

# Chapter 5B: Alternative Water Supply Annual Report

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## INTRODUCTION

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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 developing alternative water sources and conservation. Alternative water sources include non-traditional water supplies, such as brackish groundwater, surface water captured during wet weather, and reclaimed water as identified in the applicable regional water supply plan. The District's program to support development of Alternative Water Supply (AWS) projects has been successful for more than a decade.

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## ALTERNATIVE WATER SUPPLY PROGRAM

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Prior to 2005, the District provided annual funding to entities pursuant to Chapter 373.707, Florida Statutes (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. For Fiscal Years (FY; October 1-September 30) 2003–2005, the District funded 79 projects with \$14.8 million that created 106 million gallons per day (mgd) of additional AWS capacity.

In 2005, the Florida legislature revised state law and created the Water Protection and Sustainability Program (WPSP; Chapter 373, F.S.), which established annually recurring state funding (that 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 SFWMD matching funds are administered through the District's Alternative Water Supply Funding Program and are only available for construction. Since FY2009, the legislature has not provided funding to the WPSP, though the District continued to budget ad valorem revenues for the program in FY2011, FY2012, FY2013, and FY2014. From FY2006–FY2014, the District approved over \$172 million in funding (including WPSP funds, including carry forward amounts) for over 300 projects that created over 434 mgd of additional alternative water capacity. Since 1997, the District's AWS funding program has approved \$193.5 million for the construction of 488 AWS projects.

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## FISCAL YEAR 2015 PROJECT FUNDING

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Due to budget constraints at state and local levels, neither the State of Florida nor the District has allocated funding for AWS projects in FY2015. At the time of this publication, no AWS projects have been approved for funding in FY2015. Further information on the agency's AWS program are available on the District's website at [www.sfwmd.gov/AWS](http://www.sfwmd.gov/AWS).