Fiscal Year 2026

Final Annual Service Budget

Pursuant to Section 373.536, Florida Statutes





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); or email 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 1-800-955-8770 (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 public grievance procedure located at WaterMatters.org/ADA.



Water Management District

2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899 (352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) WaterMatters.org

An Equal Opportunit Emp**l**over **Bartow Office**

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Southwest Florida

Sarasota Office

78 Sarasota Center Boulevard Sarasota, Florida 34240-9770 (941) 377-3722 or 1-800-320-3503 (FL only) **Tampa Office** 7601 U.S. 301 North Tampa, Florida 33637-6759 (813) 985-7481 or 1-800-836-0797 (FL only)

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Jim Turner Charlotte, Sarasota

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Brian J. Armstrong, P.G. Executive Director October 3, 2025

Subject: Fiscal Year 2026 Millage Rate and Final Annual Service Budget

Dear Citizens:

On behalf of the Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board, I am pleased to present the District's adopted budget for fiscal year (FY) 2026, which runs from October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026. The Final Annual Service Budget report has been prepared pursuant to section 373.536, Florida Statutes.

The budget emphasizes our commitment to protecting water resources, minimizing flood risks, and meeting the public's water needs in our four areas of responsibility: water supply, water quality, flood protection and natural systems. The budget aligns with Governing Board priorities, outlines how the District will achieve its Five-Year Strategic Plan, and complies with legislative directives while furthering the Governor's environmental agenda through key projects focused on restoring springs, ensuring a coordinated approach to Florida's coastal and inland resiliency, reducing nutrient pollution from waterways, and developing alternative water supplies (AWS). Finally, the FY2026 budget communicates the long-term funding plan, which connects the District's vision, mission and goals with strategic allocation of fiscal resources and project reserves, demonstrating the District's continued investment in water resources.

On September 23, 2025, the District's Governing Board adopted a final millage rate of 0.1831 mill, which is the rolled-back rate. This is a rate reduction of 4.1 percent and will save taxpayers \$5.9 million in property taxes.

The budget for FY2026 is \$256.2 million, compared to \$231.6 million for FY2025. More than \$155 million, representing over 60 percent of the total budget, is dedicated to projects. The District will commit \$114.3 million to cooperative public and private partnerships resulting in a total investment of approximately \$217 million for sustainable AWS development, water quality improvements, and other water resource management projects, illustrating the District's commitment to putting tax dollars to work. Since 1988, the District and its partners have made a combined investment of more than \$4.3 billion in critical water resource projects.

Springs continue to be a unique destination for both residents and visitors. The District has committed a total of \$1.7 million in the budget toward restoring springs and spring-fed rivers within our region's coastal springs systems. These efforts will provide maximum ecologic benefits in strategic locations through a variety of techniques such as monitoring, research and development, restoration, and septic to sewer conversions.

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2026 Millage Rate and Final Annual Service Budget

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October 3, 2025

The District has prioritized implementing water resource development projects, as outlined in the Regional Water Supply Plan. The budget includes \$102.9 million for AWS projects to continue to reduce the region's dependency on fresh groundwater.

We deliver a fiscally responsible budget that meets all statutory requirements and avoids debt by operating on a pay-as-you-go basis. This demonstrates our continuous commitment to increasing efficiencies while enhancing the quality of public services.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Armstrong, P.G. Executive Director

BJA:ads Enclosures SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2026 Millage Rate and Final Annual Service Budget

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October 3, 2025

Recipients of the Final Annual Service Budget for Fiscal Year 2026:

Executive Office of the Governor

Ron DeSantis, Governor

Taylor Schrader, Director of Executive Staff

Office of Policy and Budget

Kim Cramer Mike Atchley Gerri Hall

Florida Senate

Office of Senate President

Senator Ben Albritton, President Jason Brodeur, President Pro Tempore Andrew Mackintosh, Chief of Staff Reynold Meyer, Deputy Chief of Staff Katie Betta, Deputy Chief of Staff for Communications

Senate Committee on Appropriations

Senator Ed Hooper, Chair Senator Darryl Ervin Rouson, Vice Chair Tim Sadberry, Staff Director
John Shettle, Deputy Staff Director Tonya Money, Deputy Staff Director

Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, **Environment, and General Government**

Senator Jason Brodeur, Chair Senator Lori Berman, Vice Chair Giovanni Betta, Staff Director

Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez, Chair Senator Debbie Mayfield, Vice Chair Ellen Rogers, Staff Director

Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections

Senator Don Gaetz, Chair Senator Mack Bernard, Vice Chair Dawn Roberts, Staff Director

Senate Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability

Senator Debbie Mayfield, Chair Senator Nick DiCeglie, Vice Chair Joe McVaney, Staff Director Tamra Redig, Administrative Assistant

Florida House of Representatives

Representative Daniel Perez, Speaker Representative Wyman Duggan, Speaker Pro Tempore Mat Bahl, Chief of Staff Tom Hamby, Deputy Chief of Staff, Policy Michelle Voran, Deputy Chief of Staff Hannah Littlejohn, Director for Special Projects Lynn Imhof, Special Assistant to the Speaker

House Budget Committee

Representative Lawrence McClure, Chair Representative Susan L. Valdes, Vice Chair Eric Pridgeon, Staff Director Alicia Trexler, Deputy Staff Director Michael Willson, Deputy Staff Director

House Agriculture & Natural Resources Budget **Subcommittee**

Representative John Snyder, Chair Representative Adam Botana, Vice Chair Bruce Topp, Budget Chief

House State Affairs Committee

Representative Will Robinson, Chair Representative James Mooney, Jr., Vice Chair Heather Williamson, Staff Director

House Natural Resources & Disasters Subcommittee

Representative Adam Botana, Chair Representative James Mooney, Jr., Vice Chair Alexandra Moore, Policy Chief

Joint Legislative Budget Commission

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Representative Lawrence McClure, Alternating Chair

Representative Robert A. Andrade Representative Demi Busatta Representative Jason Shoaf Representative John Snyder Representative Allison Tant

Representative Marie Paule Woodson

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Office of the Secretary

Alexis Lambert, Secretary Mara Gambineri, Chief of Staff Alex Cronin, Director of Legislative Affairs

Ecosystems Restoration Division

Adam Blalock, Deputy Secretary Kristine Morris, Assistant Deputy Secretary

Office of Water Policy & Ecosystems Restoration

Edward C. Smith, Director

Bureau of Water Policy

Pamela Flores, Chief of Natural Sciences Jennifer Adams, Environmental Administrator

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A. History of Water Management Districts

Due to extreme drought and shifting public focus on resource protection and conservation, legislators passed four major laws in 1972: Environmental Land and Water Management Act, Comprehensive Planning Act, Land Conservation Act and Water Resources Act. Collectively, these policy initiatives reflected the philosophy that land use, growth management and water management should be joined.

Florida's institutional arrangement for water management is unique. The Florida Water Resources Act of 1972 (WRA), Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, granted Florida's five water management districts broad authority and responsibility. Two of the five districts existed prior to the passage of the WRA (South Florida and Southwest Florida), primarily as flood control agencies. Today, however, the responsibilities of all five districts encompass four broad categories: water supply (including water allocation and conservation), water quality, flood protection and floodplain management, and natural systems.

The five regional water management districts, established by the Legislature and recognized in the Florida Constitution, are set up largely on hydrologic boundaries. Water management districts are funded by ad valorem taxes normally reserved for local governments using the taxing authority that emanates from a constitutional amendment passed by Floridians in 1976. The water management districts are governed regionally by boards appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. There is also general oversight at the state level by the Department of Environmental Protection.

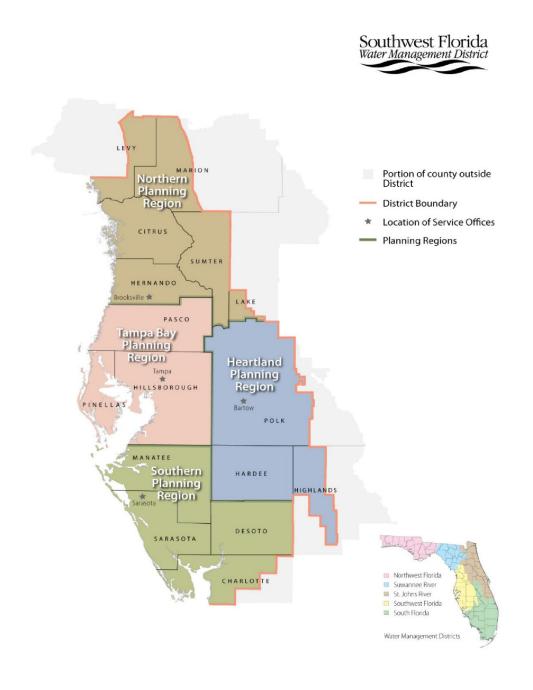
In Florida, water is a resource of the state, owned by no one individual, with the use of water overseen by water management districts acting in the public interest. Florida law recognizes the importance of balancing human needs for water with those of Florida's natural systems.

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) was established in 1961 to operate and maintain several large flood protection projects. Since then, legislative action and state agency delegation have expanded the District's responsibilities to include managing water supply and protecting water quality and the natural systems in response to evolving water management challenges. The District, along with the other four water management districts, works with state agencies and local governments to ensure there are adequate water supplies to meet growing demands while protecting and restoring the water resources of the state, addressing water quality issues, protecting natural systems in Florida through land acquisition, land management and ecosystem restoration, and promoting flood protection. For additional information, interested readers should review the websites and contact officials at each district. The District's website is www.WaterMatters.org.

B. Overview of the District

The District includes about 17 percent of the state's total area. The District encompasses all or part* of 16 counties from Levy County in the north to Charlotte County in the south and extends from the Gulf of America east to the highlands of central Florida, as further illustrated below.

Charlotte*	Citrus	DeSoto	Hardee
Hernando	Highlands*	Hillsborough	Lake*
Levy*	Manatee	Marion*	Pasco
Pinellas	Polk*	Sarasota	Sumter



The District contains 97 local governments spread over approximately 10,000 square miles serving a permanent population estimated to be 5.69 million. Several heavily populated and rapidly growing urban areas lie within this District, as do much of Florida's most productive agricultural land and phosphate mining areas. The region also contains the Green Swamp (headwaters for the Peace, Hillsborough, Withlacoochee and Oklawaha rivers) and numerous lakes, springs, streams and ponds. There are more than 200 springs within the District. Many of these springs are part of the five first-magnitude spring groups: Chassahowitzka River, Crystal River/Kings Bay, Homosassa River, Rainbow River and Weeki Wachee River. For planning purposes, the District is divided into four regions: Northern, Tampa Bay, Heartland and Southern.

The District is a regional governmental authority (special district) involved in many aspects of water management. The District was created in 1961 by a special act of the Florida Legislature to serve as local sponsor of the Four Rivers Basin, Florida flood control project designed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This law was later incorporated into Chapter 373, Florida Statutes (F.S.). Chapter 373, F.S., establishes funding and general administrative and operating procedures for all five of Florida's water management districts and mandates their overall responsibilities. Like the other water management districts, this District is independently governed by its Governing Board and works closely with the Executive Office of the Governor and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

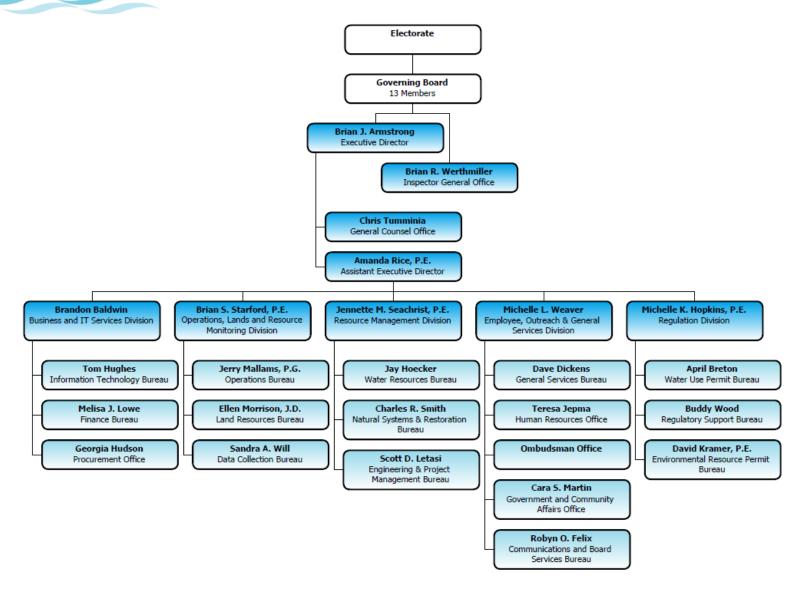
The District's original focus on flood control was expanded to include water use regulation and permitting, water shortage and conservation planning, water resource and supply development, water research assistance, minimum flows and minimum water levels, structural and non-structural forms of flood control, aquatic plant control, hydrologic investigations, land acquisition and management, and public education. In 1982, the DEP further expanded the District's duties by delegating public supply well construction and stormwater management permitting. These tasks represented the District's first direct involvement in water quality aspects of resource management.

In 1992, the DEP delegated dredge and fill permitting activities, which in 1995 were combined with management and storage of surface water permitting activities, to form the Environmental Resource Permitting program. In 1997, the water management districts were given the additional requirement of creating a Five-Year Water Resource Development Work Program that describes the implementation strategy for the water resource development component of each approved regional water supply plan developed.

The District's operations are directed by a 13-member Governing Board. Appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, Governing Board members are unpaid volunteers representing diverse backgrounds and interests. Board members, who must live within the District, serve four-year terms. The Governing Board determines the District's overall policies, executes its statutory and regulatory responsibilities, administers contracts and authorizes tax levies and budgets in accordance with the Truth in Millage (TRIM) statutory budgetary hearing process. The Governing Board appoints the District's Executive Director, subject to approval by the Governor and the Senate, and appoints the District's Inspector General.

The District's primary funding source is ad valorem taxes, although revenues are also derived from state and federal appropriations, permit fees, interest earnings and other sources. The taxing capabilities of the District are established by the Legislature within the limits set by the Florida Constitution.

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D. Mission and Guiding Principles of the District

The District assumes its responsibilities as authorized in Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, and other chapters of the Florida Statutes by directing a wide range of programs, initiatives and actions. The Governing Board of the District has adopted the following formal Mission Statement and has made it an integral part of its overall budget philosophy and structure:

"The mission of the Southwest Florida Water Management District is to protect water resources, minimize flood risks and ensure the public's water needs are met."

The District has established a goal that acts as a guiding principle for each of the four areas of responsibility (AOR), as well as strategic initiative goals implemented to meet the AOR goals:

<u>Water Supply</u> – Ensure an adequate supply of water to provide for all existing and future reasonable and beneficial uses while protecting and maintaining water resources and related natural systems.

- Regional Water Supply Planning: Identify, communicate and promote consensus on the strategies and resources necessary to meet future reasonable and beneficial water supply needs.
- Alternative Water Supplies: Increase development of alternative sources of water to ensure groundwater and surface water sustainability.
- **Reclaimed Water:** Maximize beneficial use of reclaimed water to offset potable water supplies and restore water levels and natural systems.
- Water Conservation: Enhance efficiencies in all water-use sectors to ensure beneficial use.

<u>Water Quality</u> – Protect and improve water quality to sustain the water resources, environment, economy and quality of life.

- **Assessment and Planning:** Collect and analyze data to determine local and regional water quality status and trends to support resource management decisions and restoration initiatives.
- **Maintenance and Improvement:** Develop and implement programs, projects and regulations to maintain and improve water quality.

<u>Flood Protection and Floodplain Management</u> – Minimize flood damage to protect people, property, infrastructure and investment.

- **Floodplain Management:** Collect and analyze data to determine floodplain information and flood protection status and trends to support floodplain management decisions and initiatives.
- Programs, Projects and Regulations: Develop and implement programs, projects and regulations
 to maintain and improve flood protection to minimize flood damage while preserving the water
 resource.
- **Flood Protection Facilities:** Operation, maintenance and capital improvements of the District's dams, canals and water control structures to minimize flood damage while preserving the water resource and contributing to water supply.
- **Emergency Flood Response:** Provide effective and efficient assistance to state and local governments and the public to minimize flood damage during and after major storm events, including operation of District flood control and water conservation structures.

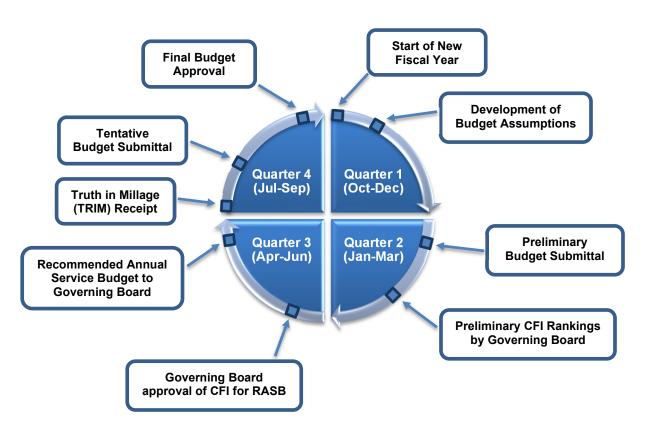
<u>Natural Systems</u> – Preserve, protect and restore natural systems to support their natural hydrologic and ecologic functions.

- Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels (MFLs) Establishment and Monitoring: Establish and monitor MFLs, and where necessary, develop and implement recovery/prevention strategies to recover water bodies and prevent significant harm.
- Conservation, Restoration and Management: Restoration and management of natural ecosystems for the benefit of water and water-related resources.

E. Development of the District Budget

The District's fiscal year runs from October 1 through September 30. The budget development process takes place throughout the fiscal year with guidance from the Governing Board. All meetings of the Governing Board, its committees and its subcommittees are advertised to provide the public with an opportunity to discuss issues and concerns prior to the adoption of the budget. Additionally, meeting schedules and budget information are available on the District's website at www.WaterMatters.org. The figure below shows the cyclical nature of this process.

Southwest Florida Water Management District Annual Budgeting Cycle



On October 22, 2024, the Governing Board approved budget preparation assumptions to be used for development of the District's fiscal year (FY) 2026 Preliminary Budget. The Preliminary Budget was then finalized, and the draft report was prepared.

On December 17, 2024, the Governing Board approved the draft FY2026 Preliminary Budget for submission to the Legislature. The District then submitted the FY2026 Preliminary Budget to the Florida Legislature on January 15, 2025.

On February 25, 2025, the Governing Board reviewed and ranked the FY2026 Cooperative Funding Initiative (CFI) requests submitted by cooperators. The purpose of this meeting was to allow the public an opportunity to provide input and for Board members to ask questions of the applicants and staff.

On April 22, 2025, final CFI project rankings and funding recommendations were compiled and approved by the Governing Board for inclusion in the FY2026 Recommended Annual Service Budget (RASB).

On June 24, 2025, the FY2026 RASB was presented to the Governing Board with an overview of the recommended budget including a review of proposed revenues and expenditures in comparison to the FY2025 adopted budget. Revenues were reviewed by source and expenditures were reviewed by category, program and area of responsibility.

On July 1, 2025, the Certifications of Taxable Value for the District's 16 counties were received by the District from each county property appraiser. On July 22, 2025, a budget update was provided to the Governing Board, including information regarding the results of the 16 county Certifications of Taxable Value received. Following the update, the Governing Board adopted a proposed FY2026 millage rate and approved submittal of the Tentative Budget.

The Tentative Budget Submission reflecting the District's recommended budget for FY2026 was submitted for review and comment on August 1, 2025 to the Executive Office of the Governor (EOG), the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, the chairs of all legislative committees and subcommittees having substantive or fiscal jurisdiction over the water management districts, the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection and each county commission within the District's boundaries. The Tentative Budget Submission addressed any thresholds established by subsection 373.536(5)(c), Florida Statutes (F.S.), or requested by the EOG or Legislative Budget Commission (LBC) pursuant to subsection 373.536(5)(b), F.S., that have been exceeded since the Preliminary Budget Submission on January 15, 2025.

Prior to adoption of the final budget and in compliance with section 200.065, F.S., the District advised all county property appraisers within its jurisdiction, as required by the Truth in Millage (TRIM) process, of the proposed millage rate for FY2026, as well as the rolled-back rate and the date, time and location of the public hearings on the matter.

The District held two TRIM public hearings in September. The first public hearing took place on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 5:01 p.m. at the Tampa Office located at 7601 Highway 301 North, Tampa, Florida. The second and final public hearing took place on Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at 5:01 p.m., also at the Tampa Office. No written disapproval of any provision in the Tentative Budget by the EOG or LBC was received.

F. Budget Guidelines

The District developed its budget under guidelines previously established which include:

- Reviewing, on an ongoing basis, personnel, programs and activities to ensure that the District is meeting its core mission areas without increasing costs for the taxpayers it serves;
- Ensuring District employee benefits are consistent with those provided to state employees;
- Continuing District implementation of plans for the beneficial use of excess fund balances;
- · Avoiding new debt; and
- Furthering the Governor's priorities and the Legislature's support of those priorities.

In addition, specific guidelines for revenues, expenditures and budget targets established by the District's Governing Board and management for the fiscal year (FY) 2026 budget include:

Revenues

- Ad Valorem Revenue based on the rolled-back millage rate of 0.1831, accounting for growth from new construction.
- Permit and License Fees based on recent permit fees collected and permitting estimates for FY2026.
- Interest Earnings based on an estimated 4.14 percent yield on investments and projected cash balances.
- Balance from Prior Years based on the utilization of fund balances available per the District's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, including funds for the acquisition of conservation lands generated from the sale of land no longer required for conservation purposes.
- Use of Project Reserves only utilized to fund projects.
- Local Revenues based on cooperators' share for projects, primarily funded through the District's Cooperative Funding Initiative, where the District is serving as the lead party.
- State Revenues based on agreements with state agencies for ongoing initiatives and 2025
 appropriations from recurring state programs in support of initiatives such as alternative water
 supplies and land management; estimated if unknown.
- Federal Revenues based on agreements with state agencies for ongoing initiatives utilizing federal pass-through funds.

Expenditures

- Workforce, Salaries and Benefits:
 - Workforce based on a proposed increase of 20 Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs).
 - o Salaries based on a proposed 3 percent increase for performance-based pay increases.
 - o Retirement based on rates approved by the 2025 Florida Legislature.
 - Self-Funded Medical Insurance based on recent claims experience, an 8 percent inflation factor for medical costs, and projected premiums for administrative services and stop-loss insurance.
 - Non-Medical Insurance based on calendar year 2025 premiums and projected rate changes.

- Remaining Operating Budget (including operating expenses, contracted services for operations and operating capital outlay)
 - Operating Capital Outlay based on a proposed increase of eight vehicles associated with the increase in FTEs.
 - Continue to look for savings and efficiencies.
- Contracted Services for District Projects based on priority project requests, separately justified for funding.
- Cooperative Funding Initiative based on FY2026 funding requests from cooperators after projects are evaluated by staff and subsequently reviewed and ranked by the Governing Board.
- District Grants based on priority project requests, separately justified for funding.
- Fixed Capital Outlay based on priority project requests, separately justified for funding.

Budget Targets

- Salaries and Benefits funded with ad valorem not to exceed 50 percent of ad valorem revenue.
- Operating expenditures (including salaries and benefits) not to exceed 80 percent of ad valorem revenue.
- Project expenditures equal to or greater than 50 percent of the total budget.

Pursuant to section 373.536(5)(c), Florida Statutes (F.S.), the Legislative Budget Commission (LBC) may reject budget proposals based on the statutory thresholds described below.

- 1. A single purchase of land in excess of \$10 million, except for land exchanges.
 - The District does not have any single purchase of land in excess of \$10 million specifically planned for acquisition in the FY2026 budget. While none of the properties in the Florida Forever Work Plan currently exceed this threshold, acquisition of each property is subject to market conditions, timing and negotiations.
- 2. Any cumulative purchase of land during a single fiscal year in excess of \$50 million.
 - The District *does not* have a cumulative purchase of land in excess of \$50 million in the FY2026 budget.
- 3. Any issuance of debt on or after July 1, 2012.
 - The District does not have any issuance of debt in the FY2026 budget.
- 4. Any program expenditures as described in section 373.536(5)(e)4.e. and f., F.S., Outreach and Management and Administration, in excess of 15 percent of a district's total annual budget.
 - The District's FY2026 budget for the Outreach and Management and Administration programs does not exceed 15 percent of the total budget as illustrated below.
- 5. Any individual variances in a district's Tentative Budget in excess of 25 percent from a district's Preliminary Budget.
 - The District does not have any individual variances in excess of 25 percent from the Preliminary Budget.

Program	FY2026 Adopted Budget	Percent of Total Budget
5.0 Outreach	\$3,168,113	1.2%
6.0 Management & Administration	\$14,734,039	5.8%
Total Budget (Programs 1.0 through 6.0)	\$256,247,665	100.0%
Programs 5.0 & 6.0 Combined Total	\$17,902,152	7.0%

G. Budget Development Calendar and Milestones

October 1	District fiscal year begins
October	Preliminary Budget development begins
October 18	Applications for Cooperative Funding Initiative requests due
October 22	Governing Board approval of Preliminary Budget development process and assumptions
December 11	Draft Preliminary Budget provided to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for review
December 17	Governing Board approval of Preliminary Budget for submission to the Florida Legislature by January 15
January 1	Truth in Millage (TRIM) Certification of Compliance or Noncompliance with section 200.065, Florida Statutes (F.S.), due to the Department of Financial Services (373.503(6), F.S.)
January 15	Preliminary Budget due to the Florida Legislature (373.535(1)(a), F.S.)
February	Distribution of Budget Preparation Guidelines and staff training conducted
February 25	Preliminary review and ranking of Cooperative Funding requests by Governing Board
March 1	Legislative Preliminary Budget comments due to the District (373.535(2)(b), F.S.)
March 15	District must provide written response to any legislative comments (373.535(2)(b), F.S.)
April 22	Governing Board approval of final ranking and funding of Cooperative Funding requests for inclusion in the Recommended Annual Service Budget
March – May	District continues evaluation and refinement of the budget
June 1	Property appraisers provide estimates of taxable values to the District
June 24	Recommended Annual Service Budget delivered to the Governing Board (373.536(2), F.S.)
July 1	If no action taken by the Florida Legislature, development of the Tentative Budget proceeds (373.535(2)(c), F.S.)
July 1	Property Appraisers provide certificates of taxable values to the District – TRIM (193.023(1) & 200.065(1), F.S.)
July 14	Draft Tentative Budget due to the DEP for review
July 22	Governing Board adopts the proposed millage rate and approves the August 1 submittal of the Tentative Budget
August 1	Tentative Budget due to the Florida Legislature (373.536(5)(d), F.S.)

August 4	TRIM - DR420 forms submitted to 16 county property appraisers (200.065(2)(b), F.S.)
September 5	Comments on Tentative Budget due from legislative committees and subcommittees (373.536(5)(f), F.S.)
September 7	Tentative Budget is posted on District's official website (373.536(5)(d), F.S.)
September 9	Public hearing to adopt the tentative millage rate and budget (Tampa Office) (373.536(3), F.S.)
September 16	Written disapproval of any provision in Tentative Budget due from Executive Office of the Governor and Legislative Budget Commission (373.536(5)(c), F.S.)
September 23	Public hearing to adopt the final millage rate and budget (Tampa Office) (373.536(3), F.S.)
September 26	Copies of resolutions adopting final millage rate and budget sent to counties served by the District (200.065(4), F.S.)
September 30	District fiscal year ends
October 3	District submits Adopted Budget for current fiscal year to the Florida Legislature (373.536(6)(a)1., F.S.)
October 23	District submits TRIM certification package to Department of Revenue (200.068, F.S.)

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A. Budget Overview

The fiscal year (FY) 2026 Adopted Budget demonstrates the District's commitment to protecting and restoring Florida's water resources while meeting Governing Board priorities, complying with legislative directives, implementing the District's Five-Year Strategic Plan and achieving its core mission. The budget furthers the Governor's priorities for Florida's environment and the Legislature's support of those priorities, which includes projects to improve resiliency to sea-level rise, reduce pollution and develop alternative water supplies (AWS). The budget for FY2026 is \$256,247,665 compared to \$231,606,142 for FY2025. This is an increase of \$24,641,523 or 10.6 percent. The increase reflects the Governing Board's priority to invest in the development of regional AWS through cooperative efforts.

The Adopted Budget meets the following goals established by the Governing Board:

- Project expenditures equal to or greater than 50 percent of the total budget 61 percent achieved
- Operating expenditures not to exceed 80 percent of ad valorem revenue 76 percent achieved
- Salaries and Benefits funded with ad valorem not to exceed 50 percent of ad valorem revenue -49 percent achieved

The operating or recurring portion of the FY2026 budget is \$101,152,537, compared to \$96,489,824 for FY2025. This is an increase of \$4,662,713 or 4.8 percent. In the Adopted Budget there is an increase of 20 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) positions for a total of 603 FTEs, as well as a 3 percent increase for performance-based pay adjustments. Holding the operating expenditures at 76 percent of ad valorem revenue provides the District with the funding capacity to sustain a significant investment in Cooperative Funding Initiatives (CFI) and other cost-share programs where the dollars are leveraged to maximize environmental benefits.

The projects or non-recurring portion of the FY2026 budget is \$155,095,128, compared to \$135,116,318 for FY2025. This is an increase of \$19,978,810 or 14.8 percent. CFI projects and District grants account for \$114,299,493 of the total budget. This includes \$10,000,000 anticipated from funds appropriated by the 2025 Florida Legislature for AWS projects and \$984,000 in local revenue for projects where the District is serving as the lead party. The District's funds leveraged with its partners will result in a total regional investment of approximately \$217 million in FY2026 for sustainable AWS development, water quality improvements and other water resource management projects.

The FY2026 Adopted Budget includes ad valorem revenue of \$133,299,444, an increase of \$3,459,073 from \$129,840,371 in FY2025. This is based on the adoption of the rolled-back millage rate of 0.1831, accounting for 2.87 percent growth from new construction and a 4.17 percent increase in existing property values based on the 16 county property appraisers' July 1 certifications of taxable property value.

B. Adequacy of Fiscal Resources

The District is committed to solving the region's water resource issues through cooperative programs, primarily its Cooperative Funding Initiative (CFI) which has been in place since 1988. These efforts have resulted in a combined investment (District, the State and its cooperators) of more than \$4.3 billion for the region's water resources. Projects are based on regional water supply plans and established funding thresholds for vital water quality, flood protection and natural systems projects.

The evaluation of fiscal resources over a five-year span is required to ensure sustainable funding for CFI and other critical projects and plans set forth by the District. This evaluation includes the District's long-term funding plan, demonstrating the District's ability to adequately address the core mission areas of responsibility.

The District's financial modeling tool is used to assess the adequacy of its financial resources under various economic conditions and resource demands. The financial model considers all available resources and reserves, and future revenues and resource demands for projects. This includes major water supply and resource development projects consistent with the 2020 Regional Water Supply Plan, and for smaller local projects, typically conservation and reuse. The District believes these efforts provide a strong basis for the long-term funding plan.

Beginning with FY2027, the primary assumptions which drive the long-term funding plan are consistent with the guidelines established to develop the FY2026 Adopted Budget, including:

Revenues

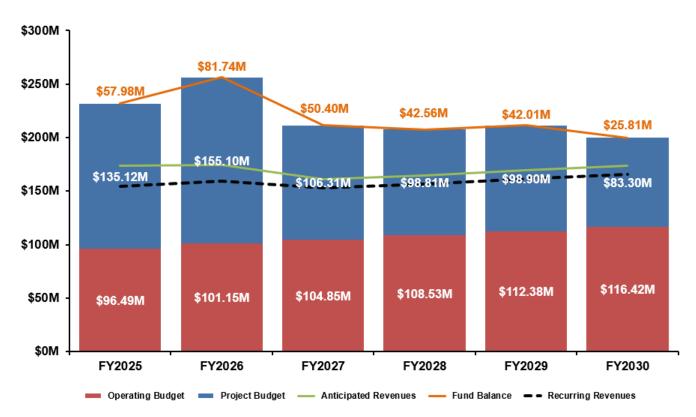
- Millage Rate based on a rolled-back millage rate.
- Ad Valorem based on the most recent results of the District's new construction and property
 value ad valorem models.
- **Local** based on cooperators' share for ongoing projects, primarily funded through the District's CFI, where the District serves as the lead party.
- State based on agreements with state agencies for ongoing initiatives and estimated appropriations from recurring state programs.
- Federal based on known federal revenue sources for recurring pass-through programs.
- **Fund Balance** (Balance from Prior Years/Use of Project Reserves) based on historical trends and only utilized to fund projects.

Expenditures

- Operating Budget includes salaries and benefits, operating expenses, contracted services for operations and operating capital outlay.
 - Increase in operating budget not to exceed additional ad valorem revenue from projected new construction within a fiscal year.
- **Project Budget** includes CFI projects, District grants and initiatives, and fixed capital outlay for land acquisition, well construction and capital improvements to District facilities and structures.
 - Future requirements for current board-approved projects, including large-scale alternative water supply development, and
 - Estimated baseline funding for other future projects.

The District's long-term funding plan demonstrates that the District's fiscal resources, supplemented by prudently managed project reserves, can support a healthy investment in water management. The graph below displays the FY2025 Adopted Budget, FY2026 Adopted Budget, and projected expenditures and revenues for FY2027 through FY2030. The red bar represents operating expenditures, and the blue bar represents project expenditures. The three lines chart the source of funds with District recurring revenues such as ad valorem, interest earnings and timber sales reflected by the black dashed line; total anticipated revenues from local, state and federal sources reflected by the green line; and the use of fund balance, which is comprised of balances from prior years and use of project reserves, reflected by the orange line. The label above the orange line represents the use of fund balance required to balance the budget.

Southwest Florida Water Management District Long-Term Funding Plan



Conclusion:

The District has developed the FY2026 Adopted Budget to ensure the long-term sustainability of the region's water resources. Maintaining operational costs in-line with current ad valorem revenue levels (approximately 76 percent of ad valorem) has allowed the Governing Board the flexibility to continue the necessary annual investment in critical water resource management projects for the west-central Florida region. Even with the significant investment of \$155,095,128 for projects in the FY2026 Adopted Budget, the District believes its resources, supplemented with project reserves, will maintain a healthy investment in water resources over the next five years.

C. Budget by Fund

General Fund

The **General Fund** is the primary operating fund of the District. The General Fund budget is \$243,438,436, an increase of \$33,622,272 compared to \$209,816,164 in fiscal year (FY) 2025. The increase is primarily due to an increase in funding for Cooperative Funding Initiatives for alternative water supply development (\$26,456,965) and salaries and benefits (\$4,996,535).

Special Revenue Funds

The **Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Mitigation Fund** accounts for the revenue received from the FDOT for the state-mandated FDOT Mitigation Program. This program requires mitigation to offset adverse impacts of transportation projects to be funded by the FDOT and carried out by the Department of Environmental Protection and the water management districts. The FDOT Mitigation Fund budget is \$1,084,229, an increase of \$66,475 compared to \$1,017,754 in FY2025. The increase is due to an increase in planned maintenance of the mitigated sites.

Capital Projects Funds

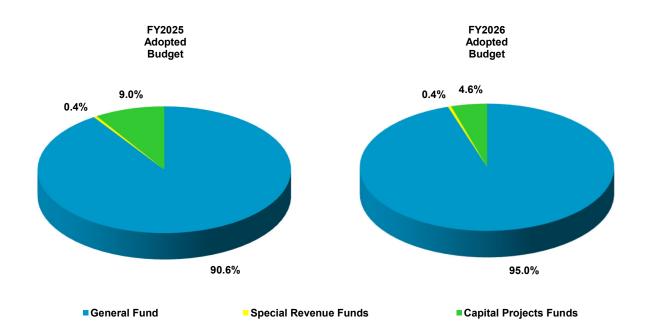
The **Facilities Fund** includes capital renovations, enhancements, or expansions of existing facilities and the purchase or construction of new facilities. The District continues its historical practice of completing capital improvement projects on a pay-as-you-go basis. Repair and maintenance activities are funded through the District's General Fund. The Facilities Fund budget is \$975,000, an increase of \$342,776 compared to \$632,224 in FY2025. The budget includes funding for Districtwide scheduled roof and heating, ventilation and air conditioning replacements, as well as parking lot resurfacing.

The **Structures Fund** includes large-scale structure construction projects including replacements or refurbishments of existing water control structures. The District continues its historical practice of completing capital improvement projects on a pay-as-you-go basis. Repair and maintenance are funded through the District's General Fund. The Structures Fund budget is \$2,300,000, a decrease of \$7,340,000 compared to \$9,640,000 in FY2025. The budget includes funding for the replacement of structures P-1 and P-3 in Polk County, as well as the replacement of structure WC-2 in Sumter County.

The **Florida Forever Fund** includes the acquisition of land through the Florida Forever program for conservation and restoration purposes utilizing state appropriations from various trust funds for the program. Since all prior state appropriations have been exhausted, these funds are now derived from dollars within the District's investment accounts that were generated from the sale of land or real estate interests originally acquired with funds appropriated by the state. Per Florida Statutes, these dollars are restricted and must be reinvested in future land acquisition through the Florida Forever program. The Florida Forever Fund budget is \$8,450,000, a decrease of \$2,050,000 compared to \$10,500,000 in FY2025 based on the availability of funds and the current Florida Forever Work Plan.

BUDGET SUMMARY COMPARISON BY FUND

	FY2025	FY2025		FY2026		DIFFERENCE	
	ADOPTED	% OF	ADOPTED	% OF	INCREASE /	% OF	
FUND	BUDGET	TOTAL	BUDGET	TOTAL	(DECREASE)	CHANGE	
General Fund							
General Fund	\$209,816,164		\$243,438,436		\$33,622,272	16.0%	
Total General Fund	\$209,816,164	90.6%	\$243,438,436	95.0%	\$33,622,272	16.0%	
Special Revenue Funds							
FDOT Mitigation Fund	\$1,017,754		\$1,084,229		\$66,475	6.5%	
Total Special Revenue Funds	\$1,017,754	0.4%	\$1,084,229	0.4%	\$66,475	6.5%	
Capital Projects Funds							
Facilities Fund	\$632,224	0.3%	\$975,000	0.4%	\$342,776	54.2%	
Structures Fund	9,640,000	4.2%	2,300,000	0.9%	(7,340,000)	(76.1%)	
Florida Forever Fund	10,500,000	4.5%	8,450,000	3.3%	(2,050,000)	(19.5%)	
Total Capital Projects Funds	\$20,772,224	9.0%	\$11,725,000	4.6%	(\$9,047,224)	(43.6%)	
Total Appropriation	\$231,606,142	100.0%	\$256,247,665	100.0%	\$24,641,523	10.6%	



D. Budget by Revenue Source

Ad Valorem Taxes: Represents property taxes levied on the taxable value of real and personal property as certified by the Property Appraiser in each of the 16 counties within the District's region and is the District's primary funding source. The budget is \$133,299,444, an increase of \$3,459,073 compared to \$129,840,371 in fiscal year (FY) 2025, based on the adoption of the rolled-back millage rate of 0.1831, accounting for the 2.87 percent increase in new construction.

State/Federal/Local Funding: Represents funds received from the State of Florida and federal and local governments. The budget is \$15,205,038, a decrease of \$3,740,964 compared to \$18,946,002 in FY2025.

- State funding at \$13,970,164 is an increase of \$78,170 and includes:
 - \$10,000,000 in new appropriations anticipated to be awarded by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for Alternative Water Supply Development.
 - \$2,250,000 in new appropriations from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund for land management activities.
 - \$1,099,113 from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for the FDOT Mitigation program.
 - \$175,000 in new appropriations from the Resilient Florida Trust Fund for Level of Service Analysis for Water Control Structures.
 - \$446,051 from other recurring state programs.
- Federal funding at \$29,694 is a decrease of \$3,757,789 and includes:
 - \$29,694 from the U.S. Department of Transportation for the FDOT Efficient Transportation Decision Making program.
- Local funding at \$1,205,180 is a decrease of \$61,345 and primarily includes cooperatively funded projects where the District serves as the lead party.

Permit and License Fees: Represents revenue generated from consumptive use permits, environmental resource permits, water well construction permits and water well contractor licenses. The budget is \$2,168,229, a decrease of \$118,505 compared to \$2,286,734 in FY2025 based on a reduction in the number of water use permit renewals due in FY2026.

Interest Earnings: The budget is \$23,100,000, an increase of \$1,200,000 compared to \$21,900,000 in FY2025 based on a 4.14 percent estimated yield on investments and projected cash balances.

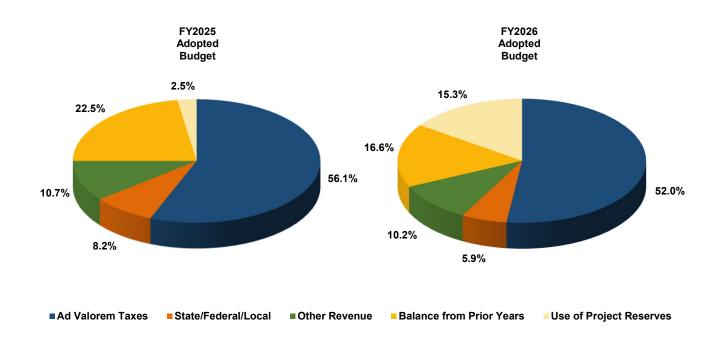
Miscellaneous Revenue: Represents items that fall outside of the categories described above, including revenue generated from District-owned conservation lands such as timber sales. The budget is \$731,400, an increase of \$82,100 compared to \$649,300 in FY2025 based on projected increases in land use agreements for cattle (\$82,000) and timber sales (\$50,000). This is offset by a reduction in wellness program activities reimbursed by the District's health insurance provider (\$50,000).

Balance from Prior Years: Represents fund balances available from prior years utilized as a resource to fund the upcoming budget. These funds result from revenues received greater than budgeted, including the sale of District assets, and unexpended funds primarily due to projects completed under budget or cancelled. The budget is \$42,438,618, a decrease of \$9,763,982 compared to \$52,202,600 in FY2025 primarily due to fewer unexpended funds from projects completed under budget or cancelled compared to the previous year (\$13,147,791). This is offset by an increase in fund balance utilized to fund Self-Funded Medical (\$5,083,809).

Use of Project Reserves: Represents project reserves to fund vital water resource management projects. The budget is \$39,304,936, an increase of \$33,523,801 compared to \$5,781,135 in FY2025.

BUDGET SUMMARY COMPARISON BY REVENUE SOURCE

	FY2025		FY2026		DIFFERENCE	
REVENUE SOURCE	ADOPTED BUDGET	% OF TOTAL	ADOPTED BUDGET	% OF TOTAL	INCREASE / (DECREASE)	% OF CHANGE
Ad Valorem Taxes	\$129,840,371	56.1%	\$133,299,444	52.0%	\$3,459,073	2.7%
State/Federal/Local						
DEP - Inglis Dam & Spillway	\$285,061		\$170,000		(\$115,061)	
DEP - Water Supply & Water Res. Development - AWS	10,000,000		10,000,000		0	
DEP - Resilient Florida Program	100,000		175,000		75,000	
FDOT - Mitigation Program	962,382		1,099,113		136,731	
FWC - Aquatic Plant Management	294,551		276,051		(18,500)	
State Appr - Land Acquisition TF (LATF) - Land Mgmt.	2,250,000		2,250,000		0	
State Funding:	\$13,891,994	6.0%	\$13,970,164	5.4%	\$78,170	0.6%
FDOT - Efficient Transportation Decision Making	\$23,229		\$29,694		\$6,465	
FDOT - Mitigation Program	64,254		0		(64,254)	
NOAA - Cape Haze Ecosystem Restoration	3,700,000		0		(3,700,000)	
Federal Funding:	\$3,787,483	1.7%	\$29,694	0.0%	(\$3,757,789)	(99.2%)
Local Funding:	\$1,266,525	0.5%	\$1,205,180	0.5%	(\$61,345)	(4.8%)
Total State/Federal/Local	\$18,946,002	8.2%	\$15,205,038	5.9%	(\$3,740,964)	(19.7%)
Other Revenue						
Permit and License Fees	\$2,286,734		\$2,168,229		(\$118,505)	
Interest Earnings	21,900,000		23,100,000		1,200,000	
Miscellaneous	649,300		731,400		82,100	
Total Other Revenue	\$24,836,034	10.7%	\$25,999,629	10.2%	\$1,163,595	4.7%
Balance from Prior Years	\$52,202,600	22.5%	\$42,438,618	16.6%	(\$9,763,982)	(18.7%)
Use of Project Reserves	\$5,781,135	2.5%	\$39,304,936	15.3%	\$33,523,801	579.9%
Total Revenues and Balances	\$231,606,142	100.0%	\$256,247,665	100.0%	\$24,641,523	10.6%



E. Budget by Expenditure Category

The District organizes expenditure categories into an Operating Budget and a Project Budget. The Operating Budget identifies the fiscal requirements necessary to support continued management and protection of our region's water resources, while addressing evolving challenges through the Project Budget. Schedules in *Section III. Budget by Expenditure Category Details* further illustrate the fiscal year (FY) 2026 Adopted Budget. These schedules are intended to show staff's approach to pursuing actions that further the District's mission and maintain the level of service outlined in the District's Strategic Plan.

OPERATING BUDGET

<u>Salaries and Benefits:</u> Includes funding for regular full-time equivalent (FTE) positions. The budget includes 603 FTE positions, an increase of 20 compared to 583 in fiscal year (FY) 2025. In addition, the budget includes a three percent increase for performance-based pay adjustments. The budget is \$68,323,937, an increase of \$5,007,560 compared to \$63,316,377 in FY2025.

The increase is primarily due to increases in:

- Self-Funded Medical (\$2,383,874)
- Regular Salaries and Wages (\$1,954,241)
- Retirement (\$467,884)
- Employer Paid FICA Taxes (\$149,720)
- Non-Medical Insurance Premiums (\$38,266)

For a detailed list of Salaries and Benefits, refer to page 45.

<u>Operating Expenses:</u> Includes items such as Software Licensing and Maintenance, Property Tax Commissions, Maintenance and Repair of Buildings and Structures, Insurance and Bonds, Non-Capital Equipment, Parts and Supplies, Travel – Staff Duties and Training, Utilities, Fuels and Lubricants, Maintenance and Repair of Equipment, and Telecommunications. The budget is \$18,461,514, an increase of \$699,482 compared to \$17,762,032 in FY2025.

The increase is primarily due to increases in:

- Software Licensing and Maintenance (\$522,669)
- Travel Staff Duties and Training (\$85,326)
- Non-Capital Equipment (\$66,167)
- District Land Maintenance Materials (\$60,000)
- Property Tax Commissions (\$40,000)
- Maintenance and Repair of Equipment (\$34,732)
- Laboratory Supplies and Sampling (\$29,000)
- Parts and Supplies (\$25,400)
- Postage and Courier Services (\$21,500)

The increases are primarily offset by reductions in:

- Maintenance and Repair of Buildings and Structures (\$153,776)
- Rental of Other Equipment (\$32,300)
- Fuels and Lubricants (\$30,000)

For a detailed listing of Operating Expenses, refer to page 46.

<u>Contracted Services for Operations:</u> Includes outsourced services in support of District operations such as Research, Data Collection, Analysis and Monitoring; Land Management and Use; Works of the District; Technology and Information Services; Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels; and Regulation Permitting. These services are vital to protecting Florida's water resources and are primarily performed by the private sector, representing a direct investment into the economy. The budget is \$11,597,080, a decrease of \$1,012,936 compared to \$12,610,016 in FY2025.

The decrease is primarily due to reductions in:

- Technology and Information Services (\$895,850)
- Works of the District (\$152,568)
- Regulation Permitting (\$50,000)
- Procurement/Contract Administration (\$40,000)
- Public Information (\$32,912)
- Research, Data Collection, Analysis and Monitoring (\$26,488)

The reductions are primarily offset by increases in:

- Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels (\$96,000)
- Land Management and Use (\$55,400)
- Emergency Management (\$38,600)

For a detailed listing of Contracted Services for Operations, refer to page 47.

<u>Operating Capital Outlay:</u> Represents purchases and leases of heavy equipment, vehicles, watercraft, computer hardware and other equipment with a value per item of at least \$5,000 and an estimated useful life of one or more years. The budget is \$2,770,006, a decrease of \$31,393 compared to \$2,801,399 in FY2025.

The decrease is due to reductions in:

- Information Technology Equipment (\$450,100)
- Capital Field Equipment Fund (\$200,000)
- Inside Equipment excluding Information Technology (\$128,125)
- Outside Equipment (\$73,994)

The reductions are offset by an increase in:

Vehicles (\$820,826)

For a detailed listing of Operating Capital Outlay, refer to page 48 through 49.

PROJECT BUDGET

<u>Contracted Services for District Projects:</u> Represents projects such as Surface Water Improvement and Management, conservation lands restoration, watershed management planning, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences research and Florida Department of Transportation Mitigation. These projects are vital to protecting Florida's water resources and are primarily performed by the private sector, representing a direct investment into the economy. The budget is \$18,015,635, an increase of \$3,945,527 compared to \$14,070,108 in FY2025.

The increase is primarily due to increases in:

- Restoration Initiatives (\$1,972,560)
- Mapping & Survey Control (\$1,170,000)
- Works of the District (\$760,000)
- Emergency Operations (\$700,000)

The increases are primarily offset by a reduction in:

• Surface Water Flows & Levels Data (\$750,000)

For a detailed listing of Contracted Services for District Projects, refer to page 50 through 52.

Interagency Expenditures (Cooperative Funding/District Grants): Represents matching funds provided through the District's Cooperative Funding Initiative (CFI) and District grants, such as the FARMS program. The CFI generally provides 50 percent matching funds toward the cost of projects that help create sustainable water resources, enhance conservation efforts, improve water quality, provide flood protection and restore natural ecosystems. The budget is \$114,299,493, an increase of \$27,698,782 compared to \$86,600,711 in FY2025.

The increase is primarily due to increases in:

- Regional Potable Water Interconnects (\$17,108,155)
- Brackish Groundwater Development (\$9,348,810)
- Watershed Management Planning (\$1,728,850)
- Stormwater Improvements Implementation of Storage & Conveyance BMPs (\$1,269,867)

The increases are offset by a reduction in:

• Stormwater Improvements – Water Quality (\$2,435,900)

For a detailed listing of Cooperative Funding and District Grants, refer to page 53 through 54.

<u>Fixed Capital Outlay:</u> Represents potential purchases of land and land easements, and the construction or improvement of water control structures, wells, buildings, bridges and other capital structures. The budget is \$22,780,000, a decrease of \$11,665,499 compared to \$34,445,499 in FY2025.

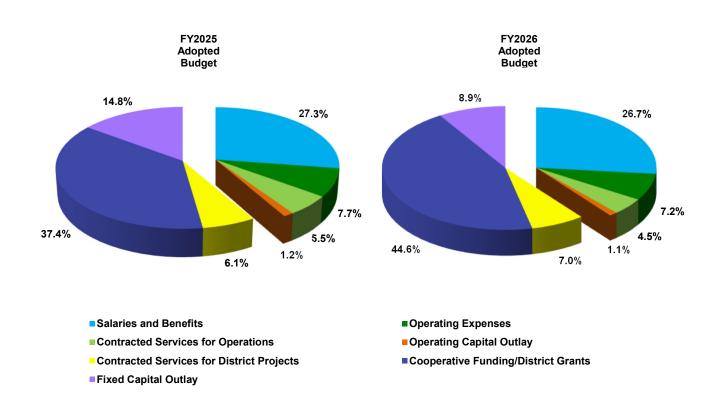
The decrease is primarily due to reductions in:

- District Water Control Structure Construction and Improvements (\$7,340,000)
- Aquifer Exploration and Monitor Well Drilling Program (\$2,734,775)
- Potential Florida Forever Work Plan Land Acquisitions (\$1,700,000)

For a detailed listing of Fixed Capital Outlay, refer to page 55.

BUDGET SUMMARY COMPARISON BY EXPENDITURE CATEGORY

	FY202	5	FY2026		DIFFERENCE	
	ADOPTED	% OF	ADOPTED	% OF	INCREASE /	% OF
EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	BUDGET	TOTAL	BUDGET	TOTAL	(DECREASE)	CHANGE
Operating						
Salaries and Benefits	\$63,316,377	27.3%	\$68,323,937	26.7%	\$5,007,560	7.9%
Operating Expenses	17,762,032	7.7%	18,461,514	7.2%	699,482	3.9%
Contracted Services for Operations	12,610,016	5.5%	11,597,080	4.5%	(1,012,936)	(8.0%)
Operating Capital Outlay	2,801,399	1.2%	2,770,006	1.1%	(31,393)	(1.1%)
Total Operating	\$96,489,824	41.7%	\$101,152,537	39.5%	\$4,662,713	4.8%
<u>Projects</u>						
Contracted Services for District Projects	\$14,070,108	6.1%	\$18,015,635	7.0%	\$3,945,527	28.0%
Cooperative Funding/District Grants	86,600,711	37.4%	114,299,493	44.6%	27,698,782	32.0%
Fixed Capital Outlay	34,445,499	14.8%	22,780,000	8.9%	(11,665,499)	(33.9%)
Total Projects	\$135,116,318	58.3%	\$155,095,128	60.5%	\$19,978,810	14.8%
Total Expenditures	\$231,606,142	100.0%	\$256,247,665	100.0%	\$24,641,523	10.6%



F. Budget by Program

The water management districts are responsible for six program areas pursuant to subsection 373.536(5)(e)4, Florida Statutes: Water Resource Planning and Monitoring; Land Acquisition, Restoration and Public Works; Operation and Maintenance of Works and Lands; Regulation; Outreach; and Management and Administration.

Program 1.0 – Water Resource Planning and Monitoring: Encompasses a broad scope of programs critical to the core mission, including water supply planning; minimum flows and minimum water levels (MFLs); data collection, research and studies; watershed and water body planning; flood mapping; and technical assistance to local governments. The budget is \$33,359,181, a decrease of \$114,396 compared to \$33,473,577 in fiscal year (FY) 2025.

The decrease is primarily due to reductions in:

- Fixed capital outlay for well construction associated with the Aquifer Exploration and Monitor Well Drilling program (\$2,734,775).
- Contracted services for Surface Water Flows & Levels Data (\$746,101).

The reductions are primarily offset by increases in:

- Interagency expenditures for Watershed Management Planning cooperative funding projects (\$1,728,850).
- Contracted services for Mapping & Survey Control (\$1,135,225) and Watershed Management Planning (\$520,000).

<u>Program 2.0 – Land Acquisition, Restoration and Public Works:</u> Includes development and construction of capital projects such as water supply development, water resource development, stormwater management for both the implementation of storage and conveyance best management practices (BMPs) and water quality improvements, and natural system restoration. Also included is the acquisition of lands for flood protection, water storage, water management, conservation and protection of water resources, aquifer recharge and preservation of wetlands, streams, lakes and springs. The budget is \$145,412,028, an increase of \$25,705,757 compared to \$119,706,271 in FY2025.

The increase is primarily due to increases in:

- Interagency expenditures for Regional Potable Water Interconnect (\$17,108,155), Brackish Groundwater Development (\$9,348,810) and Stormwater Improvement – Implementation of Storage and Conveyance BMPs (\$1,269,867) cooperative funding projects.
- Contracted services for Restoration Initiatives (\$1,972,560).

The increases are primarily offset by reductions in:

- Interagency expenditures for Stormwater Improvement Water Quality cooperative funding projects (\$2,435,900).
- Fixed capital outlay for potential Florida Forever land acquisitions (\$1,700,000).

<u>Program 3.0 – Operation and Maintenance of Works and Lands:</u> Includes management and maintenance of District lands, operation and maintenance of water control structures and related facilities, maintenance of District buildings, vehicles and field equipment, aquatic plant control and emergency operations. The budget is \$31,469,026, a decrease of \$4,798,897 compared to \$36,267,923 in FY2025.

The decrease is primarily due to reductions in:

- Fixed capital outlay for District water control structure construction and improvements (\$7,340,000) and land management projects (\$233,500).
- Operating capital outlay for the Capital Field Equipment Fund (\$200,000).

The reductions are primarily offset by increases in:

- Contracted services for management and maintenance of canals, dam embankments and culverts (\$774,850) and emergency operations (\$738,600).
- Salaries and benefits (\$978,252).
- Operating capital outlay for vehicles (\$426,156).
- Operating expenses for non-capital equipment (\$221,396).

Program 4.0 – Regulation: Encompasses all permitting functions of the District, including consumptive use permitting, water well construction permitting and contractor licensing, environmental resource permitting and permit compliance enforcement. The budget is \$28,105,278, an increase of \$2,701,910 compared to \$25,403,368 in FY2025.

The increase is primarily due to increases in:

- Salaries and benefits (\$2,154,097).
- Operating capital outlay for vehicles (\$587,707).
- Operating expenses for software licensing and maintenance (\$245,688).

The increases are primarily offset by a reduction in:

• Contracted services for financial systems enhancements (\$284,694).

<u>Program 5.0 – Outreach:</u> Includes public and youth education, public information and legislative liaison functions. The budget is \$3,168,113, an increase of \$270,147 compared to \$2,897,966 in FY2025.

The increase is primarily due to increases in:

- Interagency expenditures for youth water resources education grant program (\$150,000).
- Salaries and benefits (\$144,400).
- Operating expenses for software licensing and maintenance (\$34,411).

The increases are primarily offset by a reduction in:

• Contracted services for education program evaluation and research (\$32,912) and financial systems enhancements (\$25,232).

<u>Program 6.0 – Management and Administration:</u> Encompasses the business functions necessary to operate the District, including executive direction, legal services, internal audit services, finance, procurement, human resources, risk management, property appraiser and tax collector commissions and other administrative support. The budget is \$14,734,039, an increase of \$877,002 compared to \$13,857,037 in FY2025.

The increase is primarily due to increases in:

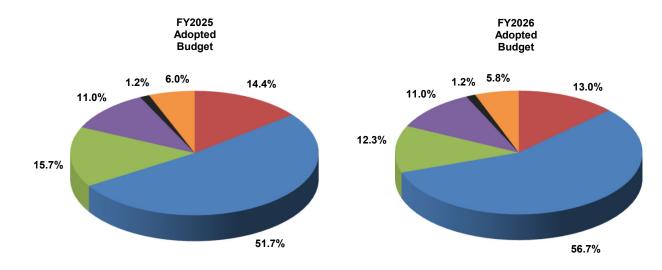
- Salaries and benefits (\$959,178).
- Operating expenses for software licensing and maintenance (\$53,480) and property tax commissions (\$40,000).

The increases are primarily offset by reductions in:

- Contracted services for financial systems enhancements (\$93,716).
- Operating capital outlay for personal computing and peripheral equipment (\$60,100) and Tampa Data Center unified computing system replacement (\$54,488).

BUDGET SUMMARY COMPARISON BY PROGRAM

	FY2025		FY2026		DIFFERENCE	
PROGRAM	ADOPTED BUDGET	% OF TOTAL	ADOPTED BUDGET	% OF TOTAL	INCREASE / (DECREASE)	% OF CHANGE
				.0.712	(BEOREE ROL)	OHAITOL
1.0 Water Resource Planning and Monitoring	\$33,473,577	14.4%	\$33,359,181	13.0%	(\$114,396)	(0.3%)
2.0 Land Acquisition, Restoration and Public Works	119,706,271	51.7%	145,412,028	56.7%	25,705,757	21.5%
3.0 Operation and Maintenance of Works and Lands	36,267,923	15.7%	31,469,026	12.3%	(4,798,897)	(13.2%)
4.0 Regulation	25,403,368	11.0%	28,105,278	11.0%	2,701,910	10.6%
5.0 Outreach	2,897,966	1.2%	3,168,113	1.2%	270,147	9.3%
6.0 Management and Administration	13,857,037	6.0%	14,734,039	5.8%	877,002	6.3%
Total Expenditures	\$231,606,142	100.0%	\$256,247,665	100.0%	\$24,641,523	10.6%



- ■1.0 Water Resource Planning and Monitoring
- ■3.0 Operation and Maintenance of Works and Lands
- ■5.0 Outreach

- ■2.0 Land Acquisition, Restoration and Public Works
- ■4.0 Regulation
- 6.0 Management and Administration

G. Budget by Area of Responsibility (AOR)

Chapter 373, Florida Statutes (F.S.) authorizes the District to direct a wide range of initiatives, programs, and actions. These responsibilities are grouped under four core mission areas per statute: water supply, water quality, flood protection and floodplain management, and natural systems.

The District has developed and the Governing Board has approved the 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, updated February 2025, which is available online at www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/resources/plans-reports/strategic-plan. The Strategic Plan reflects the District's commitment to meeting the four core mission areas outlined below.

<u>Water Supply</u> \$126,788,788

Regional Water Supply Planning – Identify, communicate and promote consensus on the strategies and resources necessary to meet future reasonable and beneficial water supply needs.

The District collaborates on planning efforts with the St. Johns River and South Florida water management districts, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and public supply utilities within the Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) boundaries. The District included \$201,184 in the Adopted Budget to continue this effort, equally benefiting water supply and natural systems. Data collection activities that aid in the evaluation of future water supply needs throughout the District, with a primary focus in the CFWI area, are provided with \$3.1 million in the budget for the Aquifer Exploration and Monitor Well Drilling program, which also includes real estate services and land survey costs for well site acquisition.

Alternative Water Supplies (AWS) – Increase development of alternative sources of water to ensure groundwater and surface water sustainability.

The District offers funding incentives for the development of AWS to reduce competition for limited supplies of fresh groundwater. Some AWS development efforts, such as aquifer recharge, additionally provide aid to natural systems. Through its Cooperative Funding Initiative (CFI), the District leverages other local and regional funding by offering matching funds, generally up to 50 percent of the cost of AWS development projects. The Adopted Budget consists of \$102.9 million for AWS which provides a water supply benefit through efforts including surface water reservoirs, regional interconnections, brackish groundwater and aquifer recharge systems. This includes the continuation of funding of two cooperative efforts with the Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority. One is for the construction of a potable water transmission interconnection as part of the Regional Integrated Loop System, which will extend it approximately 13 miles south from Serris Boulevard to Gulf Cove Water Booster Pump Station in Charlotte County. The other is for the construction of a 9 billion-gallon, off-stream raw water storage reservoir, new river intake pump station, new reservoir pump station and conveyance pipelines to transport water from the Peace River intake to the reservoir and treatment facility. Reclaimed water, a form of AWS, and conservation also help ensure groundwater and surface water sustainability and are covered separately below.

Reclaimed Water – Maximize beneficial use of reclaimed water to offset potable water supplies and restore water levels and natural systems.

Reclaimed water is wastewater that has received at least secondary treatment and disinfection and is used for a beneficial purpose such as irrigation, manufacturing processes or power generation. By offsetting demand for groundwater and surface water, this AWS source reduces stress on environmental systems, provides economic benefits by delaying costly water system expansions and reduces the need to discharge wastewater effluent to surface waters. The budget includes \$47,062 for ongoing cooperatively-funded reclaimed water projects which will contribute toward the Governing Board priority for the District to achieve its goal of 75 percent reuse of available wastewater by 2040.

Water Conservation – Enhance efficiencies in all water-use sectors to ensure beneficial use.

The District's water conservation program has many facets. Approximately \$968,159 is included in the budget for cooperatively-funded or District-initiated water conservation projects and grants involving a variety of activities throughout the District. Much of the Adopted Budget for water resource education is directed at water conservation education programs or projects with a conservation component (\$562,730). The District also implements regulatory requirements and incentives to achieve water conservation through its Consumptive Use Permitting (CUP) program, representing \$1.8 million of the \$4.3 million in the budget.

Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems (FARMS) – A cooperative public-private cost-share reimbursement program to implement agricultural best management practices (BMPs).

The FARMS program serves the entire District and focuses on Upper Floridan aquifer withdrawal savings and water quality, and natural systems improvements in targeted Water Use Caution Areas and priority watersheds by working with producers to implement BMPs to reduce groundwater use and nutrient loading in springsheds. FARMS projects include both reclaimed water and conservation components, representing \$4.3 million of the \$5.4 million in the Adopted Budget for the program. Since inception of the program in 2003, 216 projects are operational with actual groundwater offset totaling 25.3 million gallons per day (mgd).

Water Quality \$22,000,683

Assessment and Planning – Collect and analyze data to determine local and regional water quality status and trends to support resource management decisions and restoration initiatives.

The District collects and analyzes water quality data through several monitoring networks and program-specific efforts. Major long-term water quality monitoring network efforts include coastal/inland groundwater (\$297,872), springs (\$166,653), rivers/streams and associated biological surveys (\$93,223), Upper Floridan aquifer/springs recharge basins (\$39,503) and lakes (\$23,153). While these monitoring networks support the improvement of water quality, they also provide similar benefits in protecting natural systems.

Data is also collected for the District's 12 Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) priority water bodies. The District prepares plans for the protection and restoration of these SWIM water bodies (\$876,543) and provides support for the Coastal and Heartland, Sarasota Bay and Tampa Bay estuary programs (\$425,343). Although these activities primarily provide a water quality benefit, there are natural systems components as well.

Maintenance and Improvement – Develop and implement programs, projects and regulations to maintain and improve water quality.

The Adopted Budget includes \$271,049 for cooperatively-funded and District-initiated stormwater water quality improvement projects. Some surface water restoration projects provide water quality benefits along with habitat improvement as described below in *Natural Systems* under "Conservation and Restoration." Projects of this nature are implemented through the SWIM, CFI and land management programs and account for \$229,289 in water quality benefits of the \$9.6 million in the Adopted Budget for surface water restoration.

There are over 200 documented springs within the District. Committed to the State's initiative to protect the health of our unique springs resources, the District plans and implements projects to take an ecosystem-level approach to springs management with emphasis on its five first-magnitude spring systems: Rainbow, Crystal River/Kings Bay, Homosassa, Chassahowitzka and Weeki Wachee. In the

Adopted Budget is \$1.7 million in support of springs initiatives, of which \$344,917 is benefiting water quality efforts.

The FARMS program targets agricultural water conservation and AWS use (see *Water Supply* above) but also provides water quality benefits (\$1.1 million of the \$5.4 million in the Adopted Budget) through improved surface water and groundwater management, particularly in targeted areas such as the Shell, Prairie and Joshua Creek watersheds. One sector of the program focuses on rehabilitation (back-plugging) of wells to minimize the impact of highly mineralized groundwater (\$45,102). A related effort, the Quality of Water Improvement Program, provides cost-share reimbursement to landowners for the plugging of abandoned wells to reduce inter-aquifer exchange of poor water quality and potential surface water contamination (\$781,515). In addition, the District's regulatory activities include water quality benefits to protect the region's water resources (\$5.7 million).

Flood Protection and Floodplain Management

\$32,895,356

Floodplain Management – Collect and analyze data to determine floodplain information and flood protection status and trends to support floodplain management decisions and initiatives.

The District's Watershed Management Program is primarily a cooperative effort with local governments to develop a technical understanding of the hydrology of watersheds. The Adopted Budget includes \$5.8 million in cooperatively-funded and District-initiated projects supporting floodplain management for the modeling and planning phase of the program. Among other benefits, the watershed plans contribute to the development of stormwater models and floodplain information that local city and county governments can use to develop more accurate digital flood hazard maps in cooperation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Funding is also included in the budget for continuation of a project to capture orthoimagery concurrently with the Statewide/Peninsular Light Detection And Ranging (LiDAR) program (\$71,648). This effort provides high-quality data to be used in support of the District's Watershed Management Program, as well as its Environmental Resource Permitting (ERP) program and minimum flow and minimum water level (MFL) determinations.

Programs, Projects and Regulations – Develop and implement programs, projects and regulations to maintain and improve flood protection to minimize flood damage while preserving the water resource.

The implementation phase of the Watershed Management Program involves construction of preventive and remedial projects and BMPs to address potential and existing flooding concerns. The Adopted Budget includes \$1.7 million for cooperatively-funded and District-initiated projects addressing flood protection BMPs. Utilizing the county's most recently updated WMP, this analysis will identify projects which will provide flood reduction and water quality improvements. In addition, the District regulates surface water management and floodplain encroachment to minimize flooding impacts from land development through its ERP program, representing \$3.8 million of the \$11.4 million in the Adopted Budget.

Flood Protection Facilities – Operation, maintenance and capital improvements of the District's dams, canals and water control structures to minimize flood damage while preserving the water resource and contributing to water supply.

The District maintains and operates 84 water control structures and 63 miles of canals to manage water levels and reduce flood risk. All mission critical water control structures are instrumented for remote control to provide cost-efficient operation and improved response time during weather events. Some structures are also equipped with digital video monitoring systems for improved security, safety and reliability of operations. The Adopted Budget includes \$9.3 million for the operation, maintenance and improvement of these water management facilities to ensure optimal condition during a major weather event. In addition, there is \$3.9 million for the management, maintenance and improvement of District

canals, dam embankments and culverts which includes the management of nuisance aquatic vegetation at these facilities and infrastructure that can exacerbate flooding if not controlled.

Emergency Flood Response – Provide effective and efficient assistance to state and local governments and the public to minimize flood damage during and after major storm events, including operation of District flood control and water conservation structures.

Through its emergency flood response initiative, the District prepares for, responds to, recovers from and mitigates the impacts of critical flooding incidents. To ensure adequate preparation, the District has developed an emergency operations program and maintains a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, which provides guidelines for pre-incident preparation, post-incident response and recovery, deployment and annual exercises. The District's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Emergency Operations Organization are critical to incident response. The Adopted Budget includes \$1 million for the support of the District's EOC. In the event of a disaster, or of an emergency arising to prevent or avert the same, the District's Governing Board is authorized under Section 373.536(4)(d), F.S., to expend available funds not included in the budget for such purposes. The Governing Board would then notify the Executive Office of the Governor and the Legislative Budget Commission as soon as practical but within 30 days of the Governing Board's action.

Natural Systems \$59,828,799

Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels (MFLs) Establishment and Monitoring – Establish and monitor MFLs, and where necessary, develop and implement recovery/prevention strategies to recover water bodies and prevent significant harm.

The Adopted Budget includes \$1.7 million to support the establishment and evaluation of MFLs, including monitoring, mapping, research, hydrologic and biologic analysis, and peer review. Each year the District updates its priority list and schedule for MFLs and submits the list to the DEP for approval. A few of the District's established MFLs are not currently being met; and, in accordance with Section 373.042, F.S., the District is implementing recovery strategies to return these water bodies to an acceptable hydrologic condition. There is \$404,573 in the budget for MFL recovery activities, which are also supported by conservation, AWS, indirect data collection, development of groundwater models, watershed management planning and research. The District's CUP program contributes to MFL recovery with \$1.2 million of the \$4.3 million in the budget benefiting natural systems, by ensuring that authorized water withdrawals do not exceed the criteria established in Rules 40D-8 and 40D-80, Florida Administrative Code for water bodies with adopted MFLs.

Conservation, Restoration and Management – Restoration and management of natural ecosystems for the benefit of water and water-related resources.

The District develops information through various data collection efforts, including surface water flows and levels (\$4 million), seagrass and submerged aquatic vegetation mapping (\$719,099) and wetlands monitoring (\$207,743). While these efforts primarily assist in protecting natural systems, they also provide secondary benefits in other areas of responsibility. Aerial orthoimagery is managed as part of the District's geographic information system which includes a broad assemblage of other geographic data that are used for District purposes and made available to other government agencies and the public. The Adopted Budget allocates \$1.4 million to ongoing spatial data management. In addition, the acquisition of this imagery is performed on a three-year cycle and is scheduled to occur in FY2025-26 (\$809,891).

The District manages more than 460,000 acres of conservation lands for the statutorily-mandated purposes of protecting and restoring their natural condition and where appropriate, providing for compatible recreational uses for the public. Of this total acreage, approximately 117,000 acres are

conservation easements. In the Adopted Budget, \$6.1 million is for the District's land management program. This includes activities such as prescribed burning, fencing, exotic plant control, road maintenance and feral hog control on these properties along with upland restoration where natural conditions have been impacted by historic uses. These restoration efforts maximize the conservation benefit of these upland ecosystems.

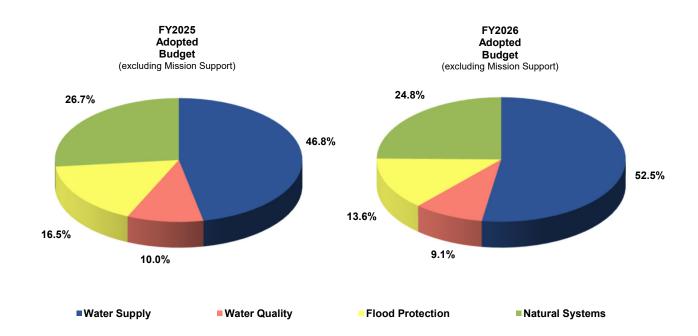
Surface water restoration benefiting natural systems is achieved primarily through the SWIM, CFI and land management programs (\$9.4 million of the \$9.6 million in the Adopted Budget). This includes funding for a project involving upland enhancement and wetland creation on 1,424 acres on District-owned property along the Little Manatee River. Natural systems restoration also occurs through District mitigation and ongoing maintenance and monitoring for the Florida Department of Transportation (\$1.1 million) to offset the adverse wetland impacts of transportation projects. The ERP program ensures that the natural functions of wetlands are protected from the impacts of land development (\$3.8 million of the \$11.4 million in the Adopted Budget).

Mission Support \$14,734,039

Mission Support, also known as Management and Administration, trains and equips District employees to achieve the District's strategic initiatives in a cost-efficient and effective manner. These strategies ensure District operations remain strategically aligned and fiscally responsible. Mission Support (\$11.5 million) includes Executive, General Counsel, Inspector General, Finance, Risk Management, Document Services, Procurement, Human Resources and Information Technology. In addition, the District pays commissions to the offices of the Property Appraisers and Tax Collectors of each county within the District for services rendered. The Adopted Budget includes \$3.3 million for these commissions which are set by Florida Statutes and are non-negotiable.

BUDGET SUMMARY COMPARISON BY AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY

	FY2025		FY2020	6	DIFFERENCE		
	ADOPTED	% OF	ADOPTED	% OF	INCREASE /	% OF	
AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	BUDGET	TOTAL	BUDGET	TOTAL	(DECREASE)	CHANGE	
Water Supply	\$101,932,218	46.8%	\$126,788,788	52.5%	\$24,856,570	24.4%	
Water Quality	21,684,410	10.0%	22,000,683	9.1%	316,273	1.5%	
Flood Protection	35,960,218	16.5%	32,895,356	13.6%	(3,064,862)	(8.5%)	
Natural Systems	58,172,259	26.7%	59,828,799	24.8%	1,656,540	2.8%	
Total (excluding Mission Support)	\$217,749,105	100.0%	\$241,513,626	100.0%	\$23,764,521	10.9%	
Mission Support	\$13,857,037		\$14,734,039		\$877,002		
Total Expenditures	\$231,606,142		\$256,247,665		\$24,641,523	10.6%	



Program and Activity Allocations by Area of Responsibility

Programs and Activities	FY2026 Adopted	Water Supply	Water Quality	Flood Protection	Natural Systems
0 - Water Resource Planning and Monitoring	\$33,359,181	\$7,424,644	\$6,445,331	\$9,495,334	\$9,993,872
1.1 - District Water Management Planning	11,378,530				
1.1.1 - Water Supply Planning	777,620				
1.1.2 - Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels	1,725,209				
1.1.3 - Other Water Resources Planning	8,875,701				
1.2 - Research, Data Collection, Analysis & Monitoring	17,364,435				
1.3 - Technical Assistance	1,063,678				
1.5 - Technology & Information Services	3,552,538				
0 - Land Acquisition, Restoration and Public Works	\$145,412,028	\$110,173,348	\$3,726,814	\$2,176,055	\$29,335,811
2.1 - Land Acquisition	17,294,708				
2.2 - Water Source Development	112,289,817				
2.2.1 - Water Resource Development Projects	6,431,399				
2.2.2 - Water Supply Development Assistance	105,076,903				
2.2.3 - Other Water Source Development Activities	781,515				
2.3 - Surface Water Projects	13,771,034				
2.5 - Facilities Construction and Major Renovations	979,000				
2.7 - Technology & Information Services	1,077,469				
0 - Operation and Maintenance of Works and Lands	\$31,469,026	\$2,993,592	\$2,526,396	\$14,014,975	\$11,934,063
3.1 - Land Management	6,125,116				
3.2 - Works	14,326,697				
3.3 - Facilities	3,463,753				
3.4 - Invasive Plant Control	446,802				
3.5 - Other Operation and Maintenance Activities	1,029,570				
3.6 - Fleet Services	3,717,985				
3.7 - Technology & Information Services	2,359,103				
0 - Regulation	\$28,105,278	\$5,129,252	\$8,518,072	\$6,606,545	\$7,851,409
4.1 - Consumptive Use Permitting	4,274,983				
4.2 - Water Well Construction Permitting & Contractor Licensing	1,059,489				
4.3 - Environmental Resource & Surface Water Permitting	11,401,546				
4.4 - Other Regulatory and Enforcement Activities	4,622,012				
4.5 - Technology & Information Services	6,747,248				

Program and Activity Allocations by Area of Responsibility

Programs and Activities	FY2026 Adopted	Water Supply	Water Quality	Flood Protection	Natural Systems
5.0 - Outreach	\$3,168,113	\$1,067,952	\$784,070	\$602,447	\$713,644
5.1 - Water Resource Education	1,127,441				
5.2 - Public Information	1,542,202				
5.4 - Lobbying/Legislative Affairs/Cabinet Affairs	131,818				
5.6 - Technology & Information Services	366,652				
SUBTOTAL - Major Programs (excluding Management and Administration)	\$241,513,626	\$126,788,788	\$22,000,683	\$32,895,356	\$59,828,799
6.0 - Management and Administration	\$14,734,039	<u> </u>		·	
6.1 - Administrative & Operations Support	11,455,859				
6.1.1 - Executive Direction	1,399,931				
6.1.2 - General Counsel/Legal	1,080,386				
6.1.3 - Inspector General	276,067				
6.1.4 - Administrative Support	4,727,589				
6.1.6 - Procurement/Contract Administration	1,239,907				
6.1.7 - Human Resources	1,273,244				
6.1.9 - Technology & Information Services	1,458,735				
6.4 - Other (Tax Collector/Property Appraiser Fees)	3,278,180				
Total Expenditures:	\$256,247,665				

H. Adoption of Final Millage Rate and Budget Resolutions

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 25-11

ADOPTION OF FINAL MILLAGE RATE AND CERTIFICATION OF LEVY TO THE COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISERS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) by authority of Article VII, Section 9(b) of the Florida Constitution, and Chapters 200 and 373, Florida Statutes, as amended, is authorized to levy ad valorem taxes on taxable property within the District; and

WHEREAS, the ensuing fiscal year of the District shall extend the period beginning October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of the District has determined that a District millage rate as provided for in Sections 200.065, 373.503 and 373.536, Florida Statutes, is necessary to provide funds for the budgeted expenditures of the District for fiscal year 2026 and should be levied in the amount set forth herein; and

WHEREAS, notices of proposed property taxes, advising of date, time and place of the first public budget hearing, were prepared and mailed, pursuant to Section 200.065, Florida Statutes, by the county property appraisers of each county within the District; and

WHEREAS, the first public hearing on the tentative millage rate and budget was held by the Governing Board of the District at the Tampa Office, 7601 US Highway 301 North, Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida, on September 9, 2025, commencing at 5:01 p.m. as provided in the notice; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Office of the Governor has reviewed and approved the District's fiscal year 2026 budget pursuant to Section 373,536(5). Florida Statutes: and

WHEREAS, the notice of hearing to adopt the final millage rate and budget for fiscal year 2026, and the adjacent notice meeting the budget summary requirements of Sections 129.03(3)(b) and 373.536(3)(d), Florida Statutes, were duly published, during the period beginning September 18, 2025, and ending September 21, 2025, pursuant to Section 200.065, Florida Statutes, in newspapers of general circulation in each county within the District; and

WHEREAS, the second public hearing on the final budget was held by the Governing Board of the District at the Tampa Office, 7601 US Highway 301 North, Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida, on September 23, 2025, commencing at 5:01 p.m. as provided in the notice, and at which the name of the taxing authority, the rolled-back rate, the percentage of increase over the rolled-back rate and the millage rate to be levied were publicly announced, and the general public was allowed to ask questions and speak prior to the adoption of any measures.

CERTIFICATE AS TO RESOLUTION NO. 25-11

STATE OF FLORIDA COUNTY OF HILLSBOROUGH

We, the undersigned, hereby certify that we are, Chair and Secretary, respectively, of the Southwest Florida Water Management District, organized and existing under and by virtue of the Laws of the State of Florida, and having its office and place of business at 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida, and that, on the twenty-third day of September 2025, at a duly called and properly held hearing of the Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District, at the Tampa Office, 7601 US Highway 301 North, Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida, at which hearing a majority of the members of the Governing Board were present in person or via communications media technology, the resolution, which is attached hereto and which this certificate is a part thereof, was adopted and incorporated in the minutes of that hearing.

Dated at Tampa, Florida, this twenty-third day of September 2025.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

By:

John Mitten, Chai

Attest:

Ashley Bell Barnett, Secretary

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

STATE OF FLORIDA COUNTY OF HILLSBOROUGH

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this twenty-third day of September 2025, by John Mitten and Ashley Bell Barnett, Chair and Secretary, respectively, of the Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District, a public corporation, on behalf of the corporation. They are personally known to me.

WITNESS my hand and official seal on this twenty-third day of September 2025.

Notary Public

State of Florida at Large My Commission Expires:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVE						
Management District by a vote of	10	in favor, _	D	against and	2	not
present:						

That there is adopted and levied a millage rate, as provided for in Sections 373.503 and 373.536, Florida Statutes, at the rolled-back rate and at less than the maximum millage rate established by Section 200.065, Florida Statutes, for fiscal year 2026, to be assessed on the tax rolls for the year 2025, for the purpose of levying a uniform ad valorem tax on all taxable property in the counties within the District as certified by the county property appraisers pursuant to Section 200.065, Florida Statutes, excluding lands held by the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund to the extent specified in Section 373.543, Florida Statutes, as follows:

Taxing Authority	Rolled-Back <u>Rate</u>	Percentage of Increase Over Rolled-Back Rate	Final Millage <u>Rate</u>	Counties Applied To
Southwest Florida Water Management District	0.1831	0%	0.1831	Charlotte, Citrus, DeSoto, Hardee, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Lake, Levy, Manatee, Marion, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Sarasota, Sumter

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this twenty-third day of September 2025, by the Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

By:

John Mitten,

Attest:

Ashley Bell Barnett, Secretary

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 25-12

ADOPTION OF FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

WHEREAS, Chapters 200 and 373, Florida Statutes, as amended, require that the Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) adopt a final budget for each fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of the District, after careful consideration and study, has caused to be prepared a final budget, including all items that are necessary and proper as provided by law for the District, for the ensuing fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025 and ending September 30, 2026, as provided for in Sections 200.065, 218.33 and 373.536, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of the District assigns a portion of the fund balance for commitments under contract for goods and services which remain uncompleted as of September 30, 2025, to be reappropriated and incorporated into the final budget of the District for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025 and ending September 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of the District assigns a portion of the fund balance to carry forward as designated by the Governing Board as of September 30, 2025, to be reappropriated and incorporated into the final budget of the District for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025 and ending September 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of the District assigns a portion of the fund balance to carry forward as designated by management in accordance with the Governing Board Fund Balance Policy as of September 30, 2025, to be reappropriated and incorporated into the final budget of the District for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025 and ending September 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of the District has designated fund balance in accordance with the Governing Board Fund Balance Policy that will not be appropriated for expenditure in the fiscal year 2026 budget. These balances totaling an estimated \$160,217,171, are classified as non-spendable, restricted, committed and assigned. Consistent with Governing Board Fund Balance Policy, the amounts committed for the Economic Stabilization Fund need to be reset each year through the budget resolution; and

WHEREAS, notices of proposed property taxes, advising of date, time and place of the first public budget hearing, were prepared and mailed, pursuant to Section 200.065, Florida Statutes, by the county property appraisers of each county within the District; and

WHEREAS, the first public hearing on the tentative millage rate and budget was held by the Governing Board of the District at the Tampa Office, 7601 US Highway 301 North, Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida, on September 9, 2025, commencing at 5:01 p.m. as provided in the notice; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Office of the Governor has reviewed and approved the District's fiscal year 2026 budget pursuant to Section 373.536(5), Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the notice of hearing to adopt the final millage rate and budget for fiscal year 2026, and the adjacent notice meeting the budget summary requirements of Sections 129.03(3)(b) and 373.536(3)(d), Florida Statutes, were duly published, during the period beginning September 18, 2025 and ending September 21, 2025, pursuant to Section 200.065, Florida Statutes, in newspapers of general circulation in each county within the District; and

WHEREAS, the second public hearing on the final budget was held by the Governing Board of the District at the Tampa Office, 7601 US Highway 301 North, Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida, on September 23, 2025, commencing at 5:01 p.m. as provided in the notice; and at which the name of the taxing authority, the rolled-back rate, the percentage of increase over the rolled-back rate and the millage rate to be levied were publicly announced, and the general public was allowed to ask questions and speak prior to the adoption of any measures; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of the District, prior to adopting a final budget, has adopted Resolution No. 25-11, Adoption of Final Millage Rate and Certification of Levy to the County Property Appraisers for Fiscal Year 2026, which established the final millage levy for fiscal year 2026 as provided for in Sections 200.065, 373.503 and 373.536, Florida Statutes.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District:

- 1. That the attached budget is hereby adopted as the budget of the District for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2026, as the operating and fiscal guide of the District.
- 2. That funds committed under contract for goods and services which remain uncompleted as of September 30, 2025, shall not lapse, but shall be automatically reappropriated and incorporated into the final budget of the District for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025 and ending September 30, 2026, as well as the source of funds anticipated to be used in completing these commitments.
- 3. That funds carried forward as designated by the Governing Board as of September 30, 2025, shall not lapse, but shall be automatically reappropriated and incorporated into the final budget of the District for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025 and ending September 30, 2026, as well as the source of funds anticipated to support these designations.
- 4. That funds carried forward as designated by management in accordance with the Governing Board Fund Balance Policy as of September 30, 2025, shall not lapse, but shall be automatically reappropriated and incorporated into the final budget of the District for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025 and ending September 30, 2026, as well as the source of funds anticipated to support these designations.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District:

5. That the committed fund balance for the Economic Stabilization Fund is reset at \$42,700,000 as of September 30, 2025, equal to two months of the operating expenditures based on the fiscal year 2026 final budget consistent with the Governing Board Fund Balance Policy.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Southwest Florida Water Management District - Fiscal Year 2026

I. ESTIMATED REVENUES AND BALANCES	MILLAGE PER \$1,000	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS	TOTAL BUDGET
CASH BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD		\$73,293,554	\$0	\$8,450,000	\$81,743,554
ESTIMATED REVENUES AD VALOREM TAXES OTHER REVENUES	0.1831	\$130,024,444	\$0	\$3,275,000	\$133,299,444
Permit and License Fees Intergovernmental Revenue Interest Earnings Other		2,168,229 14,120,809 23,100,000 731,400	1,084,229		2,168,229 15,205,038 23,100,000 731,400
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES		\$170,144,882	\$1,084,229	\$3,275,000	\$174,504,111
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES AND BALANCES	•	\$243,438,436	\$1,084,229	\$11,725,000	\$256,247,665
FUND BALANCE ASSIGNED FOR ESTIMATED ENCUMBRANCES		250,280,037	689,824	24,723,779	275,693,640
FUND BALANCE/RESERVES FOR FUTURE PROJECTS		147,113,143	2,127,722	10,976,306	160,217,171
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES AND BALANCES, ESTIMATED ENCUMBRANCES, AND FUND BALANCE/RESERVES FOR FUTURE PROJECTS		\$640,831,616	\$3,901,775	\$47,425,085	\$692,158,476
II. EXPENDITURES					
WATER RESOURCE PLANNING & MONITORING LAND ACQUISITION, RESTORATION & PUBLIC WORKS OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF WORKS & LANDS REGULATION OUTREACH MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION COMMISSIONS FOR TAX COLLECTIONS TOTAL APPROPRIATED EXPENDITURES		\$33,359,181 134,902,799 29,169,026 28,105,278 3,168,113 11,455,859 3,278,180	\$0 1,084,229 \$1,084,229	\$0 9,425,000 2,300,000 \$11,725,000	\$33,359,181 145,412,028 31,469,026 28,105,278 3,168,113 11,455,859 3,278,180
ESTIMATED ENCUMBRANCES (Carried forward and appropriated in fiscal year 2026)		250,280,037	689,824	24,723,779	275,693,640
TOTAL ESTIMATED MODIFIED BUDGET	-	\$493,718,473	\$1,774,053	\$36,448,779	\$531,941,305
FUND BALANCE/RESERVES FOR FUTURE PROJECTS (not appropriated)	-	147,113,143	2,127,722	10,976,306	160,217,171
TOTAL APPROPRIATED EXPENDITURES, ESTIMATED ENCUMBRANCES, AND FUND BALANCE/RESERVES FOR FUTURE PROJECTS	-	\$640,831,616	\$3,901,775	\$47,425,085	\$692,158,476

THE TENTATIVE, ADOPTED, AND/OR FINAL BUDGETS ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE ABOVE REFERENCED TAXING AUTHORITY AS A PUBLIC RECORD.

CERTIFICATE AS TO RESOLUTION NO. 25-12

STATE OF FLORIDA COUNTY OF HILLSBOROUGH

We, the undersigned, hereby certify that we are, Chair and Secretary, respectively, of the Southwest Florida Water Management District, organized and existing under and by virtue of the Laws of the State of Florida, and having its office and place of business at 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida, and that, on the twenty-third day of September 2025, at a duly called and properly held hearing of the Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District, at the Tampa Office, 7601 US Highway 301 North, Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida, at which hearing a majority of the members of the Governing Board were present in person or via communications media technology, the resolution, which is attached hereto and which this certificate is a part thereof, was adopted and incorporated in the minutes of that hearing.

Dated at Tampa, Florida, this twenty-third day of September 2025.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

By:

John Mitten, Chair

Attest:

Ashley Bell Barnett, Secretary

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

STATE OF FLORIDA COUNTY OF HILLSBOROUGH

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this twenty-third day of September 2025, by John Mitten and Ashley Bell Barnett, Chair and Secretary, respectively, of the Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District, a public corporation, on behalf of the corporation. They are personally known to me.

WITNESS my hand and official seal on this twenty-third day of September 2025.

Notary Public

State of Florida at Large My Commission Expires:

VIRGINIA SINGER
MY COMMISSION # HH 498138
EXPIRES: June 28, 2028

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this twenty-third day of September 2025, by the Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Ву:

John Mitten, Chair

Attest:

Ashley Bell Barnett, Secretary

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A. Workforce and Salaries & Benefits

Adopted FY2025 7 15 1 1 40 24 26 90 57	Adopted FY2026 7 17 11 40 23 27 90	Change From FY2025 0 2 0 (1) 1 0	Percent Change From FY2025 0.0% 13.3% 0.0% 0.0% (4.2%) 3.8% 0.0%
15 1 40 24 26 90	17 1 40 23 27	0 (1)	0.0% 0.0% 0.0% (4.2%) 3.8%
1 40 24 26 90	40 23 27	0 (1)	0.0% 0.0% (4.2%) 3.8%
40 24 26 90	40 23 27	0 (1)	0.0% (4.2%) 3.8%
24 26 90	23 27	(1)	(4.2%) 3.8%
24 26 90	23 27	(1)	(4.2%) 3.8%
26 90	27	1	3.8%
90 57			
57	90	0	0.0%
	57	0	0.0%
77	78	1	1.3%
22	23	1	4.5%
156	158	2	1.3%
64	67	3	4.7%
34	33	(1)	(2.9%)
53	62	9	17.0%
151	162	11	7.3%
_	_	_	_
1	1	0	0.0%
8	7	(1)	(12.5%)
11	12	1	9.1%
45	45	0	0.0%
21	21	0	0.0%
86	86	0	0.0%
48	51	3	6.3%
			4.8%
8	9	1	12.5%
-	82	5	6.5%
			3.4%
	77 22 156 64 34 53 151 1 8 11 45 21 86	77 78 22 23 156 158 64 67 34 33 53 62 151 162 1 1 1 8 7 11 12 45 45 21 21 86 86 48 51 21 22 8 9 77 82	77

Salaries & Benefits						
Category	Adopted FY2025	Adopted FY2026	Change From FY2025	Percent Change From FY2025		
Regular Salaries and Wages	\$41,818,638	\$43,772,879	\$1,954,241	4.7%		
Student Internship Program	574,837	578,725	3,888	0.7%		
Overtime	220,550	225,400	4,850	2.2%		
Employer Paid FICA Taxes	3,243,167	3,392,887	149,720	4.6%		
Retirement	6,382,382	6,850,266	467,884	7.3%		
Self-Funded Medical	10,268,982	12,652,856	2,383,874	23.2%		
Non-Medical Insurance Premiums	527,959	566,225	38,266	7.2%		
Workers' Compensation	279,862	284,699	4,837	1.7%		
Total Salaries & Benefits:	\$63,316,377	\$68,323,937	\$5,007,560	7.9%		

B. Operating Expenses

				Percent	
	Adopted	Adopted	Change From	Change From	Cumulative
Category Software Licensing and Maintenance	FY2025	FY2026	FY2025	FY2025	Percent
Software Licensing and Maintenance	\$4,310,575	\$4,833,244	\$522,669	12.1% 1.2%	26.18% 43.77%
Property Tax Commissions	3,208,180	3,248,180	40,000		
Maintenance and Repair of Buildings & Structures	1,427,776	1,274,000	(153,776)	(10.8%)	50.68%
Insurance and Bonds	1,070,810	1,086,063	15,253	1.4%	56.56%
Non-Capital Equipment	985,708	1,051,875	66,167	6.7%	62.26%
Parts and Supplies	1,025,537	1,050,937	25,400	2.5%	67.95%
Travel - Staff Duties and Training	742,562	827,888	85,326	11.5%	72.43%
Utilities	751,150	731,050	(20,100)	(2.7%)	76.39%
Fuels and Lubricants	750,000	720,000	(30,000)	(4.0%)	80.29%
Maintenance and Repair of Equipment	638,873	673,605	34,732	5.4%	83.94%
Telecommunications	375,600	386,575	10,975	2.9%	86.04%
Janitorial Services	266,000	264,000	(2,000)	(0.8%)	87.47%
Printing and Reproduction	220,311	239,810	19,499	8.9%	88.76%
District Land Maintenance Materials	115,000	175,000	60,000	52.2%	89.71%
Postage and Courier Services	141,000	162,500	21,500	15.2%	90.59%
Rental of Other Equipment	192,600	160,300	(32,300)	(16.8%)	91.46%
Micro/Digital Imaging Services	104,000	124,000	20,000	19.2%	92.13%
Chemical Supplies	126,050	120,050	(6,000)	(4.8%)	92.78%
Laboratory Supplies and Sampling	71,000	100,000	29,000	40.8%	93.32%
Tires and Tubes	100,000	100,000	0	0.0%	93.87%
Books, Subscriptions and Data	85,800	91,005	5,205	6.1%	94.36%
Employee Awards and Activities	96,000	91,000	(5,000)	(5.2%)	94.85%
Advertising and Public Notices	83,050	90,500	7,450	9.0%	95.34%
Fees Associated with Financial Activities	90,000	90,000	0	0.0%	95.83%
Tuition Reimbursement	90,000	90,000	0	0.0%	96.32%
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	80,000	80,000	0	0.0%	96.75%
Memberships and Dues	74,640	76,780	2,140	2.9%	97.17%
Uniform Program	67,500	65,000	(2,500)	(3.7%)	97.52%
Safety Supplies	52,700	52,750	50	0.1%	97.80%
Lease of Tower Space	50,164	51,669	1,505	3.0%	98.08%
Lease of Inside Equipment	60,405	51,000	(9,405)	(15.6%)	98.36%
Education Support	43,060	44,750	1,690	3.9%	98.60%
Recording and Court Costs	44,350	44,350	0	0.0%	98.84%
Office Supplies	42.500	42,390	(110)	(0.3%)	99.07%
Miscellaneous Permits and Fees	48,250	40,550	(7,700)	(16.0%)	99.29%
Taxes	33,550	33,550	0	0.0%	99.47%
Lease of Buildings and Properties	32,574	32,574	0	0.0%	99.65%
Professional Licenses	27,612	21,924	(5,688)	(20.6%)	99.77%
Central Garage Charges for Reimbursable Programs	5,000	10,000	5,000	100.0%	99.82%
Rental of Buildings and Properties	10,000	10,000	3,000	0.0%	99.88%
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	9,000	9,000	0	0.0%	99.00%
Moving Expenses Promotions	5,750	5,750		0.0%	99.93%
	 		0		
Public Meetings	4,895	4,895		0.0%	99.98%
Vehicle Registrations and Fees	2,500	3,000	500	20.0%	100.00%
Total Operating Expenses	: \$17,762,032	\$18,461,514	\$699,482	3.9%	

C. Contracted Services for Operations

Category	Adopted FY2025	Adopted FY2026	Change From FY2025	Percent Change From FY2025	Cumulative Percent
Research, Data Collection, Analysis & Monitoring	\$3,752,822	\$3,726,334	(\$26,488)	(0.7%)	32.13%
Land Management and Use	1,880,272	1,935,672	55,400	2.9%	48.82%
Works of the District (i.e., structures, canals, levees, culverts)	1,871,068	1,718,500	(152,568)	(8.2%)	63.64%
Technology & Information Services	2,494,850	1,599,000	(895,850)	(35.9%)	77.43%
Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels	1,002,500	1,098,500	96,000	9.6%	86.90%
Regulation Permitting	734,375	684,375	(50,000)	(6.8%)	92.80%
Legal Services	181,100	181,100	0	0.0%	94.36%
Financial Services	153,250	158,250	5,000	3.3%	95.73%
Water Supply Planning	155,450	135,450	(20,000)	(12.9%)	96.90%
Independent Annual Financial Audit	111,929	121,811	9,882	8.8%	97.95%
Emergency Management	35,900	74,500	38,600	107.5%	98.59%
Inspector General Auditing Assistance	30,000	30,000	0	0.0%	98.85%
Invasive Plant Control	30,000	30,000	0	0.0%	99.11%
Executive Direction	22,000	22,000	0	0.0%	99.30%
Facility Operations and Maintenance	20,000	20,000	0	0.0%	99.47%
Lobbying and Legislative Support	20,000	20,000	0	0.0%	99.64%
Public Information	50,000	17,088	(32,912)	(65.8%)	99.79%
Human Resources	14,500	14,500	0	0.0%	99.91%
Real Estate Services	6,000	6,000	0	0.0%	99.97%
Risk Management	4,000	4,000	0	0.0%	100.00%
Procurement/Contract Administration	40,000	0	(40,000)	(100.0%)	100.00%
Total Contracted Services for Operations:	\$12,610,016	\$11,597,080	(\$1,012,936)	(8.0%)	

D. Operating Capital Outlay

Category	Adopted FY2025	Adopted FY2026	Change From FY2025	Percent Change From FY2025
Information Technology Equipment (1)	\$600,100	\$150,000	(\$450,100)	(75.0%)
Inside Equipment excluding Information Technology	128,125	0	(128,125)	(100.0%)
Outside Equipment (2)	229,400	155,406	(73,994)	(32.3%)
Vehicles (3)	843,774	1,664,600	820,826	97.3%
Capital Field Equipment Fund (4)	1,000,000	800,000	(200,000)	(20.0%)
Total Operating Capital Outlay:	\$2,801,399	\$2,770,006	(\$31,393)	(1.1%)

FY2026 Line Item Detail							
(1) Information Technology Equipment	Functional Area	Quantity	Amount				
High-End Graphic Server	Information Technology	New - 2	\$100,000				
Enterprise Servers	Information Technology	N/A	50,000				
Total Information Technology Equipment:							
(2)	F 4: 1 A	0	A				
(2) Outside Equipment	Functional Area	Quantity	Amount				
Deployable Antenna for District Satellite Phones	Emergency Management	New - 7	\$56,406				
Digital Rainfall Signage	Communications	New - 1	25,000				

(2) Outside Equipment	Functional Area	Quantity	Amount
Deployable Antenna for District Satellite Phones	Emergency Management	New - 7	\$56,406
Digital Rainfall Signage	Communications	New - 1	25,000
Laser Rust Remover	Geohydrologic Data	New - 1	15,000
Wildland Fire Water Pump/Motor, Hose Reel, and Tank Unit	Land Management	New - 1	15,000
Wireline Cable Spool	Geohydrologic Data	New - 1	12,000
Meter Accuracy Testing Equipment	Water Supply	Replacement - 1	11,000
Welder	Geohydrologic Data	Replacement - 1	9,000
Truck-Mounted Spray System	Vegetation Management	Replacement - 1	7,000
Utility Terrain Vehicle-Mounted Spray System	Vegetation Management	New - 1	5,000
	Total (Outside Equipment:	\$155,406

³⁾ Vehicles Quantity Amount

The District's criteria meets or exceeds the Department of Management Services vehicle replacement guidelines. At minimum, to qualify for replacement, a vehicle must meet one of the following criteria:

- Mileage exceeds 150,000,
- Maintenance and repair costs exceed 40 percent of acquisition cost, or
- Years in service exceeds 10

The procurement of vehicles in excess of the number of units or budget is subject to the *Budget Authority Transfer of Funds* Governing Board Policy.

	Replacement - 14	\$1,084,600
	New - 8	580,000
Total Vehicles:	22	\$1,664,600

(4) Capital Field Equipment Fund

The Capital Field Equipment Fund (CFEF) administers the acquisition, replacement, enhancement or reconditioning of District field equipment. The purpose of this fund is to manage these capitalized expenditures in a way that allows the District to conduct its business efficiently and effectively.

To qualify as a CFEF expenditure, the field equipment must meet the following criteria:

- Rolling stock (excluding vehicles less than 1.5 ton),
- Total estimated cost equal to or greater than \$5,000 including delivery, and
- Anticipated useful life of at least five years

Note: Attachments and modifications to equipment/vehicles greater than 1.5 ton can be included as a CFEF expenditure.

Each fiscal year-end, the District requests the Governing Board to approve the carry forward of remaining funds into the subsequent fiscal year for planned expenditures to occur in that fiscal year. Unplanned expenditures from the CFEF are subject to the *Budget Authority Transfer of Funds* Governing Board Policy.

Continued on next page

V2020 Drainated OFFE D		FY2026 Line Item Detail (cont'd)		
FY2026 Projected CFEF Re FY2025 Fund Balance to Ca		2026			1,141,12
Y2026 Adopted Budget	arry Forward into Fi	2020			800.00
12020 Adopted Budget		1	Total FY2026 Projected C	FEF Resources:	\$1,941,12
Planned Expenditures		Functional Area		Quantity	Amoun
Forestry Machine		Field Operations		eplacement - 1	\$475,00
Grader		Field Operations		eplacement - 1	200,00
Skid Steer		Field Operations		eplacement - 1	95,00
Double Diaphragm Pump		Field Operations		ew - 1	40,00
Inclosed Trailer		Geohydrologic D		eplacement - 2	40,00
Disk		Field Operations		eplacement - 1	35.00
All-Terrain Vehicle		Land Manageme		eplacement - 2	27,00
Jtility Terrain Vehicle		Vegetation Mana		ew - 1	22,00
Jtility Terrain Vehicle		Field Operations	0	eplacement - 1	22.00
Golf Cart		Chemistry Lab		eplacement - 1	15,50
Golf Cart		Records Services		eplacement - 1	15,50
Commercial Mower		Field Operations		eplacement - 1	14,50
Commercial Mower		Facilities Service		eplacement - 1	14,50
Total FY2026 Planned Expenditures:				\$1,016,00	
		26 CFEF Resources for Planned			\$925,12
\$2.0M					-
\$1.5M \$1	I.1M	\$925K	\$707K		_
\$0.5M	\$1.0M	\$800K	\$800K	\$1.0M	_
\$0M	FY2026	FY2027	FY2	2028	_
■ Adopted/Future Budget ■ Projected Carry Forward from Prior Year ■ Planned Expenditures					

E. Contracted Services for District Projects

Project Project Name	FY2026 Adopted Budget	Total Future Funding
Water Body Protection & Restoration Planning		
W020 Tampa Bay Protection & Restoration Planning	\$90,000	Reoccurring Request
W420 Rainbow River Protection & Restoration Planning	50,000	Reoccurring Request
W451 Crystal River/Kings Bay Protection & Restoration Planning	50,000	Reoccurring Request
W476 Lake Panasoffkee Protection & Restoration Planning	100,000	0
W501 Charlotte Harbor Protection & Restoration Planning	90,000	Reoccurring Request
W601 Sarasota Bay Protection & Restoration Planning	90,000	Reoccurring Request
WC01 Chassahowitzka Springs Protection & Restoration Planning	50,000	Reoccurring Request
WH01 Homosassa Springs Protection & Restoration Planning	50,000	Reoccurring Request
WW01 Weeki Wachee Springs Protection & Restoration Planning	50,000	Reoccurring Request
Total Water Body Protection & Restoration Planning:	\$620,000	\$0
Watershed Management Planning		
P283 Watershed Management Program Technical Support	\$100,000	Reoccurring Request
P409 Big Slough Watershed Management Plan Update	150,000	550,000
P516 Hillsborough River/Tampa Bay Bypass Real-Time Flood Forecasting	440,000	240,000
P517 Peace/Saddle Creek Real-Time Flood Forecasting	480,000	0
P518 Watershed Management Program Modernization	500,000	Reoccurring Request
P733 Tsala Apopka Outlet Watershed Management Plan	150,000	450,000
Total Watershed Management Planning:	\$1,820,000	\$1,240,000
Ground Water Levels Data		
P300 Central Springs Model (Northern District Model Expansion)	\$75,000	Reoccurring Request
Total Ground Water Levels Data:	\$75,000	\$0
Surface Water Flows & Levels Data		
P244 Recharge & Evapotranspiration Districtwide Surface Water Model Update	\$90,000	\$0
Total Surface Water Flows & Levels Data:	\$90,000	\$0
Meteorologic/Geologic/Biologic Data		
C005 Aquifer Exploration and Monitor Well Drilling Program	\$66,875	Reoccurring Request
C007 Aquifer Exploration and Monitor Well Drilling Program within the Central Florida Water Initiative	20,675	Reoccurring Request
WS01 Springs Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Mapping and Evaluation	275,000	Reoccurring Request
Total Meteorologic/Geologic/Biologic Data:	\$362,550	\$0
Mapping & Survey Control		
B089 Districtwide Aerial Orthophoto Mapping	\$775,000	Reoccurring Request
B093 Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) Enhancements	205,000	Reoccurring Request
B219 Land Use/Land Cover Mapping Based on Aerial Orthophoto Maps	190,000	Reoccurring Request
Total Mapping & Survey Control:	\$1,170,000	\$0

Project Project Name	FY2026 Adopted Budget	Total Future Funding
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) Research		
B136 Florida Auto Weather Network Data and Education	\$125,000	Reoccurring Request
Total Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) Research:	\$125,000	\$0
Land Acquisition		
SZ00 Surplus Lands Assessment Program	\$140,000	Reoccurring Request
Total Land Acquisition:	\$140,000	\$0
Aquifer Storage & Recovery Feasibility and Pilot Testing		
P189 Aquifer Recharge Testing at Flatford Swamp	\$451,000	Reoccurring
Total Aquifer Storage & Recovery Feasibility and Pilot Testing:	\$451,000	Request \$0
Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems (FARMS)		
P429 FARMS Meter Accuracy Support	\$12,500	Reoccurring
Total Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems (FARMS):	\$12,500	Request \$0
Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels (MFLs) Recovery		
H400 Lower Hillsborough River Recovery Strategy Implementation	\$50,000	Reoccurring
H404 Lower Hillsborough River Recovery Strategy Morris Bridge Sink	20,000	Request Reoccurring Request
Total Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels (MFLs) Recovery:	\$70,000	\$0
Quality of Water Improvement Program - Well Plugging		
B099 Quality of Water Improvement Program	\$25,000	Reoccurring Request
Total Quality of Water Improvement Program - Well Plugging:	\$25,000	\$0
Stormwater Improvements – Water Quality		
H014 Lake Hancock Outfall Treatment System	\$13,000	Reoccurring
Total Stormwater Improvements – Water Quality:	\$13,000	Request \$0
Restoration Initiatives		
SA68 Terra Ceia Huber Restoration Establishment	\$90,000	\$90,000
SA81 Rock Ponds Restoration Establishment	120,000	120,000
W301 Little Manatee River Corridor: Area 8 Hydrologic Restoration	7,221,180	0
W312 Tampa Bay Habitat Restoration Regional Coordination	40,000	Reoccurring
W563 Cape Haze Ecosystem Restoration	1,031,380	Request 0
Total Restoration Initiatives:	\$8,502,560	\$210,000
Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Mitigation		
D040 FDOT Mitigation Maintenance & Monitoring	\$1,000,000	Reoccurring Request
Total Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Mitigation:	\$1,000,000	\$0
Land Management Projects		
Land Management Projects SL99 USDA Old World Climbing Fern Bio-control	\$80,000	\$320,000
	\$80,000 40,000	\$320,000

Project Project Name	FY2026 Adopted Budget	Total Future Funding
Structure Improvements & Construction		
B880 Bryant Slough Water Conservation Structure Rehabilitation	\$250,000	\$0
B888 Engineering Services for Water Control Structures	700,000	Reoccurring Request
B892 S-551 Flood Control Structure Replacement Alternatives Analysis	750,000	750,000
Total Structure Improvements & Construction:	\$1,700,000	\$750,000
Works of the District (excluding Structures)		
B838 Peace Creek Canal Sediment Removal and Bank Stabilization	\$760,000	\$1,520,000
Total Works of the District (excluding Structures):	\$760,000	\$1,520,000
Emergency Operations		
B673 S-159U Wingwall Repair Construction	\$700,000	\$0
Total Emergency Operations:	\$700,000	\$0
Water Use Permitting		
P443 Dover/Plant City Automatic Meter Reading Program	\$175,000	\$700,000
Total Water Use Permitting:	\$175,000	\$700,000
Water Resource Education		
B277 Florida Water Star Builder Conservation Education Program	\$9,000	Reoccurring Request
P259 Youth Water Resources Education Program	18,525	Reoccurring Request
P268 Public Water Resources Education Program	6,500	Reoccurring Request
P269 Conservation Education Program	20,000	Reoccurring Request
W466 Springs Protection Outreach Program	30,000	Reoccurring Request
Total Water Resource Education:	\$84,025	\$0
Total Contracted Services for District Projects:	\$18,015,635	\$4,740,000

F. Cooperative Funding and District Grants

				FY2026 District Share by Region		FY20:	FY2026 Adopted Budget				
Project	Cooperator	Project Name	Priority	Heartland	Northern	Southern	Tampa Bay	District	Outside Revenue	Total Budget	Future Funding
Froject	Cooperator	Project Name	Filolity	neartianu	Northern	Southern	Тапіра Вау	District	Revenue	Buuget	Fullding
Q184	PRWC	Brackish - Polk Regional Water Cooperative Southeast Wellfield Implementation	AWS	\$14,500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$14,500,000	\$0	\$14,500,000	\$67,105,013
Q216	PRWC	Interconnects - Polk Regional Water Cooperative Regional Transmission Southeast	AWS	26,083,215	-	-	-	26,083,215	-	26,083,215	14,447,326
Q308	PRWC	Brackish - Polk Regional Water Cooperative West Polk Wellfield	AWS	10,000,000	-	-	-	10,000,000	-	10,000,000	84,036,502
Q272	PRMRWSA	AWS - PRMRWSA Reservoir No. 3	AWS		-	14,000,000	-	14,000,000	-	14,000,000	69,017,133
Q355	PRMRWSA	Interconnects - PRMRWSA Regional Integrated Loop System Phase 2B	AWS	-	-	10,403,906	-	10,403,906	-	10,403,906	-
Q241	TBW	Interconnects - TBW Southern Hillsborough County Transmission Expansion	AWS	-	-	-	17,500,000	17,500,000	-	17,500,000	111,694,793
		Total AWS Priority Projects	:	\$50,583,215	\$0	\$24,403,906	\$17,500,000	\$92,487,121	\$0	\$92,487,121	\$346,300,767
Q419	Hernando Co	Study - Hernando County Northwest Hernando Septic to Sewer Feasibility Study	SPR	\$0	\$75,000	\$0	\$0	\$75,000	\$0	\$75,000	-
		Total Springs Priority Projects:		\$0	\$75,000	\$0	\$0	\$75,000	\$0	\$75,000	
N850	Pasco Co	SW IMP - Flood Protection - Sea Pines Neighborhood Flood Abatement	1A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$0	\$250,000	\$0
N865	Pasco Co	SW IMP - Flood Protection - Magnolia Valley Storage and Wetland Enhancement	1A	-	-	-	538,450	538,450	-	538,450	-
Q225	Pasco Co	SW IMP - Flood Protection - Lafitte Drive	1A	-	-	-	731,417	731,417	-	731,417	-
		Total 1A Priority Projects		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,519,867	\$1,519,867	\$0	\$1,519,867	\$0
Q421	Manatee Co	WMP - Lake Manatee Watershed WMP	CFI	\$0	\$0	\$984,000	\$0	\$984,000	\$984,000	\$1,968,000	\$0
Q413	Sarasota Co	Study - Physical Map Revision Update for Little Sarasota Bay, Lemon	CFI	-	-	600,000	-	600,000	-	600,000	-
Q414	TBW	Conservation - TBW Demand Management Plan Implementation - Phase 6	CFI	-	-	-	528,000	528,000	-	528,000	-
Q431	Pinellas Co	Study - Pinellas County Real Time Flood Forecasting - Phase 1	CFI	-	-	-	300,000	300,000	-	300,000	-
W024	TBEP	Tampa Bay Environmental Restoration Fund	CFI	-	-	-	350,000	350,000	-	350,000	-
		Total CFI Priority Projects:		\$0	\$0	\$1,584,000	\$1,178,000	\$2,762,000	\$984,000	\$3,746,000	\$0
		Total Cooperative Funding Projects:		\$50,583,215	\$75,000	\$25,987,906	\$20,197,867	\$96,843,988	\$984,000	\$97,827,988	\$346,300,767

Project	Project Name	FY2026 Adopted Budget	Total Future Funding
District	t Grants		
Water B	ody Protection & Restoration Planning		
W027	Tampa Bay Estuary Program - Comprehensive Management Plan Development and Implementation	\$202,505	\$0
W526	Coastal and Heartland National Estuary Partnership - Comprehensive Management Plan Development and Implementation	56,000	224,000
W612	Sarasota Bay Estuary Program - Comprehensive Management Plan Development and Implementation	133,000	399,000
	Total Water Body Protection & Restoration Planning:	\$391,505	\$623,000
Watersh	ned Management Planning		
B087	Florida Flood Hub	\$50,000	\$0
	Total Watershed Management Planning:	\$50,000	\$0
Facilitat	ing Agricultural Resource Management Systems (FARMS)		
H015	Wells with Poor Water Quality in the Southern Water Use Caution Area Back-Plugging Program	\$20,000	Reoccurring Request
H017	Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems Program	4,000,000	Reoccurring Request
H529	Mini-FARMS Program	500,000	Reoccurring Request
	Total Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems (FARMS):	\$4,520,000	\$0
Conserv	vation Rebates and Retrofits		
B015	Water Incentives Supporting Efficiency Program	\$225,000	Reoccurring Request
	Total Conservation Rebates and Retrofits:	\$225,000	\$0
Other W	ater Supply Development Assistance		
H103	Water Supply & Water Resource Development Grant Program	\$10,000,000	Reoccurring Request
	Total Other Water Supply Development Assistance:	\$10,000,000	\$0
Well Plu	<u>igging</u>		
B099	Quality of Water Improvement Program	\$600,000	Reoccurring Request
	Total Well Plugging:	\$600,000	\$0
Water R	esource Education		
P259	Youth Water Resources Education Program	\$680,000	Reoccurring Request
P268	Public Water Resources Education Program	5,000	Reoccurring Request
	Total Water Resource Education:	\$685,000	\$0
	Total District Grants:	\$16,471,505	\$623,000
	Total Cooperative Funding and District Grants:	\$114,299,493	\$346,923,767

G. Fixed Capital Outlay

Project	Project Name		FY2026 Adopted Budget	Total Future Funding
Land Ad	cquisition			
C005/ C007	Data Collection Site Acquisitions		\$150,000	Reoccurring Request
S097	Florida Forever Work Plan Land Purchases		16,700,000	Reoccurring Request
		Total Land Acquisition:	\$16,850,000	\$0
District	<u>Facilities</u>			
C219	Districtwide HVAC, Pavement and Roof Renovations		\$900,000	Reoccurring Request
C221	Districtwide Building Automation and Access Controls System		75,000	\$0
		Total District Facilities:	\$975,000	\$0
Land Ma	anagement Projects			
SM04	Hampton Tract Security Site Improvements at Green Swamp East		\$35,000	\$0
	1	Total Land Management Projects:	\$35,000	\$0
Works o	of the District			
C677	Wysong-Coogler Structure Refurbishment		\$200,000	\$12,000,000
C687	Water Control Structures Control System Replacements		1,000,000	0
C690	WC-2 Flood Control Structure Replacement		600,000	0
C693	P-1 and P-3 Structure Replacement		1,500,000	0
		Total Works of the District:	\$3,300,000	\$12,000,000
Well Co	nstruction			
C005/ C007	Aquifer Exploration and Monitor Well Drilling Program		\$1,620,000	Reoccurring Request
		Total Well Construction:	\$1,620,000	\$0
		Total Fixed Capital Outlay:	\$22,780,000	\$12,000,000