



# SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

October 3, 2025

The Honorable Ron DeSantis Governor of Florida The Capitol Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

The Honorable Ben Albritton President of the Florida Senate 409 The Capitol 404 South Monroe Street Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

The Honorable Daniel Perez Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives 420 The Capitol 402 South Monroe Street Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Subject: South Florida Water Management District Adopted Budget Submission for Fiscal Year 2025-26

Dear Governor DeSantis, President Albritton, and Speaker Perez:

The South Florida Water Management District Governing Board respectfully submits its Adopted Budget for October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026 (Fiscal Year 2025-26) of \$1,342,098,977 pursuant to Section 373.536, Florida Statutes. This Adopted Budget continues to support Governor DeSantis' *Achieving Even More Now for Florida's Environment* Executive Order 23-06 to advance Everglades restoration, water resource protection, and improve water quality.

With historic support from Governor DeSantis and the Florida Legislature, the Adopted Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26 includes 57 percent in state revenues which allows the District to expedite progress on critical Everglades restoration and water quality improvement projects. The District also continues to deliver on management of South Florida's primary water management infrastructure that provides flood control and water supply for over 9 million residents and tens of millions of visitors. The Fiscal Year 2025-26 Adopted Budget supports the agency's mission: "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."

The District has a proven record of maximizing resources while delivering essential services effectively and efficiently. Over the past 15 years, the District reduced the number of full-time employees by over 20 percent - over 300 positions- and only increasing the recurring operational budget by 1 percent while simultaneously responding to increasing public demands and responsibilities. During this same period, the District has:

Expanded new critical water infrastructure to operate and maintain by 30 percent,

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- Increased construction contract management by over \$1.5 billion (440 percent increase),
- Increased environmental resource permit processing by 59 percent, and
- More than doubled the project and conservation lands managed (100 percent increase).

To continue to maximize efficiency, the Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget includes targeted expense reductions such as: elimination of 24 vacant FTE positions, a 15 percent decrease in travel, a 40 percent decrease in conferences, a 49 percent decrease in memberships and licenses, a 6 percent decrease in office supplies, a 36 percent decrease in mail courier services, a 46 percent decrease in employee relocation, a 4 percent decrease in information technology, a 10 percent decrease in regulation bank fees, and a 13 percent decrease in department budgets to redirect over \$43 million in revenue toward the rehabilitation, refurbishment, and replacement of the 60+ year old critical flood control infrastructure. In addition, the District continues to maintain a very low administrative overhead at just 3.25 percent.

Together, these actions demonstrate the District's longstanding commitment to fiscal discipline, operational efficiency, and the effective stewardship of taxpayer resources. The Preliminary, Tentative, and Adopted budgets are available on the District's website at <a href="SFWMD.gov/Budget">SFWMD.gov/Budget</a>.

Our Governing Board continues its commitment to increase transparency, accountability and fiscal discipline while maintaining the necessary public service needed to protect and improve South Florida's water resources. Thank you for taking the time to review our budget, and please feel free to contact me or Candida Heater at <a href="mailto:cheater@sfwmd.gov">cheater@sfwmd.gov</a> or (561) 682-6486 if you have any questions about the South Florida Water Management District's Adopted Budget Submission for Fiscal Year 2025-26.

Thank you,

Drew Bartlett Executive Director

Enclosure

CC:

SFWMD Governing Board BCB Governing Board

The Honorable Alexis A. Lambert, Secretary of Florida Department of Environmental Protection Legislative Committee and Subcommittee Chairs County Governing Body Members

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As provided in section 373.536(6)(a)(1), Florida Statutes; "Each district must, by the date specified for each item, furnish copies of the following documents to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the chairs of all legislative committees and subcommittees having substantive or fiscal jurisdiction over the districts, as determined by the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives as applicable, the secretary of the department, and the governing board of each county in which the district has jurisdiction or derives any funds for the operations of the district:

1. The adopted budget, to be furnished within 10 days after its adoption."

## **Executive Office of the Governor**

Governor Ron DeSantis: <a href="mailto:Desantis.opengov@eog.myflorida.com">Desantis.opengov@eog.myflorida.com</a>

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# Office of Policy & Budget

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## Florida Senate - Office of Senate President

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Senator Jason Brodeur, President Pro Tempore: <u>Brodeur.Jason.web@flsenate.gov</u>

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## **Senate Committee on Appropriations**

Senator Ed Hooper, Chair: Hooper.Ed.web@flsenate.gov

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# Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment & General Government

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# **Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources**

Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez, Chair: <a href="mailto:Rodriguez.Anamaria.web@flsenate.gov">Rodriguez.Anamaria.web@flsenate.gov</a> Senator Debbie Mayfield, Vice Chair: <a href="mailto:Mayfield.Debbie.web@flsenate.gov">Mayfield.Debbie.web@flsenate.gov</a>

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# Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections

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Senator Mack Bernard, Vice Chair: <a href="mailto:Bernard.Mack.web@flsenate.gov">Bernard.Mack.web@flsenate.gov</a>

Dawn Roberts, Staff Director: Roberts.Dawn@flsenate.gov

# Senate Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability

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## **House Majority Office**

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# **House Budget Committee**

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## House Agricultural and Natural Resources Budget Subcommittee

Representative Tiffany Esposito, Chair: <u>Tiffany.Esposito@flhouse.gov</u> Representative Adam Botana, Vice Chair: <u>Adam.Botana@flhouse.gov</u>

Bruce Topp, Budget Chief: <a href="mailto:Bruce.Topp@laspbs.state.fl.us">Bruce.Topp@laspbs.state.fl.us</a>

Deshawn Byrd, Budget Analyst: <a href="mailto:Deshawn.Byrd@laspbs.state.fl.us">Deshawn.Byrd@laspbs.state.fl.us</a>

# **House State Affairs Committee**

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## **House Natural Resources & Disasters Subcommittee**

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## **Joint Legislative Budget Commission**

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Senator Jim Boyd: Boyd.Jim.web@flsenate.gov

Representative Lawrence McClure, Alternating Chair: <u>Lawrence.McClure@flhouse.gov</u>

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Senator Darryl Rouson: Rouson.Darryl.web@flsenate.gov

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Pamela Flores, Chief of Natural Sciences, Bureau of Water Policy: <a href="mailto:Pamela.Flores@FloridaDEP.gov">Pamela.Flores@FloridaDEP.gov</a>

Jennifer G. Adams, Environmental Administrator, Bureau of Water Policy: <a href="mailto:Jennifer.G.Adams@FloridaDEP.gov">Jennifer.G.Adams@FloridaDEP.gov</a>

## **County Commission Chairs & Mayors**

Broward County, Beam Furr, Mayor; BFurr@Broward.org

Charlotte County, Joe Tiseo, Chair; <a href="mailto:Joseph.Tiseo@CharlotteCountyFL.gov">Joseph.Tiseo@CharlotteCountyFL.gov</a> Collier County, Burt L. Saunders, Chair; <a href="mailto:Burt.Saunders@colliercountyfl.gov">Burt.Saunders@colliercountyfl.gov</a>

Glades County, Tim Stanley, Chair; <u>TStanley@myglades.com</u> Hendry County, Emma Byrd, Chair; <u>bocc1@hendryfla.net</u>

Highlands County, Arlene Tuck, Chair; atuck@highlandsfl.gov

Lee County, Kevin Ruane, Chair; dist1@leegov.com

Martin County, Sarah Heard, Chair; <a href="mailto:sheard@martin.fl.us">sheard@martin.fl.us</a>

Miami-Dade County, Anthony Rodriguez, Chair; <a href="mailto:District10@miamidade.gov">District10@miamidade.gov</a>

Miami-Dade County, Daniella Levine Cava, Mayor, mayor@miamidade.gov

Monroe County, Jim Scholl, Mayor; boccdis3@monroecounty-fl.gov

Okeechobee County, David Hazellief, Chair; <a href="mailto:dhazellief@okeechobeecountyfl.gov">dhazellief@okeechobeecountyfl.gov</a>

Orange County, Jerry Demings, Mayor; Mayor@ocfl.net

Osceola County, Viviana Janer, Chair; Viviana.Janer@osceola.org

Palm Beach County, Maria Marino, Mayor; <a href="MMarino@pbcgov.org">MMarino@pbcgov.org</a>

Polk County, Rick Wilson, Chair; RickWilson@polk-county.net

St. Lucie County, Jamie Fowler, Chair; Fowlerj@stlucieco.org



The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is a regional governmental agency that oversees the water resources in 16 counties – from Orlando to the Florida Keys.

# **OUR MISSION**

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

Ron DeSantis, Governor

#### **SFWMD Governing Board**

Chauncey Goss, Chairman
Scott Wagner, Vice Chairman
Ron Bergeron Sr.
Ben Butler
Thomas Hurley
Charlie E. Martinez
Charlette Roman
Robert Spottswood, Jr.
Jay Steinle

**Drew Bartlett, SFWMD Executive Director** 

3301 Gun Club Road West Palm Beach, FL 33406 561-686-8800 sfwmd.gov

# **SFWMD 2025-2026 Budget**

Quick Facts on the Oct. 1, 2025-Sept. 30, 2026 Fiscal Year Budget

### **CORE MISSIONS**

Restoration and water resource protection by safeguarding and restoring South Florida's delicate ecosystem by expediting restoration projects and expanding the water quality monitoring network;

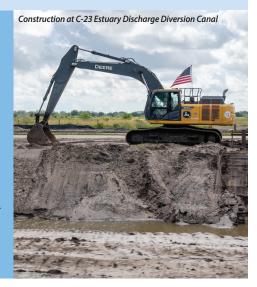
Flood protection of South Florida's communities by refurbishing, replacing, adapting, and managing the components of our primary water management system;

Water supply for South Florida's communities by meeting the water needs of the environment and preparing for current and future demands of water users; and Engaging South Florida's citizens by delivering efficient and cost-effective services.

# **Achieving More with Less**

Over the past 15 years, the District reduced the number of full-time employees by over 20 percent – over 300 positions – and only increasing the recurring operational budget by 1 percent while simultaneously delivering on increasing public demands and responsibilities.

To continue to maximize efficiency, the Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget includes the elimination of 24 vacant FTE positions and a 13 percent decrease in department budgets to redirect over \$43 million in revenue toward the rehabilitation, refurbishment, and replacement of the 60+ year old critical flood control infrastructure.



The South Florida Water Management District Governing Board's Adopted Budget is \$1.342 billion for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year. The budget continues to support Governor Ron DeSantis' Achieving Even More Now for Florida's Environment Executive Order 23-06 to advance Everglades restoration, protect our water resources, and improve water quality.

# Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget Highlights

The Governing Board has dedicated over **90 percent** of the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Adopted Budget to the advancement of ecosystem restoration and water quality projects for South Florida and America's Everglades in addition to the operations, maintenance, and upgrade of critical flood control infrastructure.

**More than \$783 million** to continue Everglades and ecosystem restoration progress:

- Over \$640 million to continue the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) for projects such as the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir Project's Conveyance Improvements, and Reservoir Pump Station, Central Everglades Planning Projects, Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project, Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands, Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project and Indian River Lagoon-South Project, Western Everglades;
- Over \$100 million for Northern Everglades & Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP) including such projects as Dispersed Water Storage and Nutrient Reduction Projects, Expanded Water Quality Monitoring, Grassy Island, Lake Hicpochee Restoration, Boma FEB, C-43 Water Quality Treatment and Testing Facility, and Water Quality and Innovative Technology Grant requests;



# **SFWMD 2025-2026 Budget**

# Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget Highlights (continued)

**More than \$429 million** of funding in support of South Florida's extensive critical flood control and water infrastructure system including:

- Over \$100 million for operations and maintenance capital rehabilitation, refurbishment, and replacement of the 60+ year old critical flood control infrastructure that serves South Florida; and in support of strengthening South Florida's water management system;
- Over \$36 million for necessary investments to address loss of flood protection due to sea level rise and ensure resiliency in flood control, water supply, water quality and the environment for the future that includes;
- Over \$200 million for ongoing operations and maintenance (including harmful invasive species control) of the Central and Southern Florida Project (C&SF), Big Cypress Basin, recreational and conservation areas, and Stormwater Treatment Areas; and
- **\$58.9 million** for hurricane/tropical weather impacts or unanticipated flood protection emergencies.

# **Additional Highlights**

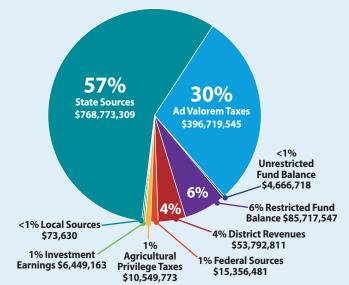
- More than \$17 million for conservation and land stewardship; Acting as good stewards for more than one million acres of public lands; Battling invasive plants and animals.
- More than \$22 million for Big Cypress Basin flood control operations, maintenance, capital improvement projects, and land stewardship.
- More than\$26 million for regulation and public engagement efforts: Enhanced environmental enforcement; Efforts to further expand public engagement and transparency.
- More than \$60 million for science, monitoring and water supply projects: Expand water
  quality monitoring in the Everglades and in several critical estuaries and watersheds;
  Support for numerous alternative water supply projects with local partners through DEP
  to help communities plan for and implement conservation, reuse and other water supply
  and water resource development projects and watershed protection planning.

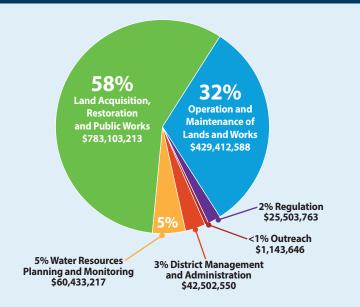
# Revenue Sources and Adopted Millage Rates

- The annual budget is funded by a combination of ad valorem (property) taxes and other revenues such as state appropriations, federal and local sources, fees, investment earnings and agricultural privilege taxes.
- The millage rate for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year represents \$23.01 annually per \$100,000 of taxable value in 15 of the District's 16 counties (Okeechobee Basin).
- The millage rate for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year represents \$19.26 annually per \$100,000 of taxable value in Collier and mainland Monroe counties (Big Cypress Basin).









# **SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

SOURCE AND USE OF FUNDS, RESERVES AND WORKFORCE

# **ADOPTED BUDGET - Fiscal Year 2025-2026**

	Fiscal Year 2025-2026	Fiscal Year 2025-2026
	(Tentative Budget)	(Adopted Budget)
SOURCE OF FUNDS		
Utilization of Fund Balance	\$ 90,384,265	\$ 90,384,265
District Revenues	467,511,292	467,511,292
Local Revenues	73,630	73,630
State Revenues	852,273,309	768,773,309
Federal Revenues	15,356,481	15,356,481
SOURCE OF FUND TOTAL	\$1,425,598,977	\$1,342,098,977
USE OF FUNDS		
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 191,309,054	\$ 191,309,054
Other Personal Services	263,128	263,128
Contracted Services	86,955,938	86,955,938
Operating Expenses	195,352,181	207,352,181
Operating Capital Outlay	104,357,002	74,357,002
Fixed Capital Outlay	724,814,837	659,314,837
Interagency Expenditures (Cooperative Funding)	33,321,690	33,321,690
Debt	30,244,625	30,244,625
Reserves - Emergency Response	58,980,522	58,980,522
USE OF FUNDS TOTAL	. \$1,425,598,977	\$1,342,098,977
RESERVES (ESTIMATED 9/30/2025)		
Nonspendable	\$ 25,084,638	\$ 25,084,638
Restricted	125,232,747	125,232,747
Committed	-	-
Assigned	15,742,735	15,742,735
Unassigned	-	-
TOTAL RESERVES	\$166,060,120	\$166,060,120
WORKFORCE		
Authorized Position (Full-Time Equivalents/FTE)	1,523	1,523
Contingent Worker (Independent Contractors)	-	-
Other Personal Services (OPS)	3	3
Intern	-	-
Volunteer	-	-
TOTAL WORKFORCE	1,526	1,526

### Reserves:

Nonspendable - amounts required to be maintained intact as principal or an endowment

Restricted - amounts that can be spent only for specific purposes like grants or through enabling legislation

Committed - amounts that can be used only for specific purposes determined and set by the District Governing Board

Assigned - amounts intended to be used for specific contracts or purchase orders

Unassigned - available balances that may be used for a yet to be determined purpose in the general fund only

# South Florida Water Management District Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Reserves

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES	FISCAL YEAR 2025 - 2026 Adopted Budget
1.0 Water Resources Planning and Monitoring	\$60,433,217
1.1 - District Water Management Planning	19,871,267
1.1.1 Water Supply Planning	13,584,110
1.1.2 Minimum Flows and Levels	15,856
1.1.3 Other Water Resources Planning	6,271,301
1.2 - Research, Data Collection, Analysis and Monitoring	36,270,942
1.3 - Technical Assistance	187,769
1.4 - Other Water Resources Planning and Monitoring Activities	-
1.5 - Technology & Information Services	4,103,239
2.0 Acquisition, Restoration and Public Works	783,103,213
2.1 - Land Acquisition	-
2.2 - Water Source Development	14,424,044
2.2.1 Water Resource Development Projects	294,768
2.2.2 Water Supply Development Assistance	14,129,276
2.2.3 Other Water Source Development Activities	705.000.540
2.3 - Surface Water Projects	765,990,543
2.4 - Other Cooperative Projects	428,435
2.5 - Facilities Construction and Major Renovations	
2.6 - Other Acquisition and Restoration Activities	2 260 404
2.7 - Technology & Information Service	2,260,191
3.0 Operation and Maintenance of Lands and Works	\$429,412,588
3.1 - Land Management	19,704,129
3.2 - Works 3.3 - Facilities	326,526,494
3.4 - Invasive Plant Control	4,104,525
3.5 - Other Operation and Maintenance Activities	47,597,149 7,925,063
3.6 - Fleet Services	9,316,189
3.7 - Technology & Information Services	14,239,039
4.0 Regulation	\$25,503,763
4.1 - Consumptive Use Permitting	5,857,179
4.2 - Water Well Construction Permitting and Contractor Licensi	
4.3 - Environmental Resource and Surface Water Permitting	10,952,422
4.4 - Other Regulatory and Enforcement Activities	4,600,433
4.5 - Technology & Information Service	4,093,729
5.0 Outreach	1,143,646
5.1 - Water Resource Education	.,,
5.2 - Public Information	1,112,146
5.3 - Public Relations	-
5.4 - Washington D.C. Representation	31,500
5.5 - Other Outreach Activities	-
5.6 - Technology & Information Service	-
SUBTOTAL - Major Programs (excluding Management and Administration)	\$1,299,596,427
6.0 District Management and Administration	\$42,502,550
6.1 - Administrative and Operations Support	35,380,490
6.1.1 - Executive Direction	962,535
6.1.2 - General Counsel / Legal	3,538,410
6.1.3 - Inspector General	763,982
6.1.4 - Administrative Support	13,921,582
6.1.5 - Fleet Services	-
6.1.6 - Procurement / Contract Administration	2,762,783
6.1.7 - Human Resources	2,538,075
6.1.8 - Communications	306,606
6.1.9 - Technology & Information Services	10,586,517
6.2 - Computer/Computer Support	-
6.3 - Reserves	-
6.4 Other (Tay Callester / Dranagh (Appraisan Face)	7 100 000
6.4 - Other - (Tax Collector / Property Appraiser Fees)	7,122,060

		FISCAL YEAR
PROGRAMS WITH EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	Work Force	2025 - 2026
	roice	Adopted Budget
1.0 Water Resources Planning and Monitoring		\$60,433,217
Salaries and Benefits	229	28,544,374
Other Personal Services	1	175,662
Contracted Services		11,992,459
Operating Expenses Operating Capital Outlay		16,809,336
Fixed Capital Outlay		178,500
Interagency Expenditures		2,732,886
Debt		
Reserves		
2.0 Acquisition, Restoration and Public Works		\$783,103,213
Salaries and Benefits Other Personal Services	172	22,900,253
Contracted Services		56,509,769
Operating Expenses		48,081,733
Operating Capital Outlay		58,826,169
Fixed Capital Outlay		536,908,005
Interagency Expenditures		29,632,659
Debt		30,244,625
Reserves 3.0 Operation and Maintenance of Lands and Works		£420,442,500
Salaries and Benefits	799	<b>\$429,412,588</b> 97,624,753
Other Personal Services	733	37,024,733
Contracted Services		14,089,577
Operating Expenses		121,190,426
Operating Capital Outlay		14,164,333
Fixed Capital Outlay		122,406,832
Interagency Expenditures		956,145
Debt Reserves		58,980,522
4.0 Regulation		\$25,503,763
Salaries and Benefits	158	19,098,567
Other Personal Services	2	87,466
Contracted Services		391,019
Operating Expenses		5,926,711
Operating Capital Outlay		
Fixed Capital Outlay		
Interagency Expenditures  Debt		
Reserves		
5.0 Outreach		\$1,143,646
Salaries and Benefits	8	1,067,396
Other Personal Services		
Contracted Services		30,100
Operating Expenses		46,150
Operating Capital Outlay Fixed Capital Outlay		
Interagency Expenditures		
Debt		
Reserves		
6.0 District Management and Administration		\$42,502,550
Salaries and Benefits	157	22,073,711
Other Personal Services Contracted Services		3,943,014
Operating Expenses		15,297,825
Operating Capital Outlay		1,188,000
Fixed Capital Outlay		
Interagency Expenditures		
Debt		
Reserves		
ALL PROGRAMS	1,526	\$1,342,098,977
Salaries and Benefits	1,523	\$191,309,054
Other Personal Services Contracted Services	3	\$263,128 \$86,055,038
Operating Expenses		\$86,955,938 \$207,352,181
Operating Expenses Operating Capital Outlay		\$74,357,002
Fixed Capital Outlay		\$659,314,837
Interagency Expenditures		\$33,321,690
Debt		\$30,244,625

\$58,980,522







Ron DeSantis, Governor

**SFWMD Governing Board** Chauncey Goss, Chairman Scott Wagner, Vice Chairman Ron Bergeron Sr. **Ben Butler** Charlie E. Martinez Robert Spottswood, Jr.

**Jay Steinle** 

### **SFWMD Executive Management**

**Drew Bartlett**, Executive Director **Jill Creech,** Regulation Director Lisa Koehler, Big Cypress Basin Administrator

Jill Margolius, Communications Director

**Libby Pigman,** External Affairs Director

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