

splash!

quick facts on...

Alternative Water Supply Funding Program

ASSISTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES DEVELOP ALTERNATIVE WATER SOURCES

SEPTEMBER 2006

The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts.

Our mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems, and water supply.

It's easy to take water for granted.

More than 3 billion gallons of water are used every day in central and southern Florida by a booming population of about 7 million people – water for drinking and bathing, irrigating our lawns and landscape, growing our crops, and servicing our industries. By 2025, this demand is expected to reach 4.2 billion gallons per day. In the past, we have relied on traditional water sources such as shallow groundwater for our water supply. We've used that water once then disposed of it forever. However, it is becoming increasingly difficult to meet our water supply needs using only traditional sources.

The good news is that today, through the advancement of technology, we have proven tools that can help us tap into alternative water supplies. Highly treated wastewater and brackish water from deep underground aquifers, for example, are being used to expand our water supply and help us meet future water needs.

Precedent-setting law promotes sustainability

To address the challenge of ensuring the state's water supply, the 2005 Florida Legislature enacted the Water Protection and Sustainability Program or Senate Bill 444. This new, precedent-setting law encourages cooperation between municipalities, counties, and the state's five water management districts in the protection and development of water supplies. More specifically, the law requires the regional water supply planning function of water management districts to promote alternative water supply projects—



To ensure adequate water supplies for Florida's future, alternative sources are being developed and funded under a new law.

for example tapping reclaimed and storm water—to both accommodate growth and to reduce the use of traditional ground and surface water supplies, such as aquifers and lakes.

Funding for alternative water supply projects

The bill provides significant annual recurring state funding, underscoring the state's commitment to protect and enhance our water supply. Funds available under the comprehensive program will be administered and matched by Florida's five water

Florida's Water
It's Worth Saving

management districts for alternative water supply projects. The South Florida Water Management District administers funds through the Alternative Water Supply Funding Program. Cities, utilities, homeowners associations, community development districts, and other water users and suppliers can apply for up to 40% of project construction cost under the new program. Each water management district will identify projects for potential funding in the regional water supply plans, which are updated every five years. Funding for projects will be applied annually.

What are alternative water supply projects?

Examples of alternative water supply projects that will be considered for funding include:

- **Use of Saline Water Sources**—Making brackish water from the Floridan Aquifer available for drinking water.
- **Aquifer Storage and Recovery**—Storing water deep in an aquifer system during times of excess and recovering the stored water during dry times when it is needed.
- **Reclaimed Water Use**—Utilizing reclaimed water for a beneficial purpose, including irrigation of residential lots, golf courses and other green space, ground water recharge, and industrial use.

For more information about alternative water supply project funding, contact Jane Bucca at 561-682-6791 (jbucca@sfwmd.gov) or visit: <http://www.sfwmd.gov/org/wsd/aws/index.html>

Other funding opportunities for water conservation

Alternative water supply projects do not include water conservation projects such as irrigation system rain sensors, low-flow plumbing fixtures, and other hardware or technology that saves water. An annual funding program called the Water Savings Incentive Program—WaterSIP—provides matching funds to water providers for installing water-saving technology. For more information on this program, contact Bruce Adams at 561-682-6785 (badams@sfwmd.gov) or visit: sfwmd.gov/org/wsd/wsconservation/waterconsfundingprogram.html

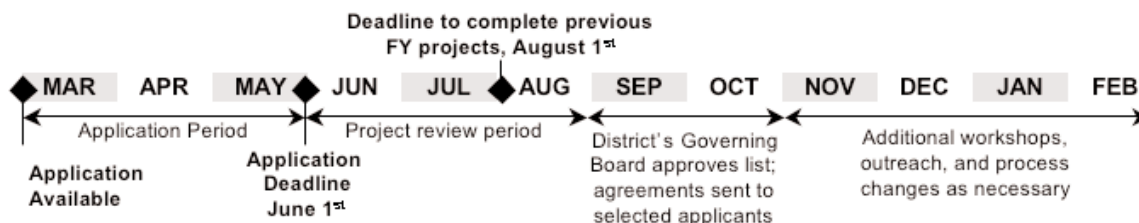


The State of Florida is committed to development of alternative water supply projects, like this reverse osmosis facility.

We're here to help

Alternative water supply projects are not a new concept at the South Florida Water Management District. We have been cooperatively developing, funding, and implementing alternative water supply projects for 10 years under our Alternative Water Supply Grant Program prior to passage of Senate Bill 444. Between 1997 and 2004, 139 grant projects have created more than 340 million gallons of water per day, some of which would have been disposed of after being used only once!

Our team of expert engineers, planners, hydrogeologists, project managers, and others are here to assist you through the process of identifying projects for funding consideration under the new Alternative Water Supply Funding Program.



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