

splash!

quick facts on...

Linking Land and Water Planning

10-YEAR WATER SUPPLY FACILITY WORK PLANS

OCTOBER 2005

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.

New 2005 Legislation

With freshwater demands increasing to meet the needs of a booming population, the 2005 Florida Legislature strengthened the coordination of water supply and land use planning in Senate Bills 360 and 444. For the first time, a direct statutory linkage was created between the state's five water management districts' regional water supply plans and local government comprehensive plans throughout the state.

Local governments are encouraged to assist water management districts in the development of regional water supply plans, including proposed inclusions of specific, locally preferred alternative water supply projects into the plans. Subsequent selection by a local government of an alternative water supply project listed in the resulting regional water supply plan is eligible for state and district funding, and provides a new degree of planning consistency between the development of water management district plans and local government comprehensive plans.

Each local government is to now include, in its comprehensive plan's potable water element, a minimum 10-year work plan for building all public, private and regional water supply facilities necessary to serve existing and new development within its jurisdiction. Building upon the water management district's regional water supply plan efforts, these local government 10-year water supply facility work plans must project future water supply demands, identify the water supply sources available to meet those demands and identify all water supply projects that need to be constructed. They will also include the schedules for permitting, constructing and operating all needed public, private and

regional water supply facilities within the local government's jurisdiction.

Other associated comprehensive plan amendments include:

- (1) **POTABLE WATER ELEMENT:** The identification of the alternative water supply project or projects selected from the regional water supply plan, any traditional water supply projects to be undertaken and the conservation and reuse programs that local governments will implement to meet projected demands.
- (2) **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ELEMENT:** Any necessary amendments to the local government's comprehensive plan five year schedule of capital improvements to build local government water supply facilities.



Reverse Osmosis (RO) membranes can treat water from a variety of sources, including the nanofiltration of fresh groundwater, brackish water and even seawater.

What are alternative water supplies?

These are non-traditional sources of public water supply. In the new law these include such sources as

brackish surface and groundwater; reclaimed water; surface water captured predominately during wet-weather flows in reservoirs or aquifer storage and recovery systems; saltwater and other sources made available through the addition of new storage capacity for surface or groundwater.

Florida's Water
It's Worth Saving

When are the work plans due?

All local governments within the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) must prepare and adopt a minimum 10-year water supply facility work plan into their comprehensive plans within 18 months following the approval of an update to an existing regional water supply plan by the SFWMD governing board (except for local governments located within the Wekiva River Study Area, which have a new December 1, 2006 deadline). The SFWMD regional water supply plan updates are all currently scheduled to be approved during fiscal year 2006. This would mean that local government 10-year water supply facility work plans, and related amendments, would need to be incorporated into comprehensive plans during 2007 or early 2008. The amendments are exempt from the normal twice-a-year restriction on comprehensive plan amendments.



Wastewater reclamation facilities can be conveniently added to existing treatment sites to provide an additional water resource to growing cities.

Where can I get help with this effort?

The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) is planning a set of growth management workshops during the fall of 2005 to discuss the new growth management legislation in each regional planning council area.

During 2006, after the approval of each SFWMD regional water supply plan, DCA and SFWMD are planning to hold regional water supply plan workshops in each of the four regions covered

by the plans. The purpose of these workshops will be to explain the new water supply requirements, identify what information will be needed and is available in the regional water supply plans to address these requirements, and discuss what comprehensive plan amendments will be required. Local government planners, utilities and water supply representatives will be invited to these workshops and will be given an opportunity to discuss the potential problems local governments and their water suppliers foresee in meeting these requirements.



Distinctive "purple pipes" identify reclaimed water lines for irrigation use and other purposes not requiring drinking water.

SFWMD is working with DCA, Florida's other four water management districts and the Department of Environmental Protection in preparing a technical assistance document that will include guidelines for preparing comprehensive plan amendments in response to these new 10-year water supply facility work plan requirements.

These informal guidelines will assist local governments in the preparation of their 10-year water supply facility work plans. These guidelines address how to prepare the work plan, what information to include and when to adopt the work plan.

Once prepared, the new guidelines will be found on the DCA Water Supply Planning web page:

<http://www.dca.state.fl.us/fdcp/dcp/WaterSupplyPlanning/index.cfm>

and the South Florida Water Management District's Evaluation & Appraisal Report (EAR) & 10-year work plan technical assistance web page:

www.sfwmd.gov/org/wsd/ear/index.html.

These web sites also provide an abundance of general and technical information regarding the new legislation, new funding available from water management districts for alternative water supply development, regional water supply plans and the 10-year water supply facility work plans. Additionally, both agencies have designated specific agency staff to assist local governments with these efforts:

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Contact lists for assistance from the other four water management districts can be found on the DCA Water Supply Planning web page:

<http://www.dca.state.fl.us/fdcp/dcp/WaterSupplyPlanning/index.cfm>



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