

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Stacey Payseno, Division of Flood Control and Water Supply Planning

DATE: May 14, 2026

SUBJECT: Alternative Water Supply Funding Program

Agenda Item Background:

This item includes a presentation of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Alternative Water Supply Funding Program (Program) which includes a recap and the final project list for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) submittal by May 31, 2026. The Program's purpose is to provide financial incentives through matching grants for local alternative water supply (AWS) and water conservation projects. 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.

Additional Item Background:

Staff is seeking Governing Board authorization for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Program to:

- A. Approve and submit the final project list in Exhibit A to the DEP for funding consideration for the DEP Alternative Water Supply Grant Program and execute reimbursement grant agreements with the DEP for identified projects that receive legislative appropriations.
- B. Authorization to enter into agreement(s) with cooperating entities for the identified alternative water supply and water conservation projects listed in Exhibit A that receive state appropriations for which funding is subject to legislative appropriations and Governing Board approval of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget.

The State has recognized the importance of AWS development and the last seven fiscal year budgets have included a combined \$335 million in statewide cost-share funding to support development of alternative water supply projects. The DEP administers this funding and relies on a priority list of projects submitted by each of the State's water management districts for consideration. Pursuant to the DEP Alternative Water Supply Funding Guidance document, the water management districts must provide an annual list of projects to DEP for funding consideration by the end of May, in anticipation of AWS funding being approved in the State's budget. Currently, the State's Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget has not been finalized but the tentative amount is \$50 million in statewide funding.

For Fiscal Year 2026-2027, a total of 25 AWS and water conservation applications were received by the District. Staff reviewed the applications based on Governing Board guidelines and potential FDEP funding considerations including: regional benefits, shovel readiness, resource protection, and complementary benefits such as flood protection and recreation. The District's final project list to be submitted for funding consideration has total capital/project costs of \$1.35 billion and eligible phase/implementation costs over \$184.5 million with a total funding request of \$63.8 million.

Core Mission and Strategic Priorities:

This program supports the District’s water supply core mission, and alternative water supply and water conservation strategic priorities.

Funding Source:

Fiscal Year 2026-2027: Anticipated recurring or prior year state appropriations as outlined in Executive Order 23-06 (Achieving Even More Now for Florida’s Environment) for alternate water supply and water conservation projects. If legislative appropriations are received, the District is required to match that funding. The District has identified projects in the 5-Year Water Resources Development Work Program to meet the match requirements. If there are no legislative appropriations for AWS funding, there will be no required match on behalf of the District.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

Stacey Payseno, spayseno@sfwmd.gov, 561-682-2577

ATTACHMENTS:

[A. Resolution No. 2026-0507](#)

[B. Resolution No. 2026-0508](#)

[Exhibit A](#)