Cooperative Funding Program

Alternative Water Supply & Water Conservation

FY26 Guidelines

December 2024

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AWS	alternative water supply
BMAP	basin management action plan
BMP	best management practices
CFP	Cooperative Funding Program
District	South Florida Water Management District
F.A.C.	Florida Administrative Code
FDACS	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
FDEP	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
F.S.	Florida Statutes
FY	Fiscal Year
gpf	gallons per flush
gpm	gallons per minute
kgal	1,000 gallons
MFL	minimum flow and minimum water level
mg	million gallons
mgd	million gallons per day
NOI	Notice of Intent
REDI	Rural Economic Development Initiative
SFWMD	South Florida Water Management District
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
WC	water conservation

1. APPLICATION DEADLINE AND CONTACTS

Deadline: February 26, 2025, 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

Since 2020, Governor DeSantis and the Florida Legislature, over the past five legislative sessions, have approved an investment of $310 million statewide to develop water resource and water supply projects to help protect water resources and meet the needs of existing and future users. In anticipation of Fiscal Year 2025-2026 legislative appropriations, the South Florida Water Management District (District) is accepting applications for alternative water supply (AWS) and water conservation (WC) projects for funding consideration. Any appropriations are directed from the Florida 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% match.

The District will review applications for projects within its boundaries, according to the priorities and guidelines presented in the following sections of this document. Applications will be accepted from December 2, 2024 to February 26, 2025 for proposed "shovel-ready" projects (i.e., to be implemented between the funding period of October 1, 2025 and September 30, 2027). *However, the funding period dates are subject to change*. Project applications, guidelines, and examples are available at https://www.sfwmd.gov/doing-business-with-us/coop-funding. Applications must be submitted via the online submission portal at https://www.sfwmd.gov/doing-business-with-us/coop-funding.

Program Objective

The Program's objective 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's mission is to safeguard and restore South Florida's water resources and ecosystems, protect our communities from flooding, and meet the region's water needs while connecting with the public and stakeholders. Part of the District's water supply mission is achieved by supporting implementation of AWS development and WC measures.

General Program Requirements

The following is provided as guidance for CFP applicants. The District is responsible for identifying projects suitable for cost-share funding and recommending funding amounts for each eligible project. The District Governing Board 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 statewide funding requests. The remainder of this section describes the application process, considerations during review of project applications, and potential funding levels. Every applicant must satisfy these requirements.

Project Eligibility

Applicants must include all required documentation, as outlined in the application, and other applicable documents, or the project may be deemed ineligible. Projects must be a) located within the District boundaries or have benefits to the District, b) feasible, and c) ready to implement and be completed within the funding period. Project implementation shall not be initiated before October 1, 2025.

To be eligible, entities must meet the following requirements:

- 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; homeowners' and condominium associations; or nonprofit organizations.
- 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).
- Permittees who are out of compliance with District or FDEP-issued permits.
- Local governments without an approved irrigation ordinance which comports with Chapter 40E-24, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). For more information refer to *Rules of the South Florida Water Management District Mandatory Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Conservation Measures Chapter 40E-24, F.A.C.* and the District webpage Local Government Model Ordinances and Codes.
- Local governments without an adopted Water Supply Facilities Work Plan pursuant to Sections 163.3177 and Section 163.3184, Florida Statutes (F.S.).

Cost Considerations

General cost considerations are presented below. More specific cost considerations are presented in **Section 3**.

Allowable Costs for All Projects

- Funds 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, 2025.

Non-Allowable Costs for All Projects

- Expenses incurred or obligated before or after the funding period.
- Pilot tests, planning, permitting, design, engineering, demonstration, 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 (some exceptions apply), supply wells, and storage tanks (some exceptions apply).
- 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.

- 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, including 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.
- Other ineligible costs such as nonpaid volunteer hours; landscaping materials; educational programs and materials (e.g., coloring books, stickers, etc.); waived fees; and an individual's salary (portion or all).

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 CFP Program Manager 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 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 Governing Board, 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 based on actual expenditures. 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 could be up to 50% of the project's construction or implementation cost. However, funds allocated specifically from the Water Protection and Sustainability Trust Fund are eligible for up to 40% of the project's construction or implementation cost.

Funds will be awarded based on estimated project costs, as included in the application. The District may prorate and reduce the funding amount if the project scope is not 100% completed as outlined in the Statement of Work. In no event shall the funding amount exceed percentages of the expenditures approved by the District Governing Board. 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, the following: a completion letter on applicant

letterhead, vendor invoices/pay applications, applicant cleared check or electronic payment records, Florida professional engineer or geologist certification letter (with seal), records for all services, final vendor bid/contract, any and all permits required, and verification of project completion (photos – before, during, and after). 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 the following:

- If applicable, site visits to verify commencement, installation, and/or progress of the project and/or before, during, and after photo documentation.
- Review of quarterly status reports required by the contract or purchase order.
- Thorough review of deliverables (documentation may include, but is not limited to, a completion letter on applicant letterhead; vendor invoices/pay applications; check or electronic payments; Florida professional engineer or geologist certification letter with seal; final design documents; any and all permits; public water supply identification number; and any required reports/exhibits) and verification of project completion (photos – before, during, and after).
- Periodic financial audits to ensure funding objectives are met.

Application

Applications must be submitted through the online submission portal via https://www.sfwmd.gov/doing-business-with-us/coop-funding by February 26, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. The Acknowledgment Form is required for all application submittals. This should be signed by the project's authorized representative and uploaded in portable document format (PDF) along with the application. 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 project dates. The timeline also should include a schedule for project components 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 components submitted under one application. For assistance completing the application, example AWS and WC applications are available at https://www.sfwmd.gov/doing-business-with-us/coop-funding. **Section 3** provides specific project guidelines.

District staff will review all applications and present the project list to the District Governing Board for review and approval. The approved project list then will be submitted to the FDEP. The FDEP will allocate funding at its discretion. The District review will consider, but not be limited to, 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

- For local governments, presence of a local irrigation ordinance which comports with the District's Mandatory Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Conservation Measures, Chapter 40E-24, F.A.C.
- For local governments, presence of an adopted Water Supply Facilities Work Plan pursuant to Sections 163.3177 and 163.3184, F.S.
- If the proposed project is in a Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) or rural area of opportunity community

Projects ready for immediate construction or implementation will receive higher consideration than those that are not ready. For WC projects, those with greater cost-benefits (i.e., lower cost per gallon saved, expressed as dollars per 1,000 gallons saved [$/kgal]) will receive more favorable consideration. Projects requiring more than 2 years to complete are eligible to be funded; however, such projects should be broken down into shorter phases, which can be completed within the funding period, if appropriate. Funding of one project phase does not guarantee subsequent phases will be selected, receive similar levels of funding, or be funded at all.

Funding Commitment

If a third party is providing funding, commodities, or permissions for the project, a letter indicating such commitment, on the third-party provider's letterhead, is 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 share costs of projects that create or increase alternative water supply. Meeting the growing need for water hinges on 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, https://www.sfwmd.gov/our-work/water-supply, which are developed for each of the District's five planning regions. 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. Water supply plan objectives include the following: increase available water supplies, maximize overall water use efficiency, and reduce reliance on traditional water sources through development of AWS, including nontraditional sources. Such sources include saltwater or brackish water, reclaimed or recycled water, surface water captured during heavy rainfalls, sources made available through additional new storage capacity, and stormwater (for use by a water/consumptive use permittee), among others.

To meet plan goals and objectives, water supply plans contain suggested measures such as the following:

- Develop AWS sources, where possible.
- Develop aquifer storage and recovery systems to extend water availability during peak demand periods.

- Construct storage for reclaimed water to extend use of seasonal water supplies and interconnects.
- Use membrane treatment concentrate water beneficially, including blending it with reclaimed water.
- Increase the production capacity of existing reclaimed water facilities.
- Increase reuse through construction of additional reclaimed water lines for landscape irrigation or other uses.
- Construct new or retrofitted surface water storage systems to augment potable source water supplies or 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(10), F.S.
- In the Lower East Coast, Upper East Coast, and Lower West Coast planning areas, develop AWS sources to minimize saltwater intrusion potential.

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.

Alternative Water Supply Projects Specific Cost Considerations

Allowable Costs for Alternative Water Supply Projects

- AWS raw water transmission lines
- Reclaimed water storage tanks
- Reclaimed water treatment facilities (initial construction and existing facility expansions)
- Reverse osmosis trains, pumps, and associated appurtenances
- Surface/stormwater storage (e.g., reservoirs, impoundments, etc.)
- 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

- Designs, 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, replacement wells, replacement storage tanks)
- End-user service line connections
- Backup generators
- Replacement landscaping, concrete pads, protective coverings (e.g., roofs, sheds)

Alternative Water Supply Projects Review Considerations and Guidelines

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

Table 1. Alternative Water Supply Considerations and Guidelines

Consideration	Guideline
Project readiness	Can the project be implemented in a timely manner (i.e., "shovel ready")? Does it demonstrate a high level of detail and planning? For example, are designs complete and permits in place?
Reduces dependence on traditional resources	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?
Provides regional water supply benefits	Does the project provide regional water supply benefits (e.g., multiple entities, amount of water created, greatest need, project location)?
Benefits a waterbody with an adopted minimum flow and minimum water level (MFL)	Does the project support an adopted MFL?
Other environmental/complementary benefits	What other environmental/complementary benefits does the project provide? Does the project enhance natural systems (e.g., the Everglades, other environmentally sensitive areas), facilitate aquifer protection, reduce saltwater intrusion, green infrastructure, etc.? Does the project provide benefits to water supply, such as water quality, flood protection, water conservation, resiliency, drought conditions, saltwater instruction, sea level rise, recreation, etc.?
Return on investment	What is the amount of funding the state grant will leverage?
Supports ocean outfall legislation	Does the project implement reuse assisting in the elimination of domestic wastewater ocean outfalls, as provided in Section 403.086(10), F.S.?
Resource limited areas (Y/N)	Does the project contribute to AWS development in areas where traditional water supply sources are constrained (e.g., restricted allocation areas)?
Regional use of reclaimed water (Y/N)	From a regional perspective, will the project occur in an area where reclaimed water is currently underutilized?
Geographic distribution (Y/N)	Does the project provide diversity in terms of geographic distribution? In other words, without consideration of this project, could a region be underrepresented?
Matching funds	Are any listed matching funds available during Fiscal Year 2025-2026 to avoid delay in project completion?
Rural Economic Development Initiative	Is the project located within a REDI or designated rural area of opportunity community?
Multiyear project	Is the project a continuation phase of a previously funded project?
Other funding	Did the applicant receive funding from other sources (e.g., state, local, federal)?
Water Supply Facilities Work Plan	For local governments, do they have an approved Water Supply Facilities Work Plan pursuant to Sections 163.3177 and 163.3184, F.S., or a proposed amendment expected to be approved before February 26, 2025?

F.S. = Florida Statutes; MFL = minimum flow and minimum water level; REDI = Rural Economic Development Initiative.

Alterative Water Supply Projects Applications

The AWS CFP application is a Microsoft (MS) Excel file. The file consists of eight workbook tabs containing questions to prompt answers that provide specific quantitative and qualitative data on each proposed project. The application must be submitted as an MS Excel file (not as a pdf or any other format). Applicants are strongly advised to download and examine the example AWS application(s) most relevant to their project type.

Applicants are highly encouraged to see **Appendix A** of this document for further information on the CFP AWS application.

Water Conservation Projects

The focus of the CFP WC component is to share costs 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 improvements 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 in urban and agriculture/nursery settings. The District encourages industrial, commercial, institutional, and agricultural water users as well as homeowners'/condominium associations to apply for funding.

Water Conservation Projects 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 nongovernment agencies.
- Cost effectiveness must be less than or equal to $6.00 per 1,000 gallons (kgal).
- 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 any project. Inefficient hardware/technology must not be made available/recycled for use by other users.

Water Conservation Projects Specific Considerations: Indoor and Other Water Conservation Projects

For the purposes of this guidance document, three major WC project types have been identified. The following sections focus on each of the three major WC project types individually. Those three types are as follows:

- Indoor and Other Water Conservation Projects (i.e., high-efficiency rebates or retrofits, cooling towers, etc.)
- Urban Irrigation Efficiency Improvement Water Conservation Projects
- Agriculture/Nursery Irrigation Efficiency Improvement Water Conservation Projects

Applicants are encouraged to review the section(s) of this guidance document that applies to their project.

Indoor and Other Water Conservation Projects

Allowable Project Elements

- Implementation costs (e.g., hardware, technology, installation) incurred during the funding period between October 1, 2025 and September 30, 2027. *However, dates are subject to change*.
- United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) WaterSense labeled plumbing fixture and device retrofits and/or rebates (e.g., high-efficiency toilets, showerheads, and faucet aerators—must be USEPA WaterSense labeled). Not applicable to pre-rinse spray valves.
- Pre-rinse spray valves for commercial kitchen facilities (must replace models with flow rates greater than 1.28 gallons per minute [gpm]).
- Potable water flushing reduction infrastructure, including automatic line flushing devices or other capital infrastructure, which can quantifiably demonstrate a reduction in flushing volumes.
- Rebates to incentivize builders to build and certify new construction (residential or multifamily) under the Florida Water Star certification program. The rebate helps defray the costs incurred by builders or property owners/managers when upgrading indoor and outdoor components associated with meeting Florida Water Star criteria.
- Advanced meter analytic software and online customer portals directly related to WC savings, such as customer portals/apps, which provide water use management tools (e.g., the ability to view consumption data, leak/boil alerts).
- 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 Project Elements

- Waterless urinals, toilet retrofit kits to replace internal tank components, toilet retrofits for 3.5 gallons per flush (gpf) or greater with a 1.6 gpf toilet, and dual-flush valves for commercial buildings.
- Indoor fixtures for new construction, unless part of a Florida Water Star certification project.
- 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**).
- Replacement landscaping, concrete pads, protective coverings (e.g., roofs, sheds).
- Projects that include only staff time or labor hours.

Indoor Water Conservation Projects Specific Requirements

Plumbing Retrofit Projects

Fixture exchange programs cannot function as giveaway projects (i.e., an inefficient fixture must be collected for each high-efficiency fixture distributed). Rebate projects are required to provide at a

minimum the following information: Recipients' names, addresses or account information, date purchased/installed, date and amount of rebates, invoice and/or claim number, and the check and/or voucher number as part of the closeout package.

If the applicant proposes to support toilet replacement of existing 1.6 gpf models, the project must adhere to the following:

a) Provide plausible evidence or argument in support of the claim the target area has so few 3.5 gpf toilets 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 cannot be replaced with 1.28 gpf models but must be replaced with a single flush 1.0 gpf or lower models.
d) Only rebate USEPA WaterSense labeled models.

Toilet china (bowl) and flushometer (flush valve) gpf 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/ 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

Device	Standard
Toilet, tank, or flushometer (flush valve) (residential and commercial)	USEPA WaterSense labeled with a Maximum Performance (MaP) flush score of ≥800 grams.[1]
Showerhead	USEPA WaterSense labeled flow rate of 2.0 gpm or less (1.75 gpm is suggested).
Bathroom faucet	USEPA WaterSense labeled flow rate of 1.0 gpm or less for residential fixtures: 0.5 gpm for commercial fixtures.
Urinal	USEPA WaterSense labeled flush volume of 0.5 gpf or less (0.125 gpf is suggested).
Kitchen faucet	USEPA WaterSense labeled flow rate of 1.5 gpm or less (1.0 gpm can also be used).
Commercial kitchen pre-rinse spray valve[2]	Flow rate of 1.28 gpm or less.[2]
Clothes washer, dishwasher, or other water-using appliance	Must be ENERGY STAR rated.[3]

gpf = gallons per flush; gpm = gallons per minute; USEPA = United States Environmental Protection Agency.

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

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

[3] ENERGY STAR (https://www.energystar.gov) maintains a list of efficiency-qualified appliances, including an Integrated Water Factor rating.

Urban Irrigation Efficiency Improvement Water Conservation Projects

Nonagricultural irrigation controllers, sensors, and spray sprinkler bodies must be USEPA WaterSense labeled. A list of allowable models can be found on the product search page of the USEPA WaterSense webpage, https://www.epa.gov/watersense.

To receive reimbursement, projects involving irrigation technology devices on nonagricultural systems (e.g., smart irrigation controllers, sensors) must show proof 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 and calibrated according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

To ensure compliance with Section 373.62, F.S., irrigation retrofit projects must include a rain shutoff device, either by ensuring one is already properly installed and working or by incorporating it as part of the project.

Allowable Project Elements

- Irrigation retrofits and/or rebates, including smart controllers, rain or soil moisture sensors (compatible with soil moisture-based irrigation controllers), irrigation spray bodies with integral pressure regulation upgrades, irrigation conversion to more efficient systems, and weather stations, among others. Irrigation smart controllers, soil moisture sensors, and spray bodies must be USEPA 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 (compatible with soil moisture-based irrigation controllers), and spray bodies must be USEPA WaterSense labeled.

Non-Allowable Project Elements

- Individual homeowners/residents applying for WC projects on a single residential property.
- Installation of new irrigation systems or the extension of an existing irrigation system to an area not previously irrigated.
- Hardware and/or practices considered operations and maintenance (see definition in **Section 4**).
- Replacement landscaping, concrete pads, protective coverings (e.g., roofs, sheds).

Funding Limits for Indoor, Urban Irrigation Efficiency Improvement, and Other Projects

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

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

[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.

Agriculture/Nursery Irrigation Efficiency Improvement Water Conservation Projects

For agricultural/nursery irrigation conversions and retrofits, a mobile irrigation lab or equivalent irrigation audit is strongly encouraged to serve as the basis for potential estimated water savings and the WC hardware being purchased and installed as part of the project. If an audit has been performed, the full report should be included as part of the application package. Agricultural/nursery producers with sites located in basin management action plan (BMAP) areas, are required to enroll or be enrolled in the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services'(FDACS) Best Management Practices (BMP) program. The Notice of Intent (NOI) number or NOI summary report provided by the FDACS Office of Agricultural Water Policy should be included as part of the application package. Agricultural BMP enrollment is not required for sites located outside of a BMAP area. However, producers with sites not located in BMAP areas are strongly encouraged to enroll in the program. Agriculture/nursery application packages also should include a site map or aerial photo showing property boundaries, water use permit boundaries, well locations, existing surface water bodies, water control structures, and all proposed project components, including pump stations, pipelines, structures, and reservoirs.

For projects involving soil moisture sensors and sensor-based controllers, the sensor(s) and controller(s) must be installed and calibrated according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

Allowable Project Elements

- Irrigation conversions (must convert from one method to a more efficient one)
- Replacement of inefficient irrigation heads and nozzles (must increase efficiency)
- Pump automation (remote/auto start-stop)
- Automated irrigation valves

- Precision agriculture irrigation management equipment, including weather or soil moisture-based irrigation controllers (and associated remote transmission units), soil moisture probes, tensiometers, weather stations, and wireless telemetry
- Flow meters, if part of a larger irrigation efficiency improvement project
- Irrigation pump variable frequency drive retrofit and controls (must be part of a larger irrigation efficiency improvement project, not for operations and maintenance)
- Other approved WC best management hardware or measures, pending review and approval

Non-Allowable Project Elements

- Installation of new irrigation systems or extension of an existing irrigation system to an area not previously irrigated
- Water control structures
- Culverts (including riser board structure replacement)
- Fertilizer application technology
- Freeze/frost protection materials
- Irrigation infrastructure
- Replacement of piping due to age, etc.
- Pump replacement
- Replacing old emitters with new ones of the same efficiency or flow rating
- Reservoirs
- Tailwater recovery and reuse
- Replacement landscaping, concrete pads, protective coverings (e.g., roofs, sheds)
- Irrigation filtration systems
- Surface water disinfection system
- Technologies or equipment to improve water quality

Water Conservation Projects Review Considerations and Guidelines

The District will review all WC projects based on program considerations and guidelines (no implied priority), as presented in **Table 4**.

Table 4. Water Conservation Considerations and Guidelines

Consideration	Guideline
Cost effectiveness, expressed as dollars per 1,000 gallons saved ($/kgal)	Does the project demonstrate cost effectiveness in installation, design, and use?
Quantity of water saved	What are the estimated number of gallons saved per year compared to other applicants?
Complementary benefits	Does the project provide other resource benefits (e.g., habitat improvement) and/or benefits a low-income or affordable housing community in addition to meeting other considerations?
Project readiness	Does the application demonstrate readiness to be implemented on schedule and is well planned? For example, is the design complete and are permits in place?
Regional water supply benefits	Does the project provide the most benefits to the largest number of individuals?
Dual benefits	Is this a water conservation project with water quality or other benefits?
Water source being conserved	What is the source being conserved? Note: Savings of potable water and traditional water sources are more valuable than savings of nonpotable water.
Benefits a water body with an adopted MFL	Does the project provide support for an adopted MFL water body?
Water Supply Facilities Work Plan	For local governments, do they have an approved Water Supply Facilities Work Plan pursuant to Sections 163.3177 and 163.3184, F.S., or a proposed amendment expected to be approved before February 26, 2025?

F.S. = Florida Statutes; 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 Permit 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 an area at risk for saltwater intrusion based on elevated chloride levels in monitor wells
4. Surficial groundwater not at risk for saltwater intrusion
5. Water from a canal, lake, or other surface water body, including stormwater catchment areas (e.g., a man-made lake within a housing development)
6. Reclaimed water

Water Conservation Projects Applications

The WC CFP application is an MS Excel file. The file consists of seven workbook tabs containing questions to prompt answers that provide specific quantitative and qualitative data on each proposed project. The application must be submitted as an MS Excel file (not as a pdf or any other format). Applicants are strongly advised to download and examine the example WC application(s) most relevant to their project type.

Applicants are highly encouraged to see **Appendix B** of this document for further information on the CFP WC application.

The WC CFP application includes a cost-effectiveness calculator in one of the Excel workbook tabs. The calculator uses eligible project costs, project device(s) service lives (in years), and the quantity(ies) of the WC devices to compute a cost per $/kgal of water saved by the project. This calculation produces a uniform metric used to compare the cost effectiveness of different project types. The calculator must be utilized for the application to be considered complete. Instructions on using the calculator are presented with the calculator. The example applications mentioned above contain (mock) completed cost-effectiveness calculators. For assistance completing the application, example applications for each major project type are available at https://www.sfwmd.gov/doing-business-with-us/coop-funding.

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 and project funding support is approved at a lower level, Recipients will still be obligated to fulfill the project application 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, Recipients are still obligated to purchase and install 1,000 items and are 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 the total cost. If Recipients expend $20,000 for 500 items, they would receive $5,000. If Recipients purchase and expend $32,000 for 800 items, they would receive $8,000. If all 1,000 items are purchased for $30,000, then Recipients 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:
The project application cost is $50,000 to purchase and install 1,000 items, and Recipients spend $50,000 to purchase and install only 800 items and do not have additional funds to complete the 1,000 items scope. Then the actual funding level will be reduced as follows (assuming an approved level of $25,000 or 50%):

$$\frac{\$25{,}000 \text{ approved funding}}{1{,}000 \text{ items in project scope}} \quad \text{becomes} \quad \frac{\$20{,}000 \text{ actual funding}}{800 \text{ items actually intstalled}}$$

4. DEFINITIONS

Applicant – All governmental entities, including the following: 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 the application does not comply with the material requirements of this Cooperative Funding Program.

MaP – MaP scores represent the number of grams of solid waste (soybean paste and toilet paper) a particular toilet can flush and remove completely from the fixture in a SINGLE FLUSH. Essentially, the MaP test is a TEST TO FAILURE. MaP Testing is an INDEPENDENT testing program not affiliated with nor controlled by any manufacturer or group.

Operations and Maintenance – The functions, duties, and labor associated with routine operations and normal repairs, replacement of parts and structural components, and other activities needed so the project continues to provide acceptable service and/or achieves its expected life.

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.

APPENDIX A:
ALTERNATIVE WATER SUPPLY PROJECT APPLICATION

The AWS CFP application is an MS Excel file and consists of eight workbook tabs containing questions to prompt answers that provide specific quantitative and qualitative data on each proposed project. Each required input is numbered in the left-most column (Col. A). All blank peach cells colored must be filled in; enter **N/A** for inputs not applicable to the project.

The application input tabs in the spreadsheet and the required information for each are as follows:

1. **Project Header Sheet** – Information related to the applicant and big-picture metrics related to the project.
2. **Project Figure 1 (Location Map)** – A city or town map clearly showing the project location in relation to the nearest major street or road intersections.
3. **Project Figure 2 (Details Map)** – A project-level map showing sufficient detail depicting the proposed project (e.g., show a proposed pipeline between two intersections bounding the project; show a plant layout with the proposed project phase components highlighted, such as a storage/chlorination tank).
   (Note: For both **Project Figure 1 and 2** tabs, insert—simply copy/paste—Figures 1 and 2 into the respective tabs as a JPEG, PNG, or GIF. The application has a graphic to guide the user on how to copy/paste. Otherwise, the user can upload the image of the map directly into the Cooperative Funding Program Application Portal.)
4. **Project Description and Statement of Work** – Narrative project description, deliverables, and deliverables schedule.
5. **Project Benefits** – Narrative descriptions of project benefits.
6. **Project Readiness and Permitting** – A description of the project readiness and a listing of relevant permits obtained and pending.
7. **Cost-Effectiveness Calculator** – Auto-generates a project cost in $/kgal.
   (Note: Inputs for this calculator are drawn from applicant entries in other tabs. Applicants should review the Cost-Effectiveness Calculator tab for any errors. The calculator uses total phase project cost and water created to compute a cost per $/kgal of water created by the project. This calculation produces a uniform metric used to compare the cost effectiveness of different project types.)
8. **Ancillary Questions** – Additional information requested by the FDEP and prompts for additional documentation required by the District.
   (Note: The shape files or AutoCAD files must be emailed and not uploaded in the application portal.)

APPENDIX B:
WATER CONSERVATION PROJECT APPLICATION

The WC CFP application is an MS Excel file and consists of eight workbook tabs in total containing questions to prompt answers that provide specific quantitative and qualitative data on each proposed project. There are two WC applications: one is for Urban Indoor and Urban Irrigation, and one is for Agriculture and Nursery projects. Applicants should download the appropriate version. Each required input is numbered in the left-most column (Col. A). All blank blue cells colored must be filled in; all blue cells labeled **Select All** contain dropdown menus from which users must select the item most appropriate for their project; enter **N/A** for inputs not applicable to the project.

The application input tabs in the spreadsheet and the required information for each are as follows:

1. **Entity Information** – Information related to the applicant's agency and contact information.
2. **Project Description** – Narrative project descriptions, background, and additional information requested by the FDEP.
3. **Project Financing** – Project cost and other funding agencies.
4. **Project Budget** – Deliverable items and costs.
5. **Estimated Water Savings**
    a. **For Indoor and Other Projects** – Contains stock hardware savings rates for many indoor fixture and device types and fields to show savings calculations for other types of indoor projects.
    b. **For Irrigation Projects** – Contains stock hardware savings rates for the most common irrigation project types and a field to describe the estimate of current water use.
6. **Cost-Effectiveness Calculator** – Project cost in $/kgal water saved calculated based on applicant's input of costs and water saved per savings-device type and device service lives, producing a uniform metric used to compare the cost effectiveness of different project types.
7. **Ancillary Information** – Additional questions to verify the applicant understands certain aspects of project eligibility.

Water Conservation Cost-Effectiveness Calculator ($/kgal)

A significant metric in evaluating water conservation projects is the project cost effectiveness, expressed in cost per 1,000 gallons of water saved ($/kgal). This allows different project types to be compared to one another.

To arrive at a $/kgal for the project, you must use the calculator in the **Cost-Effectiveness Calculator** tab of the application file. Additional tabs have been included to help you calculate the savings for some project types and/or to show you how to calculate water savings for your project. There are slight differences in these *Estimated Water Savings* tabs, depending on whether your project is an urban project, or an agriculture/nursery project.

All project applications MUST use the **Cost-Effectiveness Calculator** tab and submit the application with project-related data inputs/outputs.

There are only four inputs needed for the calculator: the name of the conservation item(s), the total cost for the item (or items, if your project has more than one), the annual estimated water savings, and the service life of the conservation item (**Figure B-1**). The rest of the table is automatically calculated for you and results in a final cost effectiveness for your project, which is auto-populated into the **Project Description** tab.

Conservation Items	Total Cost Per Line	Annual Estimated Savings (mgy) From Est. Wat. Save Tab	Service Life (in years, from table below)	Total Project Gallons Saved per Day	Total Gallons Saved over Service Life (MG)	Cost Effectiveness ($/kgal)
Precision irrigation management equipment	$74,660	57.7	7	158,082	403.90	$0.21
				-	-	$0.00
				-	-	$0.00
				-	-	$0.00
				-	-	$0.00
				-	-	$0.00
				-	-	$0.00
				-	-	$0.00
				-	-	$0.00
	$74,660	57.7				$0.21
						(Weighted cost effectiveness for all items)

Figure B-1. The Cost-Effectiveness Calculator
(Note: All applications must include this calculator fully completed.)

For this calculator, there are a few things to keep in mind.

- The Total Cost per Line must match the Hardware & Installation line costs in Tab 4: **Project Budget**.
- Service Lives entered in this table must come from one of the tables provided below the calculator if your project items are included in one of those tables. (Note: The Agriculture and Nursery application contains only one Service Life table.)
- For Urban Irrigation projects, you must use the shortest service life if your project includes more than one item on the list.
- If your project does not have a listed service life, you may enter your own but will need to present documentation supporting your entry such as a manufacturer's specification.

The following paragraphs briefly describe the cost estimation tabs on two applications: Urban Indoor and Urban Irrigation and Agriculture and Nursery.

The **Urban Indoor and Urban Irrigation Application** contains two tabs to help you calculate water savings. One is for indoor projects (e.g., projects involving common water-using fixtures and appliances) and one is for urban irrigation/other projects (e.g., projects involving smart irrigation controllers or sensors as part of a rebate for residential users or as part of a larger homeowners' association). Standard flow rates for the most common indoor items are shown on the tab and must be used. Standard savings rates for the most common outdoor items also are shown on the tab and must be used.

If you feel strongly the standard flow or savings rates provided do not represent your project, you may enter your own, but you will need to present supporting documentation or a convincing explanation for deviating from the standard rates. If your project involves less common conservation items or water use areas (e.g., cooling towers, automatic line flushing devices), you will need to provide explanations of the current water use and water savings. Estimated savings for your project may be recalculated by District staff if your supporting explanation is unacceptable or otherwise rejected.

The **Agriculture and Nursery Application** contains the same indoor water savings calculation tab for projects that may occur in an agriculture or nursery setting and include indoor or other water-saving project elements. If you are an agriculture or nursery operator and your project has project elements other than or in addition to irrigation, read the previous paragraph.

The Estimated Water Savings – Irrigation tab (abbreviated as Est. Wat. Sav. – Irrigation) in the Agriculture/Nursery Water Conservation Application contains a standard calculator to help you calculate savings for irrigation system conversions (e.g., converting from flood irrigation to microirrigation). This application does not contain standard savings rates for precision irrigation management-type projects (i.e., projects that do not increase the irrigation system efficiency but do increase the Farm Irrigation Rating Index). You will need to provide explanations of the current water use and water savings. Supporting documentation by a Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Mobile Irrigation Lab (or equivalent) audit is beneficial but not required. Estimated savings for your project may be recalculated by District staff if your supporting explanation is unacceptable or otherwise rejected.

You may request assistance in deriving your project's calculated savings from District staff by contacting Adel Peña at (561) 682-2544 or Jim Harmon at (561) 682-6777.