemization was also performed to properly identify the scope of work. A detailed breakdown has been provided. Through the BCA performed, this project has been found to be cost effective. The BCA has also been provided for District review.

**Describe your complementary efforts in developing, implementing and enforcing water conservation, water quality and flood protection ordinances.**

The City of Largo participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) with a class 6 rating. Aware of flooding impacts to its residents, the City maintains a robust data hub for the residents pertaining to flooding information, mapping and emergency preparedness. The City's Floodplain Management ordinance has been approved by the FDEM. The City also has an established stormwater fee which supports a rigorous stormwater maintenance program. For this specific effort, the City was stakeholder in the McKay Creek model update and alternatives analysis (which was partially funded by the District, Project Q171). Further assessment of the BMPs presented in this document was self-funded by the City which has resulted in the identification of this project. From a water conservation standpoint, the City uses reclaimed water for the adjacent golf course and has a distribution system for public use. Water quality improvement is promoted on the government and private side. From the public side, the City seeks to improve water quality where opportunities are present. It also has a rain barrel program. This program is so popular that the barrels are out of stock and there is a wait list!

Funding Source	Prior Funding	FY2026	FY2027	Future Funding	Total Funding
Applicant Share	0	0	2,500,000	0	2,500,000
District Share	0	0	2,500,000	0	2,500,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,000,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,000,000</b>

**Matching Fund Reduction**

Check here if requesting a reduction in matching funds requirement pursuant to s.288.06561, F.S.

**Timelines**

Request for Bids (RFB)	10/01/2026
Advertisement and Award (Design & Permitting Complete in FY26)	
Construction	9/30/2027
As-Built Survey and Record Drawings	10/31/2027
Project Close-out	12/31/2027

# SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## FY 2027 Cooperative Funding Initiative Application Form

**Project Name:** South County Regional Watershed Management Masterplan Update

**Project Number:** Q452

**Cooperator:** Hillsborough County

**Contact Person:** Mikhal Moberg

**Department:** Hillsborough County

**Address:** 601 East Kennedy Blvd

**Phone #:** 8133071831

**City State Zip:** Tampa, FL 33602

**Ext:**

**Email:** mobergm@hillsboroughcounty.org

**Project Type:**

Flood Protection

**Strategic Initiatives:**

Floodplain Management Emergency Flood Response

**Project Description/Benefit/Cost**

**Description:**

This is a multi-year funded project to perform Watershed Evaluation, Floodplain Analysis, Roadway Flood Protection Level of Service, and Surface Water Resource Assessment elements of the DISTRICT'S Watershed Management Program (WMP) for the South County Regional Watershed Management Master Plan (WMMP). The South County Regional Watershed consists of Alafia River Watershed, Bullfrog Creek Watershed, Delaney Creek Watershed, and Little Manatee River Watershed, and covers a total area of approximately 735 square miles. The South County Regional Watershed is within Hillsborough County (517 square miles), Manatee County (76 square miles), and Polk County (142 square miles), and discharges to Hillsborough Bay and Tampa Bay.

This WMMP update will provide a model update, floodplain delineation (100-yr and 500-yr), floodway update and re-delineation, roadway flood protection level of service analysis, water quality assessment, and pollutant loading analysis. The WMMP update will utilize 2025 digital topographic information (LiDAR), Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) data, land use data, and soils data. Data utilized in the existing WMMPs is based on a 2017 cutoff date.

**Benefit:**

This project would support key initiatives for the Floodplain Engineering, Flood Protection Engineering, and Stormwater Investigations programs. The updated Watershed Management Master Plan will provide residents with more accurate flood risk information. It will also be used by the County to regulate new development and in the development of flood protection projects. The revised floodplains will be provided to FEMA for inclusion in a future Flood Insurance Rate Map update, which will allow for this best-available-data to be utilized by FEMA and the National Flood Insurance Program. Additionally, by adding water quality functionality to the WMMP models, the County will have the ability to evaluate the potential water quality benefits or impacts of future development, LID, and BMPs. The results from this project can also be used to identify regional areas of water quality concern within the County that may benefit from targeted water quality improvement CIP

# SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## FY 2027 Cooperative Funding Initiative Application Form

projects.

**Cost:**

The total estimated project cost is \$2,400,000. 50% funding (\$1,200,000) is being requested from SWFWMD.

**Describe your complementary efforts in developing, implementing and enforcing water conservation, water quality and flood protection ordinances.**

Water Conservation: Hillsborough County was the premier local government to decriminalize the violation of water use restrictions, and to

adopt a civil citation process for the enforcement of the same in July 1993. A full-time Water Conservation Manager assures that the

County stays abreast of conservation issues. This facilitates amendments to the County's Water Conservation Ordinance (HCO 03-07) as needed to quickly address changing conditions in the regulatory environment and as deemed appropriate by the County's administration.

Flood Protection: The principal purpose of Hillsborough County's floodplain management program is to protect residents and business

owners from flooding risks. Flooding disasters are the leading recurring hazard within the County and have the potential of affecting

greater than one-quarter of the population at a value that is greater than five billion dollars in personal property. Construction standards and planning concepts are implemented through the County's Land Development Code, Floodplain Management Plan and Local Mitigation Strategy.

Funding Source	Prior Funding	FY2026	FY2027	Future Funding	Total Funding
Applicant Share	0	0	1,200,000	0	1,200,000
District Share	0	0	1,200,000	0	1,200,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,400,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,400,000</b>

**Matching Fund Reduction**

Check here if requesting a reduction in matching funds requirement pursuant to s.288.06561, F.S.

**Timelines**

Kick-off Meeting	10/30/2026
Project Plan	1/15/2027
Watershed Evaluation	10/01/2027
Water Quality Assessment	5/01/2028
Pollutant Loading Analysis	1/01/2029
Floodplain Analysis	1/01/2029
Roadway Flood Protection Level of Service	1/01/2029



# SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## FY 2027 Cooperative Funding Initiative Application Form

Public Meeting 2/01/2029

Project Completion 3/01/2029

# SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## FY 2027 Cooperative Funding Initiative Application Form

**Project Name:** Town of Belleair Bluff Restoration and Erosion Abatement - Phase 2

**Project Number:** Q454

**Cooperator:** Town of Belleair

**Contact Person:** Ashley Bernal

**Department:** Town of Belleair

**Address:** 901 Ponce de Leon Boulevard

**Phone #:** 7276477487

**City State Zip:** Belleair, FL 33756

**Ext:**

**Email:** abernal@townofbelleair.net

**Project Type:**

Flood Protection

**Strategic Initiatives:**

Floodplain Management

**Project Description/Benefit/Cost**

**Description:**

The Town of Belleair requests Cooperative Funding Initiative support for Phase 2 of the Bluff Restoration and Erosion Abatement Project, one of the most distinctive and high-value flood protection projects in the District. The Hallett Park bluff is one of the only natural coastal bluffs in Florida, a rare geologic feature whose protection is vital to the Town and region. The bluff directly supports Bayview Drive, a critical transportation corridor for the Town, and protects stormwater infrastructure essential to flood management. From 2023 to 2025, the bluff retreated 3.5 feet, underscoring the urgency of action to prevent roadway loss, utility exposure, and costly canal dredging. Few other projects combine such clear vulnerability, irreplaceable geologic character, and community reliance, making this site a top funding priority.

This project is also designed as a showcase hybrid shoreline restoration for the Tampa Bay region. Most living shorelines focus on habitat alone; Belleair's design uniquely integrates engineered stormwater best management practices with natural features to reduce runoff, filter nutrients, and stabilize the bluff. This rare combination of flood protection and water quality improvement makes the project an ideal demonstration of District priorities. Its visibility and location on the Intracoastal Waterway will allow the District to highlight the work in program announcements and public outreach. The completed bluff restoration, with offshore breakwaters, a terminal groin, and lush living shoreline plantings, will be one of the most striking and effective resilience features in Tampa Bay.

Phase 2 advances the project through final design, permitting, and construction. Thirty percent design plans are complete, with staging areas identified and a draft turbidity and submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) mitigation plan in place to show readiness. With CFI support, the project will reach 60% and 90% design milestones, complete geotechnical, bathymetric, and vegetation surveys, refine alignment and elevations, and finalize materials specifications. Permit applications will be prepared for FDEP, USACE, SWFWMD, and Pinellas County, with coordination through agency reviews until approvals are secured. Construction will then proceed with site preparation, staging, and mobilization, followed by phased installation of the groin, breakwaters, and living shoreline features.

The project footprint extends approximately 1,450 linear feet from the Belleair Country Club Golf Course

# SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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seawall to Manatee Road. Project elements include: (1) three offshore breakwaters (one 300-ft and two 250-ft) to reduce wave energy and turbidity resuspension; (2) a terminal groin at the southern end to trap and retain sediments and halt bluff retreat; and (3) a living shoreline with native vegetation, oyster and reef elements, and marsh/mangrove plantings to stabilize soils, improve water quality, and provide habitat. Construction access will use a staging parcel at 425 Bayview Drive and barge delivery for offshore structures. Erosion and sediment control measures, turbidity curtains, and SAV mitigation actions will be implemented to minimize impacts.

This Phase 2 application positions Belleair to deliver a shovel-ready, construction-complete solution that safeguards infrastructure, protects public safety, and advances the District's priorities for flood protection. At the same time, the project will reduce pollutant loading, enhance estuarine water quality, and restore natural systems. By combining rare geologic preservation with innovative hybrid design, the Bluff Restoration and Erosion Abatement Project offers the District a flagship project that embodies resilience, sustainability, and visibility.

### **Benefit:**

The primary benefit of this project is flood protection and shoreline stabilization for a critical stretch of the Hallett Park bluff and Bayview Drive. Continued erosion and bluff retreat pose immediate risks to public safety and critical stormwater infrastructure. Bayview Drive serves as a major access and evacuation route for the Town and provides frontage for stormwater conveyance and outfalls. Without intervention, progressive erosion will undermine pavement, expose utilities, damage stormwater assets, and accelerate sediment loading into adjacent canals, potentially triggering costly dredging and long-term maintenance burdens.

The selected hybrid design delivers layered flood protection. Breakwaters attenuate wave energy before it reaches the bluff, reducing erosion and lowering the frequency and severity of flood damage. The terminal groin at the southern end traps and retains sediment moving alongshore, rebuilding and maintaining the bluff toe and halting further landward retreat. The living shoreline stabilizes the toe of the bluff, dissipates energy during storms, and anchors soils through vegetation and reef structures. Together, these measures form a resilient, adaptive system that provides immediate protection while enhancing long-term stability.

Secondary benefits include water quality improvements and habitat restoration. By reducing bluff erosion and stormwater-driven sedimentation, the project directly decreases turbidity and nutrient loading into the Intracoastal Waterway. Living shoreline vegetation, marsh grasses, oysters, and mangroves filter runoff, uptake nutrients, and improve nearshore clarity, protecting SAV beds. The project also creates diverse habitat for fish, shellfish, and birds, aligning with District natural systems goals. Reducing sediment delivery will lower dredging needs and associated costs, a direct economic and ecological benefit.

The project advances multiple District priorities: (1) Flood Protection – reducing risk to people, property, and infrastructure; (2) Water Quality – decreasing pollutant and sediment loads; (3) Natural Systems – restoring shoreline habitat; and (4) Cooperative Partnerships – leveraging Town and State planning investments. By moving directly from conceptual design to final design, permitting, and construction, the Town ensures project momentum and demonstrates strong commitment. This project also provides a regional demonstration of hybrid shoreline stabilization along the Intracoastal Waterway, creating a model for other communities facing similar erosion and flood protection challenges.

The Bluff Restoration and Erosion Abatement Project provides direct and measurable shoreline stabilization and flood protection benefits, with important gains for water quality and habitat. Continued bluff retreat threatens the stability of Bayview Drive, a critical transportation and evacuation route, as well as stormwater infrastructure that manages local flooding. Uncontrolled erosion contributes sediment and upland pollutants to the Intracoastal Waterway, worsening turbidity, degrading submerged aquatic vegetation, and driving up

# SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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potential dredging needs and costs. The selected hybrid design concept aims to reduce wave energy through breakwaters, trap and retain sediment with a terminal groin, and reinforce the toe of the bluff with a living shoreline to halt ongoing retreat. These measures are proposed to increase public safety, protect infrastructure, and ensure long-term functionality of the stormwater system. As a co-benefit, nature-based elements such as oyster and reef structures, native vegetation plantings, and mangroves will filter runoff, improve nearshore water clarity, and enhance habitat complexity. By advancing the project to shovel-ready status, Phase 2 enables implementation of a resilient shoreline protection solution that both addresses immediate erosion, and flood risks and improves ecological and water quality conditions over time.

### **Cost:**

The estimated cost for this project is \$4,700,000, requested through the Cooperative Funding Initiative. This budget includes \$4.4M Opinion of Probable Construction Costs calculated as part of conceptual design phase. This funding will complete 60% and 90% design packages, update surveys (bathymetric, geotechnical, vegetation), finalize a turbidity and SAV mitigation plan, perform further water quality monitoring, and prepare complete permit applications to FDEP, USACE, SWFWMD, and Pinellas County, cover bidding as well as construction. The budget also includes staging logistics, development of a design report with updated opinions of probable cost, and public outreach activities. Construction, construction engineering and inspection, materials testing, and post-construction monitoring are proposed for District cost-share. Design and permitting will be counted toward the local match (10 percent of total project cost), along with documented land-rights expenditures.

Operations and maintenance responsibilities will rest with the Town, with routine inspections and minor repairs funded locally.

The Town of Belleair requests Cooperative Funding Initiative support for 50 percent of the total cost, with the District share at \$2.35 million and the Town providing the matching \$2.35 million.

The design and permitting scope will be completed in FY2026 and includes advancing from 30% to 60% and 90% design, conducting geotechnical, bathymetric, and vegetation surveys, preparing a turbidity and SAV mitigation plan with UMAM-based ratios, and developing final permit applications to FDEP, USACE, SWFWMD, and Pinellas County. Estimated cost: \$300,000.

Construction is scheduled to begin in early FY2028 and is anticipated to take one year. Costs are estimated at \$4.4 million, covering staging, mobilization, materials (armor stone, fill, reef structures, vegetation), turbidity control measures, SAV mitigation, construction oversight, and demobilization. The construction budget has been phased with \$2.2 million in FY2027 for pre-construction procurement and mobilization, and \$2.2 million in Future (FY2028+) for full build-out.

This funding request builds directly upon Phase 1 investments completed with SWFWMD support and the Resilient Florida Planning Grant, which delivered conceptual alternatives, SAV surveys, bluff monitoring, staging strategies, and preliminary cost estimates. The Town has also invested in upland infrastructure improvements and best management practices that reduce runoff and extend the life of shoreline protections, but additional investment is needed to fully secure the bluff and safeguard Bayview Drive. The Town has demonstrated strong financial commitment and agency coordination and is prepared to provide the 50 percent match through local funding. By investing in this phase, SWFWMD ensures delivery of a shovel-ready and fully constructed project that reduces flood risk, protects critical infrastructure, and enhances water quality and natural systems. The District's investment leverages prior state, and local planning funds and avoids future costs associated with infrastructure repair, dredging, and flood damages.

**Describe your complementary efforts in developing, implementing and enforcing water conservation, water quality and flood protection ordinances.**

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The Town of Belleair has complementary efforts that support this project, including water conservation ordinances, fertilizer and stormwater controls for water quality, and floodplain management regulations that exceed FEMA standards. These measures reduce irrigation demand, limit pollutant runoff, and manage flood risk. Phase 2 builds on this framework via a hybrid shoreline stabilization design that integrates with existing policies to protect Bayview Drive and enhance long-term resilience.

The Town's Comprehensive Plan provides direct policy support for this effort. The Conservation and Coastal Management Element requires non-seawalled shorelines to be stabilized with native vegetation and promotes shoreline planting for flood protection. The plan prohibits new point-source discharges into Clearwater Harbor and directs coordination with SWFWMD and FDEP to maintain water quality. These commitments align with the project's design, which integrates living shoreline vegetation, reef structures, and turbidity controls to stabilize the bluff and enhance estuarine health.

The Town's Floodplain Management Code (Ch. 75) further reinforces these goals. Its stated purpose is to minimize future public expenditures for flood control, reduce flood damage to infrastructure, and safeguard life and property. It also requires consistency with FEMA, state, and SWFWMD permitting. By addressing bluff retreat that threatens Bayview Drive and stormwater assets, this project fulfills the Code's intent and ensures alignment with Belleair's adopted regulations.

This project is intentionally integrated with ongoing initiatives to maximize durability and District-aligned benefits. The Town has advanced background work on erosion drivers and completed upland stormwater upgrades that reduce runoff to the bluff; these measures complement nearshore structures by lowering incident flows and extending service life. The project team will coordinate with Pinellas County, Town staff, and adjacent landowners (including the Belleair Country Club) to align construction windows, access routes, and restoration standards, minimizing disruption to Bayview Drive and nearby facilities.

Early and continuous agency coordination will reduce permitting risk and keep the schedule on track.

Pre-application meetings and iterative design reviews with the Town, SWFWMD, and FDEP will confirm jurisdictional pathways, data needs, and environmental commitments. The Preliminary Design incorporates seagrass/SAV avoidance, turbidity controls, and wildlife protection, and maps construction footprints, barge routes, and access ramps to confine impacts. Staging and work sequencing will be synchronized with other local maintenance activities where practical to reduce mobilizations and neighborhood traffic.

The Town will implement a monitoring plan with photo-stations, RTK/topographic and bathymetric spot checks, vegetation survival assessments, and observations of bluff toe stability. Results will be shared with the District and FDEP and used to refine maintenance (e.g., stone dressing, plant infill, minor grading). All geospatial data will be delivered in GIS formats to support regional planning and knowledge transfer.

Public communication will further support success. The Town will provide advance notices, a project webpage, and coordination with HOA representatives to manage haul routes, delivery hours, and noise/dust controls. A parcel restoration plan for the staging site will return surfaces to pre-project condition with landscape repair as needed. Procurement will follow Town policies and emphasize contractor qualifications and environmental experience; construction engineering and inspection will provide daily oversight, QA/QC documentation, and compliance reporting.

Collectively, these complementary efforts enhance readiness, reduce permitting and construction risk, and reinforce measurable benefits in flood protection, water quality, and natural systems.

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Prior Funding</b>	<b>FY2026</b>	<b>FY2027</b>	<b>Future Funding</b>	<b>Total Funding</b>
Applicant Share	0	150,000	1,375,000	825,000	2,350,000
District Share	0	150,000	1,375,000	825,000	2,350,000

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<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>2,750,000</b>	<b>1,650,000</b>	<b>4,700,000</b>
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### Matching Fund Reduction

Check here if requesting a reduction in matching funds requirement pursuant to s.288.06561, F.S.

### Timelines

60% Design completed	7/31/2026
Design completed and permits achieved	11/30/2026
Bidding Completed and Construction Begins	3/30/2027



# SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## FY 2027 Cooperative Funding Initiative Application Form

**Project Name:** Plant City Potable Reuse Facility Final Design and Construction

**Project Number:** Q455

**Cooperator:** Plant City

**Contact Person:** Lynn Spivey

**Department:** Plant City

**Address:** 902 Mobley St.

**Phone #:** 8137579288

**City State Zip:** Plant City, FL 33563

**Ext:**

**Email:** lspivey@plantcitygov.com

**Project Type:**

Water Supply Water Quality

**Strategic Initiatives:**

Alternative Water Supply Water Quality Maintenance and Improvement Reclaimed Water

**Project Description/Benefit/Cost**

**Description:**

The City of Plant City (City), Florida is a medium sized, agricultural-based community in the greater Tampa area. The City owns and operates water, sewer, and reclaimed water utilities. The City has existing and anticipated needs in the areas of water supply, effluent management, and stormwater control:

- **Water supply:** Significant population growth has been observed and is expected to continue over the next 20 years, prompting increased water demand that is projected to surpass the available groundwater supply. The City has limited opportunity to increase its groundwater allocation.

- **Effluent management:** The City's Advanced Treatment Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) is permitted to treat 10 mgd, and currently produces an average of 5 mgd of highly treated effluent. The two available effluent management strategies at the WRF include pressurized reclaimed water distribution and surface water discharge to Itchepackesassa Creek, a tributary to the Hillsborough River. Reclaimed water distribution is prioritized over surface water discharge; however, the surface water discharge is commonly used due to effluent flows being greater than reclaimed water demands. The City has a maximum annual average surface water discharge limit of 6 mgd as part of their Senate Bill 64 compliance plan. The City anticipates that effluent flows from the WRF will eventually exceed the combined total of this limit and existing reclaimed water demands, thus requiring additional effluent management opportunities. due to its location in the recovered Dover Plant City Water Use Caution Area. The City's current permitted annual average capacity is 9.852 mgd and water demands are projected to surpass this available supply by 2035.

- **Stormwater control:** The City also owns and operates a stormwater canal that is currently experiencing flooding and treatment challenges in the McIntosh Preserve.

The City recognized the interconnectivity between its water, wastewater, and stormwater needs and accordingly launched an integrated water management plan. The resultant plan includes expansion of a City-owned wetland park to treat effluent and stormwater runoff and leveraging reclaimed water as an alternative water supply. The City is also conducting a Local Limits evaluation of the Utilities' existing Industrial Pretreatment Program.

This request for funding pertains to the construction of a direct potable reuse facility to benefit the City's

# SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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overall water supply and water supply resiliency. The project is an Advanced Treatment Water Facility (ATWF) that enables reclaimed water to be treated to potable water standards to meet existing and future water demands, as opposed to further stressing the groundwater supply and/or risking a demand deficit. The ATWF will include membrane filtration, reverse osmosis, ultraviolet advanced oxidation process, and chlorination, as well as finished water storage and distribution infrastructure. The selected treatment train was confirmed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection regulations for potable reuse (Chapter 62-565, F.A.C) and results from the City's pilot demonstration study that was completed in 2023. The 15-month pilot study demonstrated the treatment train's ability to consistently meet drinking water standards and health guidelines despite influent variability (the Pilot Report is attached to this application). Additionally, the City invested substantial time and resources into internal and external communications throughout the demonstration study, including operator training, engagement across City Departments, public tours, and a joint venture with a local farm-to-table restaurant to brew beer with finished water from the pilot.

Recent efforts towards the ATWF include a preliminary design report, design drawings, and preliminary cost estimate, and continued public outreach efforts relayed in a communications plan which are attached to this application.

### **Benefit:**

Advanced treatment of reclaimed water for public water supply would play a critical role in the future water supply of the City's residents and local agricultural communities. The initial development of a 4.6 mgd Advanced Treatment Water Facility (ATWF) would diversify the City's water supply, satisfying the increasing potable demands to service residential, commercial, and/or industrial customers, while also providing relief to the aquifer for long-term environmental stewardship. Furthermore, the advanced treatment and diversion of reclaimed water away from surface water discharges to address SB 64 would result in a reduced contaminant load to surface waters. The ATWF is planned to be constructed in a manner that provides flexibility for future expansion ultimately providing up to 9.2 mgd of potable water, thus enabling the opportunity to support future growth and supply diversification to the City of Plant City and its neighboring communities.

The preliminary design of the ATWF in Plant City, Florida would also include a welcome center designed with opportunities for public outreach through educational lecture, museum-like exhibits and live tours. The facility would not only provide an opportunity for statewide education and beyond, but would also allow for operator training within and outside of the City. Operators could visit the facility to become increasingly familiar with advanced treatment operations, monitoring approach, control strategies, and residuals management. The industry will have an opportunity to use the newly installed ATWF to continue explorations of how influent wastewater quality and WRF performance impact downstream advanced treatment and finished water quality, and how that information informs enhanced source control need. Lastly, by increasing and diversifying its water supply portfolio, the City of Plant City reduces its reliance on the emergency interconnect with the City of Lakeland, thus benefiting the City of Lakeland and Plant City's water supply resiliency. The City is prepared to lead the state of Florida's potable reuse efforts by construction and operation of the ATWF.

In summary, benefits resulting from the City of Plant City's ATWF include:

- \* Increased potable water supply in a City with a projected water supply deficit
- \* Increased potable water supply that does not originate from groundwater supplies in the recovered Dover Water Use Caution Area
- \* Diversification of the City of Plant City's water supply portfolio

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- \* Reduced nutrient discharges to surface water systems due to diversion of reclaimed water to potable reuse
- \* Alignment with anticipated surface water discharge constraint of 6 mgd under Senate Bill 64
- \* Reduced reliance on emergency interconnect with City of Lakeland, and increased supply availability to support the City of Lakeland with emergency supplies if needed
- \* Increased water stewardship as Plant City is seated geographically between two regional water supply authorities

### Cost:

The constructed ATWF will have an initial capacity of 4.6 MGD. The current capital cost estimate for the constructed ATWF is approximately \$183 million dollars. The cost does not include engineering, permitting, land acquisition, water main transmission, or the construction of the welcome center and maintenance buildings as these are not anticipated to be included in the District Cost Share. The total budget estimate for the project including engineering, permitting, land acquisition, construction services, and construction of other buildings at the ATWF is \$225 million dollars.

The cost was derived using preliminary design documents and includes site work, yard piping, ATWF treatment infrastructure, HVAC/plumbing, electrical and I&C, and concentrate disposal. The estimate was conducted in accordance with AACE Class 3 guidelines with a typical accuracy range of -20% to +30%. The capital cost is market-adjusted for a NTP in 2027 with a construction duration of 36 months. The cost was derived in accordance with wage and equipment rates from RSMeans coupled with treatment infrastructure quotes from vendors. The project is assumed to be procured as CMAR, which may result in a cost savings of the engineering services line item. The cost also assumes an additional 10% for general conditions, 5% for labor escalation, 5% for materials and equipment escalation, 10% for contractor overhead, 10% for contractor profit, 3% for insurance and bonding, and 30% for contingency.

Assuming the City funds the engineering, permitting, and construction of the welcome center and operations building, and the District funds design and permitting costs of 10 percent of the total project cost to be a cooperator match, the cost breakdown would be approximately \$123.3 million dollars funded by the City and \$101.6 million dollars matched by the District.

### **Describe your complementary efforts in developing, implementing and enforcing water conservation, water quality and flood protection ordinances.**

The City of Plant City's (City) drinking water system is supplied by groundwater from the Upper Floridan Aquifer. The City recognizes the importance and limited nature of this groundwater supply, thus striving for responsible withdrawals and potable water offsets through the use of alternative water supplies. As one example, the City's Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) treats wastewater to meet public access reclaimed water standards. The reclaimed water is used for industrial applications, cooling towers, and irrigation, as a substitute for potable water; however, non-potable reclaimed water demands are insufficient for the cost-effective use of the entirety of the City's reclaimed water supply. In 2024, the average effluent from the WRF was 5.6 mgd, whereas the average reclaimed water demand was 3.3 mgd. Accordingly, excess reclaimed water is discharged to the receiving surface waters. An alternative water supply project that enables potable reuse would allow excess reclaimed water to be beneficially reused as an augmentation to potable water supply.

Conservation is also an important element of the City's water supply. The primary mission of the Water

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Conservation Program is to monitor and report municipal, residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, and reclaimed water usage. This effort assists the City in meeting and exceeding water conservation and regulatory compliance requirements set forth by the SWFWMD. The Water Conservation Program emphasizes the importance of saving water through an education/information-based program. The City also restricts outdoor irrigation by adopting SWFWMD rules to provide sufficient time to water and maintain the health of lawn and landscape, while minimizing water wastage. The City has also conducted a local limits study that characterized the sewer collection system to evaluate flows, water quality, and variability of individual industrial dischargers. The outcome of this study established sewer use ordinances to protect downstream infrastructure and treated water quality.

Additionally, the City is nearing completion for the construction of a 363-acre wetland at the Plant City McIntosh Preserve site and enhancements to the existing 45-acre wetland treatment system. The City is expanding the capacity of the existing McIntosh Preserve wetland project to capture larger volumes of stormwater for additional water quality treatment, thus further protecting nearby surface waters and underlying groundwater. Expanded and enhanced wetland treatment is anticipated to reduce fecal coliform loading to the Eastside Canal, Blackwater Creek, and the Hillsborough River, as well as reduce nutrient loading to downstream Tampa Bay, a SWIM waterbody. The future ATWF and this wetland project are closely related, as the effluent from the WRF will supply existing reclaimed demand, the ATWF, and the wetlands. It is not anticipated that the City will expand its reclaimed services, thus allowing a majority of the WRF effluent to supply the ATWF and wetlands. The City has a robust Water Conservation program that is reflected in the City Ordinances.

Funding Source	Prior Funding	FY2026	FY2027	Future Funding	Total Funding
Applicant Share	2,000,000	400,000	6,000,000	117,290,000	125,690,000
District Share	0	0	500,000	101,080,000	101,580,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>6,500,000</b>	<b>218,370,000</b>	<b>227,270,000</b>

### Matching Fund Reduction

Check here if requesting a reduction in matching funds requirement pursuant to s.288.06561, F.S.

### Timelines

Study/conceptual design	10/03/2025
Project site acquisition/easement acquisitions	1/29/2027
Request for bids advertisement and award	7/20/2027
60% Design	8/10/2027
90% Design	1/11/2028
Permitting	6/13/2028
Construction engineering	6/11/2030

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## FY 2027 Cooperative Funding Initiative Application Form

and inspection

As-build survey and  
record drawings 8/21/2030

Construction 8/21/2030

Project close-out 8/21/2030

# SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## FY 2027 Cooperative Funding Initiative Application Form

**Project Name:** FY2027 Tampa Bay Environmental Restoration Fund  
**Project Number:** W024 **Cooperator:** TBEP  
**Contact Person:** Jessica Lewis **Department:** TBEP  
**Address:** 263 13th Avenue South, Suite 350 **Phone #:** 7278932765  
**City State Zip:** St Petersburg, FL 33701 **Ext:**  
**Email:** jlewis@tbep.org

### Project Type:

Natural Systems Water Quality

### Strategic Initiatives:

Natural Systems Identification and Monitoring Natural Systems Conservation and Restoration Water Quality Maintenance and Improvement

### Project Description/Benefit/Cost

#### Description:

This CFI request is for year 15 of the highly successful Tampa Bay Environmental Restoration Fund (TBERF) to fund restoration, applied research, and education initiatives in Tampa Bay and its contributing watershed, consistent with the District's core mission and priorities expressed for the Tampa Bay Planning Region.

TBERF is a competitive grant program open to public entities (including SWFWMD) and NGOs, with project awards from \$25,000 to \$250,000 to support habitat restoration, water quality improvement, and environmental education. Project proposals will be solicited through a widely distributed Request for Proposals early in 2027, following execution of the contract between SWFWMD and TBEP. Eligible proposals are reviewed by a Proposal Review Team, consisting of scientists, resource managers, and restoration practitioners who provide their findings to the TBEP Executive Director. The TBEP Policy Board (which includes a District Governing Board Member) approves the final list of projects to be funded in May 2027. All funded projects will be initiated by September 2027 and are generally 1-3 years in duration.

In the first thirteen years (2013-2025), District CFI funds were matched with other public and private sources to provide more than \$9.9M for 99 competitively-awarded projects. \$1.86M has been awarded to 11 different District projects over the same period.

#### Benefit:

TBERF presents an opportunity to leverage District funds with other public and private partners in the Tampa Bay area, and funds from outside Florida, to directly address the District's core mission objectives. In the first thirteen years (2013-2025), CFI funds were matched with other public and private sources to provide funds for 99 competitively-awarded projects, resulting in measurable environmental benefits including:

- 9,150 acres of planned or restored coastal habitat;
- 2,381 oyster domes installed;
- 200 acres of seagrass enhanced;

# SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## FY 2027 Cooperative Funding Initiative Application Form

- 11,263 linear feet of living shoreline installed/planned;
- 126 pounds of TN/year removed through updated wastewater infrastructure;
- 759 acres of treated stormwater from highly urbanized areas; and
- 36 applied research projects addressing topics such as nutrient management education, assessment of fish habitat, harmful algal blooms, hard bottom substrate, remote sensing technology, existing habitat value of dredged holes in Tampa Bay, carbon sequestration in coastal habitats, artificial reefs, and microplastics abundance.

Projects selected for the fourteenth year of the TBERF grant program (i.e. projects are scheduled to be selected in spring 2026) will have similar requirements to provide significant measurable environmental benefits consistent with the District's core mission, strategic initiatives, and regional priorities. Additional project requirements related to minimum nutrient load reduction ( $\geq 50$  lbs TN) and shoreline restoration length ( $\geq 400$  linear feet) will be included for FY2026 projects to remain consistent with CFI policies.

### **Cost:**

The Tampa Bay Estuary Program will continue to act as the local sponsor for the FY2027 TBERF and leverage local funds with funds obtained through appropriations, environmental fines, and philanthropic gifts from entities beyond the Tampa Bay area.

For FY2027, the CFI request of \$350,000 is expected to be matched with funds from Hillsborough County, Manatee County, Pinellas County, The Mosaic Company, and other private donations. Additional grant fund support and/or matching funds within selected proposals are anticipated to be raised from other local and national sources.

### **Describe your complementary efforts in developing, implementing and enforcing water conservation, water quality and flood protection ordinances.**

The Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for Tampa Bay (CCMP) (<https://tbep.org/ccmp>) includes measurable goals and strategic initiatives for Tampa Bay and its contributing watersheds that are consistent with the water conservation, water quality, and flood protection priorities of the the District. The CCMP is approved by federal, state, and local governments (including the District) and lays out a detailed road map for the funding and implementation of Tampa Bay restoration and recovery projects.

Actions to improve water quality include, but are not limited to:

- Implement the Tampa Bay nutrient management strategy (WQ-1);
- Reduce the frequency and duration of harmful algal blooms (WQ-3);
- Reduce nitrogen runoff from urban landscapes (SW-1);
- Expand adoption and implementation of agricultural BMPs (SW-8);
- Expand the use of green infrastructure practices (SW-10);

Actions to support water conservation include, but are not limited to:

- Expand the beneficial use of reclaimed water (WW-1);
- Maintain seasonal freshwater flows in rivers (FI-1);
- Promote public education about key issues affecting the bay (PE-2);

Actions to address flood protection include, but are not limited to:

- Enhance ecosystem values of tidal tributaries (BH-9);

# SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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Incorporate CCMP goals and actions into local government comprehensive plans, land development regulations, or ordinances (LI-1).

These goals, initiatives, and actions are intentionally linked to and complement the District's most recent Tampa Bay SWIM Plan update.

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Prior Funding</b>	<b>FY2026</b>	<b>FY2027</b>	<b>Future Funding</b>	<b>Total Funding</b>
Applicant Share	0	0	350,000	0	350,000
District Share	0	0	350,000	0	350,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>700,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>700,000</b>

### Matching Fund Reduction

Check here if requesting a reduction in matching funds requirement pursuant to s.288.06561, F.S.

### Timelines

Advertise Request for Proposals 2/28/2027

RFP Evaluation and Award 5/31/2027

Notices to Proceed Issued to Contractors 9/30/2027

2027 TBERF Projects Closed Out/Measurable Benefits Achieved 9/30/2030



# SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## FY 2027 Cooperative Funding Initiative Application Form

**Project Name:** Pinellas County Countywide Coastal Real-Time Flood Forecasting

**Project Number:** Q457

**Cooperator:** Pinellas County

**Contact Person:** Rob Burnes

**Department:** Pinellas County

**Address:** 22211 US Hwy 19 N Bldg 10

**Phone #:** 7274533149

**City State Zip:** Clearwater, FL 33765

**Ext:**

**Email:** rburnes@pinellas.gov

**Project Type:**

Flood Protection

**Strategic Initiatives:**

Emergency Flood Response

**Project Description/Benefit/Cost**

**Description:**

Pinellas County is a peninsula with 35 miles of coastal beaches, and approximately 590 miles of coastline. It is also the most densely populated county in Florida. Much of the County was developed prior to flood hazard maps and minimum floodplain requirements enacted starting in 1975. This peninsula includes over 300,000 buildings, of which 63% were built before 1975.

This project will develop a coastal surge and tidal condition real-time flood forecasting model and dashboard system that will serve as an early flood warning system and allow Pinellas County to predict the flood levels impacting streets and structures throughout the county. The overarching purpose of the system is to minimize risk to lives (relocate/evacuate people at risk) and mitigate potential flood damage (e.g., prioritize sandbagging structures, protect lift stations, and electrical facilities, relocate equipment and valuable property to higher elevations, move vehicles, etc.)

Flooding throughout various parts of the county occurs frequently and is progressively intensifying as storms increase in regularity and strength. A real-time flood forecasting (RTFF) technology powered by StormWise-  
{PreviouslyICPR4} has been developed to predict flood levels in advance of events by using watershed conditions and rainfall forecast to warn and alert stakeholders. The project will consist of developing a coastal surge RTFF model and dashboard system. The County will use the dashboard and coastal Surge projections to anticipate potential flooding conditions in advance, during and after storm events. The County will have better information for the 281 square mile watershed in advance to make better decisions on notifying/evacuating residents, closing roads, flood proof utilities and/or mobilize pumps where warnings and/or alerts are indicated in the dashboard.

**Benefit:**

Pinellas experiences frequent flooding including sunny day flooding due to tidal conditions at numerous locations. Coastal areas and interconnected low-lying inland areas are at a high risk of flooding due to offshore

# SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## FY 2027 Cooperative Funding Initiative Application Form

storms and tidal conditions. Many the county's coastal low-lying areas have road flooding during king tide conditions. A minor offshore storm can flood significant areas along the coastline. Approximately 88,000 structures in Pinellas County and its municipalities are within the Special Hazard Flood Area (SHFA). More than 250 of the County's critical facilities are located within high flood risk areas. The County has more than 1,500 repetitive loss properties including areas of underserved and socially vulnerable people. Recent flooding events include- Hurricanes Debby, Helene, and Milton (2024), Hurricane Idalia (2023), Tropical Storms Fred and Elsa (2021), and Tropical Storm Eta (2020). More frequent and more- intense storm events are being experienced, and this will require innovative and proactive approaches to mitigating the flood risks and the potential consequences to County communities and infrastructure.

The contractual Measurable Benefit will be the completion of a real-time flood forecasting model and dashboard system for the entirety of Coastal Pinellas County. The information from the study will be used to aid in flood preparation operations (operation of control structures, mobilizing pumps, installing signage), to notify residents of potential flooding and/or evacuation orders, and to flood proof utilities.

**Cost:**

The total cost of this project is expected to be \$353,100 over three fiscal years. The first-year cost (FY2027) will be \$200,000, the second-year cost (FY2028) will be \$123,100, and the third-year cost (FY2029) will be \$30,000.

**Describe your complementary efforts in developing, implementing and enforcing water conservation, water quality and flood protection ordinances.**

The Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan obligates the County to protect, enhance, and improve water quality through water quality monitoring, watershed management plan development, implementation of projects, and environmental enforcement. In addition, the County is obligated by the Comprehensive Plan to work to improve flood protection and natural systems. The County has a fertilizer ordinance which restricts using products containing nitrogen or phosphorus during the rainy season with a related sales ban, a pet waste ordinance, and a street sweeping program all designed to reduce nutrient pollution to receiving waters. The County also has adopted a stormwater assessment that collects money to fund surface water programs which includes stormwater maintenance and related public outreach/education programs. In addition, many of our County vehicles are wrapped with stormwater education messages and professional landscape maintenance companies are required to take a BMP training certification course. The County is currently renourishing the beaches of Pinellas to better protect public and private coastal infrastructure. This project will place approximately 2.5 million cubic yards of sand onto the beaches to protect against coastal erosion and storms, create and enhance recreational beaches, support the local tourism economy, and provides vital habitat for wildlife like sea turtles and shorebirds.

Funding Source	Prior Funding	FY2026	FY2027	Future Funding	Total Funding
Applicant Share	0	100,000	61,550	15,000	176,550
District Share	0	100,000	61,550	15,000	176,550
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>123,100</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>353,100</b>

**Matching Fund Reduction**

# SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## FY 2027 Cooperative Funding Initiative Application Form

Check here if requesting a reduction in matching funds requirement pursuant to s.288.06561, F.S.

### Timelines

Procurement	12/31/2026
Procurement	12/31/2026
Project Development	1/31/2027
Project Development	1/31/2027
H&H Model Refinement	9/30/2027
Development of RTFF Systems	9/30/2027
H&H Model Refinement	9/30/2027
Development of RTFF Systems	9/30/2027
RTFF System Testing and Calibration	12/31/2027
Incorporate Critical Asset Flood Risk Point	12/31/2027
Incorporate Critical Asset Flood Risk Point	12/31/2027
RTFF System Testing and Calibration	3/30/2028
Deployment and Training on RTFF Systems	9/30/2028
Deployment and Training on RTFF Systems	9/30/2028
Final Report	12/31/2028
Final Report	12/31/2028

*The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) does not discriminate on the basis of disability. This nondiscrimination policy involves every aspect of the District's functions, including access to and participation in the District's programs, services and activities. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation, or who would like information as to the existence and location of accessible services, activities, and facilities, as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act, should contact the Human Resources Office Chief, at 2379 Broad St., Brooksville, FL 34604-6899; telephone (352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only), ext. 4747; or email [ADACoordinator@WaterMatters.org](mailto:ADACoordinator@WaterMatters.org). If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1-800-955-8771 (TDD) or 1-800-9558770 (Voice). If requested, appropriate auxiliary aids and services will be provided at any public meeting, forum, or event of the District. In the event of a complaint, please follow the grievance procedure located at [WaterMatters.org/ADA](http://WaterMatters.org/ADA)*