St. Johns River Water Management District

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
AGENDA
October 13, 2026
Governing Board Room
SJRWMD District Headquarters
4049 Reid Street
Palatka, FL 32177

NOTE: One or more of Governing Board members may attend and participate in the meeting by means of communications media technology.

The order of items appearing on the agenda is subject to change during the meeting.

Governing Board Meeting - 10:00 AM

Regular Agenda

1.1. **For Information:** Employee Awards.

1.2. **For Information:** The Hydrologic Conditions Report.

1.3. **Consideration:** Approve Consent Agenda items.

1.4. **Consideration:** Approve Consumptive Use Permit 70-13, known as St. Johns Improvement District. This application is a renewal of an existing agricultural permit with no change in surface water allocation from 28.43 mgd and no change in transferred surface water allocation from 3.81 mgd through the year 2046.

1.5. **Consideration:** Approve Consumptive Use Permit 2508-10, known as Flowertree/Cannon. This application is for the modification and consolidation of five existing agricultural use permits with a proposed allocation of 0.41 million gallons per day (mgd) of groundwater from the Upper Floridan aquifer and 0.22 mgd of surface water from Lake Yale for irrigation of 375 acres of agricultural cultivated crops and livestock watering through 2039.

1.6. **Consideration:** Approve Consumptive Use Permit 252071-1, known as Tater Farms Canal 17. This application is for a new agricultural use permit with a proposed allocation of 1.21 million gallons per day (mgd) of groundwater from the Upper Floridan aquifer (UFA) and surface water for irrigation of 1,050 acres of agricultural cultivated crops. To facilitate the transition to a lower quality water source, the UFA allocation is 1.21 mgd through 2031 and 0.726 mgd through 2046. Surface water will provide 0.484 mgd through 2046.

1.7. **Consideration:** Approve the Bureau of Operations and Maintenance Work Plan for FY 2026–27 with a not-to-exceed total funding cap of $3,370,000 and authorize the Executive Director or his designee to take the necessary actions in support of the District's Operations and Maintenance

Program.

1.8. **Consideration:** Approve the 2026 Middle St. Johns River Basin Plan.

1.9. **Consideration:** Election of Governing Board Officers for FY 2026-27.

1.10. **For Information:** Public comment.

Consent Agenda

2.1. **Consideration:** Approve minutes of the September 4, 2026 Tentative Budget Hearing; September 8, 2026 Governing Board Meeting; and September 18, 2026 Final Budget Hearing.

2.2. **Consideration:** Approve the Treasurer's Financial Report dated August 31, 2026.

2.3. **Consideration:** Authorize the Executive Director or his designee to take actions related to the purchase and replacement of motor vehicles and fleet assets for FY 2026–27 in an amount not-to-exceed $2,735,000.

2.4. **Consideration:** Approve award and authorize the Executive Director to (1) negotiate and execute a contract for a not-to-exceed amount of $180,504 with Underwater Engineering Services, Inc., the lowest responsible and responsive bidder, for installing approximately 200 linear feet of steel sheet pile on the south bank of Lake Washington upstream of the Lake Washington Weir; and (2) execute all related budget transfers.

2.5. **Consideration:** Authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute a cost-share contract with Tater Farms, LLC, as a part of the Tri-County Agricultural Area Water Management Partnership Cost-share program in the amount of $300,000.00.

2.6. **Consideration:** Approve Temporary Consumptive Use Permit 50049-11004, known as Town of Lady Lake. This application is for a temporary permit for a public supply use with an allocation of 1.188 mgd of groundwater from the Upper Floridan Aquifer.

2.7. **Consideration:** Approve the St. Johns River Water Management District’s FY 2026–27 List of Critical Wetlands and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to remove parcels from the list upon request from the property owner.

2.8. **Consideration:** Approve the District’s 2026 Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) Priority List and Schedule.

2.9. **Consideration:** Authorize staff to publish the attached Notice of Rule Development and Notice of Proposed Rule in the Florida Administrative Register to begin and complete rulemaking to revise established minimum water levels for Lake Prevatt in Orange County.

2.10. **Consideration:** Authorize the Executive Director to take the following actions necessary to facilitate repair of the Black Creek Water Resource Development Project and return it to operation:

1. Execute internal budget transfers to fund emergency response, assessment, repair, claim and related activities; and

2. Negotiate and execute contracts for emergency response, assessment, repair, and related activities.

Other Items and Reports

3.1. **For Information:** Pending litigation - significant events or significant status changes.

3.2. **For Information:** Governing Board comment.

3.3. **For Information:** Executive Director's Report and Calendar.

Adjourn

AGENDA REQUEST FOR
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
October 13, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

THROUGH: Michael Register, Executive Director
Executive Office

FROM: Robin Hudson, Director
Office of Human Resources

SUBJECT: Employee Awards

FOR INFORMATION
Employee Awards.

5-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS
Joshua Apple
Supervising Chemist
Bureau of Water Resource Information

Grace Cheney
Regulatory Scientist III
Division of Regulatory Services

Randy Fink
Environmental Scientist III
Bureau of Environmental Science

15-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS
Christy Akers
Environmental Scientist IV
Bureau of Environmental Science

AGENDA REQUEST FOR
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
October 13, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO:	Governing Board
THROUGH:	Michael Register, Executive Director Executive Office
FROM:	Tim Miller, Bureau Chief Bureau of Water Resource Information
SUBJECT:	Hydrologic Conditions Report

FOR INFORMATION
The Hydrologic Conditions Report.

AGENDA REQUEST FOR
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
October 13, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO:	Governing Board
FROM:	Michael Register, Executive Director Executive Office
SUBJECT:	Consent Agenda Items

RECOMMENDATION
Approve Consent Agenda items.

AGENDA REQUEST FOR
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
October 13, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO:	Governing Board
THROUGH:	Michael Register, Executive Director Executive Office
FROM:	Clay Coarsey, Director Division of Water Supply Planning and Assessment
SUBJECT:	St. Johns Improvement District, 70-13

RECOMMENDATION
Approve Consumptive Use Permit 70-13, known as St. Johns Improvement District. This application is a renewal of an existing agricultural permit with no change in surface water allocation from 28.43 mgd and no change in transferred surface water allocation from 3.81 mgd through the year 2046.

The attached Technical Staff Report includes a summary of the requested use and proposed permit conditions.

CONSUMPTIVE USE TECHNICAL STAFF REPORT
18-Aug-2026
APPLICATION #70-13

Owner: St Johns Improvement District
905 122nd Ave SW
Vero Beach, FL 32968-9336

Applicant: Marjorie Hale
St Johns Improvement District
905 122nd Ave SW
Vero Beach, FL 32968-9336

Agent: James W Mills
Mills Short & Associates
700 22nd Pl
Ste 2c
Vero Beach, FL 32960-5105
(772) 226-7282

Compliance Contact: Marjorie Hale
St Johns Improvement District
905 122nd Ave SW
Vero Beach, FL 32968-0336

Project Name: St. Johns Improvement District

County: Indian River

Objectors: No

Authorization Statement:
The District authorizes, as limited by the attached permit conditions, the use of 28.43 million gallons per day (mgd) of surface water from the St. Johns Improvement District (SJID) reservoir and flowway and 3.81 mgd of surface water transferred, as needed, from the C-52 Canal and the Fort Drum Marsh Conservation Area to the SJID reservoir for all agricultural irrigation (citrus, sod, pasture, and cultivated crops) through 2046.

Recommendation: Approval

Reviewers: John Theriac; Christine Smykowski

Abstract:
This application is for the renewal of an existing agricultural permit with no change in surface water allocation of 28.43 million gallons per day (mgd) from the St. Johns Improvement District (SJID) reservoir and flowway and 3.81 mgd in transferred surface water allocation from the C-52 Canal and Fort Drum Marsh Conservation Area (FDMCA) to the SJID reservoir for all agricultural irrigation uses within the SJID. District staff are recommending a 20-year permit duration with a 10-year compliance report.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
The SJID is located in the western and southwestern portion of Indian River County between the Atlantic coast and the St. Johns River basin, near Vero Beach. It is approximately 1.5 miles from Interstate 95, south of State Road 60 (see Figure 1). The SJID is an independent special district that manages water control, drainage, flood protection, irrigation and associated infrastructure within its boundaries. It operates under Chapter 298 (Drainage and Control Districts) and Chapter 189 (Special District of the Florida Statutes (F.S.). SJID was originally established in 1962 as the St. Johns Drainage District and later St. Johns Water Control District, and in 2007 through state legislation, renamed the St. Johns Improvement District. The SJID manages a network of canals, reservoirs, pumps stations and roads to provide drainage, flood protection, irrigation and water control designed to serve land within the district. SJID encompasses a large area of rural land that has historically been used for agricultural production, including citrus and other farming operations, ranching and pasture lands. The SJID supports a total of 25,043 acres consisting of 19,132 acres of agricultural operations and 5,911 acres of non-agricultural uses that benefit from the district's flood control, drainage and surface water management.

Surface water in the SJID is used for agricultural irrigation for citrus groves, ranchlands and other farming operations. The SJID maintains water levels needed for agricultural production by directing water through the district's canal system to areas where it can be stored, reused or discharged. Surface water is also managed for flood protection by moving excess rainfall through canals and storage areas. The SJID reservoir and flowway are components of the SJID water management infrastructure. The reservoir provides surface water storage, while the flowway serves as a conveyance system that routes water through the SJID canal and pump station network. The SJID reservoir serves as the primary source of water for agricultural irrigation and freeze protection. During low water conditions, as outlined in permit conditions, surface water from C-52 Canal and the Fort Drum Marsh Conservation Area (FDMCA) are transferred to the SJID reservoir using portable surface water pumps (Station IDs 39399 and 1796). Multiple interior properties use flashboard risers that allow access to the canal water for irrigation. Some of the agricultural operations within the SJID hold separate consumptive use permits due to maintaining wells as emergency backup sources of water.

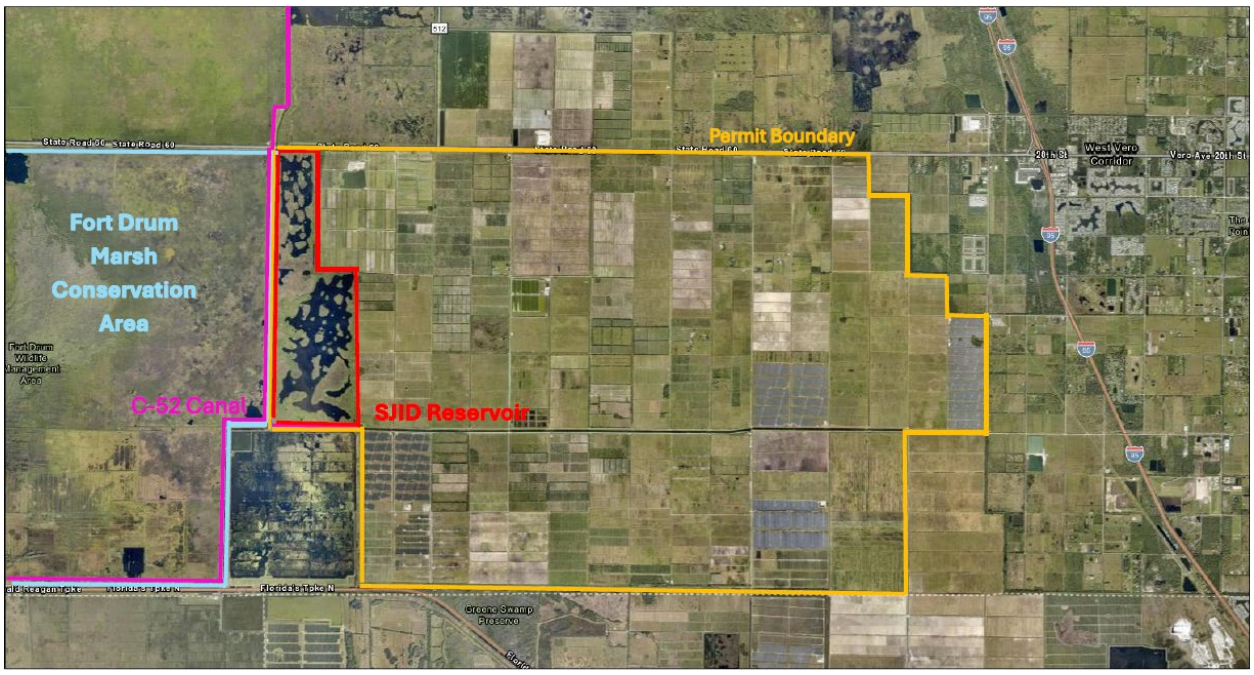


Figure 1 SJID Property Boundary and Water Sources

PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW:
Section 373.223, *Florida Statutes* (F.S.), and Rule 40C-2.301, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), require an applicant to establish that the proposed use of water:

(a) is a reasonable-beneficial use;
(b) will not interfere with any presently existing legal use of water; and,
(c) is consistent with the public interest.

The above requirements are detailed further in the District's Applicant's Handbook: Consumptive Uses of Water, December 11, 2025 (A.H.). In addition, Rules 62-41.400 – 62-41.402, F.A.C. detail certain supplemental requirements applicable where a proposed water withdrawal potentially impacts an Outstanding Florida Spring (OFS). District staff have reviewed the consumptive use permit application pursuant to the above-described requirements and have determined that the application meets the conditions for issuance of this permit. A summary of the staff review is provided below.

REASONABLE BENEFICIAL USE CRITERIA:
<u>Economic and Efficient Utilization</u>:

- The allocation is based on projections of irrigation demands on land within the SJID, and historical use of surface water in the SJID reservoir and flowway and transferred surface water from C-52 and FDMCA.

- The proposed use will be economic and efficient under section 2.3(a), A.H.

Water Conservation:

- Water conservation plans from individual landowners within the SJID were submitted that meet the requirements of Section 2.2.5.5 A.H. The water conservation plans include:
    - Regular irrigation system maintenance
    - Installing higher efficiency irrigation heads
    - Use of rain gauges, onsite weather stations, smart irrigation controller systems, and soil moisture monitoring devices
    - Employee education on water conservation practices
    - All property within the SJID utilizes surface water as the primary water source for irrigation

Suitability and Capability of the Source:

- The proposed source has historically and will continue to be capable of producing adequate quantities of water to meet the requirements of the agricultural use under sections 2.3(c)-(d), A.H.

Lowest Acceptable Quality Water Source:

- Surface water is the only water source being utilized for agricultural irrigation.
- The applicant will use the lowest acceptable quality water source that is technically, economically, and environmentally feasible under section 2.3(e), A.H.

Water Resources Impact Evaluation:

- Surface water is the sole source for the project.
- No historical adverse wetland or surface water impacts have been observed under current withdrawals.
- The proposed use will not cause harm under sections 2.3(f), 2.3(g), 2.3(h), 2.3(i), 2.3(j), or 3.7, A.H., provided the permit conditions are met.

Minimum Flows and Levels:

- The proposed use is in accordance with adopted Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) located within the vicinity of the project per section 2.3(h), A.H.
- The proposed use has been determined not to potentially impact any OFS. Thus, Rules 62-41.400 – 62-41.402, F.A.C., and section 2.3(j), A.H., have been met.

Water Reserved from Use:

- There are no water reservations from use within Indian River County pursuant to subsection 373.223(4), Florida Statutes, that would be affected by the proposed withdrawals. Thus, the proposed use meets rule 40C-2.302, F.A.C., and section 2.3(i), A.H.

Saline Water Intrusion:

- This project utilizes surface water, therefore the proposed use is not likely to cause or contribute to saline water intrusion or harmful upconing under sections 2.3(g)3. or 3.4, A.H.

INTERFERENCE WITH EXISTING LEGAL USES:

- There are no current or historical reports of interference with existing legal uses resulting from the applicant's current water use.

- District staff conclude that the applicant has provided reasonable assurance that the proposed use will not interfere with existing legal uses pursuant to section 3.6, A.H., provided permit conditions are met.

PUBLIC INTEREST:

- The requested withdrawals are necessary to support agricultural irrigation.

- The proposed use qualifies as reasonable beneficial and is not detrimental to the collective well-being of the region, the District, or the State.

- The proposed use is consistent with the public interest pursuant to section 3.10, A.H., provided permit conditions are met, and the measures described in the water conservation plan are implemented.

Station Information

Site Name: St. Johns Improvement District

Pump Details						
Station ID	**Station Name**	**Pump Intake Diameter(inches)**	**Capacity (GPM)**	**Source Name**	**Status**	**Use Type**
1795	Spare Portable Pump	n/a	variable	SJID Main Reservoir Flow Way	Inactive	Agricultural
1796	FDMCA pump (portable)	6	1900	Fort Drum Marsh Conservation Area	Active	Agricultural
39399	C-52 pump (portable)	24	12000	C-52 Canal	Active	Agricultural

Conditions

1. With advance notice to the permittee, District staff with proper identification shall have permission to enter, inspect, observe, collect samples, and take measurements of permitted facilities to determine compliance with the permit conditions and permitted plans and specifications. The permittee shall either accompany District staff onto the property or make provision for access onto the property.

2. Nothing in this permit should be construed to limit the authority of the St. Johns River Water Management District to declare a water shortage and issue orders pursuant to Chapter 373, F.S. In the event of a declared water shortage, the permittee must adhere to the water shortage restrictions, as specified by the District. The permittee is advised that during a water shortage, reports shall be submitted as required by District rule or order.

3. Prior to the construction, modification or abandonment of a well, the permittee must obtain a water well permit from the St. Johns River Water Management District or the appropriate local government pursuant to Chapter 40C-3, F.A.C. Construction, modification, or abandonment of a well will require modification of the consumptive use permit when such construction, modification, or abandonment is other than that specified and described on the consumptive use permit application form.

4. Leaking or inoperative well casings, valves, or controls must be repaired or replaced as required to eliminate the leak or make the system fully operational.

5. The permittee's consumptive use of water as authorized by this permit shall not interfere with legal uses of water existing at the time of permit application. If interference occurs, the District shall revoke the permit, in whole or in part, to curtail or abate the interference, unless the interference associated with the permittee's consumptive use of water is mitigated by the permittee pursuant to a District-approved plan.

6. The permittee's consumptive use of water as authorized by this permit shall not have significant adverse hydrologic impacts to off-site land uses existing at the time of permit application. If significant adverse hydrologic impacts occur, the District shall revoke the permit, in whole or in part, to curtail or abate the adverse impacts, unless the impacts associated with the permittee's consumptive use of water are mitigated by the permittee pursuant to a District-approved plan.

7. The permittee shall notify the District in writing within 30 days of any sale, transfer, or conveyance of ownership or any other loss of permitted legal control of the Project and/or related facilities from which the permitted consumptive use is made. Where permittee's control of the land subject to the permit was demonstrated through a lease, the permittee must either submit documentation showing that it continues to have legal control or transfer control of the permitted

system/project to the new landowner or new lessee. All transfers of ownership are subject to the requirements of Rule 40C-1.612, F.A.C. Alternatively, the permittee may surrender the consumptive use permit to the District, thereby relinquishing the right to conduct any activities under the permit.

8. The permittee shall prominently display an identification tag at each withdrawal site by permanently affixing such tag to the pump, headgate, valve, or other withdrawal facility as provided by Rule 40C-2.401, F.A.C. If an identification tag is lost or becomes illegible, the permittee shall permanently affix a replacement tag.

9. The permittee's consumptive use of water as authorized by this permit shall not adversely impact wetlands, lakes, rivers, or springs. If adverse impacts occur, the District shall revoke the permit, in whole or in part, to curtail or abate the adverse impacts, unless the impacts associated with the permittee's consumptive use of water are mitigated by the permittee pursuant to a District-approved plan.

10. The permittee's consumptive use of water as authorized by this permit shall not reduce a flow or level below any minimum flow or level established by the District or the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to Section 373.042 and 373.0421, F.S. If the permittee's use of water causes or contributes to such a reduction, then the District shall revoke the permit, in whole or in part, unless the permittee implements all provisions applicable to the permittee's use in a District-approved recovery or prevention strategy.

11. The permittee's consumptive use of water as authorized by the permit shall not cause or contribute to significant saline water intrusion. If significant saline water intrusion occurs, the District shall revoke the permit, in whole or in part, to curtail or abate the saline water intrusion, unless the saline water intrusion associated with the permittee's consumptive use of water is mitigated by the permittee pursuant to a District-approved plan.

12. The permittee's consumptive use of water as authorized by the permit shall not cause or contribute to flood damage. If the permittee's consumptive use causes or contributes to flood damage, the District shall revoke the permit, in whole or in part, to curtail or abate the flood damage, unless the flood damage associated with the permittee's consumptive use of water is mitigated by the permittee pursuant to a District-approved plan.

13. All consumptive uses authorized by this permit shall be implemented as conditioned by this permit, including any documents incorporated by reference in a permit condition. The District may revoke this permit, in whole or in part, or take enforcement action, pursuant to Section 373.136 or 373.243, F.S., unless a permit modification has been obtained to address the noncompliance. The permittee shall immediately notify the District in writing of any previously submitted information that is later discovered to be inaccurate.

14. This permit does not convey to the permittee any property rights or privileges other than those specified herein, nor relieve the permittee from complying with any applicable local government, state, or federal law, rule, or ordinance.

15. A permittee may seek modification of any term of an unexpired permit. The permittee is advised that Section 373.239, F.S., and Rule 40C-2.331, F.A.C., are applicable to permit modifications.

16. All submittals made to demonstrate compliance with this permit must include CUP number 70-13 labeled on the submittal. Submittals should be made on-line at www.sjrwmd.com/permitting whenever possible.

17. This permit will expire on October 13, 2046.

18. Maximum annual surface water withdrawals from the St. Johns Improvement District reservoir and flowway for all agricultural irrigation (citrus, sod, pasture, and cultivated crops) must not exceed 10,375 million gallons (28.43 mgd, annual average).

19. Maximum annual transfer of surface water from the C-52 Canal and the Fort Drum Marsh Conservation Area (FDMCA), to the St. Johns Improvement District reservoir and flowway, for all agricultural uses must not exceed 1,390.0 million gallons (3.81 mgd, annual average).

    Withdrawals from the C-52 Canal north of SJRWMD structure S-253 are authorized only when there is positive flow through SJRWMD structure S-252D, from FDMCA into the C-52 Canal, or from structure S-253.

    Withdrawals from the C-52 Canal must cease when the St. Johns Improvement District (SJID) reservoir water elevation is at or greater than 26.5 feet NGVD (25.1 NAVD). Withdrawals from the C-52 Canal must not cause a 'reverse' or southerly flow in the C-52 Canal at the State Road 60 overpass. If 'reverse flow' occurs, withdrawals from the C-52 must cease immediately.

20. Maximum daily withdrawals from the C-52 Canal, north of SJRWMD structure S-253 and the Fort Drum Marsh Conservation Area (FDMCA) must not exceed 14.5 million gallons.

21. When flow through SJRWMD structure S-252D cannot be maintained, the use of a pump to move surface water from the Fort Drum Marsh Conservation Area (FDMCA) into the C-52 Canal is temporarily authorized when the St. Johns Improvement District reservoir water level is below an elevation of 26.5 feet NGVD (25.1 feet NAVD) and when the water level in FDMCA is at or above 23.0 ft. NGVD (21.6 NAVD). The permittee must receive written District approval prior to withdrawing water from C-52 Canal north of the structure S-253.

22. Maximum daily surface water withdrawals from the SJID flow way and reservoir, C-52 Canal, and FDMCA for crop (frost/freeze) protection in any 24-hour period must not exceed 6.03 million gallons.

23. All withdrawal points must be equipped with totalizing flow meters or an alternative method for measuring flow must be implemented. The permittee has elected to implement an alternative method for measuring water usage of pumps "FDMCA" (Station ID 1796) and "C-52" (Station ID 39399). The method entails multiplying the pump capacity in gallons per minute by the number of minutes the pump is operated to derive the quantity of water withdrawn. A record will be kept of operational times for these pumps so that accurate usage in gallons can be computed. The permittee may not alter the approved alternative method without prior written approval from the District. The method must measure within +/- 10% of actual flow and be verifiable. If after a period of one year, the selected alternative does not meet the accuracy, totalizing flow meters or another District approved alternative must be used. If totalizing flow meters are used, they must measure within +/- 5% of actual flow, be verifiable, and be installed according to manufacturer specifications.

24. Total withdrawals from pumps "FDMCA" (Station ID 1796) and "C-52" (Station ID 39399), and the SJID Reservoir through gated culvert S-3 (Station ID 407868) must be recorded continuously, totaled monthly, and reported to the District at least every six months for the duration of this permit using Water Use Pumpage Report Form (EN-50). The meter reading or quantity withdrawn must be reported in gallons. Reporting is required, even if there is no use. The reporting dates each year will be as follows:

Reporting Period	**Report Due Date**
January - June	July 31
July - December	January 31

25. The permittee must maintain all flowmeters and alternative methods for measuring flow. In case of failure or breakdown of any meter, the District must be notified in writing within 5 days of its discovery. A defective meter must be repaired or replaced within 30 days of its discovery.

26. The permittee must have all flow meters and alternative methods for measuring flow checked for accuracy at least once every 10 years, specifically before December 1, 2026 and December 1, 2036. The flow meters must be recalibrated if the difference between the actual flow and the meter reading is greater than +/- 5%, or if the difference between the actual flow and the alternative method measurement is greater than +/- 10%. The permittee must submit either the Flow Meter Accuracy Report Form (EN-51) or Alternative Method Flow Verification Report Form (whichever form is applicable) to the District within 10 days of the inspection/calibration.

27. When water has been used for crop protection, the permittee shall complete the District Form Number 40C-2.900(10) (Crop Protection Report Form) for each month in which a crop protection event occurred, providing withdrawals per day by well/pump/station. The permittee must keep the completed form(s) for two years after the freeze protection event and make them available for inspection by District staff upon request.

28. Water levels at the staff gauges upstream and downstream of withdrawal structures must be recorded daily when any withdrawal through the structure occurs. Water level reports must be maintained and available for District inspection, and provided to the District if requested.

29. The permittee shall submit to the District a compliance report pursuant to subsection 373.236(4), F.S., every 10 years during the term of the permit. The permittee shall submit the report by October 1, 2036. The report shall contain sufficient information to demonstrate that the permittee's use of water will continue, for the remaining duration of the permit, to meet the conditions for permit issuance set forth in the District rules that existed at the time the permit was issued for 20 years by the District. At a minimum, the compliance report must include:

    a. Information documenting that the surface water allocations in the permit continue to be needed for the remainder of the permit duration;

    b. Documentation verifying that the sources of water are capable of supplying the needs authorized by this permit without causing harm to water and water-related resources;

    c. Documentation verifying that use of water is efficient and all feasible water conservation measures are being implemented; and

    d. Information demonstrating that the lowest quality source of water is being used to meet water demands unless the demonstrated that such use is not feasible pursuant to District rules.

30. The permittee shall use the lowest quality water source, such as reclaimed water, surface/storm water, or alternative water supply, to supply the needs of the project when deemed feasible pursuant to District rules and applicable state law.

AGENDA REQUEST FOR
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
October 13, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

THROUGH: Michael Register, Executive Director
Executive Office

FROM: Clay Coarsey, Director
Division of Water Supply Planning and Assessment

SUBJECT: Flowertree/Cannon, 2508-10

RECOMMENDATION

Approve Consumptive Use Permit 2508-10, known as Flowertree/Cannon. This application is for the modification and consolidation of five existing agricultural use permits with a proposed allocation of 0.41 million gallons per day (mgd) of groundwater from the Upper Floridan aquifer and 0.22 mgd of surface water from Lake Yale for irrigation of 375 acres of agricultural cultivated crops and livestock watering through 2039.

The attached Technical Staff Report includes a summary of the requested use and proposed permit conditions.

CONSUMPTIVE USE TECHNICAL STAFF REPORT
14-Sep-2026
APPLICATION #2508-10

Owner: May and Whitaker Family Partnership, Ltd
PO Box 2267
Umatilla, FL 32784-2267
(352) 516-6916

Applicant: John Cliff Whitaker
May and Whitaker Family Partnership, Ltd
PO Box 2267
Umatilla, FL 32784-2267
(352) 516-6916

Agent: Not Applicable

Compliance Contact: John Cliff Whitaker
May and Whitaker Family Partnership, Ltd
PO Box 2267
Umatilla, FL 32784-2267
(352) 516-6916

Project Name: Flowertree/Cannon
County: Lake

Objectors: No

Authorization Statement:
The District authorizes, as limited by the attached permit conditions, the use of 0.41 million gallons per day (mgd) of groundwater from the Upper Floridan aquifer and 0.22 mgd of surface water from Lake Yale for irrigation of 375 acres of agricultural cultivated crops and livestock watering through 2039.

Recommendation: Approval
Reviewers: Emily DeLozier; David Sumner

Abstract:
This application is for the modification and consolidation of five existing agricultural permits with an increase in allocations from the Upper Floridan aquifer (UFA) and surface water from Lake Yale. The requested allocation increases from 0.53 mgd to 0.63 mgd from the UFA and Lake Yale for irrigation of 375 acres of agricultural cultivated crops (citrus and blueberries) and cattle watering, and 36.76 mgd from the UFA and Lake Yale for crop (frost/freeze) protection through 2039. The requested increase is due to a change in crops, updated blueberry and citrus irrigation allocation methodology, and an increase in irrigated acreage. The freeze protection allocation is also updated using the current methodology. Staff are recommending no change to the existing permit expiration date of 2039 under CUP 2508-9.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
The project is located in Lake County, approximately two miles northwest of Eustis, north of State Road 452 and adjacent to Lake Yale. The site consists of an established agricultural operation currently supporting citrus and blueberry production. The applicant proposes to add 50 head of cattle, increase the irrigated citrus acreage from 260 acres to 280 acres, increase irrigated blueberry acreage from 66 acres to 95 acres, and discontinue irrigation of 23 acres of cut foliage. The proposed modifications result in a total irrigated area of 375 acres. Five contiguous permits (CUPs 2508, 88, 2564, 2953, and 2978) are being combined as part of this application.

The applicant has participated in the District's Agricultural Cost Share program since 2016 and has implemented a variety of water conservation measures, including irrigation system retrofits, installation of a weather station, and implementation of soil moisture monitoring technology to improve irrigation efficiency.

Water for the operation is supplied by eight UFA wells and five surface water pumps that withdraw from Lake Yale. Approximately 43 percent of the irrigated acreage is supplied by surface water. Existing withdrawal facilities will continue to be utilized for agricultural irrigation, freeze protection, and livestock watering. Citrus irrigation and crop (frost/freeze) protection is provided through micro-spray systems. Blueberry irrigation is provided through drip irrigation, and crop (frost/freeze) protection is accomplished through overhead irrigation systems. Water use is monitored through totalizing flow meters or the approved timeclock/pump runtime alternative monitoring method.

PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW:
Section 373.223, *Florida Statutes* (F.S.), and Rule 40C-2.301, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), require an applicant to establish that the proposed use of water:

(a) is a reasonable-beneficial use;

(b) will not interfere with any presently existing legal use of water; and,

(c) is consistent with the public interest.

The above requirements are detailed further in the District's Applicant's Handbook: Consumptive Uses of Water, December 11, 2025 (A.H.). In addition, Rules 62-41.400 – 62-41.402, F.A.C. detail certain supplemental requirements applicable where a proposed water withdrawal potentially impacts an Outstanding Florida Spring (OFS). District staff have reviewed the consumptive use permit application pursuant to the above-described requirements and have determined that the application meets the conditions for issuance of this permit. A summary of the staff review is provided below.

REASONABLE BENEFICIAL USE CRITERIA:
Economic and Efficient Utilization:

- The requested allocation is based on GIS-based Water Resources and Agricultural Permitting and Planning System (GWRAPPS) recommendations for blueberry and citrus irrigation, and industry-standard livestock watering rates.

- The requested crop (frost/freeze) protection allocation is based on standard District methodologies utilizing application rates of 45 gallons per minute per acre for 280 acres of citrus and 136 gallons per minute per acre for 95 acres of blueberries.

- The proposed use is considered economic and efficient pursuant to section 2.3(a), A.H.

Water Conservation:
A water conservation plan was submitted, which meets the requirements of Section 2.2.5.5, A.H. The water conservation plan includes:

- Installation of high-efficiency irrigation systems, including low-volume irrigation equipment designed to improve application efficiency

- Utilization of surface water from Lake Yale to offset groundwater withdrawals

- Use of an onsite weather station

- Use of soil moisture monitoring devices

- Use of rain gauges and rainfall shutoff devices

- Implementation of a smart irrigation controller system to monitor environmental conditions and adjust irrigation accordingly

- Use of pressure gauges to identify system leaks, detect clogged emitters, and verify proper operating pressures within the irrigation system.

- Routine inspections to ensure irrigation water is not applied to non-crop areas

- A leak detection and repair program incorporating regular system maintenance

Suitability and Capability of the Source:

- The proposed sources are capable of producing adequate quantities of water to meet the requirements of the proposed use under sections 2.3(c)-(d), A.H.

Lowest Acceptable Quality Water Source:

- Surface water from Lake Yale is utilized to the maximum extent practicable.
- Approximately 43 percent of the irrigation demand is supplied through surface water withdrawals.
- There are no reclaimed water sources currently available, or projected to become available, within the requested permit duration.
- The applicant will use the lowest acceptable quality water source that is technically, economically, and environmentally feasible under section 2.3(e), A.H.

Water Resources Impact Evaluation:

- Groundwater modeling was completed utilizing the East-Central Florida Transient Expanded (ECFTX) version 2.0 groundwater flow model.
- Staff reviewed model results, aerial imagery, and conducted field inspections.
- No adverse wetland or surface water impacts were observed under current withdrawals and none are anticipated based on the proposed withdrawals.
- The proposed use will not cause harm under sections 2.3(f), 2.3(g), 2.3(h), 2.3(i), 2.3(j), or 3.7, A.H., provided the permit conditions are met.

Minimum Flows and Levels:

- The proposed use is in accordance with adopted Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) located within the vicinity of the project pursuant to section 2.3(h), A.H.
- The proposed use has been determined not to potentially impact any OFS. Thus, the proposed use meets Rules 62-41.400 – 62-41.402, F.A.C. and section 2.3(j), A.H., provided permit conditions are met.

Water Reserved from Use:

- There are no water reservations from use within Lake County pursuant to subsection 373.223(4), F.S., that would be affected by the proposed withdrawals. Thus, the proposed use is consistent with rule 40C-2.302, F.A.C., and section 2.3(i), A.H.

Saline Water Intrusion:

- The proposed use is not located in an area with known water quality issues.

- The proposed use is not likely to cause or contribute to saline water intrusion or harmful upconing under sections 2.3(g)3. or 3.4, A.H.

INTERFERENCE WITH EXISTING LEGAL USES:

- This agricultural operation has been in existence for many years, and the District has no current or historical reports of interference with existing legal uses resulting from withdrawals authorized under the permit.

- Crop (frost/freeze) protection withdrawals were evaluated using the ECFTX version 2.0 groundwater model. The analysis utilized a conservative 48-hour frost/freeze event and the requested peak groundwater withdrawal rate of 26.69 mgd.

- Groundwater modeling completed for this application indicates the proposed groundwater withdrawals are not expected to reduce withdrawal capacity by ≥10 percent or cause economic, health, or other hardship to existing legal users.

- Standard permit conditions require the permittee to mitigate unanticipated interference with existing legal uses of water resulting from withdrawals authorized by this permit. Mitigation measures may include installation of a new pump or motor, installation of additional drop pipe, provision of new electrical wiring, connecting to an existing water supply system, or other appropriate measures.

- District staff conclude that reasonable assurance has been provided that the proposed use will not interfere with existing legal uses pursuant to section 3.6, A.H., provided permit conditions are met.

PUBLIC INTEREST:

- The requested withdrawals are necessary to support the irrigation and freeze protection requirements of an existing commercial agricultural operation.

- The proposed use qualifies as reasonable-beneficial and is not detrimental to the collective well-being of the region, the District, or the State.

- District staff conclude that reasonable assurance has been provided that the proposed use is consistent with the public interest pursuant to section 3.10, A.H., provided permit conditions are met and the measures described in the water conservation plan are implemented.

Station Information

Site Name: Simpson

Well Details								
District ID	**Station Name**	**Casing Diameter (inches)**	**Casing Depth (feet)**	**Total Depth (feet)**	**Capacity (GPM)**	**Source Name**	**Status**	**Use Type**
10696	A - Simpson	12	120	402	2250	FAS - Upper Floridan Aquifer	Active	Agricultural

Site Name: Bowron

Pump Details					
District ID	**Station Name**	**Capacity (GPM)**	**Source Name**	**Status**	**Use Type**
21981	2 - Bowron	755	Lake Yale	Active	Agricultural

Site Name: Flowertree Nursery

Well Details								
District ID	**Station Name**	**Casing Diameter (inches)**	**Casing Depth (feet)**	**Total Depth (feet)**	**Capacity (GPM)**	**Source Name**	**Status**	**Use Type**
9430	MILTON	12	233	350	1447	FAS - Upper Floridan Aquifer	Active	Agricultural
9431	Flowertree - BFLW #1	12	161	295	1865	FAS - Upper Floridan Aquifer	Active	Agricultural
9432	Big Engine - Main Meter 1	12	193	436	1350	FAS - Upper Floridan Aquifer	Active	Agricultural
9433	DFLW-BILL	4	164	245	225	FAS - Upper Floridan Aquifer	Active	Domestic
9434	BOWRON-Organic	12	213	275	1745	FAS - Upper	Active	Agricultural

Well Details								
District ID	**Station Name**	**Casing Diameter (inches)**	**Casing Depth (feet)**	**Total Depth (feet)**	**Capacity (GPM)**	**Source Name**	**Status**	**Use Type**
						Floridan Aquifer		
9435	Big Engine Meter #2 (submeter to 9432)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	FAS - Upper Floridan Aquifer	Active	Agricultural
9436	Stockholm	12	231	415	1575	FAS - Upper Floridan Aquifer	Active	Agricultural

Site Name: Kauffman

Pump Details					
District ID	**Station Name**	**Capacity (GPM)**	**Source Name**	**Status**	**Use Type**
1962	A - Kauffman	2000	Lake Yale	Active	Agricultural
32594	B - Kauffman	500	Lake Yale	Active	Agricultural

Site Name: Nelson

Well Details								
District ID	**Station Name**	**Casing Diameter (inches)**	**Casing Depth (feet)**	**Total Depth (feet)**	**Capacity (GPM)**	**Source Name**	**Status**	**Use Type**
9472	Nelson	8	114	130	1000	FAS - Upper Floridan Aquifer	Active	Agricultural

Site Name: Cannon

Pump Details					
District ID	**Station Name**	**Capacity (GPM)**	**Source Name**	**Status**	**Use Type**
1940	1 - Cannon	819	Lake Yale	Active	Agricultural
412782	2 - Cannon (Massey)	255	Lake Yale	Active	Agricultural

Site Name: Porter

Well Details								
District ID	**Station Name**	**Casing Diameter (inches)**	**Casing Depth (feet)**	**Total Depth (feet)**	**Capacity (GPM)**	**Source Name**	**Status**	**Use Type**
10631	A - Porter	12	145	320	2400	FAS - Upper Floridan Aquifer	Active	Agricultural

Conditions

1. With advance notice to the permittee, District staff with proper identification shall have permission to enter, inspect, observe, collect samples, and take measurements of permitted facilities to determine compliance with the permit conditions and permitted plans and specifications. The permittee shall either accompany District staff onto the property or make provision for access onto the property.

2. Nothing in this permit should be construed to limit the authority of the St. Johns River Water Management District to declare a water shortage and issue orders pursuant to Chapter 373, F.S. In the event of a declared water shortage, the permittee must adhere to the water shortage restrictions, as specified by the District. The permittee is advised that during a water shortage, reports shall be submitted as required by District rule or order.

3. Prior to the construction, modification or abandonment of a well, the permittee must obtain a water well permit from the St. Johns River Water Management District or the appropriate local government pursuant to Chapter 40C-3, F.A.C. Construction, modification, or abandonment of a well will require modification of the consumptive use permit when such construction, modification, or abandonment is other than that specified and described on the consumptive use permit application form.

4. Leaking or inoperative well casings, valves, or controls must be repaired or replaced as required to eliminate the leak or make the system fully operational.

5. The permittee's consumptive use of water as authorized by this permit shall not interfere with legal uses of water existing at the time of permit application. If interference occurs, the District shall revoke the permit, in whole or in part, to curtail or abate the interference, unless the interference associated with the

permittee's consumptive use of water is mitigated by the permittee pursuant to a District-approved plan.

6. The permittee's consumptive use of water as authorized by this permit shall not have significant adverse hydrologic impacts to off-site land uses existing at the time of permit application. If significant adverse hydrologic impacts occur, the District shall revoke the permit, in whole or in part, to curtail or abate the adverse impacts, unless the impacts associated with the permittee's consumptive use of water are mitigated by the permittee pursuant to a District-approved plan.

7. The permittee shall notify the District in writing within 30 days of any sale, transfer, or conveyance of ownership or any other loss of permitted legal control of the Project and/or related facilities from which the permitted consumptive use is made. Where permittee's control of the land subject to the permit was demonstrated through a lease, the permittee must either submit documentation showing that it continues to have legal control or transfer control of the permitted system/project to the new landowner or new lessee. All transfers of ownership are subject to the requirements of Rule 40C-1.612, F.A.C. Alternatively, the permittee may surrender the consumptive use permit to the District, thereby relinquishing the right to conduct any activities under the permit.

8. The permittee shall prominently display an identification tag at each withdrawal site by permanently affixing such tag to the pump, headgate, valve, or other withdrawal facility as provided by Rule 40C-2.401, F.A.C. If an identification tag is lost or becomes illegible, the permittee shall permanently affix a replacement tag.

9. The permittee's consumptive use of water as authorized by this permit shall not adversely impact wetlands, lakes, rivers, or springs. If adverse impacts occur, the District shall revoke the permit, in whole or in part, to curtail or abate the adverse impacts, unless the impacts associated with the permittee's consumptive use of water are mitigated by the permittee pursuant to a District-approved plan.

10. The permittee's consumptive use of water as authorized by this permit shall not reduce a flow or level below any minimum flow or level established by the District or the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to Section 373.042 and 373.0421, F.S. If the permittee's use of water causes or contributes to such a reduction, then the District shall revoke the permit, in whole or in part, unless the permittee implements all provisions applicable to the permittee's use in a District-approved recovery or prevention strategy.

11. The permittee's consumptive use of water as authorized by the permit shall not cause or contribute to significant saline water intrusion. If significant saline water intrusion occurs, the District shall revoke the permit, in whole or in part, to curtail or abate the saline water intrusion, unless the saline water intrusion associated with the permittee's consumptive use of water is mitigated by the permittee pursuant to a District-approved plan.

12. The permittee's consumptive use of water as authorized by the permit shall not cause or contribute to flood damage. If the permittee's consumptive use causes or contributes to flood damage, the District shall revoke the permit, in whole or in part, to curtail or abate the flood damage, unless the flood damage associated with the permittee's consumptive use of water is mitigated by the permittee pursuant to a District-approved plan.

13. All consumptive uses authorized by this permit shall be implemented as conditioned by this permit, including any documents incorporated by reference in a permit condition. The District may revoke this permit, in whole or in part, or take enforcement action, pursuant to Section 373.136 or 373.243, F.S., unless a permit modification has been obtained to address the noncompliance. The permittee shall immediately notify the District in writing of any previously submitted information that is later discovered to be inaccurate.

14. This permit does not convey to the permittee any property rights or privileges other than those specified herein, nor relieve the permittee from complying with any applicable local government, state, or federal law, rule, or ordinance.

15. A permittee may seek modification of any term of an unexpired permit. The permittee is advised that Section 373.239, F.S., and Rule 40C-2.331, F.A.C., are applicable to permit modifications.

16. Following the effective date of the re-evaluated Minimum Flows and Levels (MFL), adopted pursuant to 373.042, F.S., for Lake Apshawa South or the Wekiva Basin MFLs, this permit is subject to modification during the term of the permit, upon reasonable notice by the District to the permittee, to achieve compliance with any approved MFL recovery or prevention strategy for Lake Apshawa South or the Wekiva Basin MFLs. The permittee's participation in implementing an approved MFL prevention/recovery strategy shall be limited to offsetting or mitigating the impact of the permittee's groundwater allocation on these MFLs. The District shall revoke the permit in whole or in part, if the permittee fails to implement its portion of any approved prevention/recovery strategy for any of these MFLs in accordance with the schedule included in the strategy. Nothing herein shall be construed to alter the District's authority to modify a permit under circumstances not addressed in this condition.

17. All irrigation shall conform with the requirements set forth in subsection 40C-2.042(1), F.A.C.

18. If chemicals are to be injected into the irrigation system, the permittee shall install and maintain a backflow prevention device on all wells or surface pumps that are connected to the irrigation system.

19. All submittals made to demonstrate compliance with this permit must include CUP number 2508-10 labeled on the submittal. Submittals should be made online at www.sjrwmd.com/permitting whenever possible.

20. This permit will expire on April 4, 2039.

21. Maximum annual groundwater withdrawals from the Upper Floridan aquifer for all agricultural uses (cultivated crops and livestock watering must not exceed 150.7 million gallons (0.41 mgd, annual average). The average annual water use should be less than this amount in all years except for a 2-in-10 year drought.

22. Maximum annual surface water withdrawals from Lake Yale for irrigation of agricultural cultivated crops must not exceed 79.2 million gallons (0.22 mgd, annual average). The average annual water use should be less than this amount in all years except for a 2-in-10 year drought.

23. Maximum daily groundwater withdrawals from the Upper Floridan aquifer for crop protection (frost/freeze protection) in any 24-hour period for 220 acres of citrus and blueberries must not exceed 26.69 million gallons.

24. Maximum daily surface water withdrawals from Lake Yale for crop (frost/freeze protection) in any 24-hour period for 155 acres of citrus must not exceed 10.08 million gallons. More surface water may be used, if available.

25. All withdrawal points must be equipped with totalizing flow meters or an alternative method for measuring flow must be implemented. The permittee has elected to utilize totalizing flow meters and implement an alternative method which measures time of operation pump run time and flow rate by a predetermined flow rate. The method must be implemented as described in correspondence received by the District on April 14, 2026. The permittee may not alter the approved alternative method without prior written approval from the District. The method must measure within +/- 10% of actual flow and be verifiable. If after a period of one year, the selected alternative does not meet the accuracy, totalizing flow meters or another District approved alternative must be used. If totalizing flow meters are used, they must measure within +/- 5% of actual flow, be verifiable, and be installed according to manufacturer specifications.

26. The permittee must maintain all flowmeters and alternative methods for measuring flow. In case of failure or breakdown of any meter, the District must be notified in writing within 5 days of its discovery. A defective meter must be repaired or replaced within 30 days of its discovery.

27. The permittee must have all flow meters checked for accuracy at least once every 10 years, specifically before December 15, 2036, and recalibrated if the difference between the actual flow and the meter reading is greater than 5%.

Flow Meter Accuracy Report Form (EN-51) must be submitted to the District within 30 days of the inspection/calibration.

28. Total withdrawal from the following wells and pumps must be recorded continuously, totaled monthly, and reported to the District at least every six months for the duration of this permit using Water Use Pumpage Report Form (EN-50). The meter reading or quantity withdrawn must be reported in gallons. Reporting is required, even if there is no use.

Station ID	Station Name	Source
10696	A - Simpson	Upper Floridan aquifer
10631	A - Porter	Upper Floridan aquifer
9472	Nelson	Upper Floridan aquifer
9436	Stockholm	Upper Floridan aquifer
9435	Big Engine Meter #2 (submeter to 9432)	Upper Floridan aquifer
9434	BOWRON-Organic	Upper Floridan aquifer
9432	Big Engine - Main Meter 1	Upper Floridan aquifer
9431	Flowertree - BLFLW #1	Upper Floridan aquifer
9430	MILTON	Upper Floridan aquifer
412782	2- Cannon (Massey)	Lake Yale
32594	B - Kauffman	Lake Yale
21981	2 - Bowron	Lake Yale
1962	A - Kauffman	Lake Yale
1940	1 - Cannon	Lake Yale

The reporting dates each year will be as follows:

Reporting Period	**Report Due Date**
January - June	July 31
July - December	January 31

29. When water has been used for crop protection, the permittee shall complete the District Form Number 40C-2.900(10) (Crop Protection Report Form) for each month in which a crop protection event occurred, providing withdrawals per day by well/pump/station. The permittee must keep the completed form(s) for two years after the freeze protection event and make them available for inspection by District staff upon request.

30. The permittee must implement the Water Conservation Plan submitted to the District on April 14, 2026, in accordance with the schedule contained therein.

31. The permittee shall use the lowest quality water source, such as reclaimed water, surface/storm water, or alternative water supply, to supply the needs of the project when deemed feasible pursuant to District rules and applicable state law.

AGENDA REQUEST FOR
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
October 13, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO:	Governing Board
THROUGH:	Michael Register, Executive Director Executive Office
FROM:	Clay Coarsey, Director Division of Water Supply Planning and Assessment
SUBJECT:	Tater Farms Canal 17, 252071-1

RECOMMENDATION

Approve Consumptive Use Permit 252071-1, known as Tater Farms Canal 17. This application is for a new agricultural use permit with a proposed allocation of 1.21 million gallons per day (mgd) of groundwater from the Upper Floridan aquifer (UFA) and surface water for irrigation of 1,050 acres of agricultural cultivated crops. To facilitate the transition to a lower quality water source, the UFA allocation is 1.21 mgd through 2031 and 0.726 mgd through 2046. Surface water will provide 0.484 mgd through 2046.

The attached Technical Staff Report includes a summary of the requested use and proposed permit conditions.

CONSUMPTIVE USE TECHNICAL STAFF REPORT
01-Sep-2026
APPLICATION #252071-1

Owner: FPJ Enterprises LLC
604 Old Treaty Pl
St Augustine, FL 32086-0000
(904) 540-1671

Applicant: FPJ Enterprises LLC
Carleton Johns
604 Old Treaty Pl
St Augustine, FL 32086-0000
(904) 540-1671

Agent: Not Applicable

Compliance Contact: FPJ Enterprises LLC
Carleton Johns
604 Old Treaty Pl
St Augustine, FL 32086-0000
(904) 540-1671

Project Name: Tater Farms Canal 17

County: St. Johns

Objectors: No

Authorization Statement:
The District authorizes, as limited by the attached permit conditions, the use of 1.21 million gallons per day (mgd) of groundwater from the Upper Floridan aquifer (UFA) and surface water for irrigation of 1,050 acres of agricultural cultivated crops. To facilitate the transition to a lower quality water source, the UFA allocation is 1.21 mgd through 2031 and 0.726 mgd through 2046. Surface water will provide 0.484 mgd through 2046.

Recommendation: Approval

Reviewers: Timothy Clohisy; Taylor Maxwell

Abstract:
This application is for a new agricultural use permit with a requested allocation of 1.21 million gallons per day (mgd) of groundwater from the Upper Floridan aquifer (UFA) and surface water for irrigation of 1,050 acres of agricultural cultivated crops, and maximum daily withdrawals of 6.26 mgd of groundwater from the UFA for crop (frost/freeze) protection through 2046. Surface water will be maximized prior to groundwater use for irrigation. District staff are recommending a 20-year permit duration with a 10-year compliance report.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
The Tater Farms Canal 17 project is a planned 1,050 acre agricultural operation located approximately 13 miles west of the intersection of I-95 and US-1 in St. Johns County. Tater Farms is a fourth-generation farming operation in the Tri-County Agricultural Area. Historically, Tater Farms primarily grew potatoes and cabbage, but due to shifting demands and markets, in 2005 the operation transitioned into sod production and in 2018 further expanded into citrus production. Tater Farms has maintained a commitment to innovation and conservation and has consistently embraced technologies to improve efficiency and sustainability.

In 2012, Tater Farms became one of the first farms to participate in the TCAA cost-share program to convert seepage irrigation systems into high-efficiency overhead irrigation. Shortly afterward, they also completed conversion to underground drain tile which led to significant water savings as well as better management of the water in and discharging off the fields. Since these initial efforts, Tater Farms converted acreage under their ownership to higher efficiency irrigation systems and have invested in precision guided technology for application of fertilizers, minimizing offsite discharges of nutrients.

Irrigation of sod will utilize an overhead irrigation system and citrus will be irrigated, fertigated and frost-protected using low-volume microjet emitters. The project also includes construction of a 15-acre onsite water storage pond designed to capture runoff from internal fields as well as flows originating in the Hastings Drainage District Canal #17, which would otherwise discharge directly into the St. Johns River. The captured surface water will be stored and recirculated back into the farm’s internal ditches so that it can be used for irrigation. The proposed surface water system is designed to offset an estimated 40% of the farm’s groundwater use for irrigation and also reduce nutrient loading to the St. Johns River.

The operation is proposing to phase in the operation over the next three years to ultimately consist of approximately 500 acres of sod and 550 acres of citrus. The operation is proposing the use of 12 UFA wells for irrigation and citrus freeze protection and multiple surface water pumps that will be used to pull water from internal ditches and a 15-acre onsite storage pond for irrigation.

PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW:
Section 373.223, *Florida Statutes* (F.S.), and Rule 40C-2.301, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), require an applicant to establish that the proposed use of water:

(a) is a reasonable-beneficial use;

(b) will not interfere with any presently existing legal use of water; and,

(c) is consistent with the public interest.

The above requirements are detailed further in the District's Applicant's Handbook: Consumptive Uses of Water, December 11, 2025 (A.H.). In addition to the aforementioned, District staff have reviewed the proposed use in accordance with Rule 62-42.300, F.A.C., which contains supplemental regulatory measures for the Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers (LSFIR) minimum flows and levels (MFLs), and Rules 62-41.400 – 62-41.402, F.A.C., which detail certain supplemental requirements applicable where a proposed water withdrawal potentially impacts an Outstanding Florida Spring (OFS). District staff have reviewed the consumptive use permit application pursuant to the above-described requirements and have determined that the application meets the conditions for issuance of this permit. A summary of the staff review is provided below.

REASONABLE BENEFICIAL USE CRITERIA:
Economic and Efficient Utilization:

- The requested allocations are based on the GIS-Based Water Resources and Agricultural Permitting and Planning System (GWRAPPS) recommendations for sod and citrus.

- The proposed use is considered economic and efficient pursuant to section 2.3(a), A.H.

Water Conservation:
A water conservation plan was submitted, which meets the requirements of Section 2.2.5.5, A.H and subsection 62-42.300(6), F.A.C.

Conservation measures within the plan include:

- Installation of high-efficiency irrigation systems, specifically, low volume microjets for citrus irrigation and high efficiency lateral overhead system for sod

- Construction of surface water storage pond and utilization of surface water from the pond and canals to offset groundwater withdrawals

- Onsite weather station

- Soil moisture monitoring devices

- Rain gauges and rainfall shutoff devices

- Monitoring of upcoming and recent rainfall events and visible crop stress

- A leak detection and repair program

Suitability and Capability of the Source:

- The proposed source is capable of producing adequate quantities of water to meet the requirements of the proposed use under sections 2.3(c)-(d), A.H.

Lowest Acceptable Quality Water Source:

- Surface water use will be maximized and consists of a 15-acre storage pond designed to capture runoff from internal field drainage ditches and flows originating from Hastings Drainage District Canal #17.

- An estimated 40% of total irrigation demand will be met with surface water.

- There are no reclaimed water sources currently available, or projected to become available, within the requested permit duration.

- The farming operation will use the lowest acceptable quality water source that is technically, economically, and environmentally feasible under section 2.3(e), A.H.

Water Resources Impact Evaluation:

- Groundwater modeling was completed utilizing the North Florida Southeast Georgia (NFSEG) version 1.1 groundwater flow model.

- Staff reviewed model results, aerial imagery, and conducted field inspections.

- No adverse wetland or surface water impacts are anticipated based on the proposed withdrawals.

- The proposed use will not cause harm under sections 2.3(f), 2.3(g), 2.3(h), 2.3(i), 2.3(j), or 3.7, A.H., provided the permit conditions are met.

Minimum Flows and Levels:

- The proposed use is in accordance with adopted Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) located within the vicinity of the project per section 2.3(h), A.H.

- The proposed use has been determined not to potentially impact any OFS. Thus, the proposed use meets Rules 62-41.400 – 62-41.402, F.A.C. and section 2.3(j), A.H., and will meet Rule 62-42.300, F.A.C., provided permit conditions are met.

Water Reserved from Use:

- There are no water reservations from use within St. Johns County pursuant to subsection 373.223(4), F.S., that would be affected by the proposed withdrawals. Thus, the proposed use meets rule 40C-2.302, F.A.C., and section 2.3(i), A.H.

Saline Water Intrusion:

- The District has an extensive regional groundwater monitoring program and regularly monitors groundwater quality and evaluates water quality trends in the area for saline water intrusion.

- With the continued implementation of the District regional groundwater quality monitoring program, there is reasonable assurance that the proposed consumptive use will not cause degradation of water resources, or significant saline water intrusion, since the farming operation is implementing feasible water conservation, and will use water efficiently.

- The proposed use is not likely to cause or contribute to saline water intrusion or harmful upconing under sections 2.3(g)3. or 3.4, A.H.

INTERFERENCE WITH EXISTING LEGAL USES:

- Groundwater modeling conducted for this application indicates that the proposed groundwater withdrawals will not reduce withdrawal capacity by ≥10% or cause economic, health, or other hardship to existing legal users.

- District staff conclude that reasonable assurance has been provided that the proposed use will not interfere with existing legal uses pursuant to section 3.6, A.H., provided permit conditions are met.

PUBLIC INTEREST:

- The requested withdrawals are necessary to support the cultivation of sod and citrus as part of a commercial agricultural business operation.

- The proposed use qualifies as reasonable beneficial and is not detrimental to the collective well-being of the region, the District, or the State.

- The proposed use is consistent with the public interest pursuant to section 3.10, A.H., provided permit conditions are met, and the measures described in the water conservation plan are implemented.

Station Information
Site Name: Tater Farms Canal 17

Well Details								
District ID	**Station Name**	**Casing Diameter (inches)**	**Casing Depth (feet)**	**Total Depth (feet)**	**Capacity (GPM)**	**Source Name**	**Status**	**Use Type**
595580	C1	12	130	200	1500	FAS - Upper Floridan Aquifer	Proposed	Agricultural
595581	C2	12	130	200	1500	FAS - Upper Floridan Aquifer	Proposed	Agricultural
595582	C3	12	130	200	1500	FAS - Upper Floridan Aquifer	Proposed	Agricultural
595583	C4	12	130	200	1500	FAS - Upper Floridan Aquifer	Proposed	Agricultural
595584	C5	12	130	200	1500	FAS - Upper Floridan Aquifer	Proposed	Agricultural
595585	C6	12	130	200	1500	FAS - Upper Floridan Aquifer	Proposed	Agricultural
595587	C7	12	130	200	1500	FAS - Upper Floridan Aquifer	Proposed	Agricultural
595588	C8	12	130	200	1500	FAS - Upper Floridan Aquifer	Proposed	Agricultural
595590	S1	12	130	200	1500	FAS - Upper Floridan Aquifer	Proposed	Agricultural

Well Details								
District ID	Station Name	Casing Diameter (inches)	Casing Depth (feet)	Total Depth (feet)	Capacity (GPM)	Source Name	Status	Use Type
595591	S2	12	130	200	1500	FAS - Upper Floridan Aquifer	Proposed	Agricultural
595592	S3	12	130	200	1500	FAS - Upper Floridan Aquifer	Proposed	Agricultural
595603	C9	12	130	200	1500	FAS - Upper Floridan Aquifer	Proposed	Agricultural

Pump Details					
District ID	Station Name	Capacity (GPM)	Source Name	Status	Use Type
595596	P1	3000	Storage Pond	Proposed	Agricultural
595597	P2	2000	Storage Pond	Proposed	Agricultural
595598	P3	1500	Storage Pond	Proposed	Agricultural
595605	P4	1500	Canal 17	Proposed	Agricultural
596225	P5	1500	Canal 17	Proposed	Agricultural
596227	P6	1500	Canal 17	Proposed	Agricultural

Conditions

1. With advance notice to the permittee, District staff with proper identification shall have permission to enter, inspect, observe, collect samples, and take measurements of permitted facilities to determine compliance with the permit conditions and permitted plans and specifications. The permittee shall either accompany District staff onto the property or make provision for access onto the property.

2. Nothing in this permit should be construed to limit the authority of the St. Johns River Water Management District to declare a water shortage and issue orders pursuant to Chapter 373, F.S. In the event of a declared water shortage, the permittee must adhere to the water shortage restrictions, as specified by the District. The permittee is advised that during a water shortage, reports shall be submitted as required by District rule or order.

3. Prior to the construction, modification or abandonment of a well, the permittee must obtain a water well permit from the St. Johns River Water Management District or the appropriate local government pursuant to Chapter 40C-3, F.A.C. Construction, modification, or abandonment of a well will require modification of the consumptive use permit when such construction, modification, or abandonment is other than that specified and described on the consumptive use permit application form.

4. Leaking or inoperative well casings, valves, or controls must be repaired or replaced as required to eliminate the leak or make the system fully operational.

5. The permittee's consumptive use of water as authorized by this permit shall not interfere with legal uses of water existing at the time of permit application. If interference occurs, the District shall revoke the permit, in whole or in part, to curtail or abate the interference, unless the interference associated with the permittee's consumptive use of water is mitigated by the permittee pursuant to a District-approved plan.

6. The permittee's consumptive use of water as authorized by this permit shall not have significant adverse hydrologic impacts to off-site land uses existing at the time of permit application. If significant adverse hydrologic impacts occur, the District shall revoke the permit, in whole or in part, to curtail or abate the adverse impacts, unless the impacts associated with the permittee's consumptive use of water are mitigated by the permittee pursuant to a District-approved plan.

7. The permittee shall notify the District in writing within 30 days of any sale, transfer, or conveyance of ownership or any other loss of permitted legal control of the Project and/or related facilities from which the permitted consumptive use is made. Where permittee's control of the land subject to the permit was demonstrated through a lease, the permittee must either submit documentation showing that it continues to have legal control or transfer control of the permitted system/project to the new landowner or new lessee. All transfers of ownership are subject to the requirements of Rule 40C-1.612, F.A.C. Alternatively, the permittee may surrender the consumptive use permit to the District, thereby relinquishing the right to conduct any activities under the permit.

8. The permittee shall prominently display an identification tag at each withdrawal site by permanently affixing such tag to the pump, headgate, valve, or other withdrawal facility as provided by Rule 40C-2.401, F.A.C. If an identification tag is lost or becomes illegible, the permittee shall permanently affix a replacement tag.

9. The permittee's consumptive use of water as authorized by this permit shall not adversely impact wetlands, lakes, rivers, or springs. If adverse impacts occur, the District shall revoke the permit, in whole or in part, to curtail or abate the

adverse impacts, unless the impacts associated with the permittee's consumptive use of water are mitigated by the permittee pursuant to a District-approved plan.

10. The permittee's consumptive use of water as authorized by this permit shall not reduce a flow or level below any minimum flow or level established by the District or the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to Section 373.042 and 373.0421, F.S. If the permittee's use of water causes or contributes to such a reduction, then the District shall revoke the permit, in whole or in part, unless the permittee implements all provisions applicable to the permittee's use in a District-approved recovery or prevention strategy.

11. The permittee's consumptive use of water as authorized by the permit shall not cause or contribute to significant saline water intrusion. If significant saline water intrusion occurs, the District shall revoke the permit, in whole or in part, to curtail or abate the saline water intrusion, unless the saline water intrusion associated with the permittee's consumptive use of water is mitigated by the permittee pursuant to a District-approved plan.

12. The permittee's consumptive use of water as authorized by the permit shall not cause or contribute to flood damage. If the permittee's consumptive use causes or contributes to flood damage, the District shall revoke the permit, in whole or in part, to curtail or abate the flood damage, unless the flood damage associated with the permittee's consumptive use of water is mitigated by the permittee pursuant to a District-approved plan.

13. All consumptive uses authorized by this permit shall be implemented as conditioned by this permit, including any documents incorporated by reference in a permit condition. The District may revoke this permit, in whole or in part, or take enforcement action, pursuant to Section 373.136 or 373.243, F.S., unless a permit modification has been obtained to address the noncompliance. The permittee shall immediately notify the District in writing of any previously submitted information that is later discovered to be inaccurate.

14. This permit does not convey to the permittee any property rights or privileges other than those specified herein, nor relieve the permittee from complying with any applicable local government, state, or federal law, rule, or ordinance.

15. A permittee may seek modification of any term of an unexpired permit. The permittee is advised that Section 373.239, F.S., and Rule 40C-2.331, F.A.C., are applicable to permit modifications.

16. All irrigation shall be in conformity with the requirements set forth in subsection 40C-2.042(1), F.A.C.

17. If chemicals are to be injected into the irrigation system, the permittee shall install and maintain a backflow prevention device on all wells or surface pumps that are connected to the irrigation system.

18. All submittals made to demonstrate compliance with this permit must include CUP number 252071-1 labeled on the submittal. Submittals should be made on-line at www.sjrwmd.com/permitting whenever possible.

19. This permit will expire on October 13, 2046.

20. Maximum annual groundwater withdrawals from the Upper Floridan aquifer for irrigation of 1,050 acres of agricultural cultivated crops must not exceed:

    441.65 mgy (1.21 mgd, annual average) through 2031, and
    264.99 mgy (0.726 mgd, annual average) through 2046.

    The average annual water use should be less than this amount in all years except for a 2 in 10-year drought.

21. Annual surface water withdrawals from Canal 17 and the onsite holding pond for irrigation of agricultural cultivated crops are 176.66 million gallons (0.484 mgd, annual average). The average annual water use should be less than this amount in all years except for a 2 in 10-year drought.

22. Maximum daily withdrawals of groundwater from the Upper Floridan aquifer for crop (frost/freeze) protection of 550 acres of citrus must not exceed 6.26 million gallons.

23. Prior to use, all existing and proposed wells and surface water pumps must be equipped with totalizing flow meters. All flow meters must measure within +/- 5% of actual flow, be verifiable and be installed according to the manufacturer's specifications.

24. Total withdrawal from the wells and pumps listed below, must be recorded continuously, totaled monthly, and reported to the District at least every six months for the duration of this permit using Water Use Pumpage Report Form (EN-50). The meter reading or quantity withdrawn must be reported in gallons.

Station Name	Station ID	Source
C1	595580	UFA
C2	595581	UFA
C3	595582	UFA
C4	595583	UFA

C5	595584	UFA
C6	595585	UFA
C7	595587	UFA
C8	595588	UFA
C9	595603	UFA
S1	595590	UFA
S2	595591	UFA
S3	595592	UFA
P1	595596	Pond
P2	595597	Pond
P3	595598	Pond
P4	595605	Canal 17
P5	596225	Canal 17
P6	596227	Canal 17

Reporting is required, even if there is no use. The reporting dates each year will be as follows:

Reporting Period	**Report Due Date**
January - June	July 31
July - December	January 31

25. When water has been used for crop protection, the permittee shall complete the District Form Number 40C-2.900(10) (Crop Protection Report Form) for each month in which a crop protection event occurred, providing withdrawals per day by well/pump/station. The permittee must keep the completed form(s) for two years after the freeze protection event and make them available for inspection by District staff upon request.

26. The permittee must maintain all flowmeters and alternative methods for measuring flow. In case of failure or breakdown of any meter, the District must be notified in writing within 5 days of its discovery. A defective meter must be repaired or replaced within 30 days of its discovery.

27. The permittee must have all flow meters checked for accuracy at least once every 10 years and recalibrated if the difference between the actual flow and the meter reading is greater than 5%. Flow Meter Accuracy Report Form (EN-51) must be submitted to the District within 30 days of the inspection/calibration.

28. The permittee must implement the Water Conservation Plan submitted to the District on August 18, 2026, in accordance with the schedule contained therein.

29. The permittee shall use the lowest quality water source, such as reclaimed water, surface/storm water, or alternative water supply, to supply the needs of the project when deemed feasible pursuant to District rules and applicable state law.

30. The permittee shall submit to the District a compliance report pursuant to subsection 373.236(4), F.S., every 10 years during the term of the permit. The permittee shall submit the report by October 13, 2036. The report shall contain sufficient information to demonstrate that the permittee's use of water will continue, for the remaining duration of the permit, to meet the conditions for permit issuance set forth in the District rules that existed at the time the permit was issued for 20 years by the District. At minimum, the compliance report must include:

    a. Documentation verifying the lowest quality source of water available is being used maximized to meet water demands, unless demonstrated that such use is not feasible; and

    b. Documentation verifying the permittee’s use of water is efficient and continues to meet the irrigation demands of the project.

31. The permittee shall submit the Agricultural Water Conservation Report, Form 62-42.300(6)(c) by October 13, 2036, certifying that the Water Conservation Measures identified at the time of permit issuance remain in place and operational. Form 62-42.300(6)(c) must demonstrate that the Irrigation Distribution Uniformity Minimums are consistent with Section 2.1, Table 2, Conservation Requirements incorporated by reference in subsection 62-42.300(6), F.A.C., and shall include a Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL) evaluation or its equivalent, where such evaluations have been made available.

AGENDA REQUEST FOR
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
October 13, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO:	Governing Board
THROUGH:	Michael Register, Executive Director Executive Office
FROM:	Dale Jenkins, Director Division of Infrastructure and Land Resources
SUBJECT:	Bureau of Operations and Maintenance FY 2026–27 Work Plan

RECOMMENDATION
Approve the Bureau of Operations and Maintenance Work Plan for FY 2026–27 with a not-to-exceed total funding cap of $3,370,000 and authorize the Executive Director or his designee to take the necessary actions in support of the District's Operations and Maintenance Program.

The necessary actions to implement the plan include:

1. Negotiate and execute associated procurement actions (purchase orders and/or contracts) as described in this agenda item;

2. Negotiate and execute any revenue agreement or contract amendment, and increase the work plan funding cap, as necessary, to implement the projects identified in this work plan and any additional projects authorized during the fiscal year to the extent additional funding is received from State revenues, program partners, or other District funding sources are identified; and

3. Execute all related budget transfers.

Amount: $3,370,000

Account Name: Project dependent

Funding Source: District and State Sources (multiple - as may be available - contingent upon awards or appropriations)

Budget Authority: FY 2026–27

Budget: $3,370,000 (total of all projects)

EOG Program/Activity Code: Project dependent

BACKGROUND
Every year, the Bureau of Operations and Maintenance (Bureau) brings its Capital Improvement Plan (Work Plan) for the upcoming fiscal year to the Governing Board for review and consideration of

approval. For FY 2026–27, the Work Plan includes maintenance projects for District infrastructure, such as stormwater treatment ponds; wetland restoration projects; levees; water control structures; erosion control facilities; culverts/bridges; roadways; and general earthwork.

DISCUSSION

Generally, Work Plan projects with a total cost greater than $200,000 per fiscal year are brought to the Governing Board for consideration of award or purchase approval prior to the project being implemented. However, by approving the Work Plan, the Governing Board authorizes certain projects exceeding $200,000 per fiscal year to proceed with the Executive Director's approval, as they will be completed in whole or in part through the Annual Civil Works contractors approved by the Governing Board. In addition, there are several projects in the FY 2026-27 Work Plan that do not exceed $200,000, which may also be approved by the Executive Director in accordance with District Policy 410.

Table 1: FY 2026–27 Bureau of Operations and Maintenance Proposed Projects

Project / Location	Estimated Cost	Anticipated Procurement / Governing Board (GB) Action	See Notes
Replace Marsh Flow-Way Culverts (Upper Ocklawaha River Basin)	$500,000	Award culvert purchase to winning bidder; construction by Annual Civil Contractor	1, 2
Marsh Flow-Way Cell Maintenance (Upper Ocklawaha River Basin)	$300,000	Annual Civil Contractor	1
Minor Water Control Structure Inspections/Repairs (Districtwide)	$250,000	Award to winning bidder (multiple contracts)	2
Levee Erosion Repair (Upper St. Johns River Basin)	$200,000	Award slope stabilization (sod) to winning bidder District crews to regrade slopes/make repairs	1, 2
Repair Levee North of Interceptor Road (Upper Ocklawaha River Basin)	$200,000	Annual Civil Contractor	1
Lake Apopka Levee Repairs (Upper Ocklawaha River Basin)	$200,000	Award road base and sod purchases to winning bidders Road Base placement by in-house crews	1, 2
Levee Capping L-78 & L-79 (Upper St. Johns River Basin)	$195,000	Award road base purchase to winning bidder Placement by in-house crews	2
Install Generators at PS#4 (Upper St. Johns River Basin)	$175,000	Award Installation to low bidder	2
Cap Emeralda Wildlife Drive (Upper Ocklawaha River Basin)	$125,000	Award road base purchase to winning bidder Placement by in-house crews	1, 2
Miscellaneous Infrastructure Improvements (Upper St. Johns River Basin)	$100,000	Award to winning bidder (multiple contracts)	2
Cap Access Road to Apopka Lock and Dam (Upper Ocklawaha River Basin)	$50,000	Award road base purchase to winning bidder Placement by in-house crews	1, 2
Refurbish/Replace Wooden Bridges (Districtwide)	$50,000	Award to winning bidder (multiple contracts)	2
Repair/Replace Monitoring Platforms/Walkways (Districtwide)	$50,000	Award walkway repairs to winning bidder (multiple bids)	2
Grade Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive (Upper Ocklawaha River Basin)	$50,000	Annual Civil Contractor	1
Total FY 2026–27 Operation and Maintenance Annual Work Plan	**$2,445,000 (estimated)**		3

Notes:

1. Work will be conducted by an annual civil contractor (work order executed by Executive Director or Designee).

2. Approval of winning bidder is delegated to Executive Director, if cost does not exceed $200,000.

3. The project costs are estimates. Project costs may be reallocated between projects.

Table 2: FY 2026–27 Bureau of Land Resources and Bureau of Environmental Sciences Proposed Projects

Project / Location	Estimated Cost	Anticipated Procurement / Governing Board (GB) Action	See Notes
Pablo Creek Dike Removal (Duval County)	$300,000	Annual Civil Contractor	1
Install Culverts with Manatee Guards (Merritt Island)	$150,000	US Fish and Wildlife to purchase culverts; construction by Annual Civil Contractor	1, 2
C-15-D Dike Removal (Merritt Island)	$275,000	Annual Civil Contractor	1
Pablo Creek Culvert Install and Bridge Repair (Duval County)	$100,000	Annual Civil Contractor	1
Construct FWMA Observation Tower (Upper St. Johns River Basin)	$100,000	Award to winning bidder	2
Total FY 2026–27 Additional Work	**$925,000 (estimated)**		3

Notes:

1. 1. Work will be conducted by an annual civil contractor (work order executed by Executive Director or Designee).

2. Approval of winning bidder is delegated to Executive Director, if cost does not exceed $200,000.

3. The project costs are estimates. Project costs may be reallocated between projects.

AGENDA REQUEST FOR
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
October 13, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

THROUGH: Michael Register, Executive Director
Executive Office

FROM: Tom Frick, Director
Division of Basin Management

SUBJECT: 2026 Middle St. Johns River Basin Plan

RECOMMENDATION
Approve the 2026 Middle St. Johns River Basin Plan.

BACKGROUND
In 2024, the District introduced its Basin Management Program, which divided the District into four strategic planning basins: the Indian River Lagoon/Upper St. Johns River Basin (IRL/USJRB), the Middle St. Johns River Basin, the Lower St. Johns River Basin, and the Ocklawaha River Basin. This approach allows the District to meet the resource needs of each specific basin and to focus its resources and efforts more effectively and efficiently. The program encompasses the research, science, data and modeling, and stakeholder input to evaluate the state of the region's water resources and to develop the projects necessary to address challenges.

Each basin is overseen by a dedicated basin coordinator tasked with developing actionable initiatives to address the resource priorities within the basin. The basin coordinators assess the basins' resources and the associated science, identify priorities, and develop basin plans detailing regional priorities and objectives to address the challenges unique to each basin. The basin plans are the foundation for the regional priorities established in the District's Strategic Plan.

DISCUSSION
Staff recently completed the Middle St. Johns River Basin Plan. The basin plan identified Water Quality, Outstanding Florida Springs, and Flood Protection as the priorities. On July 16, 2026, the District hosted a public meeting to present an overview of the draft Middle St. Johns River Basin Plan. The draft plan was then posted on the District website for public comment from July 23 through August 13, 2026. Public comments were incorporated into the final draft where appropriate. Upon Governing Board approval, the final Middle St. Johns River Basin Plan will be available to the public on the District's website.

St. Johns River Water Management District

Middle St. Johns River Basin Plan

2026





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Introduction

The St. Johns River Water Management District (District) is a science-based organization responsible for managing and protecting water resources in northeast and east-central Florida. The District's mission is to ensure adequate water supplies are available to meet the needs of current and future users while protecting and restoring water quality and related natural resources.

Water resource opportunities and challenges vary across the District and evolve over time. To focus its resources and efforts more effectively, the District is divided into four strategic planning basins: the Lower St. Johns River Basin (LSJRB); the Ocklawaha River Basin; the Indian River Lagoon/Upper St. Johns River Basin(IRL/USJRB), and the Middle St. Johns River Basin (MSJRB). Within each strategic planning basin, the District identifies regional priorities and works with stakeholders and local government partners to identify and implement solutions to protect our natural resources and support the state's growth by ensuring the sustainable use of Florida's water for the benefit of the people of the District and the state.

The MSJRB covers more than 2,000 square miles, and encompasses Seminole County, portions of Orange, Osceola, Volusia, Lake, Marion, and Putnam counties, and a small northwest corner of Brevard County. The MSJRB is known for its springs, lakes, creeks, streams, and rivers. This basin includes the middle section of the St. Johns River and its expansive floodplain wetlands, including lakes Harney, Jesup, Monroe, and George; the Econlockhatchee and Wekiva rivers, both designated as Outstanding Florida Waters (OFW); and Deep Creek. The Wekiva River is also designated as a National Wild and Scenic River and a Florida Scenic and Wild River. The basin also includes seven designated Outstanding Florida Springs (OFS): Rock, Wekiwa, Gemini, Volusia Blue, De Leon, Alexander, and Silver Glen springs.



Executive Summary

The strategic priorities for the MSJRB focus on improving water quality, protecting the OFS, and enhancing flood protection.

The MSJRB water quality priority includes reducing excess nutrient loadings and legacy nutrients in the lakes and waterways. Ongoing District water quality monitoring and reporting includes analysis and evaluation of water quality data to produce the annual Water Quality Status and Trends Report. Additionally, District projects aimed at reducing legacy nutrients include the Lake Jesup Offline Media-Based Water Quality Improvement Project, the Lake Jesup Sediment Phosphorus Inactivation Project, and the Lake George Gizzard Shad Harvest Project.

The District will use information from the completed Loch Haven Chain of Lakes Final Feasibility Assessment Report and the ongoing MSJRB Feasibility Study to facilitate the development of cost-effective water quality improvement projects.

The MSJRB OFSs priority focuses on developing opportunities with local partners to protect OFSs within the basin. Efforts supporting this priority include reducing nitrogen loading within the springshed and protecting native submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV).

New project opportunities with local municipalities and agencies are essential to the focus on water quality, water levels, and spring flows data that form the basis for regional projects to protect the OFSs. The District will continue to balance the protection of Florida's springs with the public enjoyment of these precious natural resources.

The flood protection priority in the MSJRB focuses on land acquisition within the St. Johns River floodplain and its major tributaries. Efforts supporting this priority include the District's land acquisition programs; ongoing hydrologic monitoring and data reporting of surface water elevations and flows; and completion of the Upper and Middle St. Johns River Flood Forecasting Model. Protecting floodplain wetlands and restoring those with altered hydrology also supports public recreation and education while preserving natural systems and their associated plant and wildlife habitats.





Middle St. Johns River Strategic Planning Basin Water Quality

Priority:

- Improve water quality within the lakes and waterways

Objectives:

- Continue monitoring of water quality, SAV, and shoreline habitat to identify trends and document the success of water quality improvement projects.
- Develop projects that reduce internal legacy nutrient loads within water bodies, including the Lake Jesup Offline Media-Based Water Quality Improvement Project, the Lake Jesup Sediment Phosphorus Inactivation Project, and the Lake George Gizzard Shad Harvest Project.
- Develop cost-effective nutrient reduction projects identified in the Loch Haven Chain of Lakes Water Quality and Flood Protection Feasibility Study, the MSJRB Feasibility Study, the Lakes Apopka and Jesup Restoration Strategies Study, and the proposed Lake George Conservation Area Hydrologic Restoration Project.



Highlight:

The District has many ongoing efforts to protect and improve water quality throughout the lakes and waterways of the MSJRB. A key component of this work is monitoring and reporting on water quality, SAV, and shoreline habitat. Results from these efforts are used to identify trends and document the success of water quality improvement projects, as well as SAV and shoreline habitat restoration and enhancement projects.

Project development to reduce internal recycling of legacy nutrients in Lake Jesup, where internal nutrient loading originates from in-lake sediments and groundwater seepage, is ongoing. In addition, the Lake George Gizzard Shad Harvest continues to improve water quality within the lake.

The District will also continue to facilitate nutrient reduction projects within the watersheds of the MSJRB by using recommendations from the Loch Haven Chain of Lakes Water Quality and Flood Protection Feasibility Study, the ongoing MSJRB Feasibility Study, the Lakes Apopka and Jesup Restoration Strategies Study, and the proposed Lake George Conservation Area Hydrologic Restoration Project.

Water Quality, SAV, and Shoreline Habitat Monitoring

The District maintains sixty-eight surface water quality stations within the MSJRB that are monitored at least monthly. The District analyzes and evaluates these data in the annual Water Quality Status and Trends Report. For the 2025 report, the five-year status assessment period was from January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2024. At least three years of data during the five-year assessment period were required to complete the status assessment. The fifteen-year



trend assessment period was from January 1, 2010, through December 31, 2024. At least ten years of data during the fifteen-year period of record were required to calculate the trend (Figure 1).

The District currently monitors SAV at selected locations within Lake George to assess the health of the water body. SAV serves as an important indicator of the water quality and ecosystem condition. Changes in SAV distribution or abundance may indicate environmental stress resulting from changes in water quality, herbivory, or other factors that limit SAV growth, coverage, and recruitment.

The District is partnering with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to conduct annual SAV monitoring within the MSJRB lakes. District staff assisted FWC with SAV surveys in lakes Monroe, Jesup, and Harney in 2025 and are continuing these efforts in 2026 in lakes Monroe, Woodruff, George, and Harney. The District will also independently survey Lake Monroe to determine the full extent of SAV beds. Sonar-based mapping may also be used by FWC as water levels permit.

The District monitors and assesses native shoreline and littoral native vegetation in lakes Jesup, Harney, Monroe, and George. These floodplain littoral areas provide important nursery and refuge habitat for many commercial, sport, and wetland-dependent species. Shoreline vegetation can also trap sediments and contribute to nutrient attenuation.

Initial surveys of littoral native vegetation in lakes Jesup, Harney, Monroe, and George will begin in summer 2026 and will be repeated annually as funding is available. Long-term monitoring will enable staff to compare current conditions with historical patterns and evaluate the ecological health of each water body.

Lake Jesup Offline Media-Based Water Quality Improvement Project

The District's Governing Board designated Lake Jesup as a priority for water quality restoration and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitats. Decades of excessive nutrient loading have resulted in accumulations of legacy nutrients within the lake sediments that continue to recycle into the water column, delaying improvements in the lake's water quality.

Reducing the release of legacy nitrogen and phosphorus from lake sediments through sediment removal or inactivation has been a focus of the District's restoration efforts. Through the removal or inactivation processes, biologically available

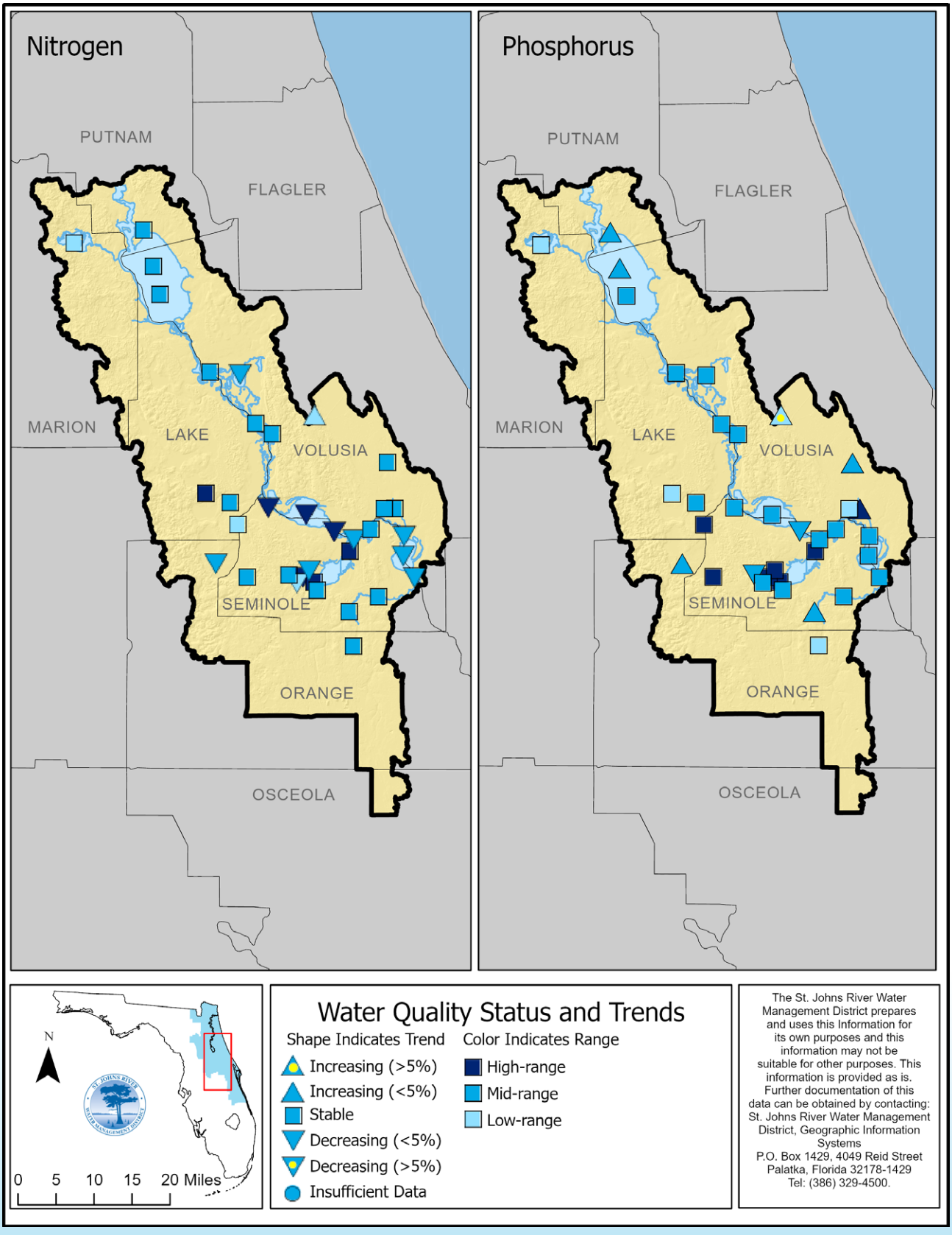


Figure 1. Water Quality Status and Trends in the MSJRB.

forms of phosphorus are removed or converted to a biologically inert form, effectively removing the nutrients available for algal blooms in the water.

Flow-through nutrient treatment technologies were evaluated during fiscal year (FY) 2021–22. Results indicated that small-footprint treatment technologies, including nutrient sorption media, could remove nitrogen and phosphorus at higher rates than a flow-through wetland system at comparable costs.

The District is currently under contract to complete the design and permitting of a full-scale nutrient reduction project (Figure 2). The project will treat raw water pumped from Lake Jesup before returning the treated water to the lake. The facility is located on a 9.7-acre upland property owned by the District along the southeastern shoreline.

The design includes pilot-scale evaluation and testing of a media-based system, which is expected to be completed by October 2026. Final design and permitting of the full-scale project are anticipated to be completed by October 2027.

Lake Jesup Sediment Phosphorus Inactivation Project

In July 2025, the District received a $15 million legislative appropriation for a phosphorus inactivation project in Lake Jesup (Figure 2). The project will incorporate lanthanum-modified bentonite in the lake's sediments to bind biologically available phosphorus that would otherwise contribute to algal blooms in the water.

The contract will consist of three primary components: diagnostic sediment sampling to establish baseline phosphorus concentrations and determine dosing and spatial differences; multiple applications of the treatment material; and post-treatment sampling to evaluate effectiveness. The project is expected to begin in fiscal year 2026–27 with an initial sediment treatment occurring in 2027 and be completed by summer 2031.

Lake George Gizzard Shad Harvesting

Efforts to reduce legacy phosphorus from Lake George have focused on harvesting rough fish, primarily gizzard shad, a native species that thrives in nutrient-rich waters. Commercial harvest removes phosphorus contained within their bodies while reducing phosphorus recycling associated with feeding and sediment resuspension.

The District initiated the program in Lake George (Figure 2) in 2013, making the 2026 season the eleventh annual harvest. More than one million pounds of fish are removed each year, resulting in the removal of over 8,300 pounds of phosphorus annually. The harvest is carefully timed to not harm the annual migration of American shad (*Alosa sapidissima*), a protected sportfish that is not related to the gizzard shad.





Harvested gizzard shad are sold for use as bait in crayfish and crab traps, helping offset program costs and making the project one of the District's most cost-effective phosphorus reduction strategies. The District plans to evaluate the cost-effectiveness and potential for other gizzard shad harvest efforts to remove nutrients from MSJRB water bodies.

Water Quality and Flood Protection Feasibility Study for the Loch Haven Chain of Lakes

The Loch Haven Chain of Lakes (LHCL) is a five-lake system within the upper Howell Creek Basin. Its watershed spans the City of Winter Park, the City of Orlando, and Orange County, and ultimately drains to Lake Jesup (Figure 2).

In fiscal year 2023–24, the District received a $1.35 million legislative appropriation to administer and implement a flood protection and long-term nutrient management study of the LHCL. The study included the identification of potential capital improvement projects that provide flood protection or water quality improvement.

The study established a foundation for developing sustainable projects that provide long-term efficacy that can be implemented by stakeholders. Three key issues were evaluated: water quality, flood protection, and aquatic vegetation management.

The first phase of the study, funded at $500,000, included data review, field reconnaissance, vegetation assessments, water quality and flood protection assessments, existing stormwater infrastructure evaluations (supported by stormwater modeling), and nutrient load assessment (supported by water quality modeling).

These efforts resulted in the identification of thirty-four conceptual projects intended to provide either flood protection or nutrient reduction benefits. The final report, Water Quality and Flood Protection Feasibility Study for the Loch Haven Chain of Lakes Final Feasibility Assessment, was completed in May 2025.

The second phase of the study, funded at $850,000, involved working with local stakeholders to identify one or more of the thirty-four project concepts for development of full-scale design and permitting.

Design of the first project for the City of Orlando began in January 2026. This project will reduce localized flooding and improve water quality within the Lake Winyah basin. Design of a second project for Orange County began in June 2026 and includes the utilization of a baffle box to improve water quality within the Lake Sue basin. Both projects are expected to be fully designed and permitted by September 2028. The City of Orlando and Orange County will be responsible for securing construction funding. Development of other project concepts will be led by the three local governments.

Middle St. Johns River Basin Feasibility Study

The District initiated the Middle St. Johns River Basin Feasibility Study in fiscal year 2024–25. This $294,614 study, funded by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), is intended to identify cost-effective nutrient reduction project concepts.

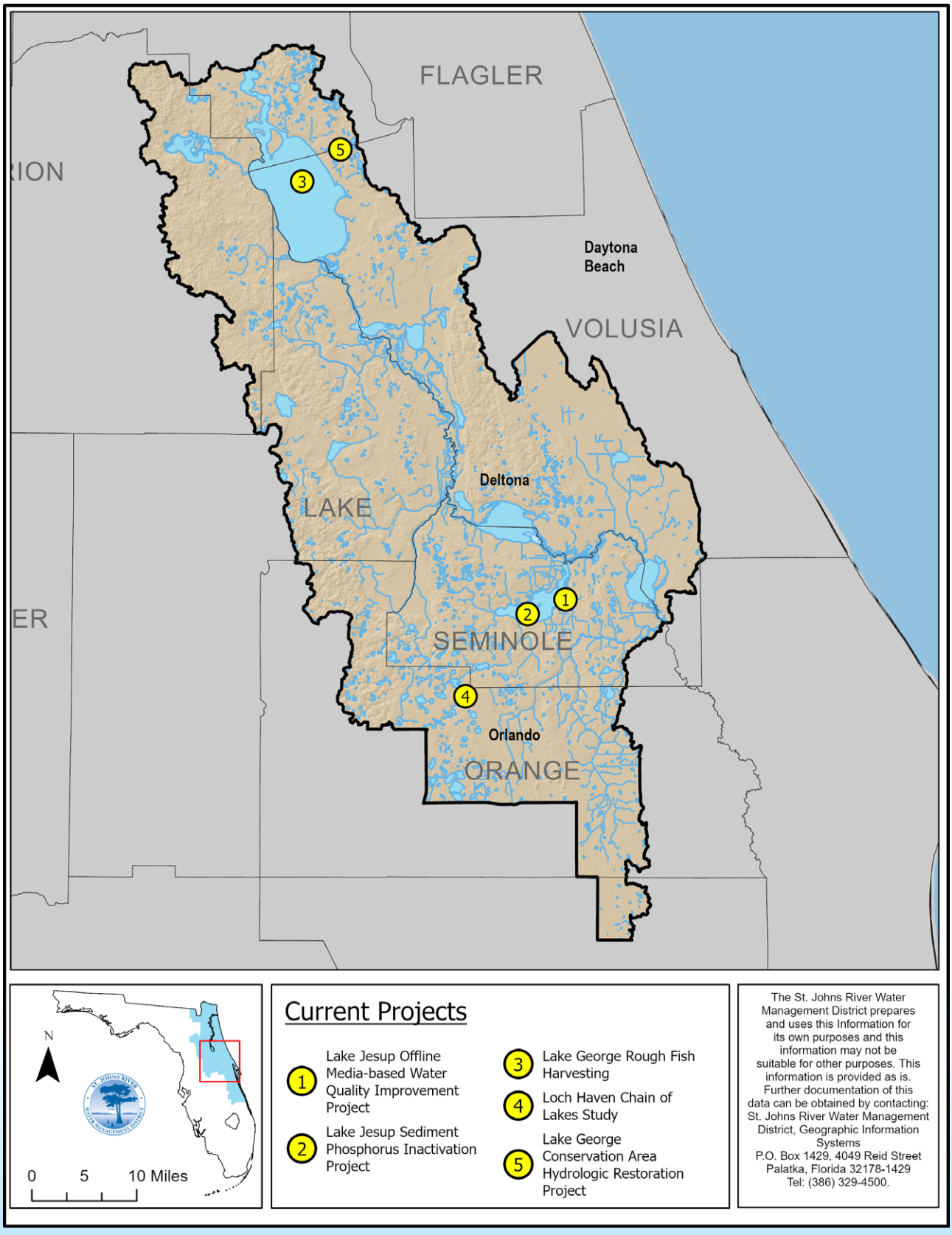


Figure 2. Current projects in the MSJRB.

Preliminary findings indicate that several best management practices may provide meaningful nutrient reductions, including stormwater treatment ponds, baffle boxes with activated media, and alum injection systems.

The study will produce eight conceptual project designs and is scheduled for completion by October 31, 2026.

Lakes Apopka and Jesup Restoration Strategies Study

The 2026 Florida Legislature included Specific Appropriation 1733 (SA 1733) in the State Budget. This direct legislative appropriation provides $5,000,000 in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund to the St. Johns River Water Management District to study restoration strategies for Lake Jesup and Lake Apopka. The objective of the study is to identify cost-effective potential projects to reduce nutrient availability and impairment that further the goal of meeting Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs) within these lakes, while maintaining or enhancing water supply, native ecology, and recreational opportunities. The study is conceptual in nature and will rely on existing data and models. The project concepts identified through the study may include watershed nutrient-load reductions or measures to reduce the recycling of legacy nutrient loads from within waterbodies. The study is required to be complete by March 1, 2027.

Lake George Conservation Area Hydrologic Restoration Project

The Lake George Conservation Area (LGCA) is located in Putnam and Volusia counties. The property was formerly managed for pulpwood timber production. The historical silvicultural ditching resulted in altered hydrologic conditions and increased erosion.

During fiscal year 2020–21, District staff completed conceptual modeling of the primary impacted areas and determined that two low-water-crossing weirs could replace three existing culverts. The project would restore wetland hydroperiods within the Patty Wiggins Branch of the LGCA, improve hydrologic and ecological functions, and reduce erosion and turbid runoff entering Lake George.

Once funding for the project was secured, work on an updated model incorporating detailed topography was initiated and is expected to be complete by September 2026. Construction is anticipated to begin by January 2027 and conclude by March 2027. DEP is providing $80,000 through the Resiliency Grant and Wetlands Restoration and Protection Grant programs.



Middle St. Johns River Strategic Planning Basin
Outstanding Florida Springs

Priority:

- Protect OFSs

Objectives:

- Reduce contributing springshed nutrient loading
- Protect sustainable native SAV

Highlight:

The MSJRB includes seven designated OFSs: Gemini, Rock, Wekiwa, Volusia Blue, DeLeon, Alexander, and Silver Glen springs. These springs provide important natural, recreational, and economic benefits for Florida residents and visitors. The District works to balance the protection of these valuable natural resources with continued public access and enjoyment.

Many factors, including nutrient loading, can negatively impact springs. Ongoing water quality monitoring helps identify trends, evaluate changing conditions, and document the effectiveness of water quality improvement projects. Maintaining sufficient spring flows is also essential to protecting spring health. In addition, SAV serves as an important indicator of overall spring health, and the collection of timely, geo-referenced SAV data provides valuable information for assessing ecological conditions.

Nutrient Load Reduction

The District monitors water quality at sixty-eight surface water stations within the MSJRB, including stations located at the seven designated OFSs. These data help identify existing water quality concerns, detect emerging trends, and evaluate the effectiveness of water quality improvement, habitat restoration, and land management activities.





Five OFSs within the MSJRB have been designated by DEP as impaired for nitrogen. DEP has established Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for these springs and adopted four Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs) to address the nitrogen impairment: DeLeon, Volusia Blue, Wekiwa and Rock Springs systems, and Gemini Springs.

The District will continue to pursue funding opportunities and develop partnerships to support projects that reduce nitrogen loading within these impaired OFS springsheds.

Springs SAV Monitoring

District staff conduct annual monitoring at six first- and second-magnitude springs within the MSJRB to evaluate trends in SAV and benthic algae. The past several years have shown decreases in SAV biomass at several springs, including Silver Glen Springs, Salt Springs, and Juniper Creek.

Following Hurricane Irma in 2017, elevated water levels and increased color in the St. Johns River have persisted during wetter years, particularly within the lower portions of spring runs. These conditions have limited light penetration and affected the recovery of SAV communities.

Volusia Blue Spring also plays an important role in the winter refuge for the St. Johns River manatee population. Grazing by manatees keeps SAV abundance low in the spring.

The District anticipates initiating enhanced SAV monitoring and mapping in the spring of 2027. The project will include the spring runs associated with Wekiwa, Rock, Alexander, Volusia Blue, Silver



Glen, Juniper, and Salt Springs. Two to three spring runs will be mapped per year, with initial mapping expected to be completed within three years. Thereafter, mapping will continue on a three-year rotational schedule.

This mapping approach is replicable and provides georeferenced, archivable video, sonar, and location-specific environmental data. It also offers a timely and cost-effective means of monitoring major springs and spring runs of interest.
Data collected through this effort will improve understanding of fluctuations in SAV coverage and distribution.



Middle St. Johns River Strategic Planning Basin Flood Protection

Priority:

- Enhance flood protection along lakes and rivers

Objectives:

- Facilitate acquisition and management of floodplain wetlands
- Continue hydrologic monitoring and data sharing
- Complete the development of the Upper and Middle St. Johns River Flood Forecasting Model

Highlight:

The middle segment of the St. Johns River experiences the greatest fluctuations in water levels. As a result, the river's floodplain wetlands, lakes, and tributaries play a critical role in flood protection while also supporting the ecological health of the basin.

Preservation of these floodplains not only provides benefits of flood protection but also protects plant and wildlife habitat, improves water quality, supports public recreation, and enhances opportunities for environmental education. For these reasons, the acquisition and management of floodplain wetlands remain essential components of the District's flood protection strategy and its broader mission to protect Florida's water resources.

Hydrologic monitoring and reporting of surface water elevations and flows are important tools for evaluating existing and potential flood conditions. These data support operational and management decisions and are closely coordinated with agency partners, including the National Weather Service and the Southeast River Forecast Center.

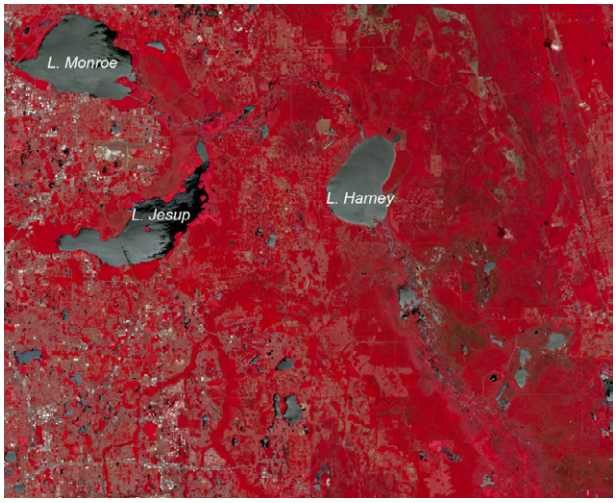
The District is developing a real-time flood forecasting model for the MSJRB and USJRB. Upon completion, the Upper and Middle St. Johns River Flood Forecasting Model will provide timely information beneficial to the public, emergency management officials, and District staff to improve flood preparedness, emergency response, and water management decisions.

District Land Acquisition Program

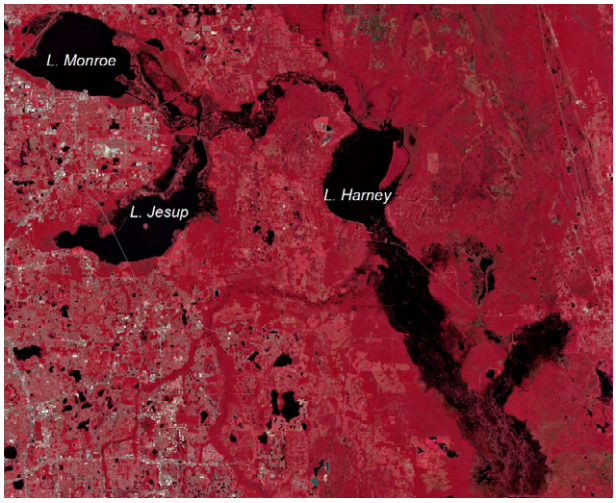
The District's land acquisition strategy within the MSJRB will continue to focus on opportunities along the St. Johns, Wekiva, and Econlockhatchee rivers and around lakes Jesup, Monroe, and Harney. These acquisitions support nonstructural flood protection, water resource protection, the enhancement or restoration of natural systems, floodplain connectivity, water quality improvements, and the protection of important natural areas and land management boundaries.

Floodplain wetlands play an important role in flood protection, as evident by satellite imagery. In October 2024, Hurricane Milton made landfall and caused widespread flooding across central Florida. Satellite imagery of the middle basin, including lakes Harney, Jesup, and Monroe, illustrates the dynamic nature of water levels and the extensive inundation of floodplain wetlands south of Lake Harney and along the St. Johns River between lakes Harney, Jesup, and Monroe. Much of this floodplain has been purchased through the District's land acquisition program.

The middle basin also experiences reverse flows during major storm events, with water moving southward from the mouth of the St. Johns River as far upstream as Lake Monroe. These conditions can delay the recession of floodwaters for up to 90–120 days, further highlighting the important flood



European Space Agency Sentinel satellite color infrared imagery from May 27, 2024.



European Space Agency Sentinel satellite color infrared imagery from October 14, 2024.

storage function provided by these floodplain wetlands.

The District will continue to engage with local government partners and willing sellers to acquire lands identified for potential acquisition on the List of Critical Wetlands and the Five-Year Land Acquisition Map. The List of Critical Wetlands and Five-Year Land Acquisition Plan Map are part of the District's Strategic Plan and are available at Plans and reports for St. Johns River Water Management District.

In addition to non-structural flood protection opportunities, the MSJRB can also benefit from regional structural flood protection projects.

Collaboration with local government partners is key to planning, design, and implementation of these projects. Several local governments, including Lake, Orange, Seminole, and Volusia counties and their municipalities, have recently completed or are nearing completion of surface water basin studies that identify areas where additional flood protection measures may be needed.

Hydrologic Monitoring

The District and its partners operate an extensive network of surface hydrology data monitoring sites, including seventy-eight that monitor surface water elevation, and thirty-five that measure surface water discharge. This network provides near real-time data that supports flood forecasting, water management, and emergency response activities.

Upper and Middle St. Johns River Flood Forecasting Model

The District is developing a real-time flood forecasting model for the Upper and Middle St. Johns River Basins.

The consultant is engaging with local governments to identify low-lying and flood-prone areas. This model will use observed rainfall, water levels, flow, as well as forecasted rainfall, to predict flood elevations and flows along the main stem and major tributaries of the St. Johns River within these two basins during heavy rainfall and hurricane events.

Information from updated basin-specific flood models developed by local governments will also be incorporated into the District's model. Once completed, the model will provide timely information to the public, emergency management officials, and District staff to support flood preparedness and response efforts.

The project is funded through a $1.5 million grant from the Resilient Florida Program and is expected to be completed by November 2027.

Basin Overview
Physiography of the Basin

The MSJRB includes a watershed area of more than 2,000 square miles within Seminole County and portions of Orange, Osceola, Volusia, Lake, Marion, and Putnam counties, as well as a small northwestern corner of Brevard County (Figure 3). The St. Johns River flows northward from the USJRB through the MSJRB to the LSJRB. The basin is known for its springs, lakes, creeks, streams, and rivers.

Major Tributaries and Springs

The Middle St. Johns River extends from the confluence of the Econlockhatchee River northward to the confluence of the Ocklawaha River. Major tributaries within this reach include Deep Creek, the Econlockhatchee River, and the Wekiva River (Figure 4)

Spring discharges and surficial aquifer system discharges are important components of the base flow to the river and its tributaries (Figure 5). During drier periods, water levels in this segment of the river exist at sea level, making this segment of the river vulnerable to reverse flows caused by tides and strong onshore winds at the river's mouth near Mayport. These periods of low flow, especially during the spring, can contribute to the development of algal blooms.

During wetter periods, prolonged rainfall can result in rapid and substantial increases in river water levels. Tropical systems may generate both heavy rainfall within the watershed and strong onshore winds at the river's mouth, driving reverse flows. The combination of upstream runoff and downstream reverse flows creates the greatest variability of high and low water elevations along the river; therefore, the river's floodplain wetlands' ability to store floodwater is a valuable natural resource.

Development that occurred between the 1940s and early 1980s significantly modified the hydrology



of the Little Econlockhatchee River and Little Wekiva River. Channelization and the installation of drainage infrastructure in portions of these systems increased sedimentation, transport of nutrients, and reduced the natural floodplain wetlands.

Similarly, Lake Jesup's connection with the St. Johns River has been altered over several decades. Reduced riverine flushing in Lake Jesup has contributed to increased accumulation of muck sediments, particularly in the western portion of the lake, which receives approximately 48 percent of external phosphorus loads from its three largest tributaries: Howell, Gee, and Soldier creeks.

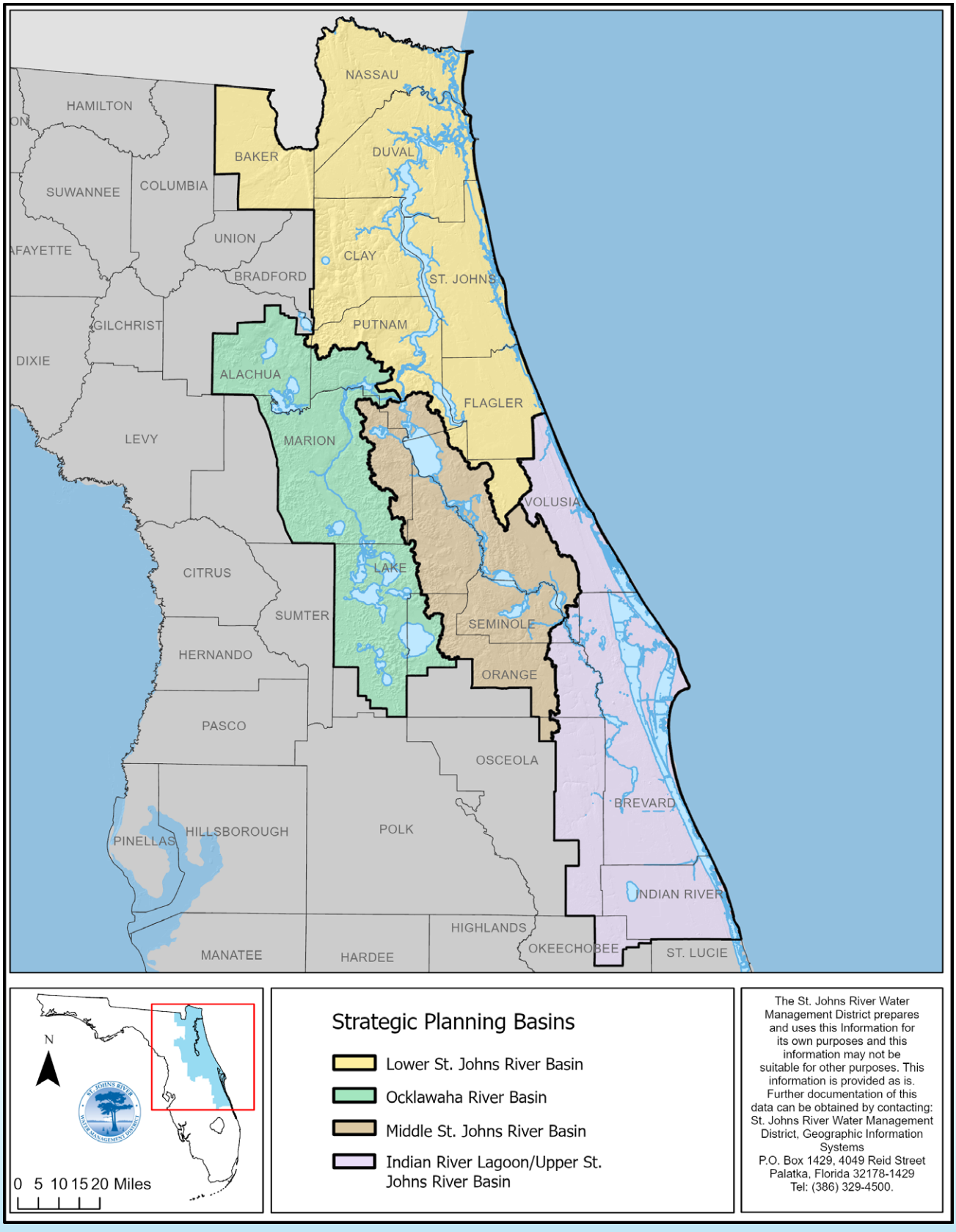


Figure 3. Strategic Planning Basins of the St. Johns River Water Management District.

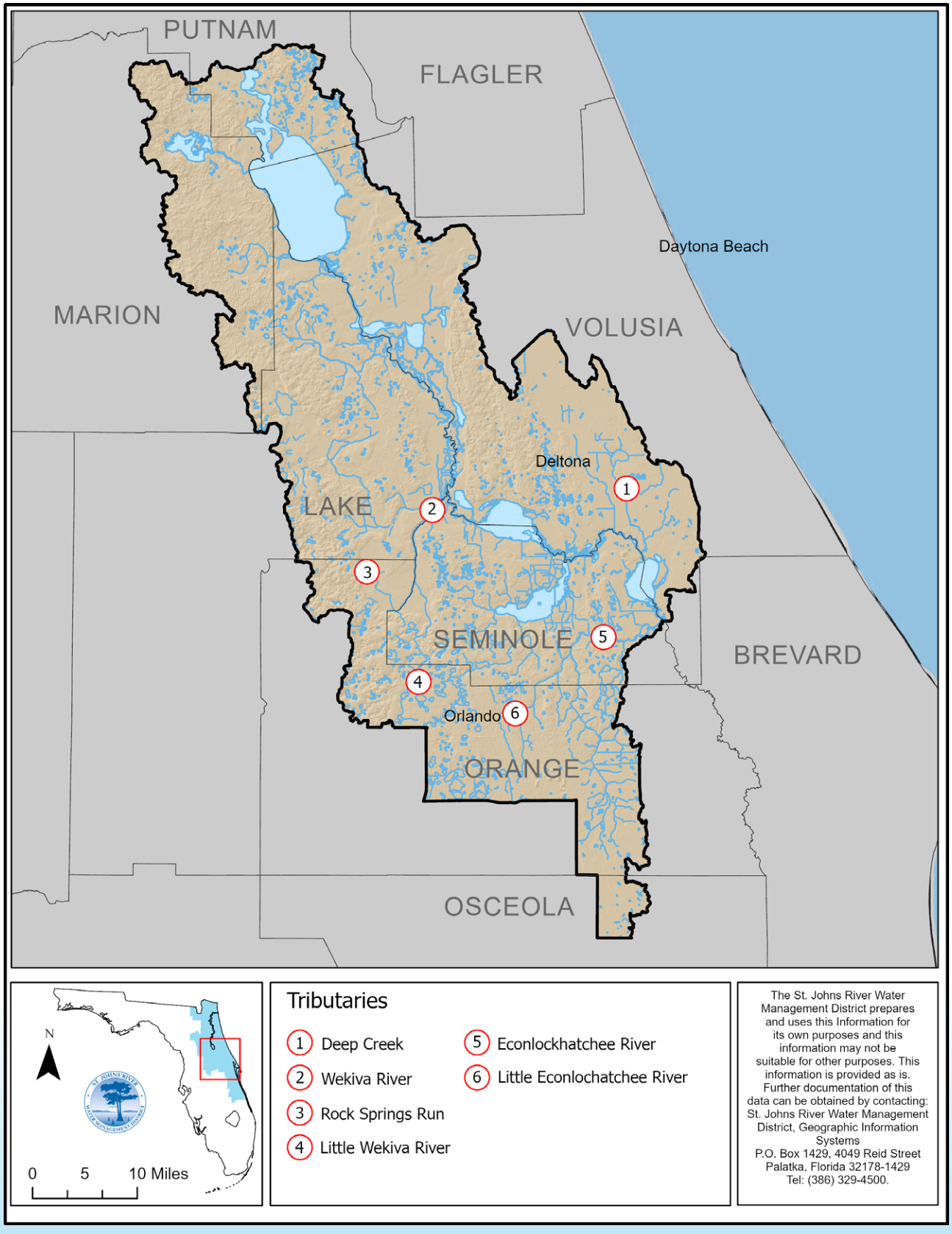


Figure 4. Major tributaries of the MSJRB.

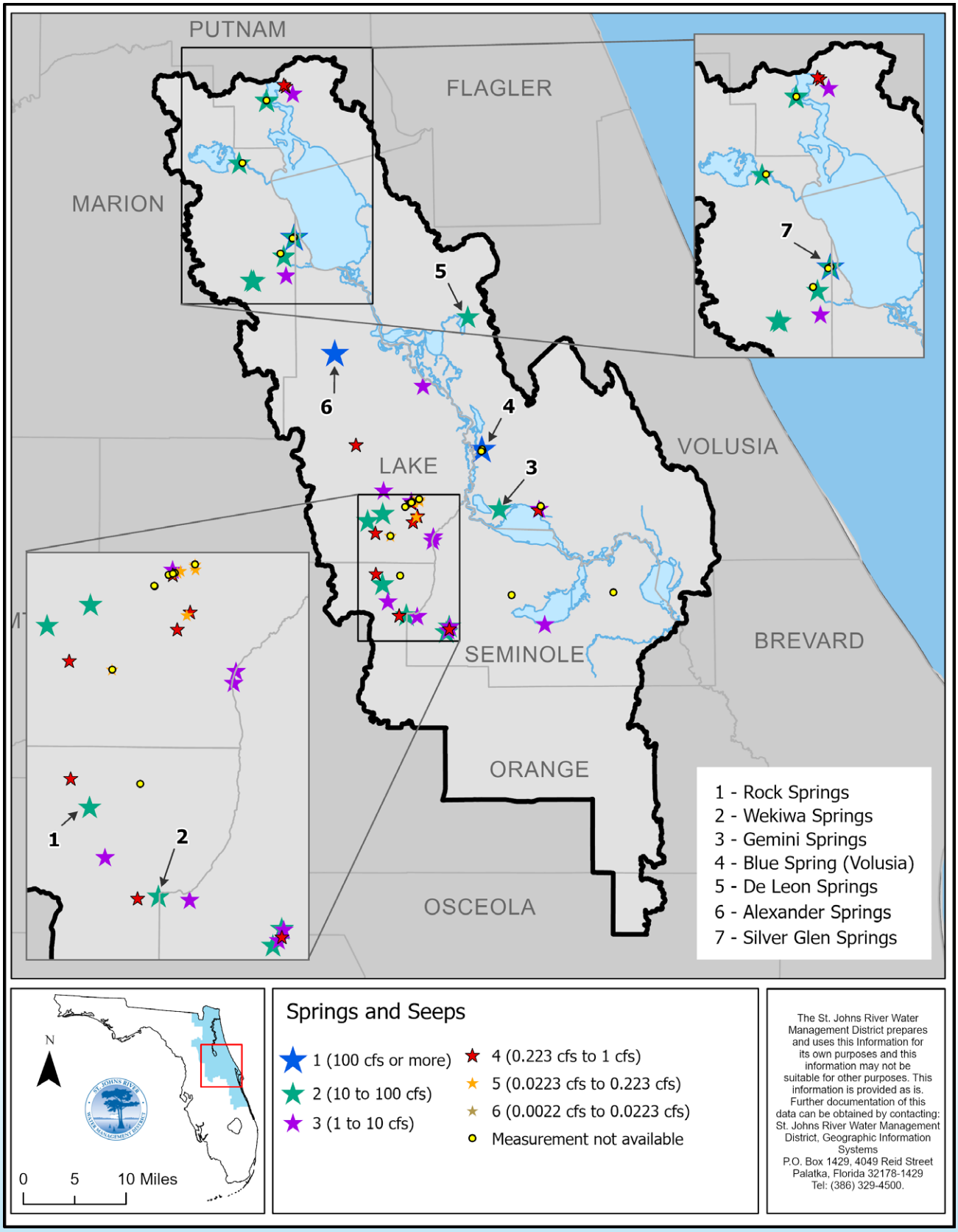


Figure 5. Springs and seeps within the MSJRB in cubic feet per second (cfs).

Water Quality

Protecting and restoring water quality is a core mission of the District. Water quality monitoring provides information that enables the District to make resource decisions based on accurate, timely information and to document the condition of more pristine waters. These efforts are closely coordinated with many partners, including the DEP's TMDL and BMAP programs.

The District relies on the ongoing collection of hydrologic and water quality data, as well as key ecosystem indicators, to support science-based decisions. The monitoring network includes seventy-eight surface hydrology stations, sixty-eight water quality stations, and biological indicators at key locations throughout the District. These data guide actions related to each of the District's core missions.

Because some water quality goals are associated with biological outcomes, such as the recovery of native SAV, monitoring these communities provides important feedback regarding the effectiveness of water quality improvement efforts. SAV monitoring is particularly important in spring runs, as these systems often contain a diverse SAV community.

DEP assesses all of Florida's major watersheds, or basins, every two years. Water bodies that do not meet the water quality standards set forth for them are determined to be impaired. The 2022–2024 Biennial Assessment was adopted on August 16, 2024.

DEP has adopted TMDLs for many of the nutrient-impaired water bodies within the MSJRB, including the St. Johns River; lakes Harney, Jesup, and Monroe; the Wekiva system; Gemini Springs; Volusia Blue Spring; and DeLeon Spring. TMDLs are developed for water bodies verified as not meeting their established water quality standards. TMDL documents are available on DEP's website.



Current Status and Trends, District Reporting

The District monitors ambient surface water quality at sixty-eight stations within the MSJRB. These water quality data are analyzed annually and summarized in the Status and Trends Report.

For the 2025 report, the status assessment period was from January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2024. Stations with at least three years of data during the five-year assessment period of record were analyzed for their status. The fifteen-year trend assessment period was from January 1, 2010, through December 31, 2024. At least ten years of data were required from the fifteen-year period of record to calculate a trend.





Based on the District's 2025 report, nitrogen, phosphorus, and chlorophyll-a were stable or decreasing at most surface-water stations within the MSJRB. Six surface water stations exhibited increasing phosphorus trends: Rock Springs Run, Little Econlockhatchee River at Lockwood, Deep Creek at Osteen, Lake Ashby, Lake George at Marker 5, and St. Johns River at Drayton Island.

Lake Winnesmissett was the only station exhibiting increasing trends in phosphorus, nitrogen, and chlorophyll-a by more than 5 percent annually. Among the spring sites, nitrogen concentrations were stable or declining at all locations except Gemini Spring and Volusia Blue Spring. Volusia Blue Spring exhibited an increasing nitrogen trend exceeding 5 percent annually.

Nutrient loading to the St. Johns River from major watersheds within the MSJRB is shown in Figure 6. The annual load entering from the USJRB is approximately 2,150 metric tons of nitrogen and 170 metric tons of phosphorus (Papacek, Canion, 2025). For both lakes Harney and Monroe, upstream loading from the St. Johns River represents approximately seventy percent of the nitrogen and phosphorus loads. This is largely because most of the flow coming into the system comes from upstream areas in the USJRB.

This pattern indicates that without reductions in loading from the USJRB, the nutrient TMDLs for the downstream lakes in the MSJRB will not be met (Gao, 2009). Watersheds north of the USJRB and the Wekiva River contribute an additional 119 metric tons of phosphorus and 1,275 metric tons of nitrogen annually. Downstream of Lake George, the MSJRB contributes approximately 4,350 metric tons of nitrogen and 240 metric tons of phosphorus to the LSJRB.

Annual nutrient load estimates for the major watersheds were developed using either model results or direct measurements. The annual nutrient loads from the Upper St. Johns River, Econlockhatchee River, DeLeon Spring, Volusia Blue Spring, and Alexander Creek were calculated using direct measurements of flow and nutrient concentration data collected during the period of 2013 to 2023.

The estimated annual nutrient loads from Deep Creek, and lakes Harney, Jesup, and Monroe were modeled using data collected between 1996 and 2003 in support of DEP's Middle Basin TMDL analysis. The annual nutrient loads from Lake George, Silver Glen Springs, and Juniper and Salt Springs were modeled using data collected between 2003 and 2013 for DEP's Lake George TMDL analysis. The estimated annual nutrient load from the Wekiva River was modeled by the District using data collected between 2003 and 2012.

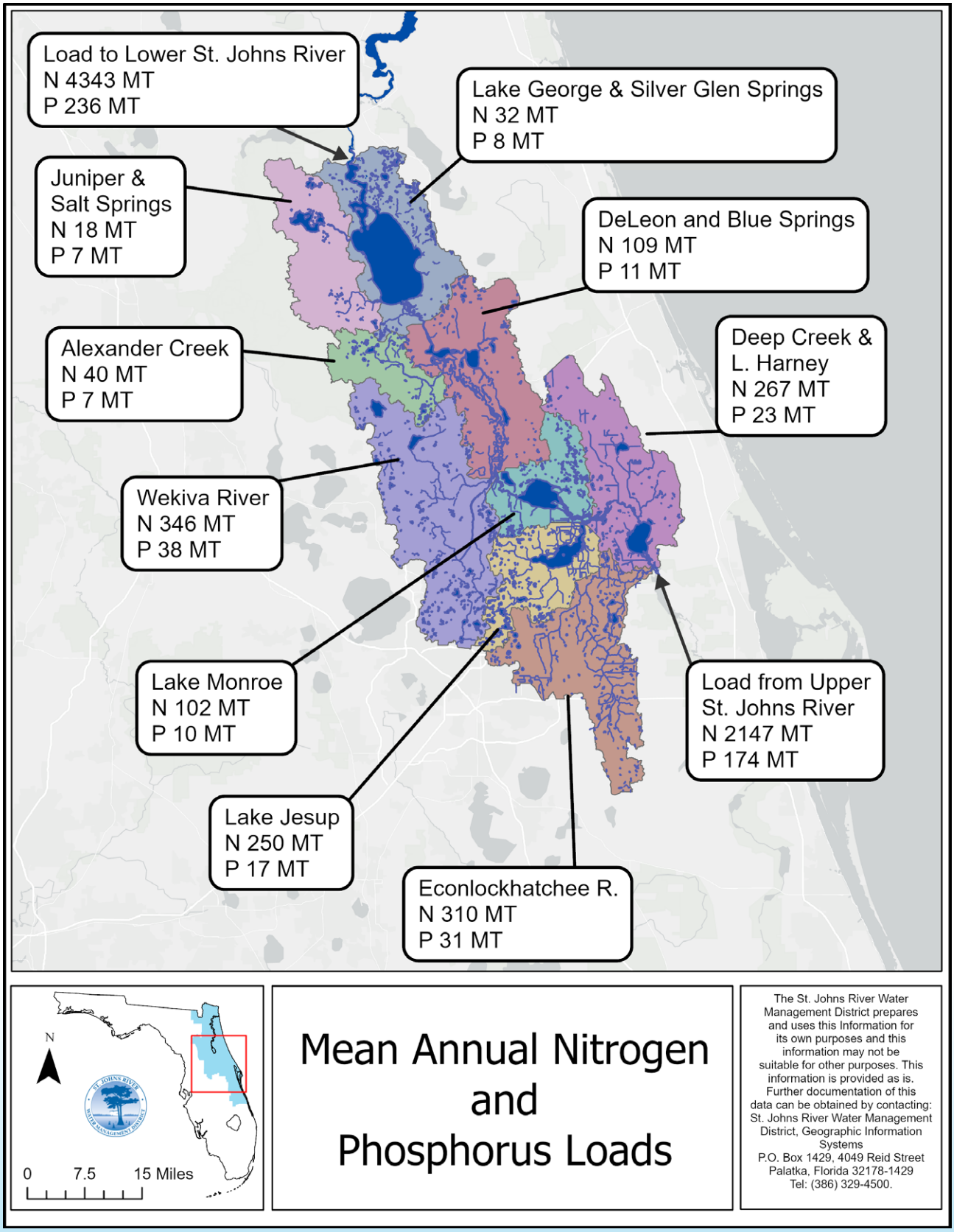


Figure 6. Mean annual nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) load in metric tons (MT) from MSJRB major watersheds.



Lake Jesup is a major focus of the District's restoration efforts within the MSJRB. In addition to runoff from its large watershed, Lake Jesup experiences significant internal phosphorus recycling from in-lake sediments and seepage (Figure 7). These sediments in Lake Jesup are nutrient-rich as a result of historic wastewater discharges, nutrient runoff associated with urban development and agricultural activities within the watershed, and the lake's relatively limited flushing from the St. Johns River.

Approximately 139 projects implemented by local governments and state agencies have achieved estimated watershed nutrient load reductions that exceed those required by the BMAP. The District's water quality data for Lake Jesup indicate stable trends for nitrogen, phosphorus, and chlorophyll-a concentrations. However, target concentrations established by the BMAP for nitrogen, phosphorus, and chlorophyll-a have not yet been met.

The persistence of elevated nutrient concentrations is largely attributed to legacy nutrients within the lake's sediments, which continue to release phosphorus and nitrogen to the water column. As a result, the District, DEP, and local governments are increasingly focusing on ways to reduce sediment contributions to nutrient availability in the water column.

Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Assessments

HABs occur when algal populations, especially cyanobacteria, increase in intensity, duration, and frequency. These blooms can turn the water noticeably green, although other colors can occur. Elevated concentrations of nitrogen and phosphorus, combined with environmental conditions such as warm temperatures, abundant sunlight, and low-flow conditions, can trigger an algal bloom. Some of these blooms can become harmful through the production of toxins or by causing other negative impacts to the environment, such as low dissolved oxygen or shading of the SAV.

Lakes Monroe, Jesup, and George are sampled seasonally as part of the DEP Algal Bloom Monitoring and Response Program. District staff also visit ad hoc sites, smaller lakes within the MSJRB, as well as sites along the St. Johns River and its tributaries. These assessments are conducted in response to public reports of algal blooms.

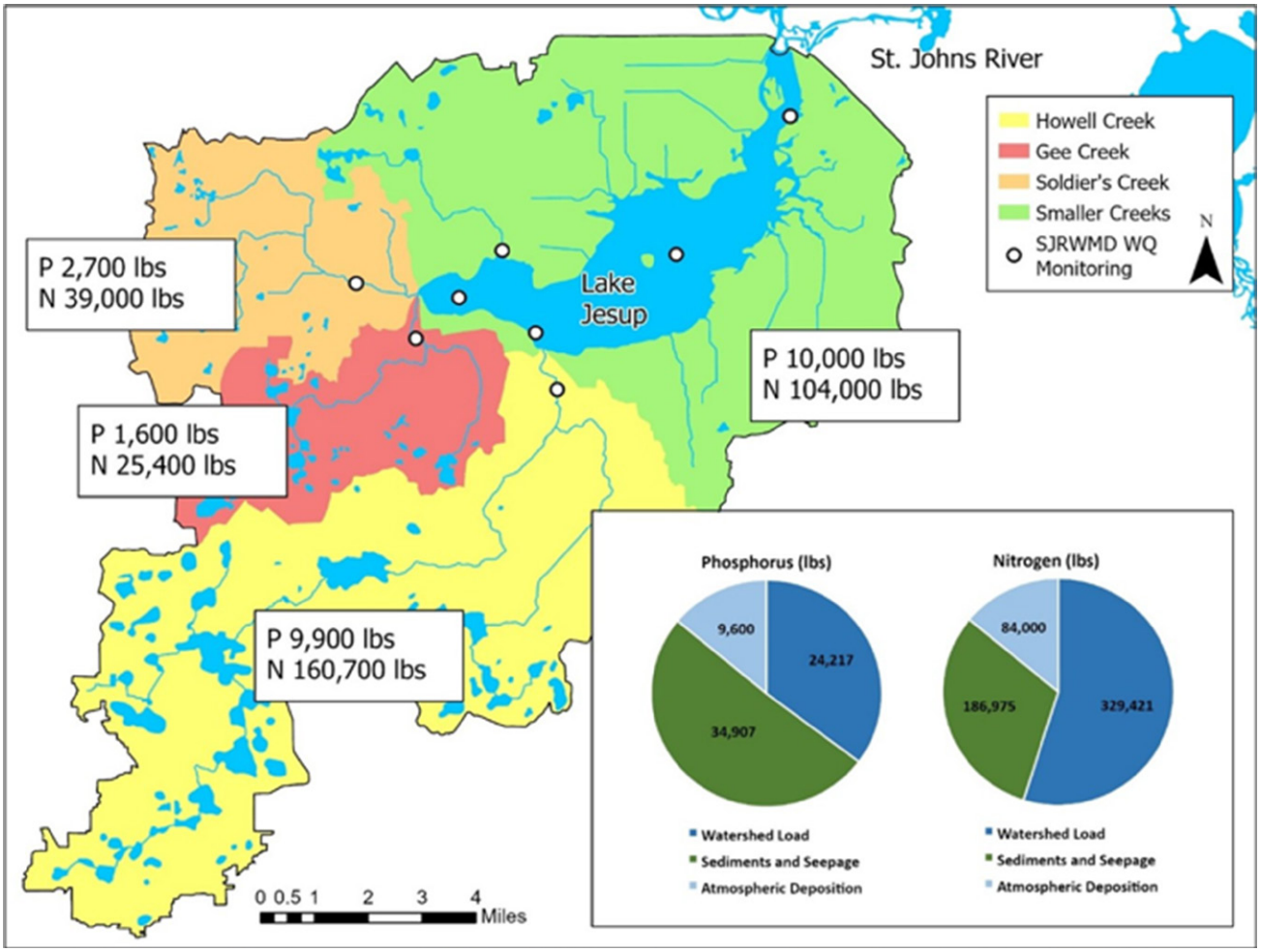


Figure 7. Watershed, atmospheric, and internal (sediments and seepage) nitrogen and phosphorus load contributions to Lake Jesup. (Data are from the Lake Jesup BMAP)

Submerged Aquatic Vegetation

The two dominant SAV species commonly found within the springs and spring-run streams of the MSJRB are freshwater eelgrass and spring tapegrass (Mattson et al., 2019). The invasive species hydrilla is also present in many spring systems and can proliferate in the clear waters of these environments if left unmanaged.

Multiple stressors affect SAV abundance within the MSJR, including shading from algal blooms, particularly in Lake Jesup, and prolonged periods of deeper, darker water. Hurricane Irma in 2017 caused widespread damage to SAV beds along the middle and lower St. Johns River, including lakes Harney, Monroe, and George. Between 2017 and 2025, above-average rainfall in the region resulted in higher water levels. This deeper water inundated the middle St. Johns River's extensive floodplain wetlands and leached color from vegetation, resulting in darker water. The combination of deeper and darker water reduced light availability for SAV growth.

SAV also serves as a valuable food source for many animals, including manatees, turtles, fish, and crabs. Reduced growth of SAV, combined with continued grazing, has resulted in low SAV abundance. There is also concern that burrowing and nesting of invasive fish, particularly tilapia and sailfin catfish, is causing uprooting of SAV and preventing recolonization.

Management actions to promote SAV recovery in Lake Jesup primarily focus on reducing nutrients and algal blooms that limit light availability. In the remainder of the middle St. Johns River, deeper and darker water conditions, grazing pressure, and increased disturbance from invasive fish remain the key factors. The District, in cooperation with FWC, has identified grazing as a significant factor influencing SAV canopy heights. Researchers with FWC and the University of Florida are assessing the potential feeding rates of manatees, turtles, crabs, and herbivorous fish to determine if the current SAV biomass is enough to sustain those feeding pressures.



Fisheries

The MSJRB supports a diverse freshwater native fish community typical of most lakes and streams in peninsular Florida. In addition, the reach from Lake Monroe to Lake George supports many estuarine species, including red drum and ladyfish. Atlantic croakers are also encountered due to the presence of salty springs, such as Volusia Blue Spring, and tributaries, such as Salt Creek. The estuarine influence extends upstream to Lake Monroe, where populations of Atlantic stingray and naked gobies, thought to be fully estuarine-dependent species, have been documented spawning.

The middle and lower reaches of the MSJRB also provide important riverine spawning habitat for anadromous fish species, including American shad, hickory shad, and blueback herring. All three species migrate into the river annually between January and April to reproduce. Management of these migratory shad species is closely regulated by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Invasive Species

Since the 1990s, invasive fish populations within the MSJRB have increased, with tilapia and sailfin catfish representing the species of greatest concern. Tilapia, first introduced to Florida during the 1960s, has become the most widely distributed invasive fish in the world and has become one of the most abundant invasive fish in the state.

Although the abundance and distribution of tilapia and sailfin catfish within the MSJRB have not been comprehensively quantified, both species are common in spring runs, especially during winter months. Together, they now comprise a significant portion of the freshwater fish biomass in the MSJRB. There is growing concern that their burrowing and nesting behavior in sediments can dislodge SAV and prevent recolonization.



District Lands

Land Management

One of the ways the District fulfills its mission to preserve and protect Florida's water resources is through the acquisition and management of conservation lands. These acquisitions are intended to buffer and safeguard water resources, while also protecting native plant and wildlife habitat and providing opportunities for public recreation and environmental education. The District's future land acquisition strategy within the MSJRB will continue to prioritize properties along the St. Johns, Wekiva, and Econlockhatchee rivers, as well as lakes Jesup, Monroe, and Harney. These efforts support water resource protection, the enhancement or restoration of natural systems, improved floodplain connectivity, water quality improvements, and the connection of important natural areas and land management boundaries.

The MSJRB contains extensive floodplain wetlands along the St. Johns River, a result of the basin's pronounced seasonal variation in water levels. Acquisition and management of these areas have been a long-standing District priority due to the range of important ecological services they provide. These include the nonstructural storage of floodwaters and water quality improvements associated with interactions with wetlands, such as sediment storage and nutrient attenuation. These wetlands are also important nursery habitat for many species, including sport and commercial species.

The District's land management program responsibilities include habitat restoration, prescribed fire, wildfire response, and invasive species management. Each District property is managed under an approved land management plan adopted by the District's Governing Board, which establishes the philosophy and direction for land use and stewardship. These plans are designed to ensure water resource protection, maintain habitat diversity, support compatible recreational uses, wildlife habitat restoration and enhancement, and preserve traditional land and water resource uses when appropriate. Legislative directives guide the planning process from initial acquisition evaluations through plan development with public input during both review and update cycles of each plan.

The District owns approximately 84,184 acres within the MSJRB. Of this total, fifteen properties, encompassing 56,419 acres, are managed directly by the District, while the remaining lands are managed by cooperating partners (Table 1).



District Conservation Lands Within the MSJRB

Managed Area	Lead Land Manager	County	Acres
Buck Lake Conservation Area[1]	SJRWMD	Brevard and Volusia	485
Econlockhatchee Sandhills Conservation Area	SJRWMD	Orange	706
Hal Scott Regional Preserve and Park	SJRWMD	Orange	8,715
Heart Island Conservation Area[2]	SJRWMD	Volusia	8,921
Lake George Conservation Area	SJRWMD	Putnam and Volusia	11,782
Lake Jesup Conservation Area	SJRWMD	Seminole and Volusia	5,743
Lake Monroe Conservation Area	SJRWMD	Volusia and Seminole	7,514
Lake Norris Conservation Area	SJRWMD	Lake	3,682
North Central Region Mitigation Archipelago	SJRWMD	Volusia	218
Palm Bluff Conservation Area	SJRWMD	Volusia	4,173
Seminole Ranch Conservation Area[1]	SJRWMD	Seminole, Brevard, Orange, and Volusia	340
South Central Region Mitigation Archipelago	SJRWMD	Seminole	19
South Central Region Mitigation Archipelago	SJRWMD	Seminole	425
South Central Region Mitigation Archipelago	SJRWMD	Lake	102
Wekiva River Buffer Conservation Area	SJRWMD	Seminole	3,594
Rock Springs Run	DEP State Parks	Lake and Orange	533
Little-Big Econ State Forest	Florida Forest Service (FFS)	Seminole and Volusia	7,124
Seminole State Forest	FFS	Lake	3,533
Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Volusia	2,384
Deep Creek Preserve	Volusia County	Volusia	3,674
Gemini Springs County Park	Volusia County	Volusia	207
Lake George Forest	Volusia County	Volusia	7,996
Longleaf Pine Preserve[1]	Volusia County	Volusia	913
Wiregrass Prairie Preserve	Volusia County	Volusia	1,401

Conservation lands are wholly within the MSJRB unless otherwise noted.

1. Also located in the IRL/USJRB

2. Also located in the LSJRB

Table 1. Conservation land within the MSJRB.

Lake Jesup Offline Media-Based Water Quality Improvement Project

Description

The Lake Jesup Offline Media-Based Water Quality Improvement Project will pump raw water from Lake Jesup, treat it to reduce nutrient concentrations, and return the treated water back to the lake. The project is located on a 9.7-acre District-owned upland property adjacent to the east shore of the lake (Figure 8).

The District has committed $1,386,745 to project development, which includes a pilot-scale evaluation and design and permitting of the full-scale project. Pilot testing of the media-based treatment technology is underway, with completion expected by October 2026. The preliminary opinion of the probable construction cost of the full-scale project is approximately $22.6 million.



Background

The District Governing Board has designated Lake Jesup as a priority basin for restoration of water quality and fish and wildlife habitats. In 2008, in conjunction with the Lake Jesup Interagency Management Strategy, DEP adopted a TMDL for nitrogen and phosphorus for Lake Jesup. The subsequent BMAP has guided implementation efforts by local government partners to implement projects to reduce the external nutrient loading to the lake.

As a result, progress is being made to reduce nutrient sources and concentrations, thereby improving the lake's water quality and clarity. However, decades of excessive nutrient loading have left a significant source of legacy nutrients in the lake's sediments that continue to recycle into the water column. This internal loading delays recovery and limits improvements in water quality and clarity.

The project will continuously remove nutrients from the lake water column and return treated water to the lake. This combined approach addresses both external and internal nutrient sources and is similar to the District's prior restoration strategy used in Lake Apopka.

Benefit and/or Impact

The full-scale media-based treatment technology could remove approximately 50,000 pounds of nitrogen and 5,000 pounds of phosphorus annually from the Lake Jesup water column.

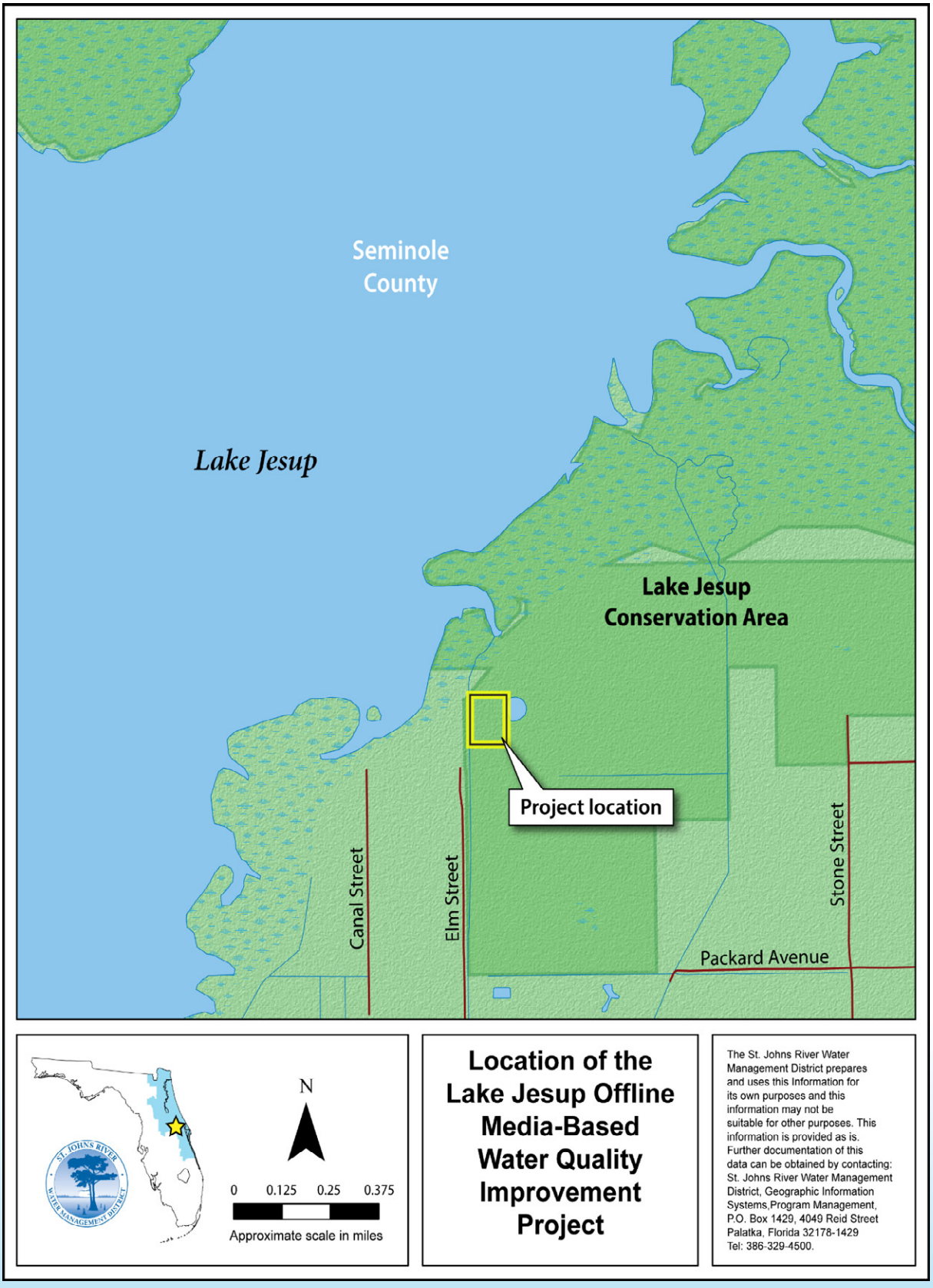


Figure 8. Lake Jesup Offline Media-Based Water Quality Improvement Project location map.



Lake Jesup Sediment Phosphorus Inactivation Project

Description

In July 2025, the District received a $15 million legislative appropriation to administer a contractual treatment of biologically available phosphorus in Lake Jesup's sediments using lanthanum-modified bentonite. The treatment will convert biologically available phosphorus within the sediments into inert forms of phosphorus, which can no longer support algal growth in the lake's water.

Work is expected to begin in the fall of 2026. The selected contractor will be responsible for evaluating the lake's sediments to determine site-specific dosing of lanthanum-modified bentonite, conducting multiple applications, and monitoring the conversion of biologically available phosphorus to inert forms in the sediments (Figure 9).

Background

The District Governing Board has designated Lake Jesup as a priority basin for restoration of water quality and fish and wildlife habitats. In 2008, in conjunction with the Lake Jesup Interagency Management Strategy, DEP adopted a TMDL for nitrogen and phosphorus for Lake Jesup. The subsequent BMAP has guided implementation efforts by local government partners to reduce the external nutrient loading to the lake.

As a result, progress is being made to reduce nutrient sources and concentrations, thereby improving the lake's water quality and clarity. However, decades of excessive nutrient loading have left a significant source of legacy nutrients in the lake's sediments that continue to recycle into the water column, delaying recovery and limiting improvements in water quality.

This Lake Jesup Sediment Phosphorus Inactivation Project will utilize lanthanum-modified bentonite to inactivate biologically available phosphorus in the lake's sediments by converting the phosphorus into inert forms that cannot contribute to algal blooms.

Benefit and/or Impact

This project is expected to reduce biologically available phosphorus in Lake Jesup's sediments and decrease the internal recycling of phosphorus into the water column, thereby reducing conditions that support algal blooms.

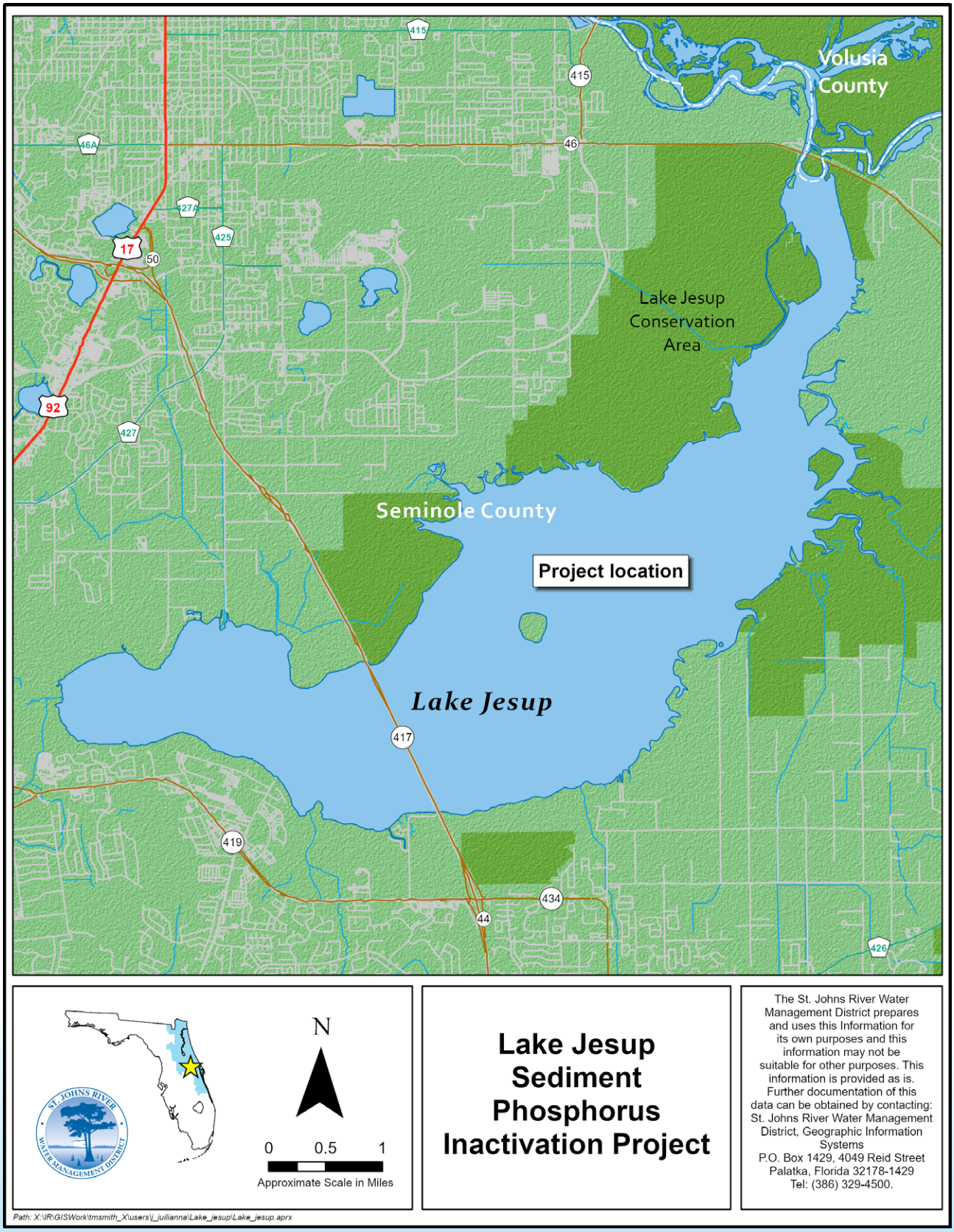


Figure 9. Lake Jesup Sediment Phosphorus Inactivation Project location map.

Glossary

aquifer: A geologic formation, group of formations, or part of a formation that contains sufficient saturated, permeable material to yield significant quantities of water to wells and springs.

basin management action plan (BMAP): A framework for water quality restoration that contains a comprehensive set of solutions to achieve the pollutant reductions established by a TMDL. Examples include permit limits on regulated facilities; urban and agricultural best management practices; wastewater and stormwater infrastructure; and regional projects and conservation programs designed to achieve these reductions. BMAPs are adopted by Secretarial Order and are legally enforceable.

ecosystem: Biological communities together with their environment, functioning as a unit.

fiscal year (FY): The fiscal year for water management districts begins on October 1 and ends on September 30 the following year.

groundwater: Water beneath the surface of the ground, whether or not flowing through known and definite channels. Specifically, the part of the subsurface water in the saturated zone, where the water is under pressure greater than the atmosphere.

hydrology: The scientific study of the properties, distribution, and effects of water on the Earth's surface, in the soil and underlying rocks, and in the atmosphere.

invasive species: An organism that begins to spread or expand its range from the site of its original introduction and that has the potential to cause harm to the environment, the economy, or to human health.

million gallons per day (mgd): A rate of flow of water equal to 133,680.56 cubic feet per day, or 1.5472 cubic feet per second, or 3.0689 acre-feet per day. A flow of one million gallons per day for one year equals 1,120 acre-feet (365 million gallons).

natural system: A self-sustaining living system that supports an interdependent network of aquatic, wetland-dependent, and upland living resources.

natural system enhancement: Activities conducted to improve the habitat value of wetlands or surface waters for fish and wildlife by eliminating harmful drainage; improving water quality; preventing erosion; stabilizing eroding shorelines; planting wetland vegetation; removing spoil; removing exotic and nuisance vegetation; providing structural habitat; and restoring dredged holes to elevations before they were dredged.

stormwater: Water that does not infiltrate but accumulates on land as a result of storm runoff, irrigation runoff, or drainage from areas, such as roads and roofs.

surface water: Water above the soil or substrate surface, whether contained in bounds, created naturally or artificially, or diffused. Water from natural springs is classified as surface water when it exits from a spring onto the Earth's surface.

total maximum daily load (TMDL): A scientific determination of the maximum amount of a given pollutant that a surface water can absorb and still meet the water quality standards that protect human health and aquatic life. Waterbodies that do not meet water quality standards are identified as "impaired" for specific pollutants, such as nutrients, bacteria, and mercury. TMDLs must be developed, adopted, and implemented to reduce those pollutants and improve water quality.

watershed: A region or area bounded peripherally by water that drains to a particular watercourse or body of water. Watersheds conform to federal hydrologic unit code standards and can be divided into subwatersheds and further into catchments, the smallest water management unit recognized by water management operations.

wetland: An area that is inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater that supports vegetation adapted for life under those soil conditions (e.g., swamps, bogs, and marshes).

Literature Cited

Gao, X. 2009. *Nutrient and Dissolved Oxygen TMDLs for the Six Middle St. Johns River Segments between the Inlet of Lake Harney and St. Johns River above Wekiva River*. Tallahassee, FL: Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

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Papacek, Joshua, and A. Canion. 2025. *Upper St. Johns River Basin Project Nutrient Loading and Treatment Estimates (2000–2020)*. Technical Publication SJ2025-03. Palatka, FL: St. Johns River Water Management District. Available from 2020-2025 – SJRWMD



sjrwmd.com

AGENDA REQUEST FOR
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
October 13, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO:	Governing Board
THROUGH:	Michael Register, Executive Director Executive Office
FROM:	Erin Preston, General Counsel Office of the General Counsel
SUBJECT:	Election of Governing Board Officers for FY 2026-27

RECOMMENDATION
Election of Governing Board Officers for FY 2026-27.

BACKGROUND
District Policy 110, The Governing Board, requires that the Governing Board elect officers annually in October. New Officers assume their offices at the conclusion of the October meeting.

DISCUSSION
There are four Governing Board Officers: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Policy 110 provides the following direction for the election process:

1. Election Process.

    a. The Chair calls for nominations of Officers. Nominations may be made by a slate covering all four offices, or individually, by each office in the following order: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer.

    b. Nominations are voted on in the order in which nominations are made.

    c. Votes for a slate or for an individual are made by roll call vote. However, if only one slate, or individual per office is nominated, the Chair, after ensuring that, in fact, no member wishes to make further nominations, simply declares that the slate of officers or individual is elected by unanimous consent.

    d. Once a slate or individual officer receives a simple majority vote, the Chair declares the slate, or individual, elected and no votes are taken on the remaining nominations.

Governing Board members elected to office will hold office until the next election of officers, unless the office is vacated, and there is no limit on the length of time an officer may serve.

AGENDA REQUEST FOR
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
October 13, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Michael Register, Executive Director
Executive Office

SUBJECT: Public Comment

FOR INFORMATION
Public comment.

AGENDA REQUEST FOR
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
October 13, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO:	Governing Board
THROUGH:	Michael Register, Executive Director Executive Office
FROM:	Heather Barnes, Executive Assistant Executive Office
SUBJECT:	Approval of Minutes

RECOMMENDATION
Approve minutes of the September 4, 2026 Tentative Budget Hearing; September 8, 2026 Governing Board Meeting; and September 18, 2026 Final Budget Hearing.

St. Johns River Water Management District

Governing Board - Proposed Millage and Tentative Budget Adoption Hearing Minutes
September 4, 2026
SJRWMD District Headquarters
4049 Reid Street
Palatka, FL, 32177

Chair Bradley called the Proposed Millage and Tentative Budget Adoption Hearing to order at 5:05 p.m.

PRESENT:
Rob Bradley, Maryam Ghyabi-White, Cole Oliver, Chris Peterson, Ryan Atwood, Doug Bournique, Doug Burnett, Ron Howse, and Janet Price

ABSENT:
None.

Agenda

Agenda Item 1.1) Approve Resolution 2026-04 to adopt a proposed millage rate maintaining the current year millage rate of 0.1793; approve Resolution 2026-05 to adopt the Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27; and authorize staff to submit statutorily required information.

Missy Licourt, Budget Director, Office of Financial Services, gave an overview of the purpose of the Public Hearing.

Public Comment:

Douglas Mann, Citizen

A motion was made by Maryam Ghyabi-White to approve Resolution 2026-04 adopting a proposed millage rate maintaining the current year millage rate of 0.1793, seconded by Cole Oliver. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Maryam Ghyabi-White to approve Resolution 2026-05 to adopt the Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27 and authorize staff to submit statutorily required information, seconded by Cole Oliver. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Maryam Ghyabi-White to adjourn the Public Hearing, seconded by Cole Oliver. Motion carried unanimously.

Tentative Millage and Tentative Budget Hearing adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

St. Johns River Water Management District

Governing Board Minutes
September 8, 2026
SJRWMD District Headquarters
4049 Reid Street
Palatka, FL, 32177

Call to Order

Chair Bradley called the Governing Board meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

The agenda items were called in the following order: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.11, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3.

PRESENT:
Rob Bradley, Cole Oliver, Chris Peterson, Ryan Atwood, Doug Bournique, Doug Burnett, Ron Howse, and Janet Price

ABSENT:
Maryam Ghyabi-White

Regular Agenda

Agenda Item 1.1) Employee Awards.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
Shelby O'Brien
Senior Regulatory Scientist
Division of Regulatory Services

10-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS
Nathaniel Mouzon
Environmental Scientist V
Bureau of Water Supply Planning

20-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS
Jill Stokes
Geographic Information Systems Analyst III
Office of Information Technology

RETIREMENTS
Christine Mundy
Senior Project Manager
Office of Executive Director

Godfery Smith
Procurement Supervisor
Office of Financial Services

Agenda Item 1.2) The Hydrologic Conditions Report.

Tim Miller, Chief, Bureau of Water Resource Information, gave a PowerPoint presentation describing the hydrologic conditions for August 2026. A copy of the presentation has been made a permanent part of the record.

Agenda Item 1.3) Approve Consent Agenda items.

Items Recommended for approval on Consent Agenda by Chair Bradley
Items 2.1 - 2.10 and 2.12 - 2.15 were recommended for approval on the Consent Agenda.

A motion was made by Ryan Atwood to approve those items recommended for approval on the consent agenda, seconded by Cole Oliver. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 1.4) Approve the ranking of consultants responding to Request for Qualifications 42214RFQ27 for continuing Geotechnical Engineering Services and authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute contracts with the four highest-ranked firms, in ranked order, subject to successful negotiations and the shared funding cap approved by the Governing Board.

Dale Jenkins, Director, Division of Infrastructure and Land Resources, gave a PowerPoint presentation. A copy of the presentation has been made a permanent part of the record.

A motion was made by Ryan Atwood to approve recommendation, seconded by Doug Bournique. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 1.5) Approve the 2026 Ocklawaha River Basin Plan.

Jim Peterson, Strategic Planning Basin Coordinator, Bureau of Basin Management and Project Development, gave a PowerPoint presentation. A copy of the presentation has been made a permanent part of the record.

A motion was made by Doug Burnett to approve recommendation, seconded by Ryan Atwood. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 1.6) Staff will provide an update on the Water Information Consolidation and Migration project.

Christine Mundy, Senior Project Manager, Office of the Executive Director, gave a PowerPoint presentation. A copy of the presentation has been made a permanent part of the record.

Agenda Item 1.7) Land Management Review Team Annual Report, July 2025-June 2026.

Brent Bachelder, Land Resource Specialist, Bureau of Land Resources, gave a PowerPoint presentation. A copy of the presentation has been made a permanent part of the record.

Agenda Item 1.8) Public comment.

Speaker:

Kimberly Buchheit, Citizen

Consent Agenda

Agenda Item 2.1) Approve minutes of the August 11, 2026 Governing Board meeting.

Approved (see agenda item #1.3).

Agenda Item 2.2) Approve the Treasurer's Financial Report dated July 31, 2026.

Approved (see agenda item #1.3).

Agenda Item 2.3) Attached is the quarterly report of District assets with an original cost of less than $100,000 that have been approved for surplus by the Executive Director in accordance with District Policy 370, Capital Asset Accounting and Disposition.

Approved (see agenda item #1.3).

Agenda Item 2.4) Approve the surplus of a District fixed asset with an original cost of over $100,000 in accordance with District Policy 370, Capital Asset Accounting and Disposition, and Administrative Directive 371, Capital Asset Accountability.

Approved (see agenda item #1.3).

Agenda Item 2.5) Authorize the Executive Director to execute internal budget transfers for Fiscal Year 2025-26 to fund emergency response, assessment, and repair activities associated with the Black Creek Repair.

Approved (see agenda item #1.3).

Agenda Item 2.6) Approve the renewal of contract #34349 with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, Inc. (Florida Blue) for group health insurance coverage for District employees and dependents and authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute all necessary documents to secure coverage.

Approved (see agenda item #1.3).

Agenda Item 2.7) Authorize the Executive Director to execute a Joint Funding Agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey for cooperative hydrologic data collection, with a District contribution of $969,694, as part of the cooperative monitoring program totaling $1,549,400.

Approved (see agenda item #1.3).

Agenda Item 2.8) Authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute a contract with Cummins, to purchase two replacement generators for Pump Station Number 4 in an amount not to exceed $226,660.

Approved (see agenda item #1.3).

Agenda Item 2.9) Authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute a one-year renewal with Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (Esri), for enterprise geographic information system (GIS) licensing in an amount not-to-exceed $300,000, and to execute all related budget transfers.

Approved (see agenda item #1.3).

Agenda Item 2.10) Approve the 2026-2036 Management Plan update for the Deep Creek Preserve in Volusia County.

Approved (see agenda item #1.3).

Agenda Item 2.11) Authorize staff to publish the attached Notice of Rule Development and Notice of Proposed Rule in the Florida Administrative Register to begin and complete rulemaking to establish minimum water levels for Johns Lake in Lake and Orange counties, and to clarify locations of Lakes Brooklyn and Geneva in Bradford and Clay counties.

Speaker:

Patrick Welch, SOLO

Clay Coarsey, Director, Division of Water Supply Planning and Assessment, provided clarification regarding the proposed rulemaking.

A motion was made by Janet Price to approve recommendation, seconded by Cole Oliver. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 2.12) Approve Temporary Consumptive Use Permit 50049-11003, known as Town of Lady Lake. This application is for a temporary permit for a public supply use with an allocation of 1.188 mgd of groundwater from the Upper Floridan Aquifer.

Approved (see agenda item #1.3).

Agenda Item 2.13) **Approve the ranking of consultants responding to Request for Proposals 42459RFP26 for the Lakes Apopka and Jesup Restoration Strategies Study and authorize the Executive Director to take the following actions: (1) negotiate and execute a contract not to exceed $2,494,134 with Tetra Tech, Inc., the top-ranked respondent; (2) negotiate and execute a revenue agreement for project funding with the Department of Environmental Protection and any amendment thereto; and (3) execute all related budget transfers necessary to complete the project.**

Approved (see agenda item #1.3).

Agenda Item 2.14) **Approve and authorize staff to: (1) submit a 2026-2027 Regulatory Plan (with Rule Review Schedule and Licensing Activities Report) and Certification Letter to the Florida Legislature and Governor, and publish a related Notice in the Florida Administrative Register, (2) prepare and submit to the Florida Legislature a Summary Report of Intended Actions and Rule Reviews for 2026-2027, and (3) take any necessary related actions.**

Approved (see agenda item #1.3).

Agenda Item 2.15) **Approve an update to Policy 110 Governing Board, to adjust the date of annual officer elections to be consistent with other water management districts.**

Approved (see agenda item #1.3).

Other Items and Reports

Agenda Item 3.1) **Pending litigation - significant events or significant status changes.**

William Merryman v. Loblolly Partners, LLC and SJRWMD

Friends of Natural Areas, Inc., The Sweetwater Coalition of Volusia County, Inc., Derek Lamontagne, Kristin Rubin v. University of Florida and SJRWMD

Nathan and Christy Barnett v. Brevard County and SJRWMD

SJRWMD v. Kirk Stephen Leiffer, as Trustee of the C&K Family Trust, etc., et al.

Notice of Intent to Protest resolved without petition

Agenda Item 3.2) **Governing Board comment.**

Chair Bradley congratulated Mr. Oliver and Mrs. Price for their reappointments to the Governing Board.

Agenda Item 3.3) **Executive Director’s Report and Calendar.**

Executive Director's report:

Congratulations to Dr. Erich Marzolf for being presented the 2026 Florida Lake Management Society's Marjorie Carr Award.

Clay Coarsey joined First Coast Living to discuss the current drought conditions.

The District's Office of Communications recently earned three honors at the Florida Public Relations Association's 69th Annual Golden Image Awards.

Calendar of Upcoming Meetings/Events:

September 18 Final Budget Hearing, District Headquarters, 5:05 p.m.

October 13 Governing Board Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m. - no conflicts declared.

St. Johns River Water Management District

Governing Board - Proposed Final Millage and Budget Adoption Hearing Minutes
September 18, 2026
SJRWMD District Headquarters
4049 Reid Street
Palatka, FL, 32177

Agenda

Agenda Item 1.1) Approve (1) Resolution 2026-06 to adopt a final millage rate, equal to the current year's millage rate of 0.1793 mills; (2) Resolution 2026-07 to adopt the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27 in the amount of $228,459,641; (3) Resolution 2026-08 to commit the fund balances in the "Committed Fund Balance" account for future fiscal years; and (4) authorize staff to submit statutorily required information.

Missy Liccourt, Budget Director, Office of Financial Services, gave an overview of the purpose of the Public Hearing.

No public comments.

A motion was made by Maryam Ghyabi-White to approve Resolution 2026-06 adopting the final millage rate, equal to the current year's millage rate of 0.1793 mills, seconded by Chris Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Maryam Ghyabi-White to approve Resolution 2026-07 to adopt the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27 in the amount of $228,459,641, seconded by Chris Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Maryam Ghyabi-White to approve Resolution 2026-08 to commit the fund balances in the "Committed Fund Balance" account for future fiscal years, seconded by Chris Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Maryam Ghyabi-White to authorize staff to submit statutorily required information, seconded by Chris Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Maryam Ghyabi-White to adjourn the Public Hearing, seconded by Chris Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.

Final Millage and Final Budget Hearing adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

AGENDA REQUEST FOR
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
October 13, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO:	Governing Board
THROUGH:	Michael Register, Executive Director Executive Office
FROM:	Barbara Johnston, Director Division of Administrative Services
SUBJECT:	Treasurer's Financial Report dated August 31, 2026

RECOMMENDATION
Approve the Treasurer's Financial Report dated August 31, 2026.

BACKGROUND
Monthly Financial Reports

DISCUSSION
Financial Highlights for August 31, 2026 Financial Report

- Eleven months or 91.7% through the fiscal year
- $ 131.86 million or 35.8% of the budget has been expended
- $ 47.69 million or 12.9% of the budget has been encumbered
- $ 179.55 million or 48.7% of the budget has been expended and encumbered
- $ 368.81 million revised budget
- $ 189.26 million unexpended and unencumbered

- The District's total fund balance for the last five years as of the end of August follows:

08/31/22	08/31/23	08/31/24	08/31/25	08/31/26
$173,118,137	$197,730,161	$184,513,237	$195,799,262	$217,146,922
4.2%	14.2%	-6.7%	6.1%	10.9%

- The District's total expenditures for the last five years as of the end of August follows:

08/31/22	08/31/23	08/31/24	08/31/25	08/31/26
$99,219,071	$114,147,723	$157,392,188	$114,686,797	$131,863,731
10.5%	15.0%	37.9%	-27.1%	15.0%

- Revenue by source, fiscal year to date, August 31, 2026:

	Revised Budget	Collected Revenue	FYTD % of Budget	% Expected
Ad Valorem Property Taxes	$ 116,329,485	$ 116,036,470	99.7%	100.0%
Intergovernmental Revenues	176,862,312	34,447,695	19.5%	21.2%
Investment Interest	1,290,000	7,093,729	549.9%	100.0%
Unrealized Losses/Premiums**	-	(1,506,792)	N/A	N/A
Licenses and Permit Fees	2,275,000	2,128,013	93.5%	93.9%
Lease & Timber Sales	1,599,400	10,129,389	633.3%	75.2%
Other	309,040	562,274	181.9%	100.0%
	$ 298,665,237	$ 168,890,778	56.5%	

** Due to adjusting value of investment portfolio to market resulting in unrealized gains, which are not expected to be realized and are not budgeted.

Legend: <10 11-20 >/= 20

- All funds by major category, fiscal year to date, August 31, 2026:

	Revised Budget	Expenditures	FYTD % of Budget	% Time
Salaries and Benefits	$ 65,873,425	$ 54,194,623	82.3%	91.7%
Contracted Services	42,210,717	12,625,215	29.9%	91.7%
General Expenses	12,071,408	7,905,934	65.5%	91.7%
Materials and Supplies	6,055,243	3,776,332	62.4%	91.7%
Operating Capital Outlay	7,151,802	4,605,747	64.4%	91.7%
Fixed Capital Outlay	127,091,355	20,691,566	16.3%	91.7%
Land Acquisition	24,219,932	16,705,396	69.0%	91.7%
Cooperative Funding	83,407,572	11,358,918	13.6%	91.7%
Debt Services	723,751	-	0.0%	91.7%
	$ 368,805,205	$ 131,863,731	35.8%	91.7%

Legend: <10 11-20 >/= 20

The top ten vendor payments made in the month of August are as follows:

1. $ 1,650,253 JEA - Ozone Wetland Pilot Study
2. $ 1,492,733 AtkinsRealis USA Inc. - Design, Permitting and Construction Management Services for C-10 Water Management Area
3. $ 622,297 Brevard County BOCC Natural Res Mgmt - Brevard County Sand Dollar Canal – Basin 1398
4. $ 593,399 Razorback LLC - Burrell Dam Rehabilitation
5. $ 587,688 City of Fellsmere - Fellsmere State Street Reservoir Expansion REDI
6. $ 349,430 Swig Doctors Lake, LLC - Doctors Lake Advanced Effluent Treatment
7. $ 345,848 Westwind Contracting, Inc. - Black Creek Aquifer Recharge, Marsh Flow-Way Improvements, Lake Apopka North Shore Regrade LANS Wildlife Drive, Lake Apopka Duda Improvements and Install Monitoring Platforms
8. $ 250,000 Tater Farms, LLC - AG Cost Share Ditch Fed Lateral Move Irrigation

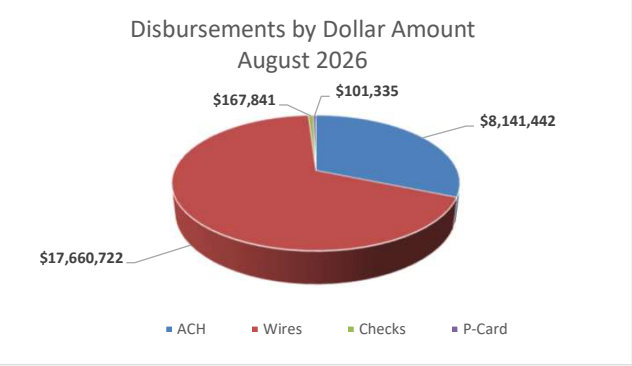
9. $ 242,216 Fellsmere Joint Venture, LLC - Dispersed Water Storage/Nutrient Reduction Pilot Project in the Indian River Lagoon Area

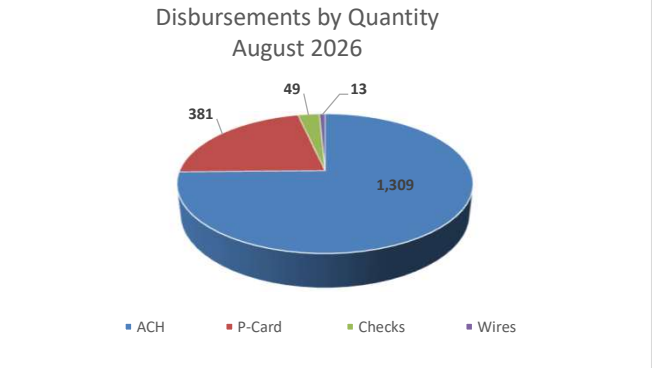
10. $ 215,811 Everglades Farm Equipment Co. Inc. - John Deere 6M 125 Cab Tractor with additional options, 5060E Cab Utility Tractor with 520M Loader, RC6M Lift Type Rotary Cutter, Tandem Disk Harrow and Oliver & Dahlman 9 Shank Grapple

- Attached (at the end of the Treasurer's Report) are two three-year bar graphs representing total revenues and total expenditures for the period ending August 31, a bar graph representing total PCard activity for the months of August 2025 through July 2026, two PCard pie charts representing July 2026 transactions by dollar threshold and spend by Division.

Financial Report
Delegated Disbursements per FS 373.553
For the Month Ending August 31, 2026
UNAUDITED

Paper:				
Check numbers 225373 through 225421				$ 167,841
Electronic:				
Electronic funds transfers (ACH) to vendors transaction numbers 69201 to 69450				5,799,961
Payroll disbursements, net plus withholding and match (Checks $0, Wire $749,446 and ACH $2,341,481)				3,090,927
P-Card				101,335
Land Closing Wire-Ponce Deleon NSB, LLC., Volusia County				15,760,569
Wire transfer details:		Description		
Engie		Utility Bills	31,170	
Engie		Utility Bills	2,914	
Dept of Revenue		FRS Retirement - State of Florida	872,894	
Engie		Utility Bills	14,920	
Empower		Deferred Comp	80,955	
Engie		Utility Bills	34,616	
Engie		Utility Bills	1,407	
ADP		ADP Processing Fees-726360971	9,864	
ADP		ADP Processing Fees-728851022	9,784	
Empower		Def Comp	92,183	
				1,150,707
				$ 26,071,340





Cole Oliver, Treasurer

Date

St. Johns River Water Management District
Schedule of Sources and Uses of Funds - Budget and Actual
For the Eleven Month Period Ending August 31, 2026
(Unaudited)

Sources	Current Budget	Actuals Through 8/31/2026	Variance (under)/Over Budget	Actuals As A % of Budget
Ad Valorem Property Taxes	$ 116,329,485	$ 116,036,470	$ (293,015)	100%
Intergovernmental Revenues	176,862,312	34,447,695	(142,414,617)	19%
Interest on Invested Funds	1,290,000	7,093,729	5,803,729	550%
Unrealized Losses and Amortization of Premiums	-	(1,506,792)	(1,506,792)	N/A
License and Permit Fees	2,275,000	2,128,013	(146,987)	94%
Other	1,908,440	10,691,663	8,783,223	560%
Subtotal	298,665,237	168,890,778	(129,774,459)	57%
Sale of Capital Assets/ Insurance Recovery	125,000	448,805	323,805	359%
Fund Balance	70,014,968	70,014,968	-	100%
Total Sources	**$ 368,805,205**	**$ 239,354,551**	**$ (129,450,654)**	**65%**

Uses	Budget	Expenditures	Encumbrances [1]	Available Budget	% Expended	% Obligated [2]
Water Resources Planning and Monitoring	**$ 25,017,313**	**$ 18,210,175**	**$ 1,724,850**	**5,082,288**	**73%**	**80%**
Salaries and Benefits	15,337,650	12,539,769	378	2,797,503	82%	82%
Operating Expenses	9,560,257	5,670,406	1,724,472	2,165,379	59%	77%
Debt Services	119,406	-	-	119,406	0%	0%
Acquisition, Restoration and Public Works	**246,380,537**	**53,739,684**	**37,267,429**	**155,373,424**	**22%**	**37%**
Salaries and Benefits	12,244,222	9,839,421	260	2,404,541	80%	80%
Operating Expenses	26,880,100	5,039,378	6,108,210	15,732,512	19%	41%
Construction and Land Acquisition	123,764,211	27,501,968	6,779,616	89,482,627	22%	28%
Cooperative Funding	83,407,572	11,358,917	24,379,343	47,669,312	14%	43%
Debt Services	84,432	-	-	84,432	0%	0%
Operation and Maintenance of Lands and Works	**59,221,754**	**30,064,371**	**7,666,823**	**21,490,560**	**51%**	**64%**
Salaries and Benefits	10,100,417	8,484,707	280	1,615,430	84%	84%
Operating Expenses	21,298,966	11,684,669	4,134,265	5,480,032	55%	74%
Construction and Land Acquisition	27,547,075	9,894,995	3,532,278	14,119,802	36%	49%
Debt Services	275,296	-	-	275,296	0%	0%
Regulation	**22,055,885**	**16,167,060**	**269,853**	**5,618,972**	**73%**	**75%**
Salaries and Benefits	18,785,267	15,051,508	429	3,733,330	80%	80%
Operating Expenses	3,135,326	1,115,552	269,424	1,750,350	36%	44%
Debt Services	135,292	-	-	135,292	0%	0%
Outreach	**1,996,385**	**1,495,933**	**17,150**	**483,302**	**75%**	**76%**
Salaries and Benefits	1,448,496	1,115,073	41	333,382	77%	77%
Operating Expenses	537,247	380,860	17,109	139,278	71%	74%
Debt Services	10,642	-	-	10,642	0%	0%
Management and Administration	**14,133,331**	**12,186,508**	**741,677**	**1,205,146**	**86%**	**91%**
Salaries and Benefits	7,957,373	7,164,145	312	792,916	90%	90%
Operating Expenses	6,077,275	5,022,363	741,365	313,547	83%	95%
Debt Services	98,683	-	-	98,683	0%	0%
Operating Expenses	133,362,596	83,107,851	12,996,545	37,258,200	62%	72%
Non-Operating Expenses	235,442,609	48,755,880	34,691,237	151,995,492	21%	35%
Total Uses	**$ 368,805,205**	**$ 131,863,731**	**$ 47,687,782**	**$ 189,253,692**	**36%**	**49%**

[1] Encumbrances represent unexpended balances of open purchase orders and contracts.
[2] Represents the sum of expenditures and encumbrances as a percentage of the current budget.

This unaudited financial statement is prepared as of August 31, 2026

St. Johns River Water Management District
Balance Sheet -- Governmental Funds
August 31, 2026

	General Fund	Special Revenues Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Total All Funds
Assets				
Cash & Investments	$ 143,277,555	$ 44,786,323	$ 23,227,234	$ 211,291,112
Lease & Interest Receivable	765,868	1,949,787	-	2,715,655
Due from Special Revenues Fund	17,758,788	-	-	17,758,788
Inventory	868,132	-	-	868,132
Due from other Governmental Agencies	203,268	17,758,788	-	17,962,056
Other Assets	630,755	-	-	630,755
Total Assets	**$ 163,504,366**	**$ 64,494,898**	**$ 23,227,234**	**$ 251,226,498**
Liabilities				
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	$ 3,675,977	$ 4,413,404	$ 302,436	$ 8,391,817
Due to General Fund	-	17,758,788	-	17,758,788
Unearned Revenue	-	6,145,408	-	6,145,408
Due to other Governmental Agencies	-	40,195	-	40,195
Total Liabilities	**3,675,977**	**28,357,795**	**302,436**	**32,336,208**
Deferred Inflows of Resources				
Unavailable Revenue-Property Taxes/Leases	168,701	1,574,667	-	1,743,368
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	**168,701**	**1,574,667**	**-**	**1,743,368**
Fund Balances				
Nonspendable:				
Inventory/Prepaids	1,498,887	-	-	1,498,887
Spendable:				
Restricted:	-	24,801,246	-	24,801,246
Committed:	107,121,387	9,761,190	22,924,798	139,807,375
Assigned:	2,252,000	-	-	2,252,000
Unassigned:	48,787,414	-	-	48,787,414
Total Fund Balance	**159,659,688**	**34,562,436**	**22,924,798**	**217,146,922**
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources and Fund Balances	**$ 163,504,366**	**$ 64,494,898**	**$ 23,227,234**	**$ 251,226,498**

St. Johns River Water Management District
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance
For the Eleven Month Period Ending August 31, 2026

	General Fund	Special Revenues Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Actual Year to Date
Revenue				
District Sources:				
Ad Valorem Taxes	$ 116,036,470	$ -	$ -	$ 116,036,470
Investment Earnings	6,429,935	663,794	-	7,093,729
Unrealized Losses & Amortization of Premiums	(1,173,712)	(333,080)	-	(1,506,792)
Local Mitigation	-	162,663	-	162,663
Licenses and Permits	2,128,013	-	-	2,128,013
Lease and Timber Sales	-	10,129,389	-	10,129,389
Fines and Other Assessments	52,000	-	-	52,000
Other	114,835	-	-	114,835
State Sources:				
Dept. of Environmental Protection	-	32,278,673	-	32,278,673
Dept. of Transportation	-	40,712	-	40,712
Fish & Wildlife Conservation Comm.	-	253,246	-	253,246
Federal Sources:				
U.S. Department of the Treasury	-	1,336,601	-	1,336,601
U.S. Department of Commerce	-	346,144	-	346,144
U.S. Department of the Interior/Fish & Wildlife	-	74,985	-	74,985
Local/Other Sources:				
Cities & Counties	-	117,334	-	117,334
Suwannee River WMD	-	201,056	-	201,056
Northwest WMD	-	18,720	-	18,720
South FL WMD	-	13,000	-	13,000
Total Revenues	**123,587,541**	**45,303,237**	**-**	**168,890,778**
Expenditures				
Water Resources Planning & Monitoring	17,188,685	1,021,490	-	18,210,175
Acquisition, Restoration & Public Works	19,520,480	28,939,961	5,279,243	53,739,684
Operation & Maintenance of Lands & Works	18,828,395	6,359,347	4,876,629	30,064,371
Regulation	16,143,108	23,952	-	16,167,060
Outreach	1,494,024	1,909	-	1,495,933
District Management & Administration	12,168,951	17,557	-	12,186,508
Total Expenditures	**85,343,643**	**36,364,216**	**10,155,872**	**131,863,731**
Other Financing Sources/Uses:				
Net Transfer In/Out from Other Funds	(1,150,159)	(349,841)	1,500,000	-
Sale of Capital Assets	258,822	-	-	258,822
Insurance/Loss Recovery	189,983	-	-	189,983
Total Other Financing Sources	**(701,354)**	**(349,841)**	**1,500,000**	**448,805**
Net Change in Fund Balance	**37,542,544**	**8,589,180**	**(8,655,872)**	**37,475,852**
Fund Balance, beginning of year	**122,117,144**	**25,973,256**	**31,580,670**	**179,671,070**
Fund Balance, as of August 31, 2026	**$ 159,659,688**	**$ 34,562,436**	**$ 22,924,798**	**$ 217,146,922**

Treasurer's Report
Changes in Cash and Investments
For the Month Ending August 31, 2026

Beginning balances, August 1, 2026		
General Fund	$ 150,458,529	
Special Revenue Funds	59,332,442	
Capital Projects Funds	23,833,514	
		$ 233,624,485
Receipts		3,816,188
Disbursements:		
* Accounts payable	(7,219,844)	
* Net payroll and related match	(3,090,927)	
Land closing/escrow wire transfers	(15,760,569)	
Total disbursements		(26,071,340)
Changes in Investments:		
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments		(156,789)
Realized gain (loss) on investments		4,269
Amortization of premium/discounts		74,299
Ending balances, August 31, 2026		
General Fund	143,277,555	
Special Revenue Funds	44,786,323	
Capital Projects Funds	23,227,234	
Total cash and investments, as of August 31, 2026		$ 211,291,112

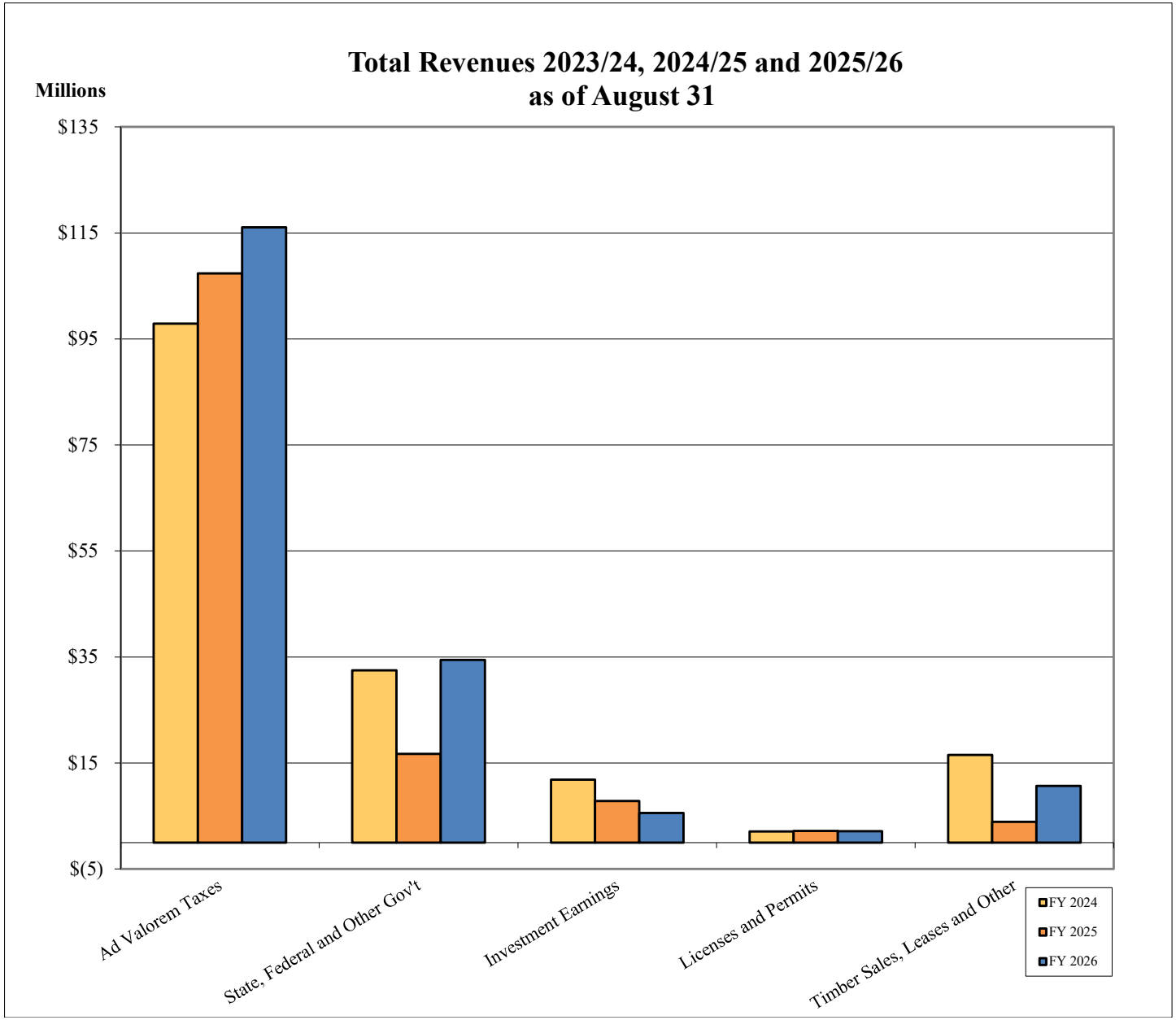
Cash and investments classified as:	Yield as of end of month	
Cash in bank - TD Bank	3.50%	$ 477,547
** Securities - Long Term Investments - Chandler	3.89%	103,670,434
** Securities - Endowment - Chandler	4.11%	16,537,952
** Securities - Pablo Creek - Chandler	3.80%	7,854,560
*** Money market funds - Chandler	2.72%	476,016
*** Money market funds - Endowment - Chandler	2.72%	112,240
*** Money market funds - Pablo Creek - Chandler	2.72%	335,543
State Board of Administration Pooled Cash - FL PRIME	3.85%	81,826,820
		$ 211,291,112

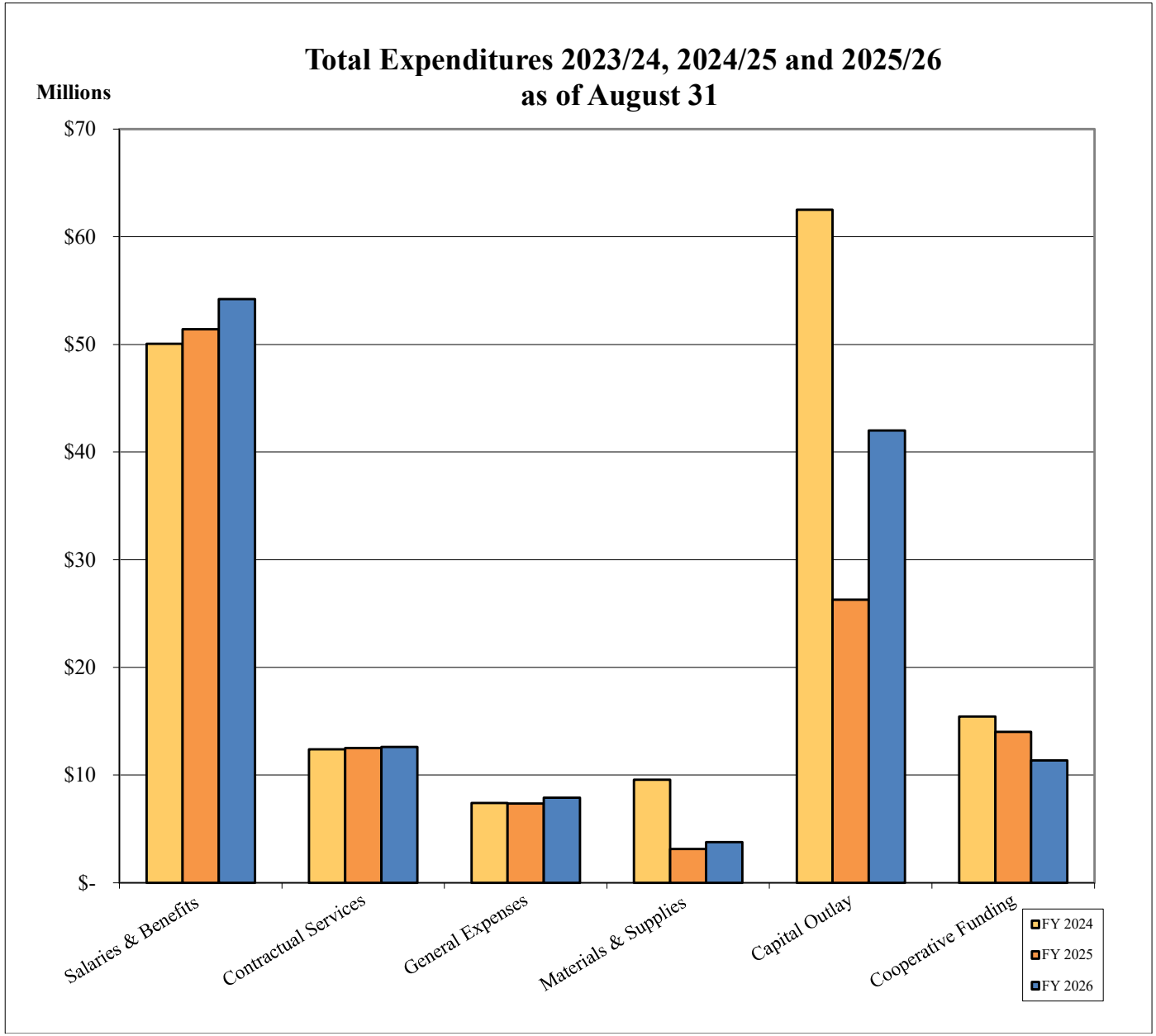
Securities Revenue: Securities are managed pursuant to an agreement with Chandler Asset Management. At August 31, 2026, the original cost of the investment portfolio including money markets funds was $130,639,606 and the market value was $128,986,745 resulting in a life-to-date unrealized loss of ($1,652,861). For the month ending August 2026, the portfolio had earned interest of $626,098 with an unrealized loss of ($156,789), realized gain of $4,269, amortization of premiums/discounts of $74,299 and investment fees of ($7,879). Fiscal year to date return on investments, net of unrealized gains, amortization, and investment fees is $5,586,937.

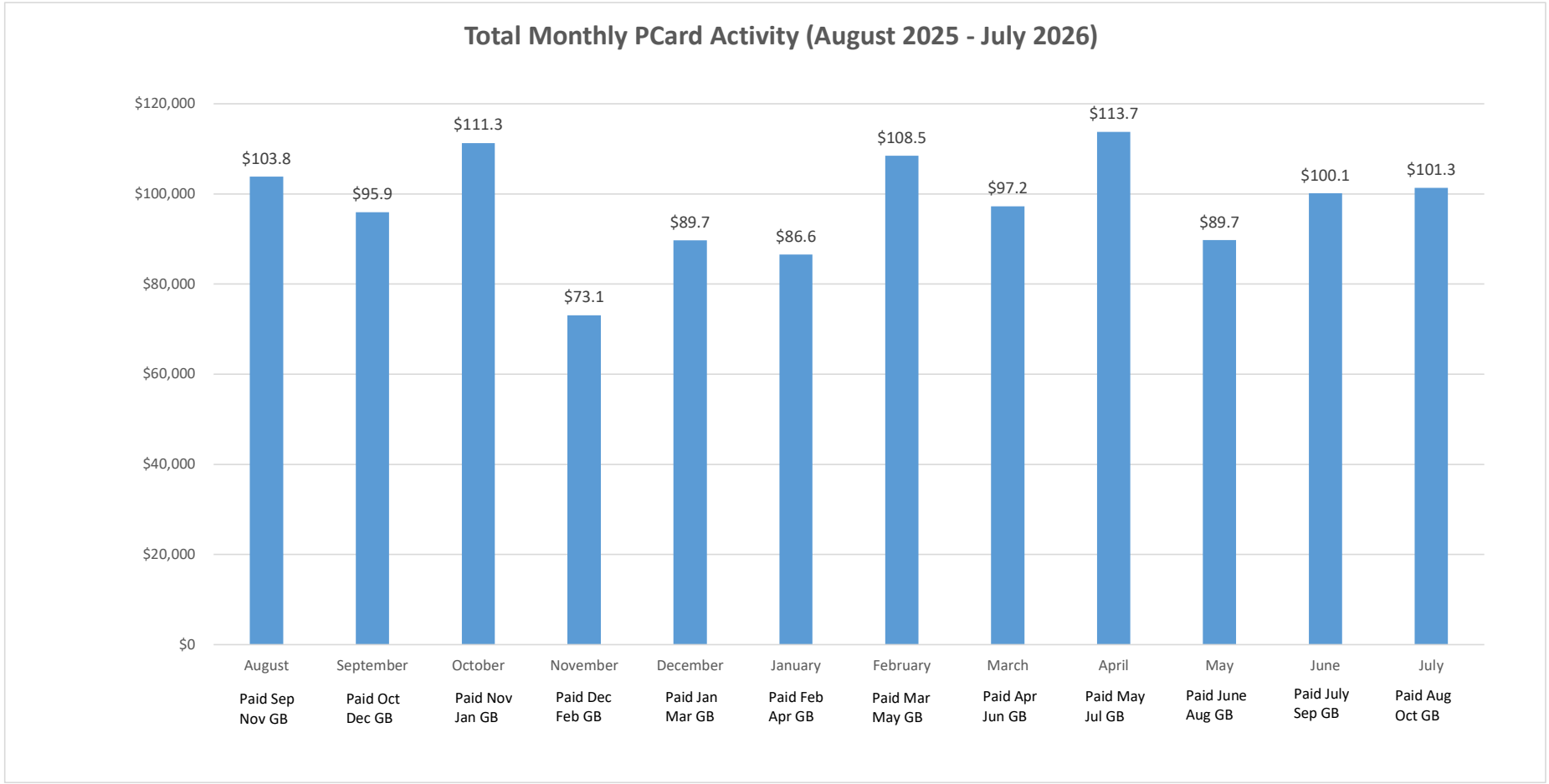
* see attached detail of disbursements by type

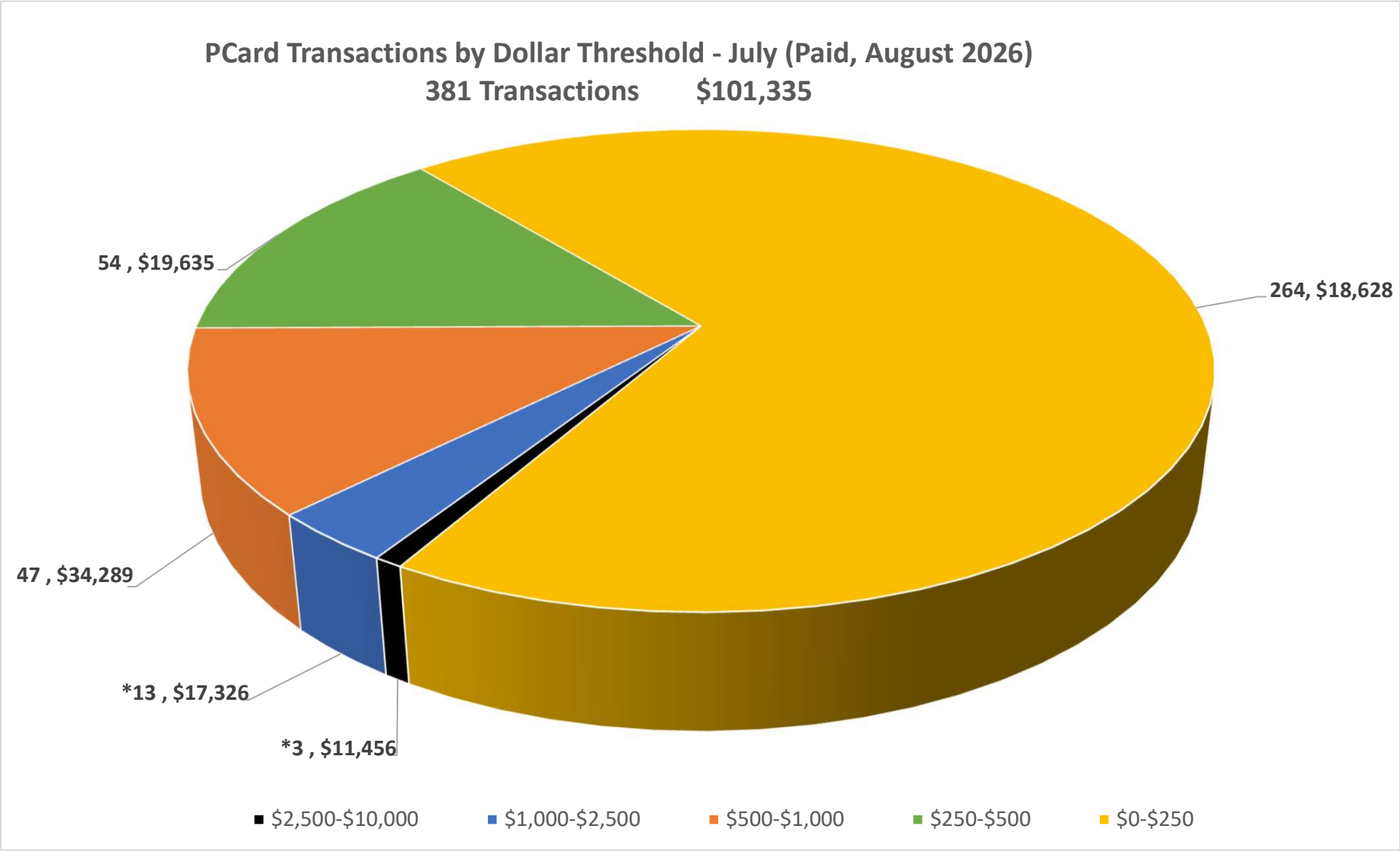
** reported yield per Chandler quarterly Performance Review as June 30, 2026 -Average Purchase Yield

*** reported yield per Chandler quarterly Performance Review as June 30, 2026 -Book Yield


Total Revenues 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26
as of August 31
Millions
$135
$115
$95
$75
$55
$35
$15
$(5)
Ad Valorem Taxes
State, Federal and Other Gov't
Investment Earnings
Licenses and Permits
Timber Sales, Leases and Other
FY 2024
FY 2025
FY 2026

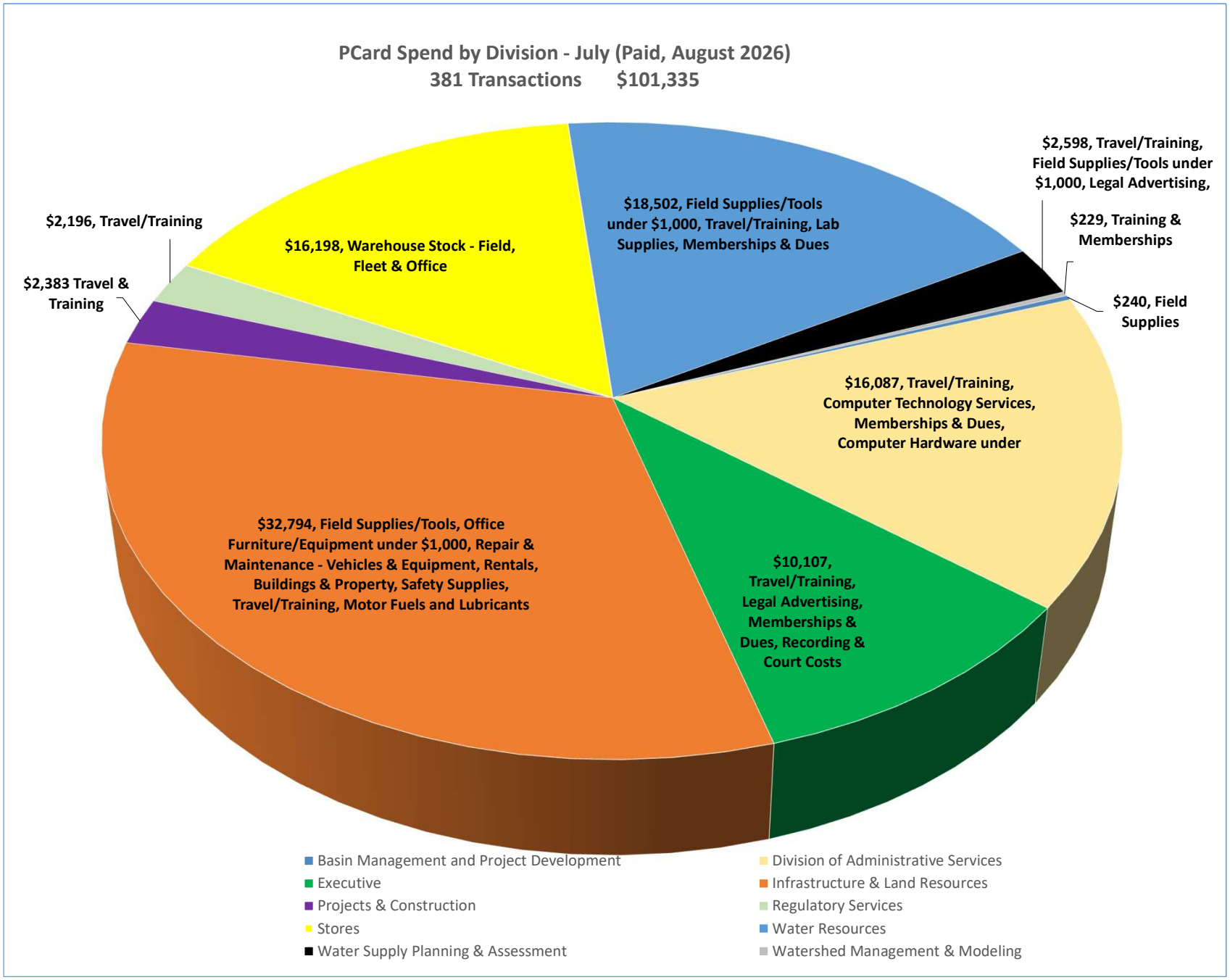

Total Expenditures 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26
as of August 31
Millions
$70
$60
$50
$40
$30
$20
$10
$-
Salaries & Benefits
Contractual Services
General Expenses
Materials & Supplies
Capital Outlay
Cooperative Funding
FY 2024
FY 2025
FY 2026


Total Monthly PCard Activity (August 2025 - July 2026)
$120,000
$100,000
$80,000
$60,000
$40,000
$20,000
$0
$103.8
$95.9
$111.3
$73.1
$89.7
$86.6
$108.5
$97.2
$113.7
$89.7
$100.1
$101.3
August
September
October
November
December
January
February
March
April
May
June
July
Paid Sep Nov GB
Paid Oct Dec GB
Paid Nov Jan GB
Paid Dec Feb GB
Paid Jan Mar GB
Paid Feb Apr GB
Paid Mar May GB
Paid Apr Jun GB
Paid May Jul GB
Paid June Aug GB
Paid July Sep GB
Paid Aug Oct GB



*Purchasing card transactions that exceed $1,000 included:

$13,816.41	Warehouse Stock - Field, Fleet & Office
$ 5,233.17	WRI - Field Supplies
$ 4,471.82	Employee Training & Retention
$ 1,489.50	Warehouse - Office Supplies
$ 1,377.02	Lab Supplies
$ 1,240.57	Facilities - Repair of Equipment
$ 1,153.45	Information Technology - Computer Technology Services


PCard Spend by Division - July (Paid, August 2026)
381 Transactions $101,335
$18,502, Field Supplies/Tools under $1,000, Travel/Training, Lab Supplies, Memberships & Dues
$2,598, Travel/Training, Field Supplies/Tools under $1,000, Legal Advertising,
$229, Training & Memberships
$240, Field Supplies
$16,087, Travel/Training, Computer Technology Services, Memberships & Dues, Computer Hardware under
$10,107, Travel/Training, Legal Advertising, Memberships & Dues, Recording & Court Costs
$32,794, Field Supplies/Tools, Office Furniture/Equipment under $1,000, Repair & Maintenance - Vehicles & Equipment, Rentals, Buildings & Property, Safety Supplies, Travel/Training, Motor Fuels and Lubricants
$2,383 Travel & Training
$2,196, Travel/Training
$16,198, Warehouse Stock - Field, Fleet & Office
Basin Management and Project Development
Division of Administrative Services
Executive
Infrastructure & Land Resources
Projects & Construction
Regulatory Services
Stores
Water Resources
Water Supply Planning & Assessment
Watershed Management & Modeling

AGENDA REQUEST FOR
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
October 13, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

THROUGH: Michael Register, Executive Director
Executive Office

FROM: Dale Jenkins, Director
Division of Infrastructure and Land Resources

SUBJECT: Purchase and Replacement of Motor Vehicles and Fleet Assets for FY 2026–27

RECOMMENDATION
Authorize the Executive Director or his designee to take actions related to the purchase and replacement of motor vehicles and fleet assets for FY 2026–27 in an amount not-to-exceed $2,735,000.

Actions include:

1. Approve the purchase of 21 motor vehicles, and 18 fleet assets, as described in the replacement plan herein, through inter-governmental cooperative purchase methods or competitive bids;

2. Approve additional purchases and increase the not-to-exceed amount to replace motor vehicles and fleet assets that are not included in the FY 2026–27 purchase and replacement plan if the existing vehicle or asset is deemed (1) inoperable, unsafe, or unrepairable; (2) crucial to the District operations; and (3) valued at no more than $200,000 per asset;

3. Negotiate and execute associated procurement actions (purchase orders and/or contracts) up to the revised budget amounts;

4. Approve adjustments to the approved purchase and replacement plan as presented in Tables 1 and 2 below. This may include changes in category, quantity, and add-on features;

5. Negotiate, in accordance with District Policy 370 and Administrative Directive 371, the trade-in value of existing fleet assets (capital), or surplus those deemed obsolete, uneconomical, inefficient or serves no useful purpose, including four capital assets with the original purchase value exceeding $100,000, if applicable; and

6. Execute all related budget transfers.

Amount: $2,735,000 (not-to-exceed)

Account Name: Bureau of Transportation and Facilities - Motor Vehicles and Field, Facility and Fleet – Equipment and Tools over $5,000; Bureau of Land Resources - Field, Facility, and Fleet - Equipment and Tools Over $5,000

Funding Source: District Sources, Land Management Revenue

Budget Authority: FY 2026–27

Adopted Budget: $2,735,000 (The adopted FY 2026–27 budget for the Bureau of Transportation and Facilities includes $1,212,000 for Motor Vehicles and $1,298,000 for Field, Facility, and Fleet Equipment over $5,000. The adopted FY 2026-27 budget for the Bureau of Land Resources includes $225,000 for Field, Facility, and Fleet - Equipment and Tools Over $5,000.)

EOG Program/Activity Code: 3.1.0 – Land Management and 3.6.0 – Fleet Services

Scheduled Completion: September 30, 2027

Note: This purchase is being made pursuant to District Policy 410, Section 4(h)(6) – Purchases made pursuant to intergovernmental cooperative purchasing methods, whereby a governmental unit or purchasing entity, on behalf of governmental units, enters into an agreement for commodities or services that allows other governmental procurement units to contract or purchase from the selected vendor under the same terms and conditions. This includes, but is not limited to, State of Florida and General Services Administration contracts and purchases, as well as contracts established by the State of Florida and the General Services Administration (GSA). District staff may also choose to use competitive bids where no cooperative agreement exists.

BACKGROUND
The District's Transportation Program maintains a safe, serviceable, and available fleet of vehicles and equipment to support the District's missions. Each fiscal year, District staff evaluates the fleet using a scoring system developed by the American Public Works Association (APWA). This system assesses several key replacement factors, including the age of each unit, its condition, repair and maintenance costs over its lifecycle, safety issues, and District needs. The recommended replacement list is determined by combining the scoring system results with the mechanical experience of District fleet repair staff.

DISCUSSION
There are 21 motor vehicles as well as 18 fleet assets and pieces of equipment recommended for replacement that meet or exceed the District's fleet replacement evaluation scoring system criteria and repair staff input discussed above. Although staff utilize their best efforts in forecasting vehicle needs for the coming fiscal year, adjustments to the plan are occasionally necessary due to shifts in operational priorities, price fluctuations, unsafe vehicle or asset condition, inoperability, or unavailability. Therefore, staff are requesting to authorize the Executive Director to make adjustments and/or additions to the approved replacement plan recommendations below regarding the quantity, category (e.g., SUV to sedan, ¾ ton to ½ ton pickup truck, diesel engine to gas engine, etc.) or add-on features which include all additional accessories affixed to the vehicle not included with the purchase package (e.g., fuel tanks, toolboxes, etc.).

In making the purchase of vehicles, District staff anticipate utilizing the competitive pricing available under cooperative contracts, such as the Florida Sheriffs Association Purchasing Program, the Department of Management Services State Term Contract, and others. These cooperative contracts have afforded exceptional cost-saving opportunities over the last several years.

The following tables show selected category, quantity, and estimated pricing for the FY 2026–27 fleet replacement purchase request.

Table 1: Motor Vehicles Replacement Plan

Motor Vehicle Category	Quantity	Estimated Cost Per Unit	Total Estimated Cost
Sedan	3	$30,000	$90,000
Midsize SUV 4X4	1	$39,000	$39,000
¼ ton Crew Cab, gas engine pickup truck 4X4	2	$38,000	$76,000
½ ton Crew Cab, V8 gas engine, pickup 4X4	1	58,000	58,000
½ ton Double Cab, gas engine, pickup truck 4X4	1	$50,000	$50,000
¾ ton Crew Cab, gas engine, pickup truck 4x4	6	$58,000	$348,000
¾ ton Double Cab, diesel engine, pickup truck 4X4	4	$68,000	$272,000
2-ton Single Cab, diesel engine, flatbed, pickup truck 4x4	1	$83,000	$83,000
2-ton Single Cab, Dually, diesel engine, 11' flatbed, (fire engine configuration) pickup truck 4x4 **(fire engines will be purchased with District Sources – Transportation and Facilities plus Land Resources funds)**	2	$200,000	$400,000
TOTAL	**21**		**$1,416,000***

*Motor vehicles will be purchased with $1,212,000 Bureau of Transportation and Facilities and additional $204,000 Land Resources funds, overall $1,416,000

Table 2: Fleet Assets Replacement Plan

Fleet Asset Category	Quantity	Estimated Cost Per Unit	Total Estimated Cost
20’ Utility Trailer	2	$9,000	$18,000
18’ Trailer double axle with single tire assist ramps	1	$10,000	$10,000
All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) with windshield and roof	1	$15,000	$15,000
20’ Tilt Bed Trailer	2	$15,000	$30,000
Rough Terrain Vehicle (RTV) **(RTVs will be purchased with Transportation and Facilities plus Land Resources funds)**	3	$22,000	$66,000
Harrow	1	$25,000	$25,000
Tire Machine	1	$25,000	$25,000
Vehicle Lift	1	$35,000	$35,000
Airboat with a 5.7-liter car engine and correlating trailer	1	$80,000	$80,000
Utility tractor w/grapple and root rake	2	$150,000	$300,000
Backhoe/Loader	1	$155,000	$155,000
Vibratory Roller	1	$175,000	$175,000
35-ton Lowboy trailer and Semi Tractor	1	$385,000	$385,000
Total	**18**		**$1,319,000***

*Fleet Assets will be purchased with $1,298,000 Bureau of Transportation and Facilities and additional $21,000 Land Resources funds, overall $1,319,000

AGENDA REQUEST FOR
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
October 13, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

THROUGH: Michael Register, Executive Director
Executive Office

FROM: Dale Jenkins, Director
Division of Infrastructure and Land Resources

SUBJECT: Lake Washington Weir South Embankment Reinforcement

RECOMMENDATION
Approve award and authorize the Executive Director to (1) negotiate and execute a contract for a not-to-exceed amount of $180,504 with Underwater Engineering Services, Inc., the lowest responsible and responsive bidder, for installing approximately 200 linear feet of steel sheet pile on the south bank of Lake Washington upstream of the Lake Washington Weir; and (2) execute all related budget transfers.

Account Name: Lake Washington Weir South Embankment Reinforcement

Funding Source: District Sources

Budget Authority: FY 2025–27

Budget: $180,504

EOG Program/Activity Code: 3.2.0 Works

Scheduled Completion: December 2026

Bid Openings: Installation of steel sheet pile - August 6, 2026; Responses Received: 12

BACKGROUND
Lake Washington, located on the St. Johns River in east central Florida, is a significant water supply source for the City of Melbourne (City) in Brevard County. The lake is dammed at its north end by the Lake Washington weir (see Figure 1). The weir is 165 feet long and was constructed to protect water supplies during low-flow periods.

Approximately 600 linear feet of steel sheet pile wall exists along the north embankment (upstream of the weir) to restrict/prevent airboat access through the marsh/wetland in this area. Prior to the sheet pile wall construction, airboat traffic had caused breaches in the embankment resulting in extremely low water elevations in Lake Washington as river flow bypassed the weir. These breaches put the City's water supply at risk.

Recently, two smaller breaches have formed on the south embankment of Lake Washington due to natural fluvial processes. These breaches are also upstream of the weir and an associated airboat cross-over. District staff quickly installed sandbag cofferdams within each breach and for now these cofferdams are holding. However, to minimize further breaching of the embankment and/or failure of the sandbag cofferdams, the best long-term solution requires installation of approximately 200 linear feet of steel sheet pile to provide a more permanent repair and better protection for the City's water supply.

DISCUSSION
Two separate procurement actions were initiated for this project: (1) to purchase the steel sheet pile and (2) to install the sheet pile to construct the steel sheet pile wall.

42443 Purchase of Steel Sheet Pile
On July 21, 2026, Procurement advertised Invitation for Bid (IFB) 42443 for Purchase of Steel Sheet Pile on the State vendor bid system MyFlorida Marketplace, DemandStar, and Central Bidding. The solicitation notified more than 62 prospective contractors, and 16 plan holders downloaded the documents. No pre-bid meeting was held. The District received and opened five responses on August 11, 2026, with three deemed non-responsive. After a review of all submittals, Underwater Engineering Services, Inc., was determined to be the lowest responsive and responsible bidder at a total cost of $126,820, which was within the Executive Director's delegated authority pursuant to District Policy 410, Procurement.

42444 Sheet Pile Installation – Lake Washington Weir
On July 21, 2026, Procurement advertised IFB 42444 for Sheet Pile Installation – Lake Washington Weir on the State vendor bid system MyFlorida Marketplace, DemandStar, and Central Bidding. The solicitation notified more than 1,882 prospective contractors, and 67 plan holders downloaded the documents. A non-mandatory pre-bid meeting was held on July 28, 2026, with eight companies represented. The District received and opened 12 responses on August 6, 2026, with three deemed non-responsive. After a review of all submittals, Underwater Engineering Services, Inc. was determined to be the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. Underwater Engineering Services, Inc. will load the sheet pile, installation crane, and other necessary materials on a barge at Lake Washington Park and move to the south embankment installation location near the weir (Figure 1) where work will take place.

Although the procurement for the sheet pile installation resulted in a bid amount that is within the Executive Director's delegated authority, a budget transfer is also necessary to facilitate this project. To purchase the sheet pile, a budget transfer of $126,820 was completed. A further budget transfer of $180,504 is needed to address installation of the sheet pile. The total transfer amount of $307,324 (purchase of sheet pile plus installation) exceeds the budget transfer authority of the Executive Director (see District Policy 330(3)(b)2.). Therefore, this item is being presented for Governing Board consideration.

RESPONDENT	TOTAL COST
Underwater Engineering Services	$180,504.00
Cone & Graham	$219,500.00
TSI Disaster Recovery	$233,750.00
Earth Tech Enterprises	$295,000.00
WB Williamson Bros	$318,457.58
Loren Jock Trucking	$399,900.00
Riptide Marine & Land Constr.	$408,237.00
Built & Branded	$477,700.00
Westwind Contracting	$578,620.00
On-Point Contracting	Non-Responsive
Heavy Civil Support	Non-Responsive
Southeastern Marine Group	Non-Responsive

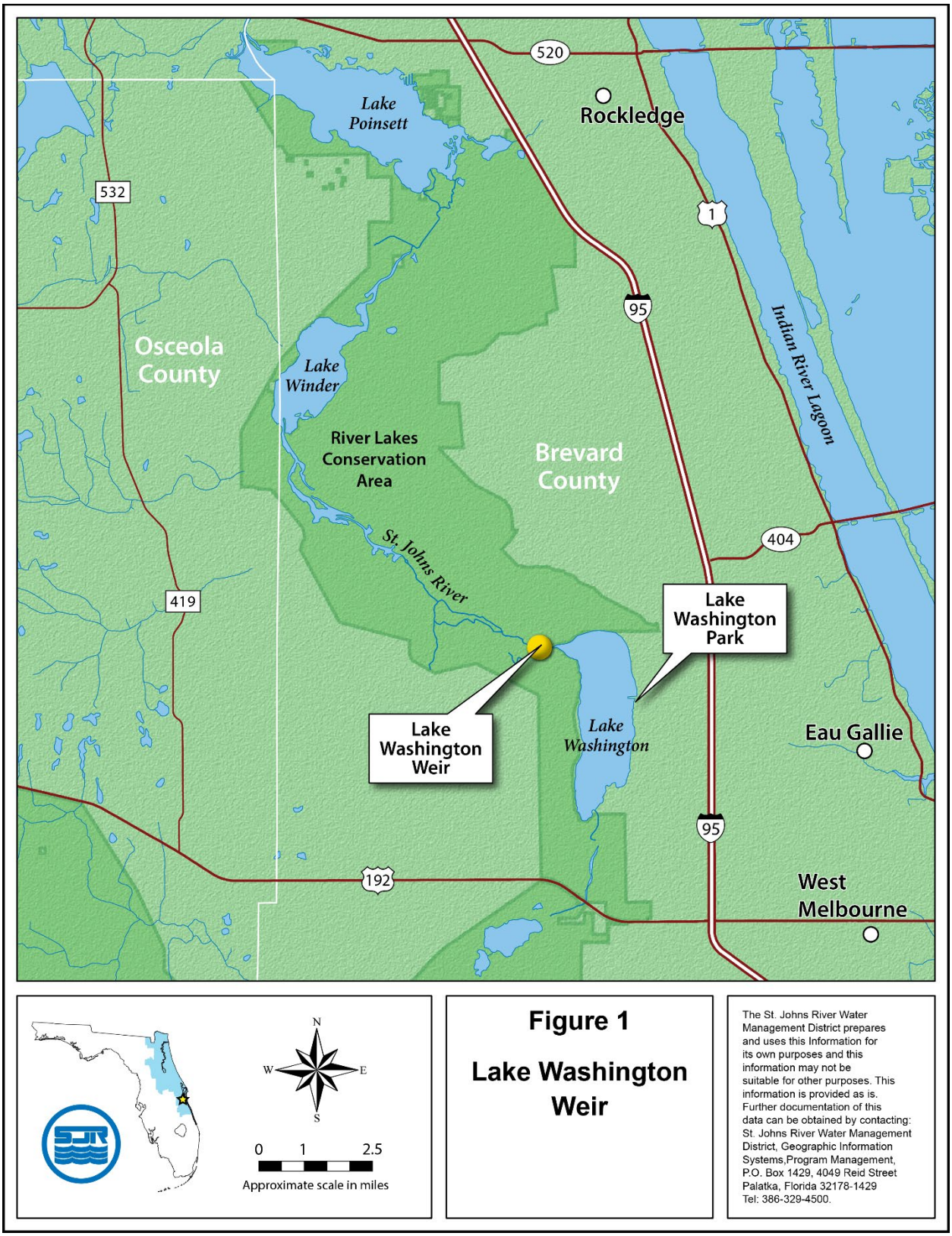


Figure 1

Lake Washington Weir

The St. Johns River Water Management District prepares and uses this Information for its own purposes and this information may not be suitable for other purposes. This information is provided as is. Further documentation of this data can be obtained by contacting: St. Johns River Water Management District, Geographic Information Systems,Program Management, P.O. Box 1429, 4049 Reid Street Palatka, Florida 32178-1429 Tel: 386-329-4500.

AGENDA REQUEST FOR
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
October 13, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO:	Governing Board
THROUGH:	Michael Register, Executive Director Executive Office
FROM:	Clay Coarsey, Director Division of Water Supply Planning and Assessment
SUBJECT:	Tri-County Agricultural Area Water Management Partnership Cost-Share Program

RECOMMENDATION
Authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute a cost-share contract with Tater Farms, LLC, as a part of the Tri-County Agricultural Area Water Management Partnership Cost-share program in the amount of $300,000.00.

Amount: $300,000.00

Account Name: Tri-County Agricultural Area Water Management Partnership Cost-share

Funding Sources: DEP Grant Sources

Budget Authority: FY 2025-26

Budget: $1,500,000

EOG Program/Activity Code: 2.2.1 Water Resource Development

Completion: September 30, 2027 Renewable: No

Special Notes:

- Estimated total grower match: $168,641.74
- Estimated total project cost: $468,641.74
- Estimated conservation/water made available: 176.6 million gallons per year
- Estimated annual total nitrogen loading reduction: 432 pounds
- Estimated annual total phosphorus loading reduction: 26 pounds

TCAA WATER MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP COST SHARE BACKGROUND

The Tri-County Agricultural Area Water Management Partnership Cost-Share Program (Partnership) was developed to assist farmers and growers implementing projects that conserve water, reduce nutrient loading, and result in more efficient farm management while maintaining the long -term viability of agriculture in Flagler, Putnam, and St. Johns counties. Multiple agencies partner to contribute cost-share funding to growers in the Tri-County Agricultural Area. Funding for this cost-share program is provided on a year-to -year basis by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), and the St. Johns River Water Management District (District). A fourth partner, the Natural Resource and Conservation Service, also provides cost-share opportunities to the Tri-County Agricultural Area growers with federal funding. To date, 109 projects have received funding through this program. Last year, DEP awarded the District a Water Quality Improvement Grant to address nutrient loading and water conservation within the Tri-County Agricultural Area, and this grant is being used by the District to fund the project below.

FDACS serves as the “gate keeper” for applications, and the agency partners select agricultural projects for cost -share opportunities. Projects are eligible for cost share funding at up to 75% of engineering, design, and construction cost. Awardees are expected to cover project maintenance costs for the life of the project and, if applicable, must modify their consumptive use permits to reflect water savings produced by District funds.

DISCUSSION

There are two solicitations for this program each year. Fourteen applications were received for the current cycle, and twelve are recommended for funding. Seven will be funded by FDACS and the remaining five will be recommended for funding using DEP grant funds awarded to SJRWMD. The project that exceeds the Executive Director’s signature authority is described in the following paragraph.

Tater Farms Canal 17 is a proposed 1,050-acre agricultural operation that planned to utilize groundwater from the Upper Floridan aquifer for irrigation. This project consists of developing an alternative water supply through the construction of a 15-acre onsite water storage pond designed to capture runoff from internal fields as well as flows originating in the Hastings Drainage District Canal #17, which would otherwise discharge directly into the St. Johns River. The captured surface water will be stored and recirculated back into the farm’s internal ditches so that it can be used for irrigation. The project will offset an estimated 40% of the farm’s groundwater use for irrigation and also reduce nutrient loading to the St. Johns River.

Applicant	Project	Total Amount Requested	Applicant Share	SJRWMD Cost
Tater Farms, LLC	Surface water irrigation	$468,641.74	$168,641.74	$300,000.00

AGENDA REQUEST FOR
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
October 13, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO:	Governing Board
THROUGH:	Michael Register, Executive Director Executive Office
FROM:	Clay Coarsey, Director Division of Water Supply Planning and Assessment
SUBJECT:	Lady Lake Temporary Consumptive Use Permit, 50049-11004

RECOMMENDATION

Approve Temporary Consumptive Use Permit 50049-11004, known as Town of Lady Lake. This application is for a temporary permit for a public supply use with an allocation of 1.188 mgd of groundwater from the Upper Floridan Aquifer.

The attached Technical Staff Report includes a summary of the requested use and proposed permit conditions.

CONSUMPTIVE USE TECHNICAL STAFF REPORT
08-Sep-2026
APPLICATION #: 50049-11004

Owner: Town of Lady Lake
409 Fennell Blvd
Lady Lake, FL 32159-3158
352-751-1526

Applicant: C.T. Eagle
Town of Lady Lake
136 Skyline Drive
Lady Lake, FL 32159-4570
(352) 751-1526

Agent: Jason R Shepler
Mittauer & Assoc.
580 Wells Rd, Ste 1
Orange Park, FL 32073-2979
904-644-0644

Compliance Contact: Not Applicable

Project Name: Town of Lady Lake
County: Lake

Authorization Statement:
The District authorizes this temporary consumptive use permit (TCUP), as limited by the attached permit conditions, for the use of 1.188 million gallons per day (mgd) of groundwater from the Upper Floridan aquifer for public supply use.

Recommendation: Approval
Reviewers: Paula Presley; Daniel Gilmore; John Theriac; Clint Brown

WATER USE SUMMARY:

Status of Pending Permit Application:

The Town of Lady Lake submitted a new application on July 14, 2026, for a permit that expired on July 11, 2026. A temporary consumptive use permit (TCUP) was issued to the town on July 31, 2026 with an expiration date of August 12, 2026, a second TCUP was issued to the town on August 11, 2026 with an expiration date of September 9, 2026, and a third was issued on September 8, 2026 with an expiration date of October 14, 2026. In accordance with 373.244 Florida Statutes (F.S.), this application requests no changes to the previously permitted allocation of 1.188 million gallons per day (mgd) of groundwater from the Upper Floridan aquifer (UFA) via five wells. The permit is considered a new use because the permit expired before a renewal application was submitted. The current use meets the conditions for issuance; however, staff are working with the applicant on the new permit application to ensure that all technically, economically, and financially feasible measures for water conservation are being implemented.

Statement of Necessity:

The applicant submitted a consumptive use permit application for the use of 2.28 mgd of groundwater from the UFA for public supply use. While the CUP application is pending, the applicant requests the continued use of the previous permitted allocation to allow operations to continue.

Review of Request:

The previously permitted allocation was based on the public supply water demands needed to serve a projected population of 7,406 residents through 2026. The allocation was developed using the applicable Water Supply Assessment population projections and incorporated reductions in groundwater demand associated with the planned expansion of reclaimed water use as reclaimed supplies became available. As part of the review of the applicant’s pending new permit application, the allocation is being reevaluated using current University of Florida Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR) population projections, adjusted to account for confirmed planned developments and the continued expansion of reclaimed water use. These proposed revisions are currently under review as part of Consumptive Use Permit application 50049-11.

This TCUP allows the continued interdistrict transfer of 86,000 gpd of groundwater from the UFA to serve a commercial development in Sumter County. The Southwest Florida Water Management District has been made aware of the proposed transfer, received a copy of the application and has no objection.

Pursuant to subsection 373.223(3), F.S., staff evaluated the factors outlined in that subsection to determine whether water exported from Lake County to Sumter County meets the local sources first criteria for the crosscounty transport of water as described below:

- The UFA source is common to both counties. The water is withdrawn from the UFA and treated in Lake County prior to its delivery to a small portion of Sumter County.

- Although the UFA source could be withdrawn in Sumter County, the UFA is a shared resource in this area. Investments in infrastructure in Lake County to serve this small portion of Sumter County are already in place.

- Conservation, reuse, and AWS alternatives to the proposed source have been evaluated and incorporated as economically and technically feasible.

- Modeling shows no harmful environmental impacts are anticipated.

- Adequate water is available for existing legal uses and anticipated future needs.

- Lake and Sumter counties have been consulted and do not object to the proposed use.

- Significant capital and operational investments, well in excess of $5 million present value, have already been made by Lady Lake to treat and supply water to a small portion of Sumter County.

Recommendation:
Section 373.244, Florida Statutes (F.S.), provides that the Governing Board, or the Executive Director if authorized by the Board, shall consider whether a request for a temporary consumptive use permit (TCUP) appears to meet the District's permitting criteria as outlined in section 373.223(1), F.S. Pursuant to District Policy 120(5)(b), the approval of initial TCUP applications is delegated to the Executive Director. The Governing Board must authorize renewals of a TCUP. After a review of the permitting criteria outlined in the District's Applicant's Handbook: Consumptive Uses of Water, December 2025, and based upon the short duration of the request, District staff concluded that the request meets the criteria provided in section 373.223(1), F.S. Specifically, District staff concluded that the proposed use, as limited by the attached permit conditions, is reasonable-beneficial, will not cause or contribute to interference with existing legal uses, and is consistent with the public interest.

TCUPs are issued for a period of time to expire on the day following the next regular meeting of the Governing Board. Section 373.244(2), F.S., provides that at its next meeting the Board "shall consider whether it appears that the proposed use meets the criteria outlined in s. 373.223(1) and that such temporary permit is necessary for consumptive use of water prior to final action on an application for a permit pursuant to ss. 373.219 and 373.229." Therefore, staff recommends that the term of this TCUP extends through November 12, 2026.

Station Information
Site Name: Town of Lady Lake

Well Details								
District ID	**Station Name**	**Casing Diameter (inches)**	**Casing Depth (feet)**	**Total Depth (feet)**	**Capacity (GPM)**	**Source Name**	**Status**	**Use Type**
116	Well 2 (formerly 1)	8	214	419	250	FAS - Upper Floridan Aquifer	Active	Public Supply
118	Well 3 (formerly 2)	14	201	403	1000	FAS - Upper Floridan Aquifer	Active	Public Supply
120	Well 1 (formerly 3)	12	189	312	1000	FAS - Upper Floridan Aquifer	Active	Public Supply
38415	4	16	202	400	1000	FAS - Upper Floridan Aquifer	Active	Public Supply
507583	5	16	190	400	1000	FAS - Upper Floridan Aquifer	Active	Public Supply

Connection Point Details			
District ID	**Station Name**	**Source Name**	**Status**
39892	Reclaimed water distribution point	Lady Lake, City Of	Active

Monitoring Well Details						
District ID	**Station Name**	**Casing Diameter (inches)**	**Casing Depth (feet)**	**Total Depth (feet)**	**Source Name**	**Status**
243900	Unnamed Lake near Royal Oaks Rd - Lk Mitchell	2	5	5	Surficial Aquifer	Active
243901	Lake Ivanhoe, (Sec. 21, T. 18 S.,R. 24 E.)	2	5	5	Surficial Aquifer	Active

Monitoring Well Details						
District ID	**Station Name**	**Casing Diameter (inches)**	**Casing Depth (feet)**	**Total Depth (feet)**	**Source Name**	**Status**
243993	Lake Ella, (Sec. 28, T. 18 S.,R. 24 E.)	2	5	5	Surficial Aquifer	Active

Conditions

1. With advance notice to the permittee, District staff with proper identification shall have permission to enter, inspect, observe, collect samples, and take measurements of permitted facilities to determine compliance with the permit conditions and permitted plans and specifications. The permittee shall either accompany District staff onto the property or make provision for access onto the property.

2. Nothing in this permit should be construed to limit the authority of the St. Johns River Water Management District to declare a water shortage and issue orders pursuant to Chapter 373, F.S. In the event of a declared water shortage, the permittee must adhere to the water shortage restrictions, as specified by the District. The permittee is advised that during a water shortage, reports shall be submitted as required by District rule or order.

3. Prior to the construction, modification or abandonment of a well, the permittee must obtain a water well permit from the St. Johns River Water Management District or the appropriate local government pursuant to Chapter 40C-3, F.A.C. Construction, modification, or abandonment of a well will require modification of the consumptive use permit when such construction, modification, or abandonment is other than that specified and described on the consumptive use permit application form.

4. Leaking or inoperative well casings, valves, or controls must be repaired or replaced as required to eliminate the leak or make the system fully operational.

5. The permittee's consumptive use of water as authorized by this permit shall not interfere with legal uses of water existing at the time of permit application. If interference occurs, the District shall revoke the permit, in whole or in part, to curtail or abate the interference, unless the interference associated with the permittee's consumptive use of water is mitigated by the permittee pursuant to a District-approved plan.

6. The permittee's consumptive use of water as authorized by this permit shall not have significant adverse hydrologic impacts to off-site land uses existing at the time of permit application. If significant adverse hydrologic impacts occur, the

District shall revoke the permit, in whole or in part, to curtail or abate the adverse impacts, unless the impacts associated with the permittee's consumptive use of water are mitigated by the permittee pursuant to a District-approved plan.

7. The permittee shall notify the District in writing within 30 days of any sale, transfer, or conveyance of ownership or any other loss of permitted legal control of the Project and/or related facilities from which the permitted consumptive use is made. Where permittee's control of the land subject to the permit was demonstrated through a lease, the permittee must either submit documentation showing that it continues to have legal control or transfer control of the permitted system/project to the new landowner or new lessee. All transfers of ownership are subject to the requirements of Rule 40C-1.612, F.A.C. Alternatively, the permittee may surrender the consumptive use permit to the District, thereby relinquishing the right to conduct any activities under the permit.

8. The permittee shall prominently display an identification tag at each withdrawal site by permanently affixing such tag to the pump, headgate, valve, or other withdrawal facility as provided by Rule 40C-2.401, F.A.C. If an identification tag is lost or becomes illegible, the permittee shall permanently affix a replacement tag.

9. The permittee's consumptive use of water as authorized by this permit shall not adversely impact wetlands, lakes, rivers, or springs. If adverse impacts occur, the District shall revoke the permit, in whole or in part, to curtail or abate the adverse impacts, unless the impacts associated with the permittee's consumptive use of water are mitigated by the permittee pursuant to a District-approved plan.

10. The permittee's consumptive use of water as authorized by this permit shall not reduce a flow or level below any minimum flow or level established by the District or the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to Section 373.042 and 373.0421, F.S. If the permittee's use of water causes or contributes to such a reduction, then the District shall revoke the permit, in whole or in part, unless the permittee implements all provisions applicable to the permittee's use in a District-approved recovery or prevention strategy.

11. The permittee's consumptive use of water as authorized by the permit shall not cause or contribute to significant saline water intrusion. If significant saline water intrusion occurs, the District shall revoke the permit, in whole or in part, to curtail or abate the saline water intrusion, unless the saline water intrusion associated with the permittee's consumptive use of water is mitigated by the permittee pursuant to a District-approved plan.

12. The permittee's consumptive use of water as authorized by the permit shall not cause or contribute to flood damage. If the permittee's consumptive use causes or contributes to flood damage, the District shall revoke the permit, in whole or in part, to curtail or abate the flood damage, unless the flood damage associated

with the permittee's consumptive use of water is mitigated by the permittee pursuant to a District-approved plan.

13. All consumptive uses authorized by this permit shall be implemented as conditioned by this permit, including any documents incorporated by reference in a permit condition. The District may revoke this permit, in whole or in part, or take enforcement action, pursuant to Section 373.136 or 373.243, F.S., unless a permit modification has been obtained to address the noncompliance. The permittee shall immediately notify the District in writing of any previously submitted information that is later discovered to be inaccurate.

14. This permit does not convey to the permittee any property rights or privileges other than those specified herein, nor relieve the permittee from complying with any applicable local government, state, or federal law, rule, or ordinance.

15. A permittee may seek modification of any term of an unexpired permit. The permittee is advised that Section 373.239, F.S., and Rule 40C-2.331, F.A.C., are applicable to permit modifications.

16. This permit is subject to modification during the term of the permit, upon reasonable notice by the District to the permittee, to achieve compliance with any approved MFL recovery or prevention strategy for the Silver River or Silver Springs. Furthermore if determined necessary by the District, the permittee will mitigate for their contribution to declining spring flows at Silver Springs. Nothing herein shall be construed to alter the District's authority to modify a permit under circumstances not addressed in this condition.

17. Following the effective date of the re-evaluated Minimum Flows and Levels (MFL), adopted pursuant to 373.042, F.S., for Lake Apshawa South and the Wekiva Basin MFLs, this permit is subject to modification during the term of the permit, upon reasonable notice by the District to the permittee, to achieve compliance with any approved MFL recovery or prevention strategy for Lake Apshawa South and the Wekiva Basin MFLs. The permittee's participation in implementing an approved MFL prevention/recovery strategy shall be limited to offsetting or mitigating the impact of the permittee's groundwater allocation on these MFLs. The District shall revoke the permit in whole or in part, if the permittee fails to implement its portion of any approved prevention/recovery strategy for any of these MFLs in accordance with the schedule included in the strategy. Nothing herein shall be construed to alter the District's authority to modify a permit under circumstances not addressed in this condition.

18. All irrigation shall conform with the requirements set forth in subsection 40C-2.042(2), F.A.C.

19. The permittee shall meter all service connections.

20. All submittals made to demonstrate compliance with this permit must include Temporary CUP number 50049-11004 labeled on the submittal. Submittals should be made online at www.sjrwmd.com/permitting whenever possible.

21. This Temporary Consumptive Use Permit will expire November 12, 2026.

22. All wells and the connection point must continue to be equipped with totalizing flow meters. All flow meters must measure within +/- 5% of the actual flow, be verifiable and be installed according to the manufacturer's specifications.

23. Maximum annual groundwater withdrawals from the Upper Floridan aquifer for public supply use must not exceed 1.188 million gallons per day (annual average).

24. Total withdrawal from the following stations must be recorded continuously, totaled monthly, and reported to the District at least every six months for the duration of this permit using Water Use Pumpage Report Form (EN-50). The meter reading or quantity withdrawn must be reported in gallons. Reporting is required, even if there is no use

Station Id	Station Name	Source
116	Well 2 (fka 1)	FAS - Upper Floridan Aquifer
118	Well 3 (fka 2)	FAS - Upper Floridan Aquifer
120	Well 1 (fka 3)	FAS - Upper Floridan Aquifer
38415	4	FAS - Upper Floridan Aquifer
507583	5	FAS - Upper Floridan Aquifer
39892	Reclaimed Distribution	Connection Point

The reporting dates each year will be as follows:

Reporting Period	**Report Due Date**
January - June	July 31
July - December	January 31

25. The permittee must have all flow meters and alternative methods for measuring flow checked for accuracy at least once every 10 years, specifically before June 20, 2035. The flow meters must be recalibrated if the difference between the actual flow and the meter reading is greater than +/- 5%, or if the difference between the actual flow and the alternative method measurement is greater than +/- 10%. The permittee must submit either the Flow Meter Accuracy Report Form (EN-51) or Alternative Method Flow Verification Report Form (whichever form is applicable) to the District within 10 days of the inspection/calibration.

26. The permittee must maintain all flowmeters and alternative methods for measuring flow. In case of failure or breakdown of any meter, the District must be notified in writing within 5 days of its discovery. A defective meter must be repaired or replaced within 30 days of its discovery.

27. The permittee must implement the Water Conservation Plan submitted to the District on September 30, 2005 and amendments to the plan, including the landscaping, water conservation, and reclaimed water ordinances, provided to the District on March 17, 2006, in accordance with the schedule contained therein.

28. The permittee must conduct hydrologic and photo monitoring at each of the three (3) wetland areas listed below:

    a. Lake Ivanhoe, (Sec. 21 T. 18 S., R. 24 E.);

    b. Unnamed Lake, near Royal Oaks Rd., (Sec. 26, T. 18 S., R. 24 E.); and

    c. Lake Ella, (Sec. 28 T. 18 S., R. 24 E.).

    The permittee must install staff gauges and/or shallow wells (hereafter referred to as monitoring devices) in each of the above-listed wetland sites. The monitoring devices and specific locations must be approved in writing by the District. The monitoring wells must be installed by a licensed water well contractor (as required in 373.336 (1)(b), F.S.), and all monitoring devices shall be surveyed to NGVD (1929) to an accuracy of +/- 0.01 foot. The permittee must submit station location and descriptor data electronically as spreadsheets in a District-approved format. Station descriptor information must include: latitude/longitude, brief text site description, date of installation, type of instrument, installation entity, maintenance entity, and access instructions.

    If another agency or utility is monitoring the same water body, then the same monitoring equipment/data can, upon written approval by SJRWMD, be used with the owner's consent. Data collection at all three (3) sites must be at midday. Water level monitoring must be initiated by December 13, 2006. At each wetland monitoring site, an elevation profile along a transect 150 feet in length must be surveyed such that 50 feet of the adjacent upland is included. If the adjacent upland consists of placed fill, then the transect may be limited to 120 feet in length, such that 20 feet of the adjacent upland is included. The location of the transect must be reviewed and approved by the District prior to survey. Soil elevations must be recorded to an accuracy of +/- 0.1 foot at 5-foot intervals and wherever there is a change in plant community. Other environmental features such as current water level, cypress buttress inflection points, lower extent of lichen lines or upper extent of moss collars, watermarks, and the lower edge of the saw palmetto (Serenoa repens) fringe must be surveyed, if present. A diagram of the elevations, plant communities, and hydric soils located along the

transect must be made. Plant communities must be described, including a listing of all vascular plant species, by plant community, present within 10 feet of one side of the transect line, their relative abundance, and the diameter at breast height (d.b.h.) of any woody plants greater than 1″ d.b.h. A description of soil color, texture, and hydric soil indicators must be made in the top 24 inches of soil at 25-foot intervals along the transect described above for a total of 7 stations. If the soil survey depicts the soils as open water, then the soil description will occur out to a water depth of 3 feet, and depth to sediment surface, and depth of organic substrate will be recorded for the remaining intervals. The data collection described in this paragraph is a one-time event. Well completion reports for the piezometers will also be included in this report. The vegetation and soil survey must be submitted on December 13, 2006.

Permanent photo stations must be monumented and panoramic photographs must be taken in September for each of the wetland monitoring sites, starting in 2007 and annually thereafter. These stations must be reviewed and approved by the District prior to monumentation.

Weekly rainfall data must be obtained for each monitored location from the nearest existing rain gauge approved by the District. The same rainfall station may be used for more than one monitoring site.

The following information must be recorded by the permittee for each monitoring site: water level (weekly without data loggers or daily with data loggers), rainfall (weekly), and pumping volume (weekly by well). Monitoring data must be submitted electronically as spreadsheets every six months in a District-approved, computer-accessible format. Permittee must contact the District for specific details on how to submit the computer accessible information. This data must also be submitted as a legible paper copy (two copies) along with the EN-50 forms for the project. On January 31st, the permittee must submit an annual report summarizing the monitoring efforts. The report must include the panoramic photographs and graphs summarizing the rainfall and monitoring data.

29. The permittee shall record the total quantities of wastewater treated by its wastewater treatment system, totaled monthly, and report those data to the District with the semi-annual reports due by July 31 and January 31 of each year.

30. The permittee shall use the lowest quality water source, such as reclaimed water, surface/storm water, or alternative water supply, to supply the needs of the project when deemed feasible pursuant to District rules and applicable state law.

AGENDA REQUEST FOR
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
October 13, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

THROUGH: Michael Register, Executive Director
Executive Office

FROM: Sheila Theus, Director
Real Estate Services Program

SUBJECT: FY 2026-27 List of Critical Wetlands

RECOMMENDATION
Approve the St. Johns River Water Management District's FY 2026–27 List of Critical Wetlands and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to remove parcels from the list upon request from the property owner.

In April 2022, section 373.036, Florida Statutes (F.S.), was amended to require water management districts, in cooperation with local governments, to develop a list of critical wetlands to be acquired through the Land Acquisition Trust Fund. The following statutory criteria must be considered when designating a wetland for inclusion on the Critical Wetlands List (List):

1. The ecological value of the wetland, as determined by the physical and biological components of the environmental system;

2. The effect of the wetland on water quality and flood mitigation;

3. The ecosystem restoration value of the wetland;

4. The inherent susceptibility of the wetland to development due to its geographical location or natural aesthetics.

The Governing Board is required to notify the owner of any property the District contemplates including on the List before its adoption. Section 373.036, F.S., requires if at any time a property owner wishes to have their property removed from the List, they must submit a letter to the District by certified mail sufficiently identifying the property and requesting its removal from the List. The Governing Board must approve the removal request if these requirements are met. Additionally, if the District opts to utilize an annual strategic plan, it must include the List in such plan. In January 2023, as part of the District's Annual Strategic Plan, the Governing Board approved the first List of Critical Wetlands. Since 2023, more than 15,000 acres, identified from the List, have been acquired by (i) the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund, (ii) the District, or (iii) our local government partners.

DISCUSSION
District staff worked with local government partners and other stakeholders to review last year's List and the partners' priorities. Staff then sent letters to the owners of all 394 parcels on the List. The letters

explained the legislation and how owners could request that their property be taken off the List. Twelve parcels belonging to eight owners were removed at those owners' request.

The FY 2026–27 List (see attachment labeled "FY 2026-27 List of Critical Wetlands") includes all properties not previously acquired from the FY 2025–26 List plus an additional 27 parcels comprising 3,240 acres in Brevard, Flagler, Putnam, Seminole, and Volusia counties (see attachments 1-5 contained in the attachment labeled "Critical Wetlands Maps - Additions").

Because section 373.036, F.S., mandates removal of identified property from the List when the removal procedures in the statute are met, and no discretionary action is involved, District staff recommends the Governing Board delegate to the Executive Director the authority to amend the List to remove identified properties when requested by the property owner. The Executive Director will report changes to the List at the next regularly scheduled meeting.



FY 2026-27

List of Critical Wetlands

Section 373.036, Florida Statutes

2027 List Critical Wetlands & Land Acquisition Plan

All Strategic Planning Basins

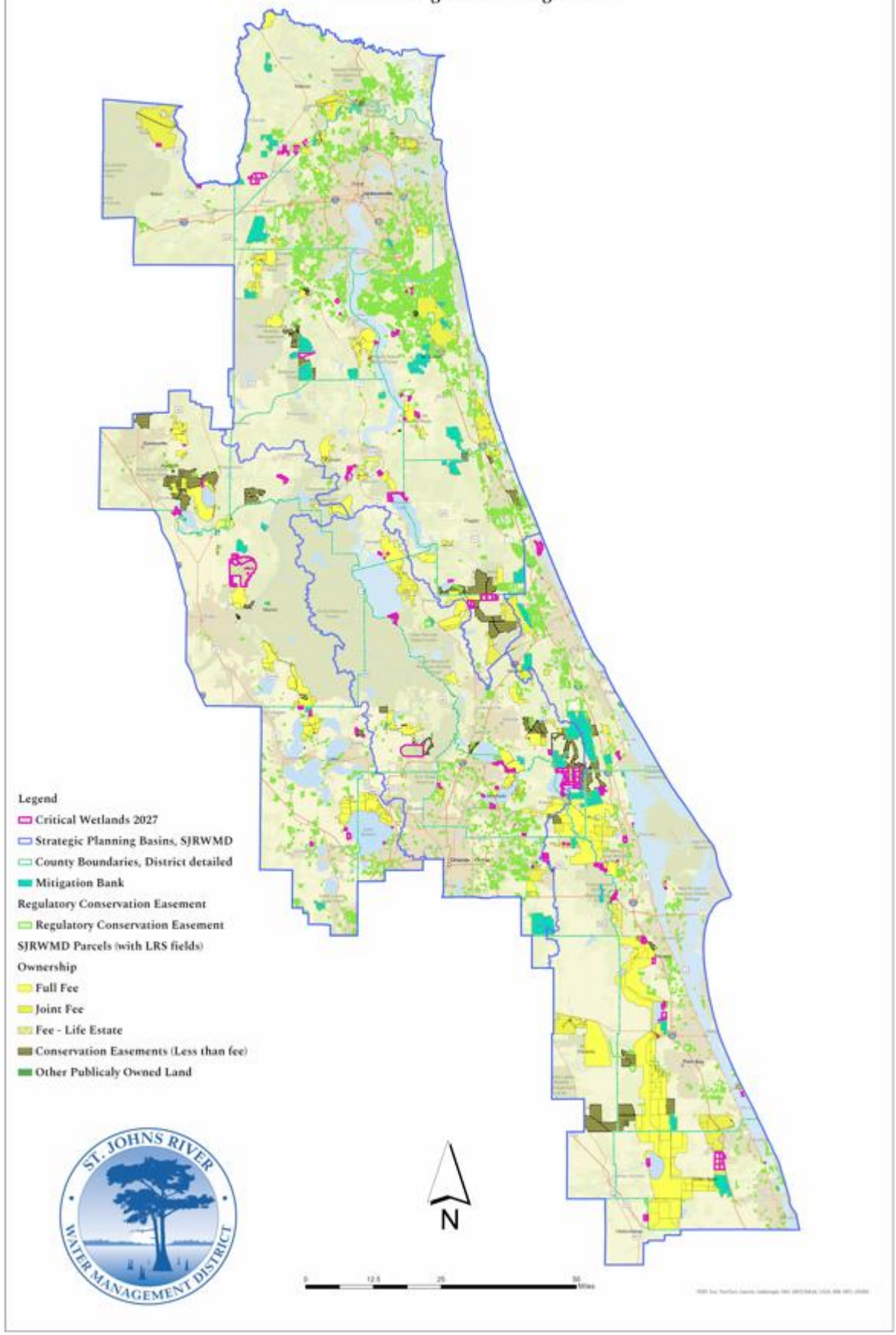
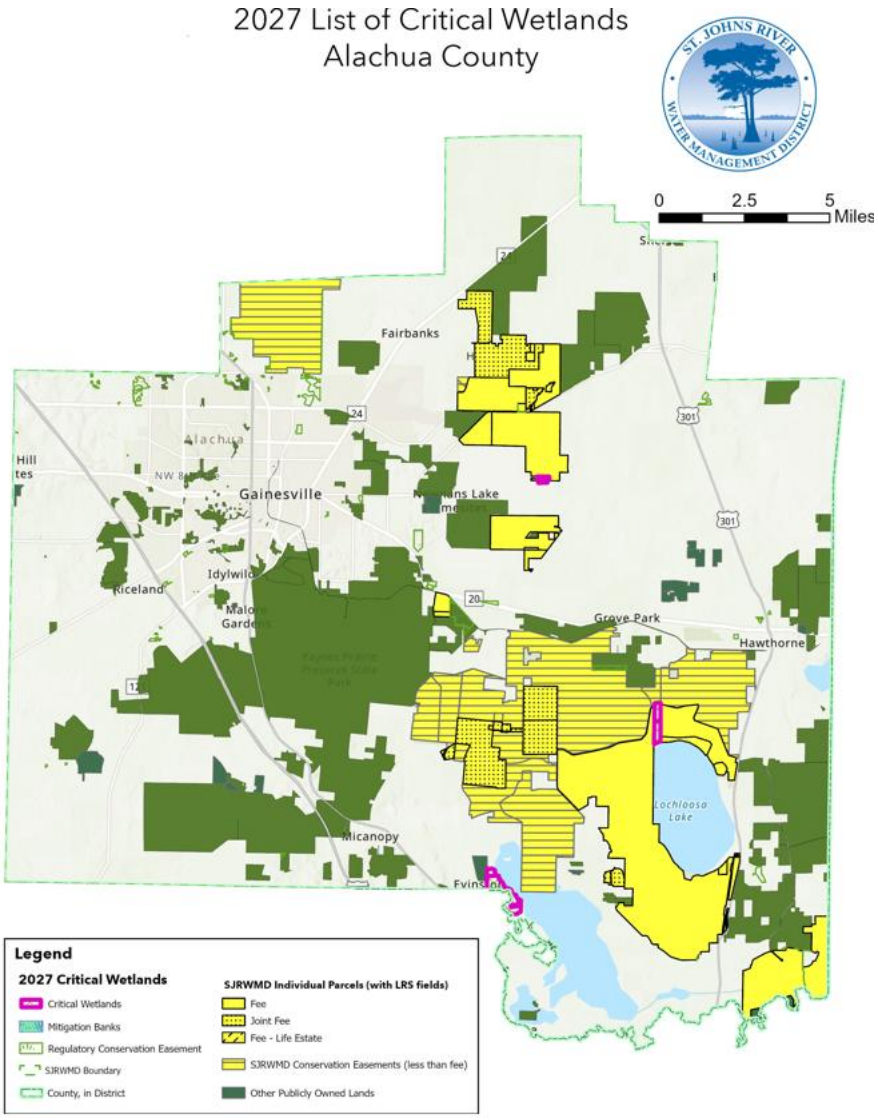


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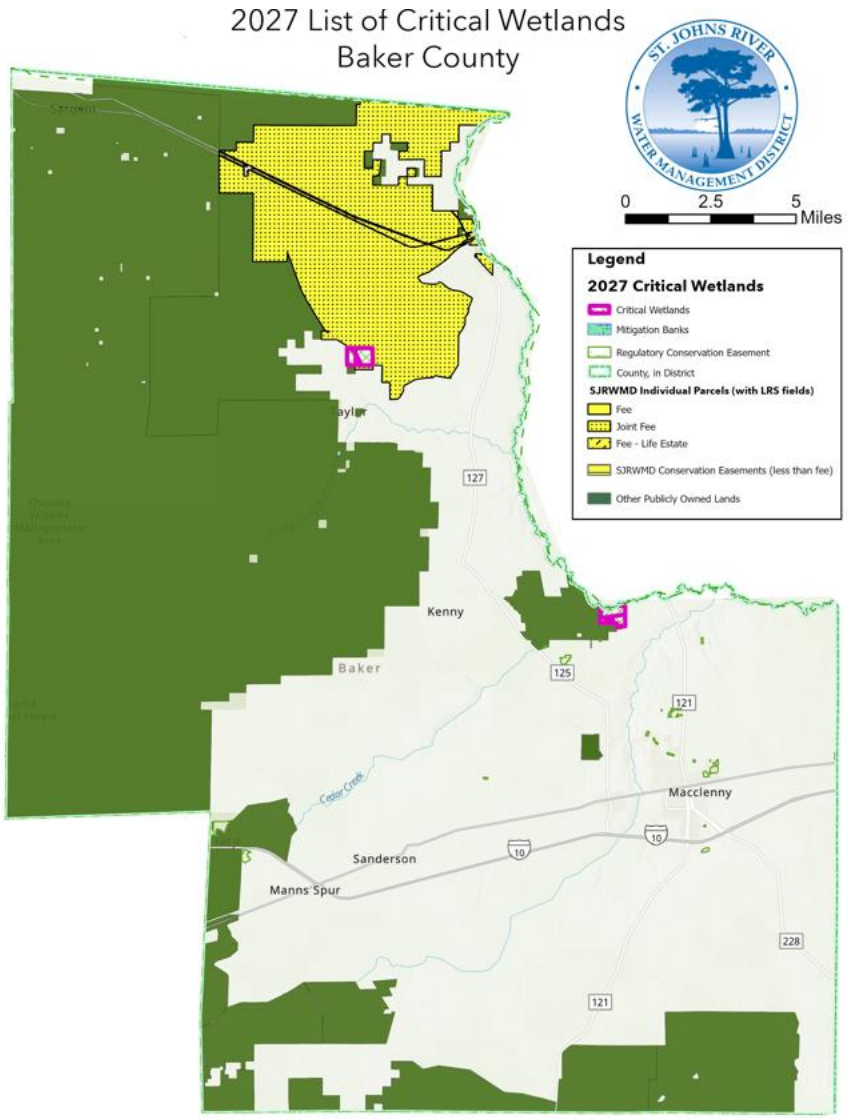
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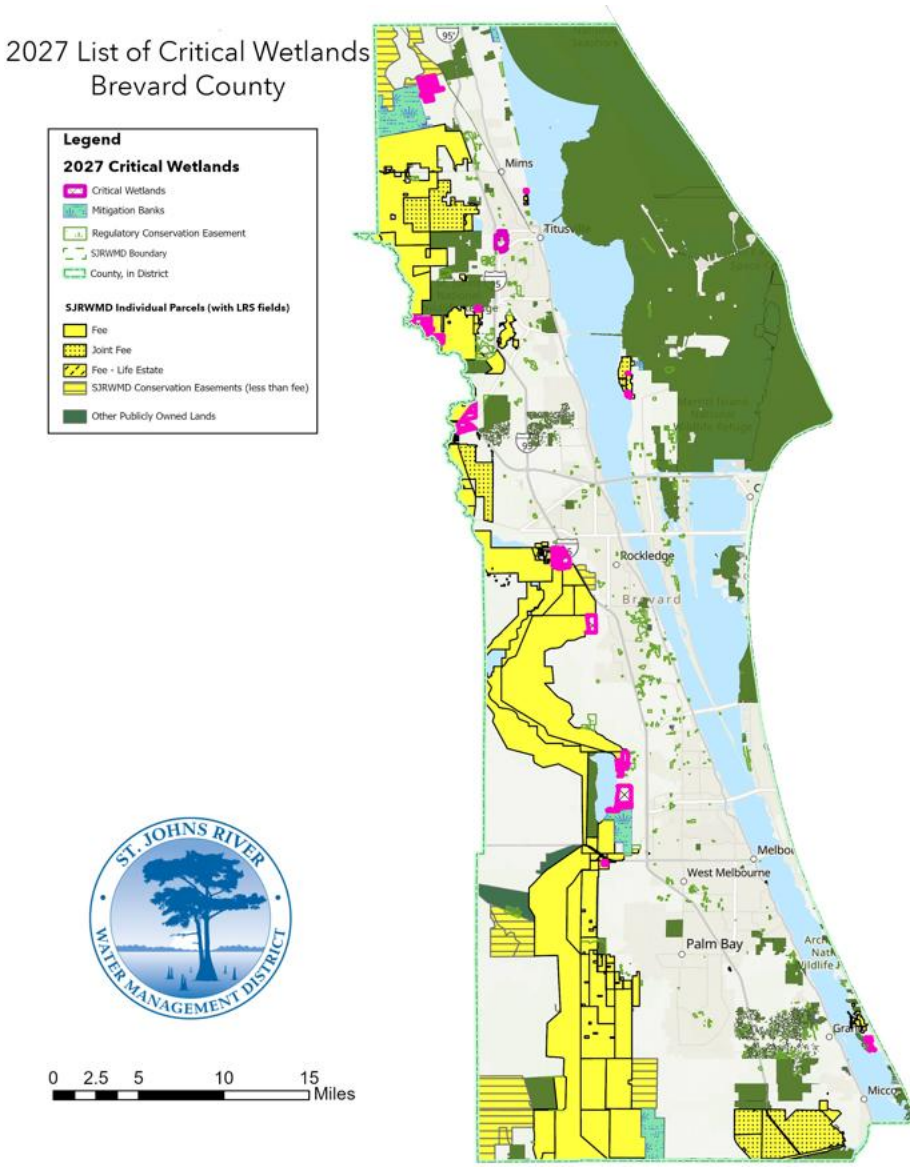
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17811-001-000	49.00
19980-000-000	61.00
19983-000-000	74.00
18354-031-000	32.66
18354-030-000	420.75
18354-069-001	170.35

Baker



Parcel	Acres
261N20000000000020	159.09
271N20000000000070	79.06
012S21000000000090	126.47
012S21000000000043	15.90
012S21000000000042	11.68
012S21000000000041	13.94
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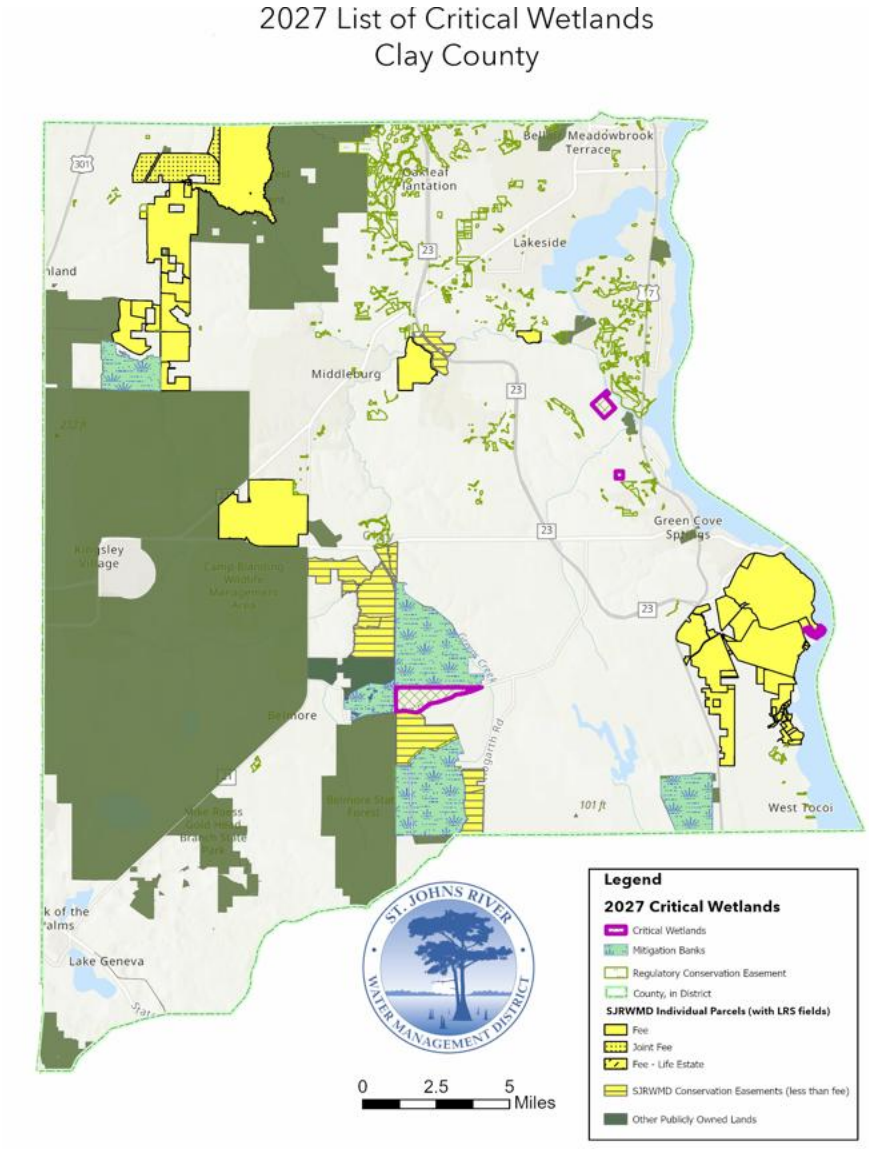
Brevard



Parcel ID	Acres
2200153	19.28
2200152	200.00
2200148	12.50
2200154	230.00
2200160	9.64
2300004	150.00
2200150	4.82
2200149	120.00
2500011	53.00
2500014	49.32
2500826	39.00
2500006	51.07
2500005	30.60
2500004	3.13

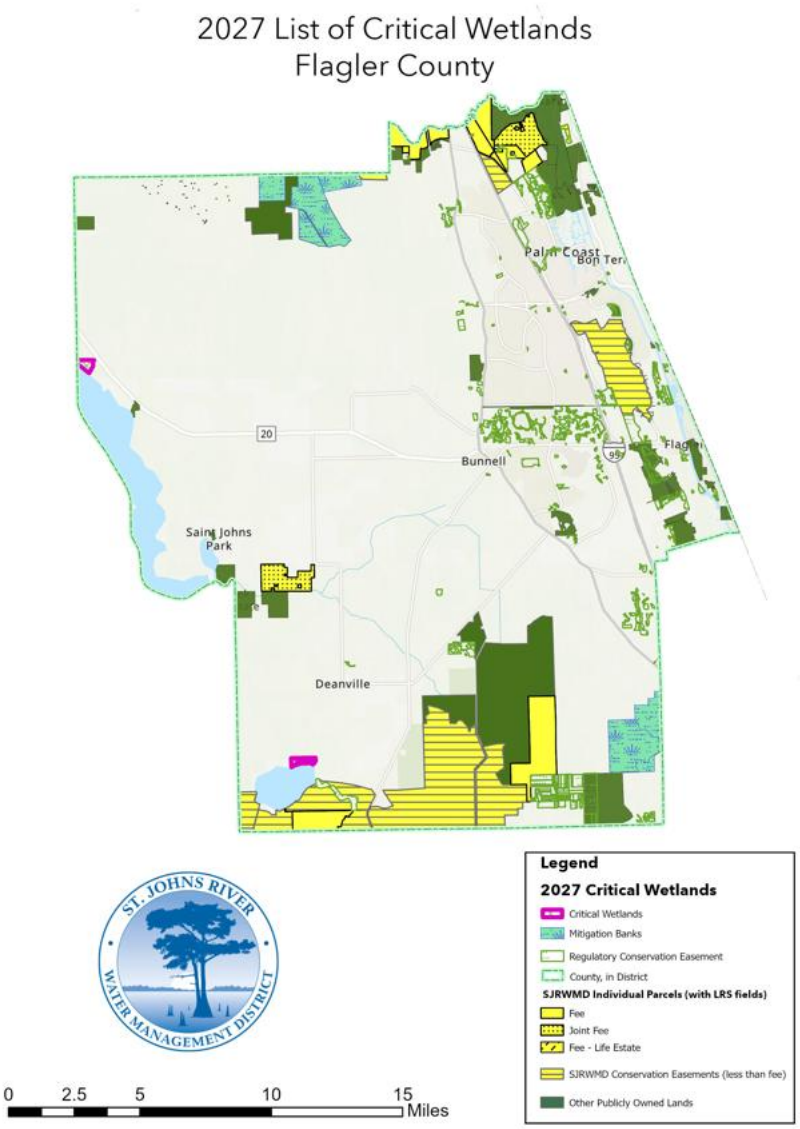
2500009	155.82
2500832	39.00
2001050	378.89
2001022	350.00
2000964	17.5
2511891	293.44
2316276	26.31
2316274	8.45
2315166	1.73
2959978	24.27
2959909	6.64
2958637	4.11
2958640	1.05
2958639	2.18
2958638	2.12
2105312	10.00
2200110	8.83
2200107	8.91
2300012	104.45
2801343	29.50
2851334	4.32
2956610	46.79
2734510	36.69
2700764	87.50
2700760	193.28
2703310	507.04
2300056	166.76
2300014	150.92
2300022	20.66
2857753	4.05
2300017	139.32
2734512	23.05
2703316	83.00
2300020	7.36
2703319	200.00
2202216	40.00
2202217	304.09
2221238	30.52
2202208	5.77

Clay



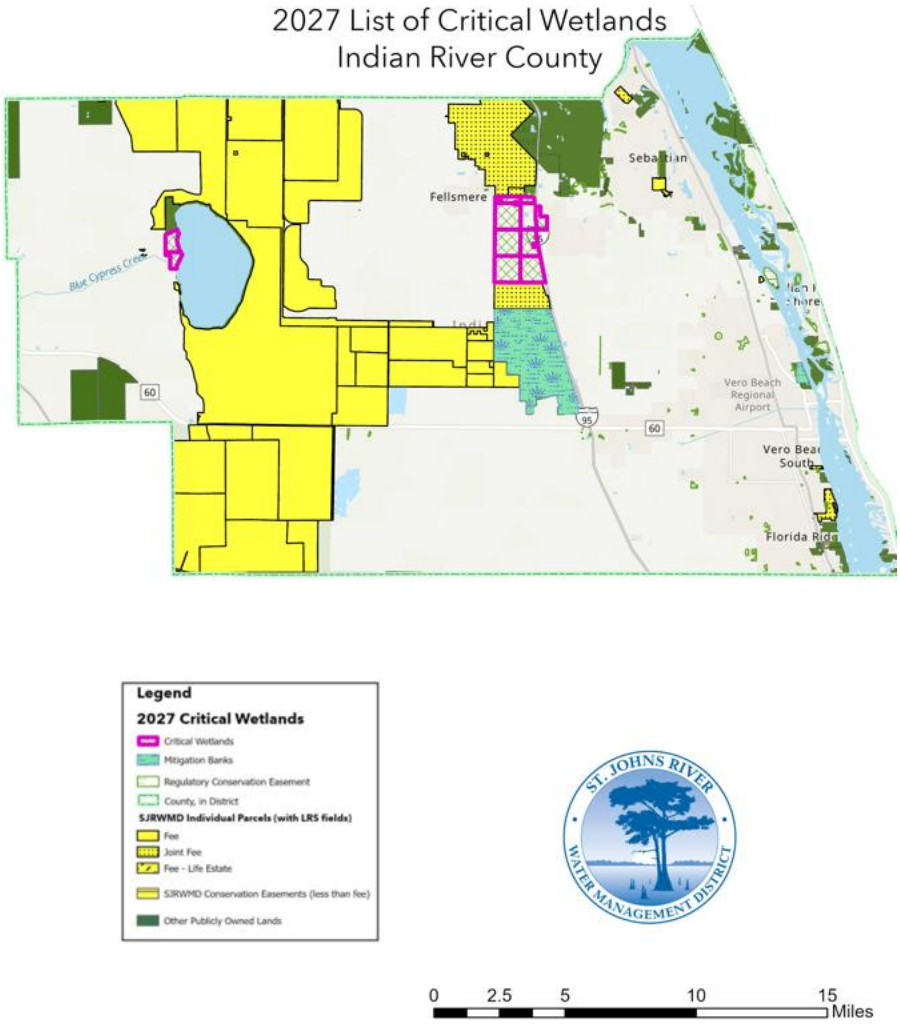
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47-06-27-016510-005-01	10.00
47-06-27-016510-005-00	10.00
07-07-25-010615-001-00	903.69
46-05-26-010306-000-00	200.00
46-05-26-010307-000-00	15.00
32-05-26-014463-000-00	40.00

Flagler



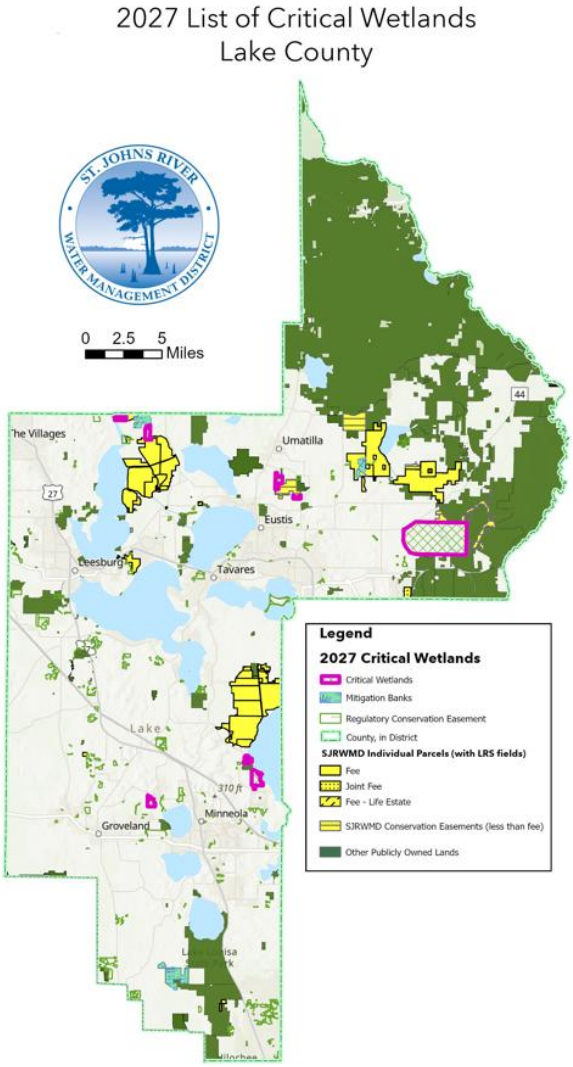
Parcel ID	Acres
09-14-29-0000-01020-0010	10.52
09-14-29-0000-01020-0020	6.35
09-14-29-0000-01020-0030	6.10
09-14-29-0000-01020-0040	6.19
09-14-29-0000-01020-0050	6.40
09-14-29-0000-01020-0060	12.85
09-14-29-0000-01020-0070	6.38
09-14-29-0000-01020-0080	6.39
09-14-29-0000-01020-0090	7.14
09-14-29-0000-01020-0100	19.27
09-14-29-0000-01020-0000	44.94
30-11-28-0000-01020-0010	128.48

Indian River



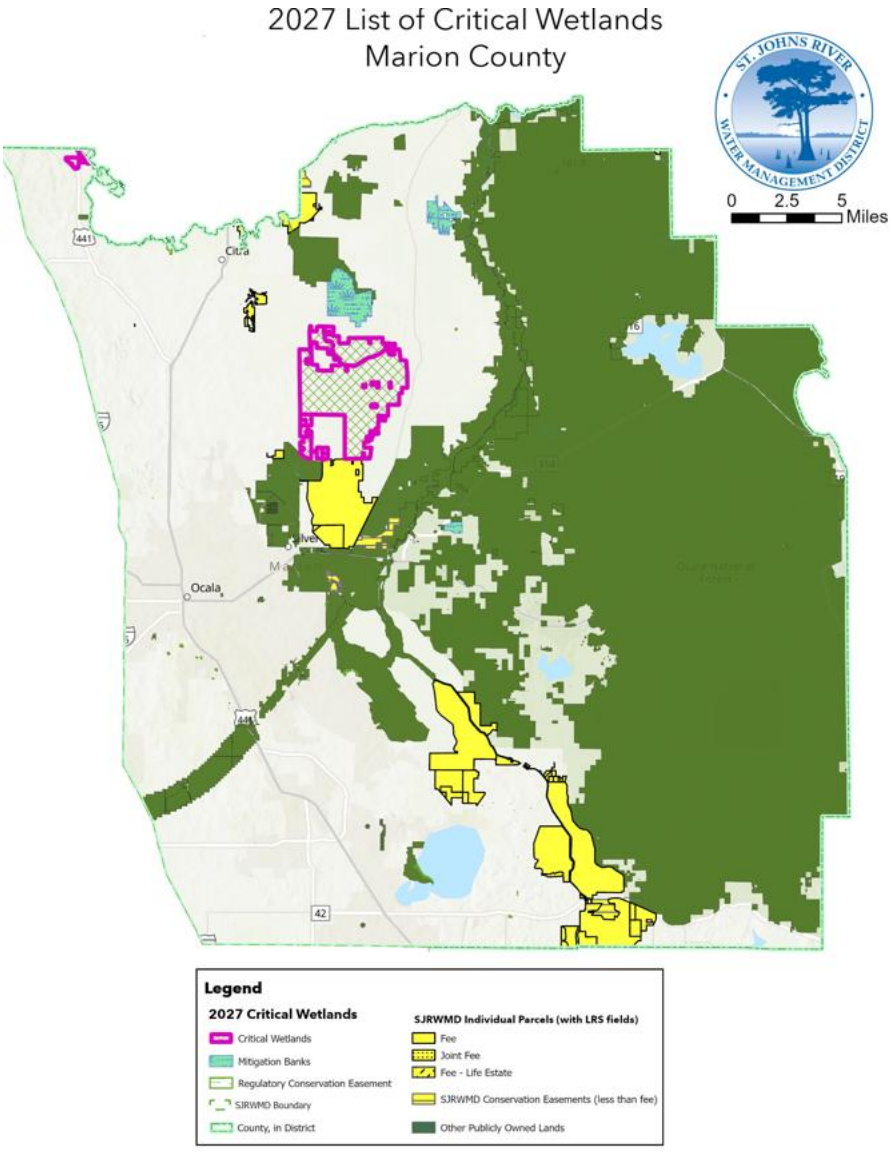
Parcel ID	Acres
31360000001000000010.0	219.80
31360000001000000011.0	149.30
31381900000500000001.0	135.92
31381900000500000002.0	18.17
31382000000500000001.0	70.51
31383000000100000001.0	635.50
31382900000100000001.0	174.80
31383100000100000001.0	640.00
31383200000100000001.2	415.12
32380600000100000001.0	640.00
32380500000100000001.0	542.86

Lake



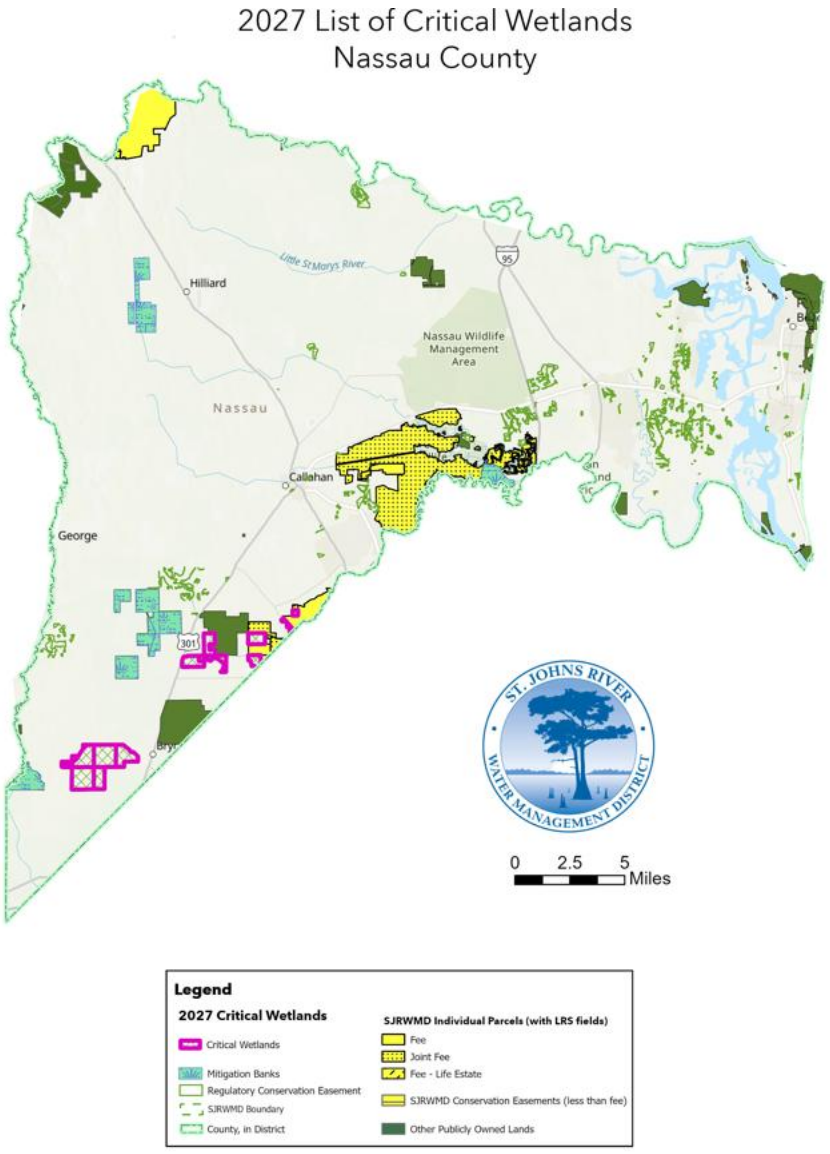
Parcel ID	Acres
35-21-26-0001-000-00200	365.90
02-22-26-0002-000-01300	19.90
37-19-28-0100-000-00000	5298.88
10-18-25-0002-000-01600	168.25
03-18-25-0003-000-01100	30.58
05-18-25-0001-000-00200	230.00
05-18-25-0001-000-00201	120.00
05-18-25-0002-000-00400	10.00
06-18-25-0001-000-00600	8.00
24-18-26-0406-000-08900	154.16
24-18-26-0400-000-05500	56.15
24-18-26-0400-000-03300	49.68
27-21-26-0004-000-05000	4.94
27-21-26-0001-000-00400	46.95
27-21-26-0001-000-00500	44.25
27-21-26-0001-000-00300	33.55
03-22-25-0003-000-00401	19.09
10-22-25-0002-000-00300	148.71
03-22-25-0003-000-00800	9.44

Marion



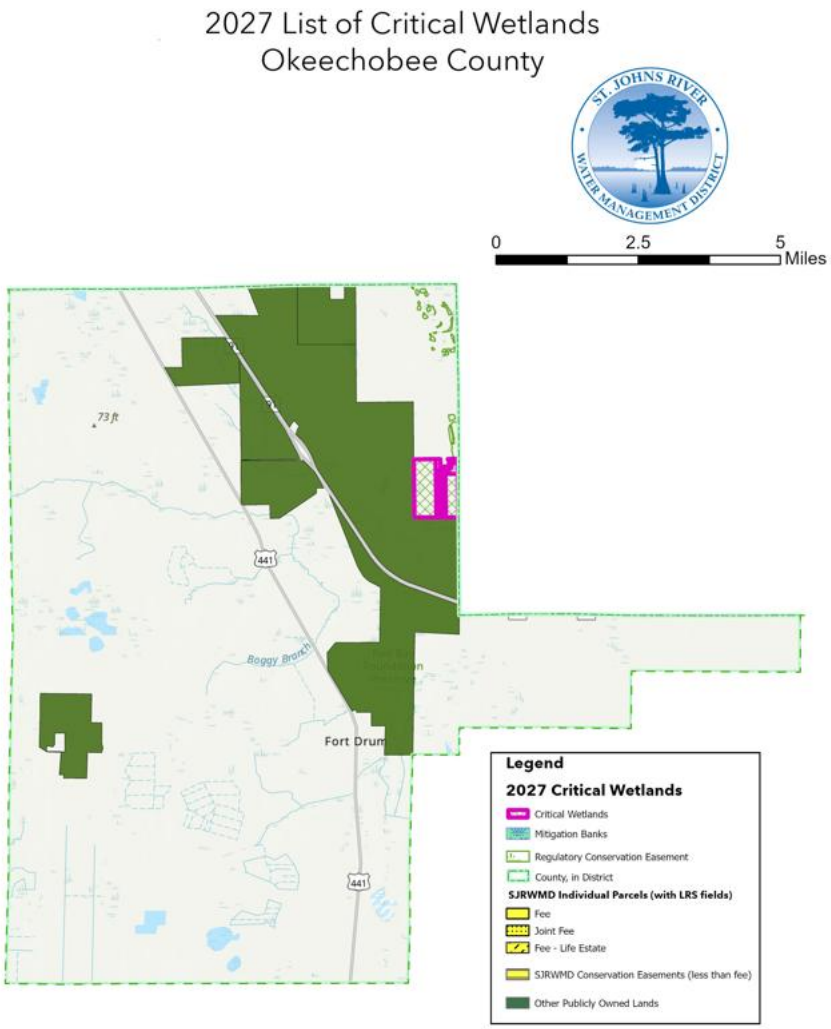
Parcel ID	Acres
02101-000-00	6.49
02069-000-00	204.39
02069-001-00	38.36
02114-000-00	126.50
02110-000-00	1.02
15962-000-00	248.24
15963-000-00	40.69
15965-000-00	10.20
15967-000-00	261.52
15974-000-00	40.60
15969-000-00	85.55
15973-000-00	44.69
09774-000-00	12977.07

Nassau



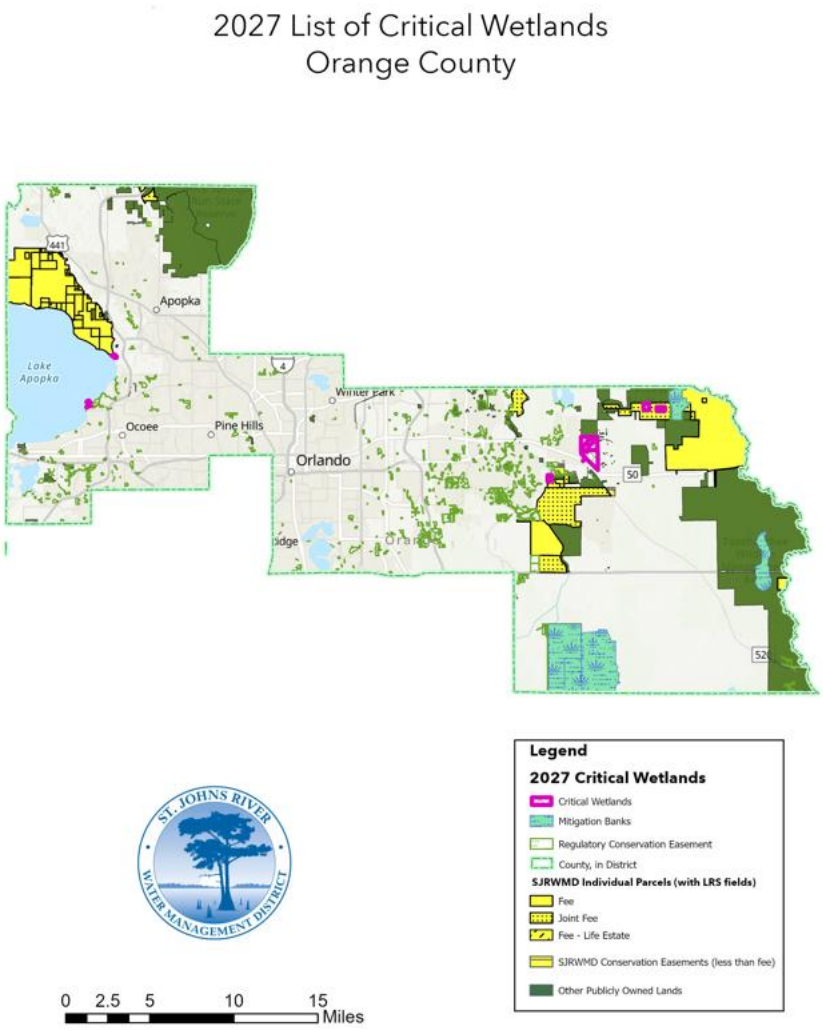
Parcel ID	Acres
34-1N-24-0000-0002-0000	280.00
04-1S-24-0000-0002-0000	268.98
04-1S-24-0000-0001-0000	40.00
03-1S-24-021W-0030-0040	174.10
24-1N-24-0750-0003-0271	781.82
30-1N-25-0000-0002-0020	13.08
29-1N-25-0000-0002-0000	33.94
28-1S-23-0000-0001-0000	40.61
28-1S-23-0000-0004-0000	43.67
27-1S-23-0000-0002-0000	28.95
27-1S-23-0000-0001-0000	45.37
34-1S-23-0000-0001-0000	463.58
26-1S-23-0000-0001-0000	653.28
35-1S-23-0000-0002-0000	647.98
25-1S-23-0000-0002-0000	331.75
36-1N-24-0000-0002-0000	240.00
01-1S-24-0000-0001-0160	159.72

Okeechobee



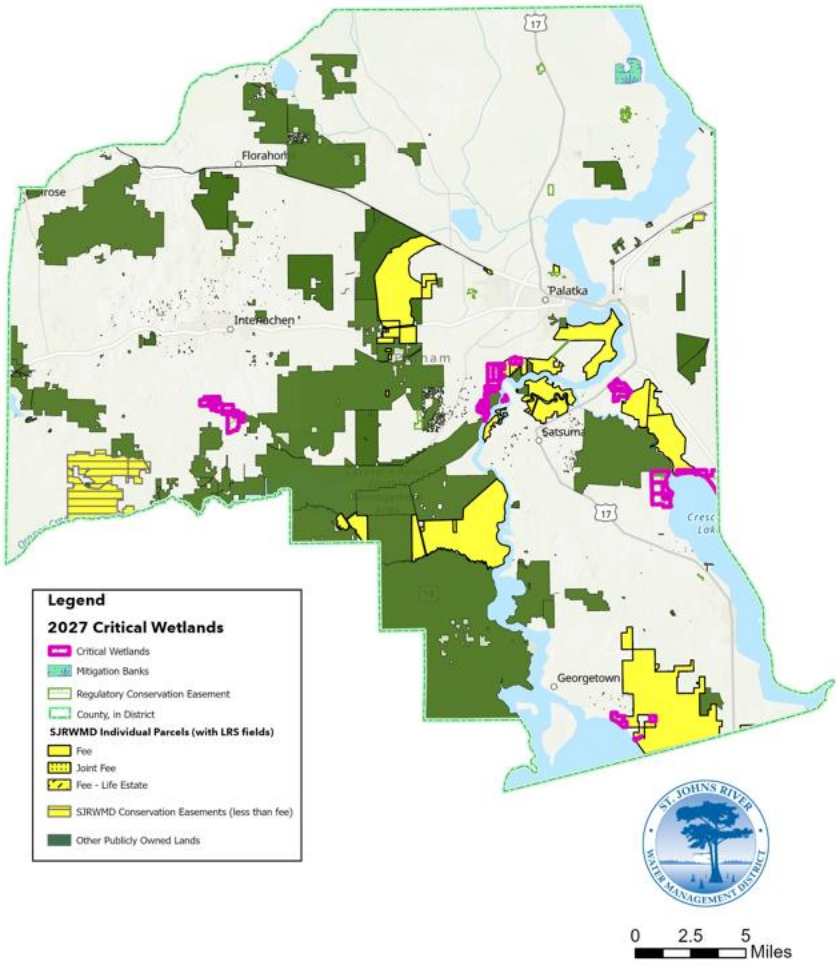
Parcel ID	Acres
1-24-33-35-0A00-00001-0000/alt.key 13872	105.69
1-24-33-35-0A00-00001-E000/alt.key 13877	38.18
1-24-33-35-0A00-00001-D000/alt.key 13876	37.99
1-24-33-35-0A00-00001-C000/alt.key 13875	37.97
1-24-33-35-0A00-00002-0000/alt.key 13878	252.53

Orange



Parcel ID	Acres
282130000000003	23.83
082233000000004	88.2
272202000000002	32.29
272211000000002	7.04
332209000000004	80.78
322223000000004	326.44
322223000000001	404.38
322223000000005	201.44
332232000000005	58.82

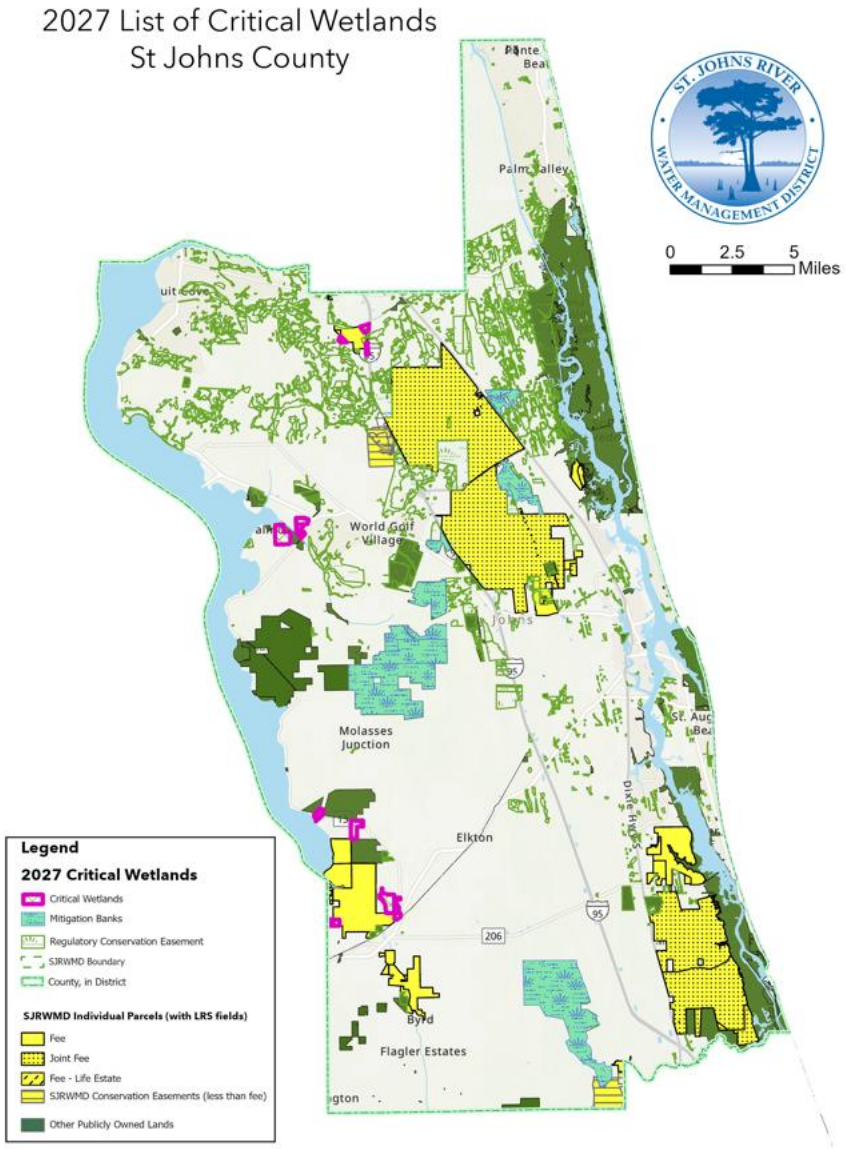
2027 List of Critical Wetlands
Putnam County



Parcel ID	Acres
33-10-27-0000-0000-0007	19.89
33-10-26-0000-0010-0200	30.47
23-10-26-0000-0380-0000	39.87
03-11-24-0000-0010-0010	244.24
33-10-24-0000-0010-0031	57.19
39-11-26-0000-0150-0000	17.62
33-10-26-0000-0010-0580	5.52
27-10-26-0000-0050-0000	32.42
27-10-26-0000-0060-0010	3
33-10-26-0000-0010-0420	3
23-10-26-0000-0400-0020	43.3
33-10-24-0000-0010-0021	147.67
34-10-24-0000-0020-0000	90.52
33-10-26-0000-0010-0500	4.88
03-11-24-0000-0040-0000	9.93

03-11-24-0000-0060-0000	10.22
03-11-24-0000-0030-0000	10
33-10-24-0000-0010-0000	4.98
16-13-27-0000-0010-0010	38.92
21-13-27-0000-0020-0000	6.12
27-10-26-0000-0030-0000	30.32
33-10-26-0000-0010-0410	23.6
33-10-26-0000-0010-0510	4.87
27-10-26-0000-0070-0000	79.79
33-10-24-0000-0010-0000	4.98
16-13-27-0000-0010-0040	1.29
16-13-27-0000-0013-0000	1.66
27-10-26-0000-0060-0020	115.77
03-11-24-0000-0010-0000	91.63
03-11-24-0000-0040-0000	9.93
27-10-26-0000-0060-0000	118.51
33-10-26-0000-0010-0000	27.3
34-10-26-0000-0010-0160	24.99
33-10-24-0000-0010-0030	39.98
37-13-27-0000-0010-0000	109.44
27-10-26-0000-0030-0010	3.53
33-10-26-0000-0010-0484	4.55
17-13-27-0000-0021-0000	38.44
04-11-26-0000-0021-0000	53.06
33-10-26-0000-0010-0482	2.91
34-10-26-0000-0010-0150	25.22
33-10-24-0000-0010-0020	15.03
23-11-27-0000-0010-0000	46.62
24-11-27-0000-0030-0000	273.60
25-11-27-0000-0010-0000	4.76
22-11-27-0000-0010-0010	311.99
22-11-27-0000-0010-0000	160.00
27-11-27-0000-0020-0000	263.85
27-11-27-0000-0010-0000	32.43
27-11-27-0000-0011-0000	28.25
45-10-27-0000-0010-0000	40.36
45-10-27-0000-0010-0011	9.90
32-10-27-0000-0020-0000	96.38
44-10-27-0000-0020-0010	120.31
44-10-27-0000-0020-0020	12.89
32-10-27-0000-0030-0000	9.32
29-10-27-0000-0060-0000	22.90

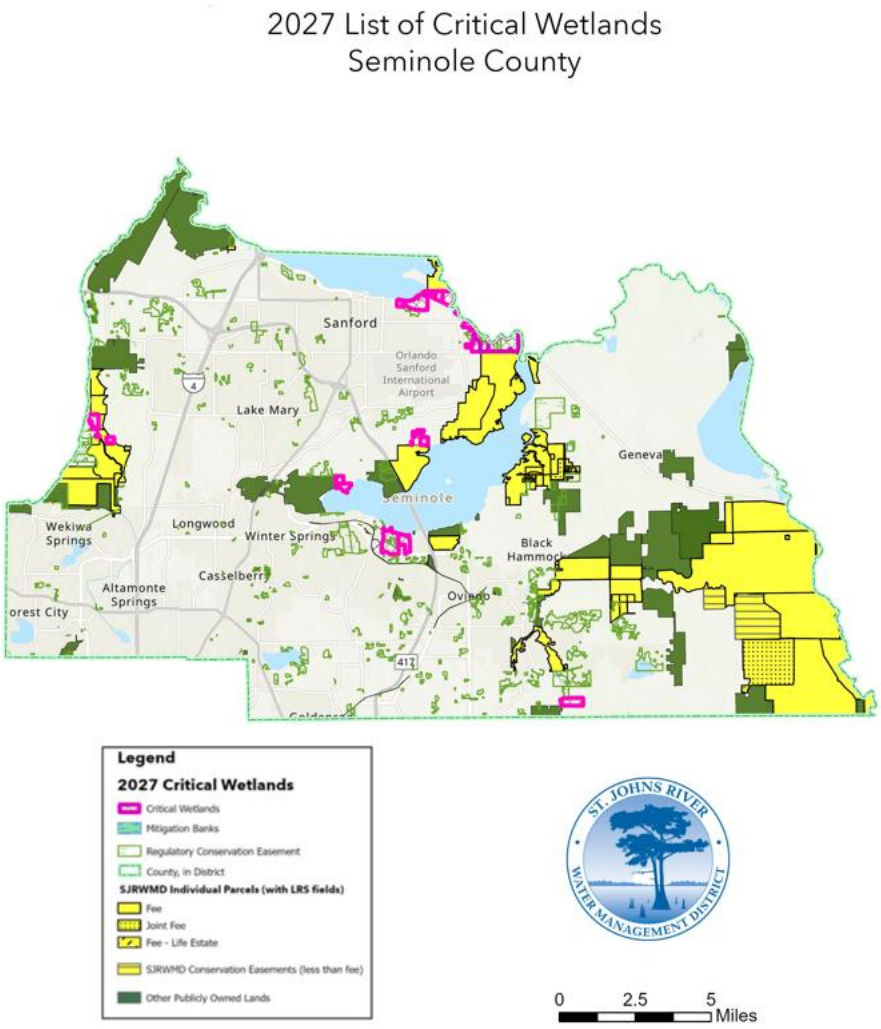
St. Johns



Parcel ID	Acres
0236300032	10.30
0235500010	20.50
0235400003	48.92
0262900020	12.07
0262600010	7.20
0261300000	6.61
0368300000	220.09
0369000000	57.60
0374000000	36.87
0370500000	61.65
0370400000	11.00
0370300000	9.00
0314200010	155.80
0196300000	17.00
0197110020	9.62
0197110030	21.65

0130200000	77.92
0130400000	66.79
0130400040	11.53
0129000000	257.93
0196300020	5.57
0196200000	6.57
0196300030	4.21

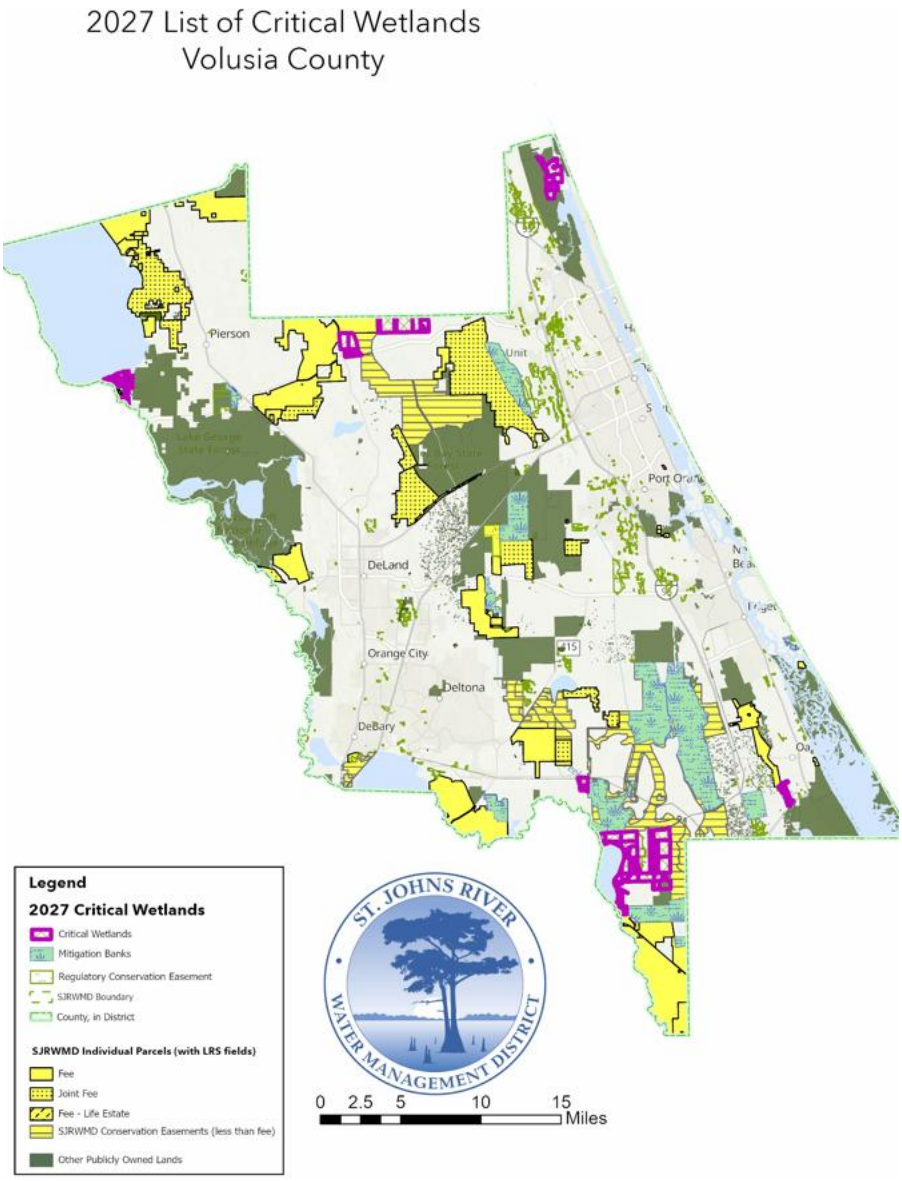
Seminole



Parcel ID	Acres
172031300004D0000	2.69
162029300003B0000	1.10
162029300003C0000	0.87
162029300003E0000	2.55
281931300004B0000	8.85
281931300006E0000	0.84
27193130000100000	3.98
291931300001A0000	8.55
341931300006D0000	7.07
15202930000400000	30.86
172031300004F0000	6.1
16202930000100000	80.29
281931300005A0000	4.31
281931300006C0000	2.9
36193130000100000	37.78
162029300001A0000	3.96
271931300002A0000	10.83
281931300004C0000	6.28

281931300012B0000	2.87
172031300004L0000	1.0
1720315AZ00000560	3.72
34193130000500000	82.83
281931300001A0000	101.5
341931300006A0000	33.18
172031300004P0000	6.56
172031300004Q0000	2.71
16202930000200000	3.62
281931300007A0000	0.85
281931300003A0000	50.81
281931300006D0000	5.07
31213230000100000	115.49
31213230000200000	169.98
3120315BB00000030	104.53
3120315BB00000010	248.19
29193130000200000	28.10
29193130000100000	180.81
25203030001200000	60.18
25203030001100000	39.19
34193130000600000	113.77
35193130000100000	291.45

Volusia



Parcel ID	Acres
402900000010/alt.key 2079312	90.4
402800000010/alt.key 2079291	624.6
402700000010/alt.key 2079274	644.54
402600000020/alt.key 2079240	318.22
402600000010/alt.key 2079231	181.26
402600000090/alt.key 5087191	42.01
030900000030/alt.key 3763173	236.46
031600000010/alt.key 3764234	320.00
030900000010/alt.key 3763157	274.00
031700000010/alt.key 3764251	160.00
032800000050/alt.key 3764471	80.00
032900000010/alt.key 3764498	40.00
032000000010/alt.key 3764277	29.00
032900000020/alt.key 3764501	64.00
032000000030/alt.key 3764307	166.00
933100000050/alt.key 3761715	95.00

030600000010/alt.key 3763122	26.00
933200000020/alt.key 3761766	363.00
030500000010/alt.key 3763114	55.00
933300000020/alt.key 3761782	363.00
030400000010/alt.key 3763068	151.37
030400000030/alt.key 3763084	215.00
030400000040/alt.key 3763092	48.00
030400000070/alt.key 8012258	4.56
030800000010/alt.key 3763131	23.00
030900000020/alt.key 3763165	80.00
031500000010/alt.key 3764200	320.00
031400000020/alt.key 3764196	160.00
031100000020/alt.key 3764137	475.00
030200000020/alt.key 3762495	160.00
030200000010/alt.key 3762487	497.21
933400000011/alt.key 3761804	24.10
933500000020/alt.key 3762452	435.02
031100000040/alt.key 3764153	79.92
031000000010/alt.key 3763181	39.59
031000000020/alt.key 3763190	125.75
031100000010/alt.key 3764129	78.71
030300000010/alt.key 3762509	162.38
933400000010/alt.key 3761791	73.97
030800000050/alt.key 7333813	1.05
030800000020/alt.key 3763149	2.02
031700000020/alt.key 3764269	63.12
031600000020/alt.key 3764242	4.84
032000000020/alt.key 3764293	44.39
032000000021/alt.key 7988917	8.40
031100000030/alt.key 3764145	6.77
571200000020/alt.key 2002468	230.24
571100000010/alt.key 2002441	114.32
571200000030/alt.key 2002476	67.28
571200000100/alt.key 5901513	39.95
571200000010/alt.key 2002450	140.39
571300000010/alt.key 2002484	32.86
580700000020/alt.key 2025395	78.8
581800000010/alt.key 2029625	38.39
571300000040/alt.key 2002522	22.54
572400000010/alt.key 2002531	90.91
320600000040/alt.key 2949961	26.00
320701000090/alt.key 2949996	626.00
320700020020/alt.key 2949970	8.50
320701000530/alt.key 2950021	9.00
320701000880/alt.key 2950030	10.00
320701000340/alt.key 2950013	5.00
320800000010/alt.key 2950048	160.00
321800000030/alt.key 2957662	80.00
321800000020/alt.key 2957654	240.00
320701000010/alt.key 2949988	40.00
321700040044/alt.key 2957646	109.20
320701000300/alt.key 2950005	5.00
944401040010/alt.key 4033092	10.76
951900000010/alt.key 4073809	44.48

951900000080/alt.key 4073973	1.0
953702000060/alt.key 4074881	18.6
953702000070/alt.key 4074899	18.0
953702000080/alt.key 4074902	28.0
953702000070/alt.key 4074911	47.59
953702000390/alt.key 4075194	8.0
953702000400/alt.key 4075216	8.27
953702000420/alt.key 4075241	10.0
953702000650/alt.key 4075500	10.0
953702000670/alt.key 4075534	8.29
953702000680/alt.key 4075551	8.29
953702000690/alt.key 4075569	10.0
953702000700/alt.key 4075585	10.0
953702000710/alt.key 4075593	10.0
953702000720/alt.key 4075607	10.0
953702000740/alt.key 4075623	10.0
953702000750/alt.key 4075631	10.0
953702000760/alt.key 4075640	11.0
953702000763/alt.key 4075674	1.0
953702000770/alt.key 4075682	7.0
953702000780/alt.key 4075704	9.0
953702000801/alt.key 4075739	0.13
003700000010/alt.key 3764692	547.0
483202000840/alt.key 5086623	8.38
953702000730/alt.key 4075615	12.42
500400000030/alt.key 6117802	76.87
403100000020/alt.key 6117683	297.00
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493600000010/alt.key 2034823	368.00
500500000020/alt.key 2083646	75.98

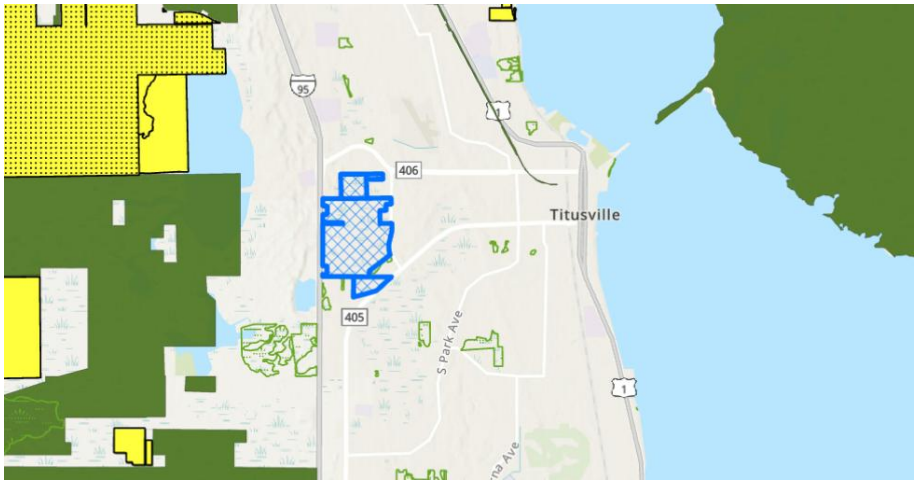


FY 2026-27

Critical Wetlands Maps - Additions

FY 2026-27 List of Critical Wetlands – New Additions

Brevard County

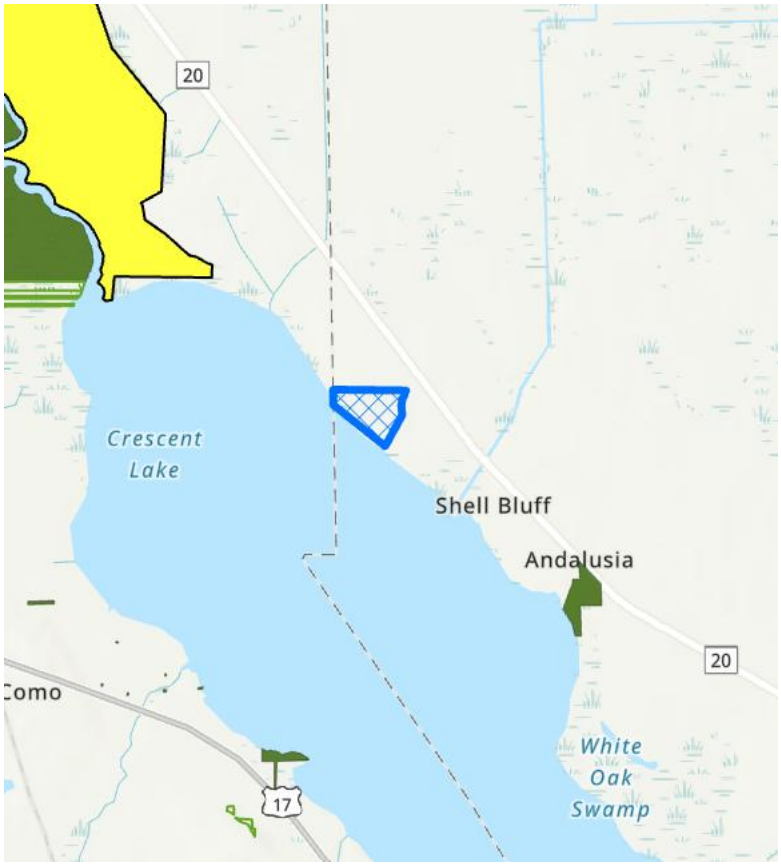


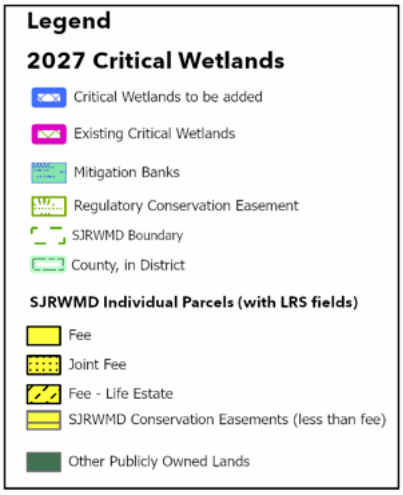


Parcel ID	Acres
22-35-05-00-261	40.00
22-35-05-00-262	304.09
22-35-08-00-250	30.52
22-35-05-00-250.1	5.77

FY 2026-27 List of Critical Wetlands – New Additions

Flagler County

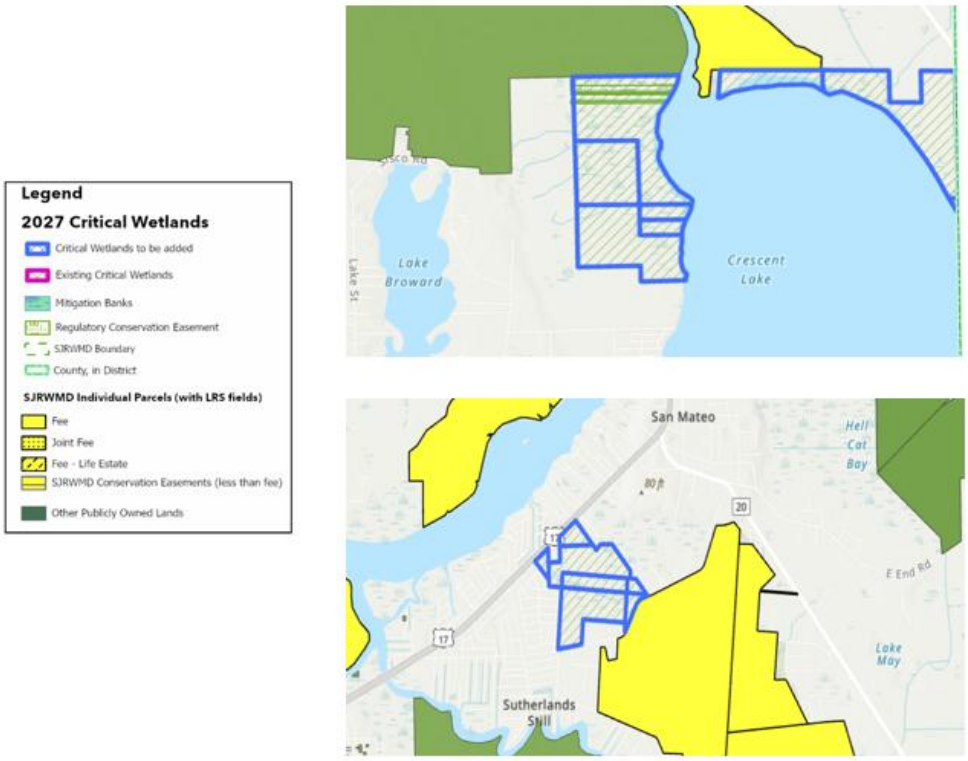




Parcel ID	Acres
30-11-28-0000-01020-0010	128.48

FY 2026-27 List of Critical Wetlands – New Additions

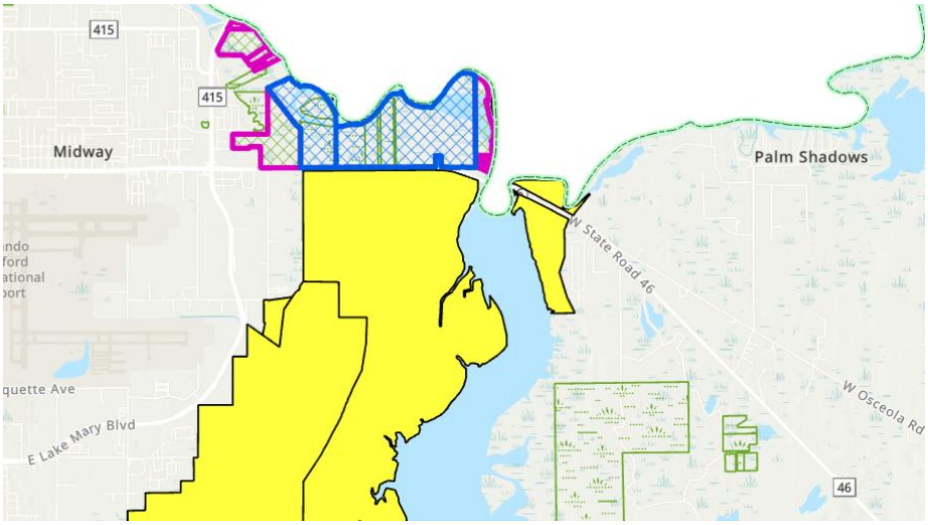
Putnam County



Parcel ID	Acres
23-11-27-0000-0010-0000	46.62
24-11-27-0000-0030-0000	273.60
25-11-27-0000-0010-0000	4.76
22-11-27-0000-0010-0010	311.99
22-11-27-0000-0010-0000	160.00
27-11-27-0000-0020-0000	263.85
27-11-27-0000-0010-0000	32.43
27-11-27-0000-0011-0000	28.25
45-10-27-0000-0010-0000	40.36
45-10-27-0000-0010-0011	9.90
32-10-27-0000-0020-0000	96.38
44-10-27-0000-0020-0010	120.31
44-10-27-0000-0020-0020	12.89
32-10-27-0000-0030-0000	9.32
29-10-27-0000-0060-0000	22.90

FY 2026-27 List of Critical Wetlands – New Additions

Seminole County

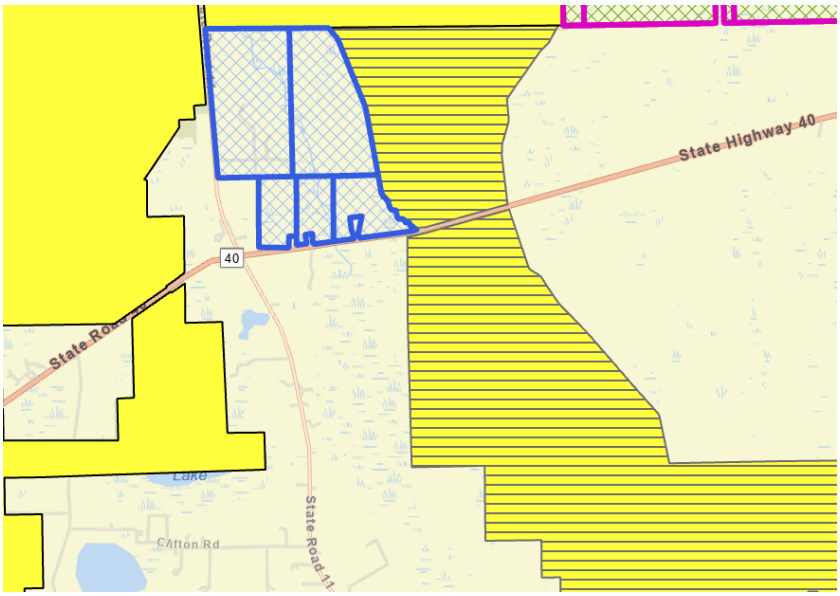




Parcel ID	Acres
34193130000600000	113.77
35193130000100000	291.45

FY 2026-27 List of Critical Wetlands – New Additions

Volusia County





Parcel ID	Acres
500400000030	76.87
403100000020	297.00
500500000010	74.38
493600000010	368.00
500500000020	75.98

AGENDA REQUEST FOR
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
October 13, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO:	Governing Board
THROUGH:	Michael Register, Executive Director Executive Office
FROM:	Clay Coarsey, Director Division of Water Supply Planning and Assessment
SUBJECT:	2026 Minimum Flows and Levels Priority List and Schedule

RECOMMENDATION
Approve the District's 2026 Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) Priority List and Schedule.

BACKGROUND
Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels (MFLs) are established to define sustainable water use while protecting water resources from significant harm caused by permitted water withdrawals. Section 373.042(3), Florida Statutes (F.S.), requires water management districts to submit annually to the FDEP, for review and approval, an MFLs priority list and schedule for the establishment of MFLs for surface watercourses, aquifers, and surface waters.

The priority list shall be based upon the importance of the waters to the state or region and the existence of or potential for significant harm to the water resources or ecology of the state or region and shall include those waters which are experiencing or may reasonably be expected to experience adverse impacts (373.042(3), F.S.).

The District has established MFLs on 129 water bodies (102 lakes, 14 springs, 6 rivers, and 7 wetlands).

DISCUSSION
The District's Draft 2026 MFLs Priority List and Schedule (Draft 2026 List) shows the planned year for completion of new MFLs and reevaluations for the calendar years 2027 through 2029 (see attached). As work is completed and MFLs are ready for rulemaking, staff may initiate rulemaking earlier than shown on the Draft 2026 List.

The Draft 2026 List includes the following recommended changes to the 2025 approved MFLs Priority List and Schedule:

- Johns Lake MFLs were approved by the District Governing Board (GB) and authorized for publishing of Notice of Proposed Rule (NPR) on September 8, 2026; tentative effective date is November 30, 2026. Lake Prevatt MFLs are being taken to the District GB for approval and authorization to publish NPR in October 2026. Both systems were removed from the Draft 2026 List, pending their approval and adoption.

- Rescheduling of Lake Weir from 2028 to 2027. This MFL is not in Prevention or Recovery and is

likely to be completed and through peer review sooner than anticipated;

- Rescheduling of Sylvan Lake and the Wekiva River Basin systems to 2028 due to their need for a Prevention or Recovery Strategy, respectively, and time required to work with stakeholders to develop water supply and water resource development projects necessary to recover these systems; and

- Rescheduling of Lake Apopka, Lake Griffin and the Burrell Basin Lakes to 2029 to allow time for the completion of environmental data collection and surface water modeling and to allow time for the peer review process, and for any necessary strategy development.

The District is currently conducting environmental work and surface water modeling on numerous water bodies. One or more of these systems will be added to the priority list when environmental and modeling work suggests that it is appropriate for MFLs to be set for these water bodies.

District staff are planning to conduct voluntary scientific peer review for all the listed MFLs. The level of complexity and the degree of public concern regarding the MFLs dictate that voluntary peer review should be conducted. MFLs systems located in the CFWI area will follow the CFWI peer review process for MFLs and water reservations.

A public workshop was held on the Draft 2026 List on August 28, 2026, to provide information and receive and incorporate, as necessary, any comments. This meeting was a joint workshop with the South Florida and Southwest Florida water management districts.

The District is scheduled to submit the Draft 2026 List to FDEP by November 15, 2026, for review and approval, pursuant to Section 373.042(3), F.S. When the District receives FDEP’s comments and approval, the document will be finalized and published in the District's consolidated annual report on the management of water resources by March 1, 2027.

SJRWMD Minimum Flows and Levels to be adopted in 2027

New or Re-Evaluation	Water Body Name or Compliance Point	System Name	Water Body Type	County(s)	Voluntary Peer Review to be Completed?	Cross-Boundary Impacts from Adjacent WMD?	Latitude	Longitude
Re-Evaluation	*Weir*	*Weir*	*Lake*	*Marion*	*Yes*	*Yes*	*29.0236*	*-81.9381*

SJRWMD Minimum Flows and Levels to be adopted in 2028

New or Re-Evaluation	Water Body Name or Compliance Point	System Name	Water Body Type	County(s)	Voluntary Peer Review to be Completed?	Cross-Boundary Impacts from Adjacent WMD?	Latitude	Longitude
New	*Little Wekiva and associated springs*	*Little Wekiva*	*River and Springs*	*Seminole/ Orange*	*Yes*	*Yes*	*28.7021*	*-81.3922*
Re-Evaluation	*Wekiva at SR46*	*Wekiva*	*River*	*Seminole/ Lake*	*Yes*	*Yes*	*28.8152*	*-81.4195*
Re-Evaluation	*Wekiwa (OFS)/and associated spring*	*Wekiwa*	*Springs*	*Seminole/ Orange*	*Yes*	*Yes*	*28.7120*	*-81.4603*
Re-Evaluation	*Rock (OFS)*	*Rock*	*Spring*	*Orange*	*Yes*	*Yes*	*28.7558*	*-81.4992*
Re-Evaluation	*Sylvan*	*Sylvan*	*Lake*	*Seminole*	*Yes*	*Yes*	*28.8050*	*-81.3803*

SJRWMD Minimum Flows and Levels to be adopted in 2029

New or Re-Evaluation	Water Body Name or Compliance Point	System Name	Water Body Type	County(s)	Voluntary Peer Review to be Completed?	Cross-Boundary Impacts from Adjacent WMD?	Latitude	Longitude
New	*Apopka*	*Apopka*	*Lake*	*Lake*	*Yes*	*Yes*	*28.6517*	*-81.6581*
New	*Griffin*	*Griffin*	*Lake*	*Lake*	*Yes*	*Yes*	*28.8425*	*-81.8492*
New	*Harris (or other Burrell Basin lake)*	*Burrell Basin*	*Lake*	*Lake*	*Yes*	*Yes*	*28.7750*	*-81.8181*

AGENDA REQUEST FOR
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
October 13, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO:	Governing Board
THROUGH:	Michael Register, Executive Director Executive Office
FROM:	Clay Coarsey, Director Division of Water Supply Planning and Assessment
SUBJECT:	Rulemaking to amend MFLs for Lake Prevatt in Orange County

RECOMMENDATION
Authorize staff to publish the attached Notice of Rule Development and Notice of Proposed Rule in the Florida Administrative Register to begin and complete rulemaking to revise established minimum water levels for Lake Prevatt in Orange County.

BACKGROUND
Sections 373.042 and 373.0421, Florida Statutes (F.S.), require the water management districts to establish minimum flows for surface watercourses and minimum levels for surface waters and aquifers in accordance with the districts' priority lists and schedules. The District's Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) priority list is based upon the importance of waters to the state or region and the potential for significant harm to the water resources or ecology of the state or region. The District Governing Board annually approves an MFLs Priority Water Body List and Schedule, which identifies priority systems for establishing MFLs. After MFLs are established, Section 373.042(3), F.S., requires the District to periodically reevaluate the established MFLs and revise as needed. The District originally adopted the MFLs for Lake Prevatt in 1998. Lake Prevatt is within the Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) Planning Area. Lake Prevatt is on the District's MFL Priority List and Schedule for reevaluation by the end of 2026. Based on the recommended minimum levels, Lake Prevatt is not in recovery or prevention. Thus, it will not have an adverse impact on small businesses or increase regulatory costs.

DISCUSSION
With the approval of the attached Notice of Rule Development, District staff will begin the rulemaking process to revise established minimum water levels for Lake Prevatt. These minimum water levels, if adopted by rule, will represent the limit at which further withdrawals would be significantly harmful to the water resources of the area or ecology of the area. As with all minimum levels established by the District, if adopted, the minimum water levels in this rule amendment will be used as a basis for imposing limitations on withdrawals of groundwater and surface water in the consumptive use permit (CUP) regulatory process and for reviewing proposed surface water management systems in the Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) regulatory process. In addition, these minimum water levels would be used, along with other information and data, in the District's water supply planning process.

The attached Notice of Rule Development, if approved, would begin rulemaking. When the Notice of Rule Development is published, the public will have an opportunity to request a rule development workshop. After that, District staff then plan to publish the attached Notice of Proposed Rule unless staff

receive information that different rule amendments would be appropriate. In that case, staff would seek authorization to publish a revised Notice of Proposed Rule.

Notice of Development of Rulemaking

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS
St. Johns River Water Management District
RULE NO.: RULE TITLE:
40C-8.031 Minimum Surface Water Levels and Flows and Groundwater Levels
PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The purpose and effect of the proposed rule amendment will be to revise the established minimum surface water levels for Lake Prevatt in Orange County. These minimum water levels, if adopted by rule, will represent the limit at which further withdrawals would be significantly harmful to the water resources of the area or ecology of the area. The proposed minimum water levels for Lake Prevatt will not be in prevention or recovery. Thus, they will not have an adverse impact on small businesses or increase regulatory costs.
SUBJECT AREA TO BE ADDRESSED: The proposed rule would revise the established minimum surface water levels for Lake Prevatt pursuant to the mandate of Section 373.042, Florida Statutes. The terms used herein are already defined in Chapter 40C-8, F.A.C. As with all minimum surface water levels established by the District, if adopted, the minimum surface water levels in this rule amendment would be used as a basis for imposing limitations on withdrawals of groundwater and surface water in the consumptive use permit regulatory process and for reviewing proposed surface water management systems in the environmental resource permit regulatory process.
RULEMAKING AUTHORITY: 373.042, 373.044, 373.113, F.S.
LAW IMPLEMENTED: 373.042, 373.0421, F.S.
IF REQUESTED IN WRITING AND NOT DEEMED UNNECESSARY BY THE AGENCY HEAD, A RULE DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP WILL BE NOTICED IN THE NEXT AVAILABLE FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER.
THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED RULE DEVELOPMENT AND A COPY OF THE PRELIMINARY DRAFT, IF AVAILABLE, IS: Tom Mayton, Deputy General Counsel, St. Johns River Water Management District, Office of General Counsel, 4049 Reid Street, Palatka, Florida 32177, (386)329-4108 tmayton@sjrwmd.com. TO REQUEST A RULE DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP, CONTACT TOM MAYTON WITHIN 21 DAYS OF PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

THE PRELIMINARY TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE DEVELOPMENT IS:

40C-8.031 Minimum Surface Water Levels and Flows and Groundwater Levels.
(1) through (3) No change.

(4) The following minimum surface water levels are established:

System Name	County	Minimum Level	Level (ft NGVD)	Level (ft NAVD)	Hydroperiod Category	Duration (days)	Return Interval (years)
(a) through (yyy) No change.							
~~(zzz) Prevatt~~	~~Orange~~	~~Frequent High~~	~~56.0~~	~~54.9~~	~~Seasonally Flooded~~	~~–~~	~~–~~
		~~Average~~	~~53.0~~	~~52.0~~	~~Typically Saturated~~	~~–~~	~~–~~
		~~Frequent Low~~	~~50.9~~	~~49.9~~	~~Semipermanently Flooded~~	~~–~~	~~–~~
Reletter (aaaa) through (aaaaa) as (zzz) through (zzzz) No change.							

(5) The following minimum surface water levels are established as exceedance percentiles:

System Name	County	Minimum Level	Level (ft NAVD)
Brooklyn	Clay	P25	111.5
		P50	106.2
		P75	98.6
Butler	Volusia	P50	20.1
Geneva	Bradford	P25	101.7
	Clay	P50	98.3
		P75	89.3
Lochloosa	Alachua	P50	56.5
Prevatt	Orange	P25	56.0
		P50	54.5
		P75	52.4

The minimum P25, P50, and P75 levels for Lake Brooklyn are based on the MFLs condition lake level time series (7/17/1957 – 12/31/2018), effective 9/28/2021, which is incorporated by reference and available at https://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-13524 and upon request from the St. Johns River Water Management District, 4049 Reid Street, Palatka, FL 32177-2529.

MFL status of Lake Brooklyn will be assessed by comparing the minimum P25, P50, and P75 to the current P25, P50, and P75, respectively. The current P25, P50, and P75 for Lake Brooklyn are calculated by updating the current-pumping condition lake level time series (7/17/1957 – 12/31/2018) with post-2018 observed data at SJRWMD gage 3360373. The current-pumping condition lake level time series is incorporated by reference and available at https://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-13524 and upon request from the St. Johns River Water Management District, 4049 Reid Street, Palatka, FL 32177-2529.

The minimum P50 level for Lake Butler is a long-term median lake level based on the MFLs condition lake level time series (1949 – 2018), effective September 30, 2020, which is incorporated by reference and available at https://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-12168 and upon request from the St. Johns River Water Management District, 4049 Reid Street, Palatka, FL 32177-2529.

MFL status of Lake Butler will be assessed by comparing the minimum P50 to the current P50. The current P50 for Lake Butler is calculated by updating the simulated historical lake level time series (1949 – 2018) with post-2018 observed data at SJRWMD gage 03390378. The simulated historical lake level time series is incorporated by reference and available at https://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-12168 and upon request from the St. Johns River Water Management District, 4049 Reid Street, Palatka, FL 32177-2529.

The minimum P25, P50, and P75 levels for Lake Geneva are based on the MFLs condition lake level time series (7/1/1957 – 12/31/2018), effective 9/28/2021, which is incorporated by reference and available at https://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-13525 and upon request from the St. Johns River Water Management District, 4049 Reid Street, Palatka, FL 32177-2529.

MFL status of Lake Geneva will be assessed by comparing the minimum P25, P50, and P75 to the current P25, P50, and P75, respectively. The current P25, P50, and P75 for Lake Geneva are calculated by updating the current-pumping condition lake level time series (7/1/1957 – 12/31/2018) with post-2018 observed data at SJRWMD gage 11590497. The current-pumping condition lake level time series is incorporated by reference and available at https://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-13525 and upon request from the St. Johns River Water Management District, 4049 Reid Street, Palatka, FL 32177-2529.

The minimum P50 level for Lochloosa Lake is a long-term median lake level based on the MFLs condition lake level time series (1957 – 2015), effective 1-30-19, which is incorporated by reference and available at https://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-10225 and upon request from the St. Johns River Water Management District, 4049 Reid Street, Palatka, FL 32177-2529.

MFL status of Lochloosa Lake will be assessed by comparing the minimum P50 to the current P50. The current P50 for Lochloosa Lake is calculated by updating the simulated historical lake level time series (1957 – 2015) with post-

2015 observed data at SJRWMD gage 71481615. The simulated historical lake level time series is incorporated by reference and available at https://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-10225 and upon request from the St. Johns River Water Management District, 4049 Reid Street, Palatka, FL 32177-2529.

The minimum P25, P50, and P75 levels for Lake Prevatt are based on the MFLs condition lake level time series (1/1/1953 to 12/31/2020), effective December 2026, which is incorporated by reference and available at https://flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-20186 and upon request from the St. Johns River Water Management District, 4049 Reid Street, Palatka, FL 32177-2529.

MFL status of Lake Prevatt will be assessed by comparing the minimum P25, P50, and P75 to the current P25, P50, and P75, respectively. The current P25, P50, and P75 for Lake Prevatt are calculated by updating the current-pumping condition lake level time series (1/1/1953 to 12/31/2020) with post-2020 observed data at SJRWMD gage SW_01547_Prevatt_Lk_S. The current-pumping condition lake level time series is incorporated by reference and available at https://flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-20186 and upon request from the St. Johns River Water Management District, 4049 Reid Street, Palatka, FL 32177-2529.

(6) through (13) No change.

Rulemaking Authority 373.042, 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 373.042, 373.0421, 373.103, 373.415 FS. History–New 9-16-92, Amended 8-17-94, 6-8-95, 1-17-96, 8-20-96, 10-20-96, 11-4-98, 6-27-00, 2-13-01, 3-19-02, 5-12-03, 11-10-03, 1-12-04, 2-1-06, 12-3-06, 5-10-07, 5-24-07, 1-11-10, 8-22-13, 4-3-14, 11-25-14, 12-31-14, 1-31-16 (4)(aaa), 1-31-16 (4)(ssss), 2-1-17 (4)(w), 2-1-17 (6), (8), 6-27-17 (7), 6-29-17 (5), (8), (9), 1-30-19, 9-30-20, 9-28-21, 2-24-25, effective date.

Notice of Proposed Rule

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS
St. Johns River Water Management District
RULE NO.: RULE TITLE:
40C-8.031 Minimum Surface Water Levels and Flows and Groundwater Levels
PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The purpose and effect of the proposed rule amendment will be to revise the established minimum surface water levels for Lake Prevatt in Orange County. These minimum water levels, if adopted by rule, will represent the limit at which further withdrawals would be significantly harmful to the water resources of the area or ecology of the area. The proposed minimum water levels for Lake Prevatt will not be in prevention or recovery. Thus, they will not have an adverse impact on small businesses or increase regulatory costs.
SUMMARY: The proposed rule would revise the established minimum surface water levels for Lake Prevatt in Orange County. The terms used herein are already defined in Chapter 40C-8, F.A.C. As with all minimum surface water levels established by the District, if adopted, the minimum surface water levels in this rule amendment would be used as a basis for imposing limitations on withdrawals of groundwater and surface water in the consumptive use permit regulatory process and for reviewing proposed surface water management systems in the environmental resource permit regulatory process.
SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REGULATORY COSTS AND LEGISLATIVE RATIFICATION:
The Agency has determined that this will not have an adverse impact on small business or likely increase directly or indirectly regulatory costs in excess of $200,000 in the aggregate within one year after the implementation of the rule. A SERC has not been prepared by the Agency.
The Agency has determined that the proposed rule is not expected to require legislative ratification based on the statement of estimated regulatory costs or if no SERC is required, the information expressly relied upon and described herein: The District has completed for the Governor's Office of Fiscal Accountability and Regulatory Reform (OFARR) the "Is a SERC Required?" form and prepared a summary of the proposed rule amendments, which are both available upon request. Based on the completed "Is a SERC Required?" form and summary and the analysis performed by the District in preparing and completing those documents, the proposed rule amendments are not expected to require legislative ratification pursuant to subsection 120.541(3), F.S.
Any person who wishes to provide information regarding a statement of estimated regulatory costs, or provide a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative must do so in writing within 21 days of this notice.
RULEMAKING AUTHORITY: 373.042, 373.044, 373.113, F.S.
LAW IMPLEMENTED: 373.042, 373.0421, F.S.
IF REQUESTED WITHIN 21 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE, A HEARING WILL BE SCHEDULED AND ANNOUNCED IN THE FAR.
THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED RULE IS: Tom Mayton, Deputy General Counsel, St. Johns River Water Management District, Office of General Counsel, 4049 Reid Street, Palatka, Florida 32177, (386)329-4108 tmayton@sjrwmd.com.

THE FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE IS:

40C-8.031 Minimum Surface Water Levels and Flows and Groundwater Levels.
(1) through (3) No change.

(4) The following minimum surface water levels are established:

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(a) through (yyy) No change.							

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		~~Average~~	~~53.0~~	~~52.0~~	~~Typically Saturated~~	~~–~~	~~–~~
		~~Frequent Low~~	~~50.9~~	~~49.9~~	~~Semipermanently Flooded~~	~~–~~	~~–~~
Reletter (aaaa) through (aaaaa) as (zzz) through (zzzz) No change.							

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		P75	98.6
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The minimum P50 level for Lake Butler is a long-term median lake level based on the MFLs condition lake level time series (1949 – 2018), effective September 30, 2020, which is incorporated by reference and available at https://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-12168 and upon request from the St. Johns River Water Management District, 4049 Reid Street, Palatka, FL 32177-2529.

MFL status of Lake Butler will be assessed by comparing the minimum P50 to the current P50. The current P50 for Lake Butler is calculated by updating the simulated historical lake level time series (1949 – 2018) with post-2018 observed data at SJRWMD gage 03390378. The simulated historical lake level time series is incorporated by reference and available at https://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-12168 and upon request from the St. Johns River Water Management District, 4049 Reid Street, Palatka, FL 32177-2529.

The minimum P25, P50, and P75 levels for Lake Geneva are based on the MFLs condition lake level time series (7/1/1957 – 12/31/2018), effective 9/28/2021, which is incorporated by reference and available at

https://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-13525 and upon request from the St. Johns River Water Management District, 4049 Reid Street, Palatka, FL 32177-2529.
MFL status of Lake Geneva will be assessed by comparing the minimum P25, P50, and P75 to the current P25, P50, and P75, respectively. The current P25, P50, and P75 for Lake Geneva are calculated by updating the current-pumping condition lake level time series (7/1/1957 – 12/31/2018) with post-2018 observed data at SJRWMD gage 11590497. The current-pumping condition lake level time series is incorporated by reference and available at https://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-13525 and upon request from the St. Johns River Water Management District, 4049 Reid Street, Palatka, FL 32177-2529.
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MFL status of Lochloosa Lake will be assessed by comparing the minimum P50 to the current P50. The current P50 for Lochloosa Lake is calculated by updating the simulated historical lake level time series (1957 – 2015) with post-2015 observed data at SJRWMD gage 71481615. The simulated historical lake level time series is incorporated by reference and available at https://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-10225 and upon request from the St. Johns River Water Management District, 4049 Reid Street, Palatka, FL 32177-2529.
The minimum P25, P50, and P75 levels for Lake Prevatt are based on the MFLs condition lake level time series (1/1/1953 to 12/31/2020), effective December 2026, which is incorporated by reference and available at https://flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-20186 and upon request from the St. Johns River Water Management District, 4049 Reid Street, Palatka, FL 32177-2529.
MFL status of Lake Prevatt will be assessed by comparing the minimum P25, P50, and P75 to the current P25, P50, and P75, respectively. The current P25, P50, and P75 for Lake Prevatt are calculated by updating the current-pumping condition lake level time series (1/1/1953 to 12/31/2020) with post-2020 observed data at SJRWMD gage SW_01547_Prevatt_Lk_S. The current-pumping condition lake level time series is incorporated by reference and available at https://flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-20186 and upon request from the St. Johns River Water Management District, 4049 Reid Street, Palatka, FL 32177-2529.

(6) through (13) No change.

Rulemaking Authority 373.042, 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 373.042, 373.0421, 373.103, 373.415 FS. History–New 9-16-92, Amended 8-17-94, 6-8-95, 1-17-96, 8-20-96, 10-20-96, 11-4-98, 6-27-00, 2-13-01, 3-19-02, 5-12-03, 11-10-03, 1-12-04, 2-1-06, 12-3-06, 5-10-07, 5-24-07, 1-11-10, 8-22-13, 4-3-14, 11-25-14, 12-31-14, 1-31-16 (4)(aaa), 1-31-16 (4)(ssss), 2-1-17 (4)(w), 2-1-17 (6), (8), 6-27-17 (7), 6-29-17 (5), (8), (9), 1-30-19, 9-30-20, 9-28-21, 2-24-25, effective date.

NAME OF PERSON ORIGINATING PROPOSED RULE: Thomas Mayton, Deputy General Counsel, St. Johns River Water Management District, 4049 Reid Street, Palatka, Florida 32177-2529, (386)329-4108
NAME OF AGENCY HEAD WHO APPROVED THE PROPOSED RULE: Governing Board of the St. Johns River Water Management District.
DATE PROPOSED RULE APPROVED BY AGENCY HEAD: October 13, 2026
DATE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE DEVELOPMENT PUBLISHED IN FAR: October 14, 2026

AGENDA REQUEST FOR
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
October 13, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Michael Register, Executive Director
Executive Office

SUBJECT: Actions Necessary to Facilitate Repair of the Black Creek Water Resource Development Project

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the Executive Director to take the following actions necessary to facilitate repair of the Black Creek Water Resource Development Project and return it to operation:

1. Execute internal budget transfers to fund emergency response, assessment, repair, claim and related activities; and

2. Negotiate and execute contracts for emergency response, assessment, repair, and related activities.

BACKGROUND

On August 11, 2026, a rupture of the Black Creek Water Resource Development Project pipeline occurred along State Road 21 in Clay County, Florida. Shortly after the rupture was reported, the pump station was shut down, and the control valves were closed. Water was released initially and continued to be released in the ensuing hours as the section of pipe drained. This release of water eroded soils, damaged the road, and washed sediment into the adjacent undeveloped area. The District and partner governmental agencies took emergency measures on the day of the rupture and in the days that followed. Those actions addressed the immediate issues, but additional action was necessary to determine the nature of the repairs required for the pipeline. District staff have since initiated the investigation and have begun developing a repair plan.

DISCUSSION

Before the project can return to operation, the District will need to obtain the necessary parts and work with one or more contractors and the design team to make the repairs. Additional funds may need to be transferred among internal accounts, and additional engineering, construction, or related services will need to be acquired. Further needs could arise as field work progresses, depending on field conditions. At the September 8, 2026, meeting, the Governing Board authorized the Executive Director to execute internal budget transfers for the Fiscal Year 2025-26 to fund emergency response, assessment, and repair activities associated with the Black Creek repair. The cumulative budget transfers for FY 2025-26 were $321,646.22. To best position the District to be able to operate during the favorable hydrologic conditions, additional potential budget transfers in FY 2026-27 may need to occur and additional services may need to be acquired on a time sensitive basis.

A timely repair of the project is crucial. The permit conditions applicable to the project prescribe when the project can be operated. This area of the District has been experiencing drought conditions for several

months, and the aquifer in this particular area is below the 10th percentile. Thus, an ongoing challenge to the project has been the severe drought. The hydrologic conditions are anticipated to change soon. Currently, a super El Niño is predicted to bring above normal rainfall from November 2026 through March 2027, with the highest probabilities in December and February. Expeditious repair will provide the best opportunity to operate the project and recharge the aquifer if the forecasted favorable hydrologic conditions are present.

AGENDA REQUEST FOR
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
October 13, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO:	Governing Board
THROUGH:	Michael Register, Executive Director Executive Office
FROM:	Erin Preston, General Counsel Office of the General Counsel
SUBJECT:	Pending Litigation

FOR INFORMATION
Pending litigation - significant events or significant status changes.

AGENDA REQUEST FOR
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
October 13, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Michael Register, Executive Director
Executive Office

SUBJECT: Governing Board Comment

FOR INFORMATION
Governing Board comment.

AGENDA REQUEST FOR
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
October 13, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Michael Register, Executive Director
Executive Office

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report and Calendar

FOR INFORMATION
Executive Director's Report and Calendar.

Executive Director's report.

Calendar of upcoming meetings/events:

November 10 Governing Board Meeting