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quick facts on...

# Water Supply Program

OCTOBER 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.

## 2006 Key Accomplishments

- **77 alternative water supply projects built by local partners**
- **171 million gallons per day of new water created**
- **\$43.1 million State and South Florida Water Management District funds available for 2007 projects under the new Senate Bill 444 Alternative Water Supply Funding Program**



*Water Supply Program continues its aggressive implementation of Senate Bill 444 Alternative Water Supply initiative.*

The Water Supply Program is responsible for the District's evaluation of long-term water supply needs, and the planning and development of needed water resource development projects.

Four regional water supply plans are developed and implemented to meet the water supply needs of present and future populations, agriculture and natural systems, pursuant to the requirements of the Florida Water Resources Act. Development of alternative water supplies and water conservation are encouraged through a combination of strategies, including regulatory and financial incentives. Two grant programs are available for these efforts: the Water Savings Incentive Program (WaterSIP) and the Alternative Water Supply Funding Program.

The Supply-Side Management Plan is developed and implemented to allocate water from Lake Okeechobee during droughts. Computer modeling is used when appropriate to evaluate the effectiveness of proposed solutions in meeting projected human demands and environmental

## Agency Strategic Priority

**Meet the current and future demands of water users and the environment**

## Program Goal

**Ensure an adequate supply of water to protect natural systems and to meet all existing and projected reasonable-beneficial users, while sustaining water resources for future generations**

requirements. Environmental targets are developed for major ecosystems by the Coastal Watersheds and other programs, and are incorporated into planning and permitting efforts.

Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) and initial reservations for natural systems help ensure the sustainability of water resources. If minimum targets cannot be met, recovery plans are developed. Initial reservations prevent the allocation of water needed to protect fish and wildlife.

Water Use Permitting (see Regulation Program) is a powerful tool used to implement Water Supply Plans, MFLs and initial reservations. The Water Supply Program provides strong support to the Lake Okeechobee Program regarding revisions of the lake's regulation schedule and implementation of the Lake Okeechobee and Estuary Recovery (LOER) Plan. The Water Supply Program also coordinates with local government comprehensive planning efforts, creating a linkage between land use and water supply planning.



Seventy-seven alternative water supply projects built by local partners in fiscal year 2006 will yield 171 million gallons a day of new water – enough to meet the daily needs of 1 million people.

## Strategies

- Implement key recommendations of the water supply plans in all four planning regions
- Provide financial and regulatory incentives, plus technical assistance, to help water suppliers diversify their water supply by developing alternative sources, including reuse, brackish water sources and Aquifer Storage & Recovery
- Establish Minimum Flows and Levels and initial reservations
- Provide funding and regulatory incentives to encourage water users to promote efficient use of water resources through conservation
- Assure the linkage between land use and water supply plans by providing technical assistance to local governments
- Ensure continuing consistency between water use permitting, water supply planning and environmental restoration
- Use numerical models to assist in evaluating new water resource projects and their effects on human and natural systems

## Success Indicators

- Completion of alternative water supply projects
- Regional water supply plan updates for all four planning areas completed in 2006, and then updated within five years
- Initial reservations adopted on schedule
- Local government comprehensive plans, Evaluation and Appraisal Reports, and 10-year Water Supply Facility Work Plans reviewed
- Rules adopted to protect water resources and maximize efficient use of water supplies
- Amount of water made available through water resource development and water supply development
- Number of MFLs by water body type established annually and cumulatively
- Percentage of MFLs established in accordance with the previous year's schedule
- Per capita water use (public supply)
- Percentage of domestic reuse
- Percentage of surface water supply sources for which water quality attains its designated use
- Trends in ground water quality: improving, degrading, or stable



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