

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Jennifer Smith, Chief of Staff

DATE: December 11, 2025

SUBJECT: Strategic Plan 2026-2031

Agenda Item Background:

This agenda item presents the District's 2026-2031 Strategic Plan and requests Governing Board approval in accordance with Section 373.036, Florida Statutes. The Strategic Plan reflects ongoing direction from the Governing Board and outlines updated agency priorities, objectives, and policy guidance.

Each year between October and December, staff reviews and updates the Strategic Plan to establish high-level priorities that guide development of the preliminary budget. Following Board approval, the plan will be incorporated into the Preliminary Fiscal Year 2026-2027 District Budget, which will be submitted to the Governor and Legislature on January 15, 2026.

As part of this year's update, public comments were gathered and reviewed. Importantly, the 2026-2031 Strategic Plan includes enhanced Strategic Priorities, Success Indicators, and Strategic Project recommendations that directly support the major July 2025 announcement by Governor Ron DeSantis. This landmark agreement between the State of Florida and the U.S. Department of the Army advances a renewed, accelerated commitment to restoring America's Everglades. The updated plan highlights the District's role in delivering on this accelerated restoration effort and aligning District initiatives with the strengthened federal-state partnership.

The Strategic Plan reaffirms the District'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." It also underscores the District's responsibility for the management and resiliency of South Florida's primary water management infrastructure, which provides essential flood control and water supply for over 9 million residents and tens of millions of annual visitors.

Additional Item Background:

Core Mission and Strategic Priorities:

The Strategic plan sets the priorities that align with the District's core missions.

Funding Source:

Multiple funding sources fund the projects and process that align with the strategic plan priorities.

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ATTACHMENTS:

[Resolution No. 2025-1211](#)

[Draft Final Strategic Plan 2026-2031](#)