Cooperative Funding Program
Alternative Water Supplies and Water Conservation

Guidelines
July 2020
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1. APPLICATION DEADLINE AND CONTACTS

Deadline: July 31, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

Submittal: Applications must be uploaded electronically at https://www.sfwmd.gov/doing-business-with-us/coop-funding

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2. POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

Overview

In 2020, the Governor and Florida Legislature approved an investment of $40 million statewide to develop water resource and water supply projects to help protect our water resources and ensure the needs of existing and future users are met. Funding has been approved for implementation of alternative water supply (AWS) and water conservation (WC) measures within the state. These funds were directed from the Legislature through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to the water management districts, who will provide oversight to eligible partners for projects within their districts. This Cooperative Funding Program (CFP or program) is a cost-share reimbursement program with up to a 50 percent match.

The South Florida Water Management District (District) will review project applications within its boundaries, according to the priorities and guidelines presented in the following sections of this document. Applications will be accepted from July 6, 2020 to July 31, 2020 for proposed “shovel-ready” projects (i.e., implemented between October 1, 2020 and September 30, 2022; however, these dates are subject to change). Proposed projects must be submitted via the District website at: https://www.sfwmd.gov/doing-business-with-us/coop-funding.

Program Objective

The objective of the program is to assist local governments, public and private water providers, and other entities with construction and/or implementation of AWS and WC projects that support or complement the District’s mission. AWS projects are associated with development of nontraditional water sources and/or storage to meet current and future water demands. WC projects are associated with the use of hardware and/or technology to increase water use efficiency. Other types of projects (e.g., water quality, stormwater) currently are not eligible for funding under the program.

District Mission

The District mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving flood control, water supply, water quality, and natural systems. Part of the District’s water supply mission to meet the current and future demands of water users and the environment is achieved by supporting implementation of AWS development and WC measures, among others.

General Program Requirements

The following is provided as guidance for applicants to the District’s CFP. The District is responsible for identifying projects suitable for cost-share funding and recommending funding amounts for each eligible project. The District Governing Board (GB) will review and approve the identified projects and recommended funding amounts for transmission to the FDEP for funding consideration. It is the FDEP’s responsibility to balance and prioritize funding requests statewide for final project selection. The remainder of this section describes the application process, considerations that will be used to review project applications, and potential funding levels. Every applicant must satisfy these requirements.
Project Eligibility Compliance

Applicants must include all required documentation as outlined in the application and other applicable documents, or the project may be deemed ineligible. Project implementation shall not be initiated before October 1, 2020. Projects should be feasible and ready to implement.

To be deemed eligible, entities shall comply with all of the following requirements:

- Be within the District boundaries.
- Be a public or private entity, including water providers and large users; local governments; water, wastewater and reuse utilities; municipal, industrial, commercial, institutional, agricultural, and nursery water users; and homeowners’ or condominium associations or non-profit organization.
- Adhere to the application instructions.
- Adhere to applicable laws and regulations.
- Comply with allowable funding costs.

The following user groups are not eligible:

- Individual homeowners (e.g., single-family residential users)

Water use efficiency and conservation projects are eligible for all natural and utility-supplied water sources.

General Cost Considerations

General cost considerations are presented below. Additional allowable cost considerations are presented in Section 3.

Allowable Costs for All Projects

- Funding may only be used for the project identified in the application.
- Construction costs for AWS projects or implementation costs for WC projects starting on or after October 1, 2020.

Non-Allowable Costs for All Projects

- Expenses incurred or obligated before or after the funding period.
- Pilot tests, planning, permitting, design, engineering, etc.
- Regular operations and maintenance costs (see definition in Section 4), including but not limited to: replacement of utility meters, sewer lines, finished water lines, irrigation lines, pumps, and storage tanks.
- Lobbying or attempting to influence federal, state, or local legislation.
- Bad debts, contingencies, fines and penalties, interest, and other financial costs.
- Private entertainment, food, beverages, plaques, awards, or scholarships.
- Projects restricted to exclusive participation, which include restricted-access programs based on protected bases under law.
- Funding used to underwrite other funding programs.
- Expenses associated with the preparation, submission, or presentation of the application.
• Contributions or donations to other organizations.

Withdrawal of Application/Project

Applications, once received, become the property of the District, and become a public record. Applicants may withdraw their submitted application from consideration by notifying the District in writing (e-mail preferred) through an authorized representative at any time. Application documents are not returned to the applicant.

Application Development Costs

Neither the District nor its representatives shall be liable for any expenses incurred through the preparation, submission, or presentation of the funding application, nor shall said expenses be reimbursed using program funds (see non-allowable costs section above). All information in the application shall be provided at no cost to the District.

Award

The applicant understands that the application does not constitute a contract or purchase order with the District. No contract or purchase order is binding or official until applications are reviewed and accepted by the District, approved by the District GB, allocated funding by the FDEP, and duly executed by the parties as an official contract or purchase order. The FDEP reserves the right not to issue any funding whatsoever, if it is in the best interest of the FDEP or the District.

This is a reimbursement program. Applicants must commit to fully fund the project without funds from the CFP. Awarded funds will be distributed upon project completion. Any state or federal appropriations or local grant monies received by the applicant for a specific project shall first be applied toward the total construction or implementation cost of the applicant’s proposed project. Funding generally can be up to 50 percent of the project’s construction or implementation cost. However, funds allocated from the Water Protection and Sustainability Trust Fund are eligible for up to 40 percent of the project’s construction or implementation cost.

Funds will be awarded based on estimated project costs, as reported in the application. The District may prorate and reduce the funding amount if the project scope is not 100 percent completed as outlined in the Statement of Work. In no event shall the funding amount exceed percentages of the actual expenditures approved by the GB. If actual project implementation costs are less than estimated costs, a reduced award may result. During project closeout, actual costs must be accounted for and supported by evidence, including but not limited to, a completion/certification letter, vendor invoices/pay applications, check payments, records for all in-kind services, and verification of project completion. Failure to supply evidence of all financial expenditures will result in the withholding of funds.

Funding Compliance Review

If selected and after contracting, the District will ensure the proper use of funding by requiring applicants to comply with the terms and conditions of the contract(s) or purchase order(s). Additionally, the District will ensure compliance through:
• If applicable, site visits to verify commencement, installation, and/or progress of the project and/or before and after photo documentation.
• Review of quarterly status reports required by the contract or purchase order.
• Thorough review of deliverables (financial expenditure documentation may include, but is not limited to, certification letter from entity; vendor invoices/pay applications; check payments; in-house labor, materials, and equipment use; and any required reports/exhibits) and verification of project completion.
• Periodic financial audits to ensure funding objectives are met.

Application

Applications must be submitted via https://www.sfwmd.gov/doing-business-with-us/coop-funding by July 31, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. Applications should include detailed project information, timelines, funding commitments, benefit quantifications, and locational data (e.g., GIS shapefile, latitude/longitude data in decimal degrees). A realistic project timeline must be included and contain significant project milestones and dates. The timeline also should include a schedule for project elements associated with the funding request as well as a schedule for the overall project. A full breakdown of project costs will be required. A project may include multiple elements submitted under one application. Section 3 provides specific project guidelines.

District staff will review all applications and present to the FDEP. The District GB will review and approve project selection, and the FDEP will allocate the requested funding. The District will consider the following elements (no implied priority) when reviewing applications (refer to Tables 1 and 4 for additional details):

• District mission, resource management plans, and regional water supply plans
• Environmental, resource, and/or community benefits
• Cost effectiveness
• Project readiness
• Continuation phase of a previously funded project
• Proposed project is in a Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) or Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern community

Projects ready for immediate construction or implementation will receive higher consideration than those that are not ready. Projects requiring more than 2 years to complete are eligible to be funded; however, such projects should be broken into shorter phases that can be funded within the funding period, if appropriate.

Funding Commitment

If a third party is providing funding, in-kind services, commodities, or permissions for the project, a letter indicating such commitment, on the third-party provider’s letterhead, shall be required. The letter must be signed by a person authorized to bind the third party and indicate the person’s title and authority. The applicant shall be required to obtain all relevant documentation from the third party to support reimbursement.
3. PROJECT TYPES – SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

Alternative Water Supply Projects

The focus of the CFP AWS component is to cost-share on projects that provide alternative water supply. Meeting the growing need for water hinges on our efforts to develop water sources that offer an alternative to traditional fresh groundwater and surface water. Alternative water sources are important to Florida’s future and help communities diversify supply sources. Reducing reliance on regional freshwater sources makes communities less susceptible to the effects of drought.

One objective of the CFP is to support the District’s regional water supply plans, which are developed for five planning regions encompassing the District. The goal of each regional water supply plan is to identify sufficient sources of water to meet existing and projected reasonable and beneficial uses while sustaining water resources and related natural systems. Plan objectives include the following: increase available water supplies, maximize overall water use efficiency, and reduce reliance on traditional water sources through development of alternative water supplies, including nontraditional sources. These sources include saltwater or brackish water, reclaimed or recycled water, surface water captured during heavy rainfalls, sources made available through addition of new storage capacity, and stormwater (for use by a water use permittee), among others. To meet plan goals and objectives, water supply plans contain suggested measures such as the following:

- Develop alternative water supply sources, where possible.
- Increase water use efficiency through effective water conservation.
- Explore aquifer storage and recovery to extend water availability during peak demand periods.
- Construct storage for reclaimed water to extend use of seasonal water supplies and interconnects.
- Utilize membrane treatment concentrate water beneficially, including blending it with reclaimed water.
- Increase reuse through construction of additional reclaimed water lines for landscape irrigation.
- Construct new or retrofitted surface water storage systems for agricultural operations.
- For applicable utilities in the Lower East Coast Planning Area, develop AWS projects to reduce and/or eliminate use of ocean outfalls in compliance with Section 403.086(9), Florida Statutes (F.S.).
- In the Lower East Coast and Lower West Coast planning areas, develop alternative water sources to minimize saltwater intrusion potential.
- In the Central Florida Water Initiative Planning Area, develop WC projects and expand use of reclaimed water.

Examples of eligible projects from previous years include aquifer storage and recovery systems, reclaimed water production facilities and transmission mains, reverse osmosis plants, brackish water supply wells, and tailwater recovery projects.

Cost Considerations

Allowable Costs for Alternative Water Supply Projects

- AWS raw water transmission lines
- Reclaimed water storage tanks
- Reverse osmosis trains, pumps, and associated appurtenances
- Aquifer storage and recovery wells, brackish water production wells, and concentrate disposal wells associated with development of an AWS source

**Non-Allowable Costs for Alternative Water Supply Projects**

- Design, permits, as-built plans, videos, early completion bonus, bonds, insurance, etc.
- Finished water storage tanks and transmission lines
- Operations and maintenance work (e.g., lift stations, meters)
- End-user service line connections
- Backup generators
- Replacement landscaping

The District will review AWS projects based on program considerations and guidelines (no implied priority), as presented in [Table 1](#).

**Table 1. AWS Considerations and Guidelines**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Considerations</th>
<th>Guidelines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional benefits</td>
<td>Does the project provide regional water supply benefits (e.g., multiple entities, amount of water created, greatest need, project location, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits waterbody with adopted MFL(s)</td>
<td>Does the project support an adopted MFL?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other environmental benefits</td>
<td>What other environmental benefits does the project provide? To what degree does the project enhance natural systems (e.g., the Everglades, other environmentally sensitive areas), facilitate aquifer protection, reduce saltwater intrusion, etc.?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduces dependence on traditional resources</td>
<td>Does the proposed project replace or reduce dependence on a traditional water source and/or reduce competition with other water users for the same source?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supports 2008 ocean outfall legislation</td>
<td>Does the project implement reuse that assists in the elimination of domestic wastewater ocean outfalls, as provided in Section 403.086(9), F.S.?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project readiness</td>
<td>Can the project be timely implemented (i.e., “shovel ready“)? Does it demonstrate a high level of detail and planning? For example, are designs complete and permits in place?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Return on investment</td>
<td>What is the amount of funding the State grant will leverage?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complementary benefits</td>
<td>Are there benefits complementary to water supply such as water quality, flood protection, water conservation, recreation, etc.?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matching funds</td>
<td>Are any listed matching funds available during FY 2021-2022 to avoid delay in project completion?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource limited areas</td>
<td>Does the project contribute to AWS development in limited areas such as restricted allocation areas?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Considerations</td>
<td>Guidelines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographic distribution</td>
<td>Does the project provide diversity in terms of geographic distribution? In other words, without consideration of this project, could a region be under-represented?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Economic Development Initiative</td>
<td>Is the project in a Rural Economic Development Initiative or Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern community?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-year project</td>
<td>Is the project a continuation phase of a previously funded project?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Efficient reuse</td>
<td>If a reclaimed water project, does it increase efficient use of reclaimed water as a source? From a regional perspective, where is reclaimed water currently underutilized?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other funding</td>
<td>Did the applicant receive funding from other sources (e.g., state, local, federal)?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AWS = alternative water supply; F.S. = Florida Statute; FY = Fiscal Year; MFL = Minimum Flow and Minimum Water Level.

**Water Conservation Projects**

The focus of the CFP WC component [formerly the Water Savings Incentive Program (WaterSIP)] is to cost-share on WC efforts of public and private water providers and/or users. As discussed in the AWS section above, one objective of the CFP is to support the District’s regional water supply plans. Projects that use hardware and/or technology to implement WC are eligible for funding consideration. Examples of previously funded WC projects include high-efficiency indoor plumbing retrofits, automatic line flushing devices, and irrigation system retrofits. The District encourages industrial, commercial, institutional, and agricultural water users as well as homeowners'/condominium associations to apply for funding.

**General Requirements**

- Total project costs must be at least $15,000 in total expenditures for water supply utilities, municipalities, or government agencies. This limit does not apply to non-government agencies.
- Verification of hardware installation is required. Proof may include an invoice indicating hardware installation or a signed statement by the recipient affirming all products were visually inspected in their final state of installation.
- Applicants are responsible for the proper disposal of all inefficient hardware/technology replaced as part of the project. Inefficient hardware/technology must not be made available/recycled for use by other users.

**Cost Considerations**

**Allowable Costs for Water Conservation Projects (including but not limited to)**

- Implementation costs (e.g., hardware, technology, installation, in-kind services such as administrative/advertising costs) incurred between October 1, 2020 and September 30, 2022; however, dates are subject to change.
- WaterSense-labeled plumbing fixture and device retrofits and/or rebates (e.g., high-efficiency toilets, showerheads, and faucet aerators).
• Potable water flushing reduction infrastructure, including automatic line flushing devices or other capital infrastructure that can quantifiably demonstrate a reduction in flushing volumes.

• Pre-rinse spray valves for commercial kitchen facilities (must replace models with flow rates greater than 1.28 gallons per minute).

• Florida Water Star (FWS) rebates to incentivize builders to build and certify new construction (residential or commercial/institutional) under the FWS program. The rebate helps defray the costs incurred by builders or property owners/managers when upgrading indoor and outdoor components associated with meeting FWS criteria.

• Advanced meter analytic software and online customer portals directly related to WC savings, such as customer portals/apps that provide water use management tools (e.g., the ability to view consumption data, leak/boil alerts, etc.).

• Irrigation retrofits and/or rebates, including smart controllers, rain or soil moisture sensors, irrigation spray bodies with integral pressure regulation upgrades, irrigation conversion to more efficient systems, weather stations, and automated irrigation valves (for agriculture or nursery operations), among others. Irrigation smart controllers, soil moisture sensors, and spray bodies must be WaterSense-labeled unless used for agricultural or golf course applications.

• Irrigation system evaluations, if a hardware component (e.g., rain or soil moisture sensor, smart controller, efficient spray body) is provided and/or offered via rebate to property owners as part of the project. Irrigation smart controllers, soil moisture sensors, and spray bodies must be WaterSense-labeled.

• Other hardware and/or technology-based retrofits or applications that increase water efficiency (e.g., cooling tower or industrial process water use efficiency improvements).

Non-Allowable Costs for Water Conservation Projects

• Individual homeowners/residents applying for WC projects on a single residential property.

• Waterless urinals, toilet retrofit kits to replace internal tank components, toilet retrofits for 3.5 gpf or greater with a 1.6 gpf toilet, dual flush valves for commercial buildings.

• Installation of new irrigation systems or the extension of an existing irrigation system to an area not previously irrigated.

• Indoor fixtures for new construction, unless part of a FWS certification program.

• Projects that are out of compliance with permit conditions, are proposed to bring a facility back into compliance, or are proposed as settlement for enforcement activities.

• Ineligible in-kind services include non-paid volunteer hours; educational programs and materials such as coloring books, stickers, etc.; waived fees; and an individual’s entire annual salary. Exception is the required educational component for leak detection and proper installation of flappers.

• Automatic meter reading/advanced meter infrastructure/advanced meter analytics hardware such as antennas, relays, meters, and decoders. (Only analytical and/or customer portal software packages are supported.)

• Hardware and/or practices considered operations and maintenance (see definition in Section 4).
Specific Requirements

Plumbing Retrofit Projects

- Fixture exchange programs cannot function as give-away projects (i.e., an inefficient fixture must be collected for each high-efficiency fixture distributed). Recipients’ names and addresses are required as part of the closeout package.

- If the applicant proposes to support toilet replacement of existing 1.6 gallons per flush (gpf) with 0.8 gpf models (or lower), the project must:
  a) Provide plausible evidence or argument in support of the claim that the target area has so few 3.5 gpf toilets that it is not feasible to limit the program to only 3.5 gpf toilets;
  b) Continue to encourage and support replacement of 3.5 gpf toilets with 1.28 gpf (or lower) models;
  c) 1.6 gpf models must be replaced with 0.8 gpf models, not 1.28 gpf models.; and
  d) Only rebate WaterSense-labeled models.

- Toilet china (bowl) and flushometer (flush valve) gallon-per-flush ratings must be compatible.

- All toilet retrofit projects involving toilets with flappers must include an educational component that addresses leak detection and proper flapper replacement selection and installation. Information found at [https://toiletflapper.org/](https://toiletflapper.org/) can be used as a source.

- All plumbing fixtures and appliances must meet the standards outlined in Table 2.

**Table 2. Plumbing Fixture and Appliance Retrofit or Replacement Standards for Water Conservation Projects**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Device</th>
<th>Standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Toilet, tank, or flushometer (flush valve)</td>
<td>EPA WaterSense labeled with a MaP flush score of ≥800 grams.¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Showerhead</td>
<td>EPA WaterSense labeled flow rate of 2.0 gpm or less (1.75 gpm is suggested)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bathroom faucet</td>
<td>EPA WaterSense labeled flow rate of 1.0 gpm or less for residential fixtures; 0.5 gpm for commercial fixtures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urinal</td>
<td>EPA WaterSense labeled flush volume of 0.5 gallons/flush or less (0.125 gallons/flush is suggested)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitchen faucet</td>
<td>EPA WaterSense labeled flow rate of 1.5 gpm or less (1.0 gpm can also be used)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial kitchen pre-rinse spray valve ²</td>
<td>Flow rate of 1.28 gpm or less²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothes washer &amp; dishwasher or other water-using appliance</td>
<td>Must be ENERGY STAR rated³</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EPA = United States Environmental Protection Agency; gpm = gallons per minute.

¹ Refer to [www.map-testing.com/](http://www.map-testing.com/), then click on “MaP Search” (at left) to verify acceptable toilets that meet the flush score of ≥800 grams.

² As of January 1, 2019, the EPA has sunset the WaterSense Specification for Commercial Pre-Rinse Spray Valves.

³ ENERGY STAR ([www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)) maintains a list of efficiency-qualified clothes washers, which include a Water Factor Rating.
Irrigation Efficiency Improvement Projects

- Non-agricultural irrigation controllers, sensors, and spray sprinkler bodies must be WaterSense labeled. A list of allowable models can be found on the product search page of the WaterSense website, www.epa.gov/watersense.

- To receive reimbursement, projects involving irrigation technology devices on non-agricultural systems (e.g., smart irrigation controllers, sensors) must show proof that these items are installed, calibrated, and inspected by a trained professional. An invoice showing charges for project hardware installation or a signed statement indicating an inspection of devices installed by a professional is required with the closeout package.

- For projects involving soil moisture sensor-based controllers, the sensor(s) must be installed according to the manufacturer’s recommendations.

- For agricultural irrigation conversions and retrofits, a mobile irrigation lab or equivalent irrigation audit is encouraged to establish potential water savings and identify additional WC measures.

District funding limits for the purchase and installation of common WC fixtures and devices are shown in Table 3.

**Table 3. Allowable Funding Limits for Common Conservation Fixtures/Devices**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conservation Fixture/Device</th>
<th>District Allowable Funding Limit per Unit(^1)</th>
<th>Total Fixture/Device Cost(^2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Automatic line flushing device</td>
<td>Up to $3,000</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High-efficiency toilet</td>
<td>Up to $145</td>
<td>$290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High-efficiency showerhead</td>
<td>Up to $20</td>
<td>$40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High-efficiency aerator</td>
<td>Up to $1</td>
<td>$2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High-efficiency urinal</td>
<td>Up to $140</td>
<td>$280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil moisture sensor</td>
<td>Up to $145</td>
<td>$290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rain sensor</td>
<td>Up to $120</td>
<td>$240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-rinse spray valve</td>
<td>Up to $55</td>
<td>$110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothes washer rebate</td>
<td>Up to $100</td>
<td>Total cost could exceed $200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dishwasher rebate</td>
<td>Up to $100</td>
<td>Total cost could exceed $200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irrigation evaluation</td>
<td>Up to $125</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) This is the maximum per unit amount the District will reimburse applicants for each fixture or device. Actual reimbursement funding per unit depends on actual costs and award levels.

\(^2\) This is the assumed maximum total cost paid by applicants; actual costs may differ.

The District will review projects based on program considerations and guidelines (no implied priority) as presented in Table 4.
Table 4. Water Conservation Considerations and Guidelines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Considerations</th>
<th>Guidelines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost effectiveness, expressed as dollars per 1,000 gallons saved ($/kgal)</td>
<td>Demonstrates cost effectiveness in installation, design, and use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantity of water saved</td>
<td>Estimated number of gallons saved per year compared to other applicants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complementary benefits</td>
<td>Provides other resource benefits, such as habitat improvement, and/or benefits a low-income or affordable housing community in addition to meeting other considerations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project readiness</td>
<td>Application demonstrates readiness to be implemented on schedule and is well planned. For example, design is complete and permits are in place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional water supply benefits</td>
<td>Project provides the most benefits to the largest number of individuals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dual benefits</td>
<td>Water conservation project with water quality benefits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water source being conserved</td>
<td>Savings of potable water and traditional water sources are more valuable than savings of nonpotable water, etc. see list below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits waterbody with adopted MFLs</td>
<td>Provides support for an adopted MFL waterbody.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MFL = Minimum Flow and Minimum Water Level.

The order of source water value is as follows, with 1 being the most valued:

1. Potable water from a utility at risk for saltwater intrusion based on elevated chloride levels in monitor wells or a utility within a Restricted Allocation Area (Section 3.2.1 of the Applicant’s Handbook for Water Use Applications – https://www.sfwmd.gov/doing-business-with-us/permits/water-use-permits)
2. Potable water from a utility not at risk for saltwater intrusion or not in a Restricted Allocation Area
3. Surficial groundwater in the service area of a utility at risk for saltwater intrusion based on elevated chloride levels in monitor wells
4. Surficial groundwater in the service area of a utility not at risk for saltwater intrusion
5. Water from a canal or stormwater catchment area (e.g., a man-made lake within a housing development)
6. Reclaimed water

The following examples were prepared to assist applicants in understanding the District reimbursement rules and guidelines.
Avoid these two budget planning pitfalls:

Pitfall 1  If the project is budgeted anticipating a funding level of 50% of the total project cost (or anticipating that the project will be granted the maximum funding level of $50,000) and project funding support is approved at a lower level, the Recipient will still be obligated to fulfill the proposed project scope to receive the full award.

For example:

- Proposed project cost: $40,000 (to purchase and install 1,000 items)
- Anticipated funding level: $20,000
- Anticipated Recipient share: $20,000

If the approved funding level is granted at $10,000, the Recipient is still obligated to purchase and install 1,000 items and is thus responsible to produce and spend the remaining $30,000. Failure to purchase and install all 1,000 items will result in a prorated reduction of the actual funding level below the $10,000. In this example, the award is 25% of total cost. If the Recipient expends $20,000 for 500 items, they would receive $5,000. If they purchase and expend $32,000 for 800 items, they would receive $8,000. If they purchase all 1,000 for $30,000 they may be eligible to receive the full $10,000 but are not guaranteed to receive the full award.

Pitfall 2  If the project’s budgeted funds are spent before the scope of the project is fulfilled and the additional funds cannot be secured, the actual funding level will be prorated and reduced to the proportion of the fulfilled scope.

For example:

If your proposed project cost is $50,000 to purchase and install 1,000 items, and you spend $50,000 to purchase and install only 800 items and do not have additional funds to complete the 1,000 item scope, then your actual funding level will be reduced as follows (assuming an approved funding level of $25,000):

\[
\frac{\$25,000 \text{ approved funding}}{1,000 \text{ items in project scope}} \quad \text{becomes} \quad \frac{\$20,000 \text{ actual funding}}{800 \text{ items actually installed}}
\]
4. DEFINITIONS

Applicant – All governmental entities, including water providers and large users; local governments; water, wastewater, and reuse utilities; municipal, industrial, commercial, institutional, and agricultural water users; and homeowners’ or condominium associations submitting an application to seek an award from the South Florida Water Management District, pursuant to this Cooperative Funding Program.

Application – A written document from an applicant seeking an award from the South Florida Water Management District, pursuant to this Cooperative Funding Program.

Approved Funding – The allocation of monies to an applicant based on estimated costs, as presented in the application.

Capital – Part of a public water provider’s or user’s capital improvement program.

Funding (or Actual Funding) – An allotment of monies disbursed towards the payment based on actual costs incurred and the percentage of the scope of work fulfilled for the construction/implementation of an alternative water supply or water conservation project.

Ineligible – A determination by the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board that the application does not comply with the material requirements of this Cooperative Funding program.

Non-Capital – Not part of a public water provider’s or user’s capital improvement program.

Operations and Maintenance – The functions, duties, and labor associated with the routine operations and normal repairs, replacement of parts and structural components, and other activities needed to preserve an asset so it continues to provide acceptable services and achieves its expected life.

Participant – The recipient and end user of the water conservation hardware. (May or may not be the same as the Applicant.)

Project – The written description included in the application that determines eligibility for funding.

Project Cost – The total cost of the project located within the South Florida Water Management District.

Recipient – The applicant who has been awarded funding in support of a project.

REDI – The Rural Economic Development Initiative, as defined in Section 288.0656, Florida Statutes.