

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Drew Bartlett, Executive Office

DATE: July 9, 2026

SUBJECT: Budget Development Approach for Transitioning from Fiscal Year 2025-26 to Fiscal Year 2026-27

Agenda Item Background:

The South Florida Water Management District (District) continues to support South Florida ecosystem restoration and the management of South Florida's primary water management infrastructure that provides flood control and water supply for over nine million residents. The District has a proven record of maximizing resources while delivering essential services effectively and efficiently. The District has become extremely lean but consistently delivers results and optimizes resources to achieve more with less. New critical water infrastructure, the number of acres to manage, and the volume of repairs and replacements for aging infrastructure has increased. The next fiscal year budget must demonstrate the District's longstanding commitment to delivering on its core mission with fiscal discipline, operational efficiency, and the effective stewardship of taxpayer resources.

As the District continues to increase focus on repairing and adapting the flood control system, District data demonstrates the success of operating new restoration project infrastructure across our region - proving recent investments and momentum are working. Major CERP projects including the Caloosahatchee (C-43) Reservoir, the St. Lucie (C-44) Reservoir, Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands and the Picayune Strand Restoration Project are operational.

Over the last seven years, more water is moving through the Everglades, salinity levels in Florida Bay have improved, and harmful estuary discharges from Lake Okeechobee are down dramatically.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:
Drew Bartlett

ATTACHMENTS: