

Chapter 5B: Alternative Water Supply Annual Report

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INTRODUCTION

Due to the limitations that exist on development of traditional freshwater sources within the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD or District), regional water supply plans have concluded most future increases in water needs will be met primarily through development of alternative water sources and conservation. Alternative water sources include nontraditional water supplies, such as brackish groundwater, surface water captured during wet weather, and reclaimed water. The District's program to support development of Alternative Water Supply (AWS) projects has been successful for more than a decade. Since 1997, this program has approved \$185.5 million for the construction of 468 AWS projects.

In 2005, the Florida legislature revised state law and created the Water Protection and Sustainability Program (WPSP) [Chapter 373, Florida Statutes (F.S.)], which established annually recurring state funding, which must be matched by the water management districts, to support AWS development. Pursuant to Chapter 373.707, F.S., each water management district is required to submit an annual report to the Florida legislature and governor on AWS funding efforts. State and District matching funds are administered through the District's AWS Funding Program and are only available for construction. Since Fiscal Year 2009 (FY2009) (October 1, 2008–September 30, 2009), the legislature has not provided funding to the WPSP, though the District appropriated ad valorem revenues for the program in FY2011 and FY2012.

Prior to 2005, the District provided annual funding to entities pursuant to Chapter 373.707, F.S., which directed the water management districts to share their ad valorem tax revenues with public and private entities willing to develop sustainable alternative water resources. During the three years preceding the WPSP legislation, FY2003 through FY2005 (October 1, 2002–September 30, 2005), the District funded 79 projects with \$14.8 million that created 106 million gallons per day (mgd) of additional AWS capacity. From FY2006 through FY2011 (October 1, 2005–September 30, 2011), the District approved over \$165 million in funding (including WPSP funds) for 285 projects that created over 420 mgd of additional alternative water capacity.

FISCAL YEAR 2012 PROJECT FUNDING

Due to budget constraints at state and local levels, the State of Florida has not allocated funding for AWS projects in FY2012; however, the District has allocated \$1.25 million and the Big Cypress Basin Board \$1.82 million in their FY2012 budgets. In September and October 2011, the District's Governing Board approved \$1.82 million for four Big Cypress Basin Board projects. In October 2011, the Governing Board approved \$900,000 to fund three projects District wide. These seven projects are designed to create an additional 10.8 mgd of AWS capacity. **Table 5B-1** summarizes project details. Funding was awarded for construction that will occur between October 1, 2011 and August 15, 2012.

Table 5B-1. Overview of alternative water supply (AWS) projects for October 1, 2011–August 31, 2012

Project Name	Entity Name	Alternative Water Source	Region	County	FY2012 Start Date	Phase Water Made Available (mgd)	Total Water Made Available (mgd)	FY2012 Construction Cost	SFWMF Funding
3.5 mgd Reclaimed Water Facility Phase II-B	Davie	Reclaimed	Lower East Coast	Broward	October 2011	3.50 ¹	3.50 ¹	\$917,600	\$100,000
Total for projects in Broward County						0.00	0.00	\$917,600	\$100,000
1.3 mgd Lake Region Water Treatment Plant Floridan Wellfield Improvements	Palm Beach County Utilities	Brackish	Lower East Coast	Palm Beach	October 2011	1.30	1.30	\$1,583,140	\$500,000
Total for projects in Palm Beach County						1.30	1.30	\$1,583,140	\$500,000
Lower East Coast Total						1.30	1.30	\$2,500,740	\$600,000
1.5 mgd Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment Plant, Phase 1A	LaBelle	Brackish	Lower West Coast	Hendry	October 2011	1.50	1.50	\$1,316,590	\$300,000
Total for projects in Hendry County						1.50	1.50	\$1,316,590	\$300,000
Lower West Coast Total						1.50	1.50	\$1,316,590	\$300,000
North County Regional Water Treatment Plant Modification	Collier County Utilities	Brackish	Lower West Coast- Big Cypress Basin Board	Collier – Big Cypress Basin Board	October 2011	8.00	8.00	\$2,200,000	\$250,000
Aquifer Storage and Recovery Well at Livingston Road	Collier County Utilities	Surface Water	Lower West Coast- Big Cypress Basin Board	Collier – Big Cypress Basin Board	October 2011	2.00 ¹	2.00 ¹	\$2,000,000	\$100,000
Aquifer Storage and Recovery Well Program – Wells #3 & #4	Naples	Reclaimed	Lower West Coast- Big Cypress Basin Board	Collier – Big Cypress Basin Board	October 2011	10.00 ¹	10.00 ¹	\$2,500,000	\$980,000
Reclaimed Water Production Facility Phase III – Expansion	Marco Island	Reclaimed	Lower West Coast- Big Cypress Basin Board	Collier – Big Cypress Basin Board	October 2011	5.00 ¹	5.00 ¹	\$3,300,000	\$490,000
Big Cypress Basin Board Total						8.00	8.00	\$10,000,000	\$1,820,000
GRAND TOTAL						10.80	10.80	\$13,817,330	\$2,720,000

¹ Phased project; water previously counted or will be counted in future years.

Because many projects are constructed over several years, water made available is reported in two parts: (1) the quantity of water to be made available during this phase (by August 15, 2012) and (2) the total water made available upon project completion. Of the seven projects funded, five are multiyear projects (see footnote of **Table 5B-1**). The multiyear projects will require reapplication for funding in subsequent years for future phases if funds are available.