



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Protection

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Ron DeSantis
Governor

Jeanette Nuñez
Lt. Governor

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Memorandum

TO: WMD Executive Directors, CFWI Facilitator
FROM: Stephen James, Director, Office of Water Policy
SUBJECT: Alternative Water Supply Funding
DATE: July 22, 2019



The Governor and Legislature have recognized the importance of alternative water supply and the protection of Florida's natural systems with an investment of \$40 million during the 2019 legislative session. Water resource and water supply development projects help to protect our water resources and ensure that the needs of existing and future users are met. The Department is proud to celebrate this significant funding initiative and we invite you to participate in project proposals and ranking recommendations.

This funding source is intended to prioritize regional projects in the areas of greatest need and those that provide the greatest benefit. As demonstrated in the Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI), the North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership (NFRWSP), and other regional planning documents, as well as in MFL Recovery and Prevention Strategies, there is a critical need for these regional projects. In order to advance those projects with the greatest need and benefit, the Department requests that you kindly confirm and update projects identified in Regional Water Supply Plans and/or Recovery and Prevention Strategies, and provide recommendations, in order of priority, for state funding. The following types of projects and criteria should be considered in making these recommendations:

1. Projects that provide regional benefits, including water resource development projects.
2. Projects that benefit water bodies with adopted Minimum Flows or Minimum Water Levels, particularly those that are in recovery or prevention.
3. Projects that provide dual benefits to water supply and water quality.
4. Projects with complementary efforts, such as AWS projects that also provide water conservation, flood protection, or recreational benefits.
5. Projects that are "shovel ready" or can be timely implemented.
6. Feasibility projects may be included if necessary to implement a regional project.
7. Capital costs per 1,000 gallons of water made available should be evaluated and considered, as appropriate.
8. The return on investment, that is, the amount of funding the state grant will leverage, should be evaluated and considered, as appropriate. Notwithstanding,

recognition of funding limitations of REDI or other economically disadvantaged communities should also be considered.

9. Any listed matching funds must be available during FY 2019-2020 to avoid delay in project completion, as appropriate.

The Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) and the North Florida Regional Water Supply Planning area (NFRWSP) represent examples of regional protection afforded by coordination between water management districts, the Department, and numerous stakeholder groups. Through public processes, these joint planning regions have identified the need to develop water resource and water supply development projects, and the specific projects that will help meet those needs. For the CFWI, the Department asks that the Facilitator coordinate with stakeholders to confirm and update projects identified in the 2015 or 2020 Plan, and submit a list of recommendations in the order of priority rank. For the NFRWSP, the Department asks that the Suwannee River and St. Johns River Water Management Districts *each* confirm and update projects identified in the 2015 RWSP, and to submit separate lists, in order of priority rank.

The Department will consider all recommendations and priorities in selecting the projects of greatest need and benefit to be funded this year. We ask that these recommendations be submitted to the Office of Water Policy, using the attached spreadsheet, by August 30, 2019. As always, we appreciate and value your kind assistance.