

5. Funding may be provided to assist with the cost of alternative water supplies, water conservation, advanced irrigation management, and nutrient management technology.
6. Funding assistance is contingent upon availability of District funds and in accordance with the agreement between the District and the producer.
7. Priority will be given to projects located within a Water Supply Planning Area, Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels Prevention or Recovery Strategy, Outstanding Florida Spring Priority Focus Area, and/or Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP).
8. Final approval for funding of the project proposals are the exclusive responsibility of the Governing Board and the Executive Director in accordance with the District's procurement procedures relating to signature authority.
9. Officers and employees of the District are not eligible to participate.

5.0 Review Guidelines

At minimum, staff will review:

1. Applications for District Cost-Share Funding will be open year-round for funding consideration, subject to fund availability.
2. Each application shall include a completed application form. At a minimum, this information should include: point of contact, address, phone number, project description, and location information.
3. Staff shall consider the quality of the application as measured by thoroughness and clarity including the location information; the effectiveness of the project to protect, conserve, restore, or augment the areas of water resource and ecology; the use of best management practices; the cost benefit of the project (for multi-year or phased projects, the project benefits to be realized if future phases are not funded); the location of the project; the potential of the project to start, and proceed in a timely manner.
4. Staff shall review the application to ensure the proposed project aligns with the District's core mission. Applicants may be required to modify any water use permits associated with the project if deemed necessary by District Staff. Applicants who do not have a valid water use permit in accordance with Chapter 40B-2, Florida Administrative Code will be required to obtain a permit.
5. Applicants will be approved in accordance with the District's Procurement Procedures relating to signature authority.

6.0 Project Monitoring

1. Water quality projects located within BMAP areas will be monitored and assessed regionally by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection BMAP program. For any water quality project not associated with a BMAP area, District staff will identify the water body affected where possible and use already established long-term water quality monitoring sites to assess regional water quality changes as appropriate.
2. Staff shall assess water savings on irrigation system retrofits through the submittal of pre-retrofit and post-retrofit mobile irrigation lab's evaluations.
3. Where agricultural monitoring can be implemented, staff shall monitor groundwater withdrawal through the District's agricultural monitoring program. These data will be submitted annually to FDACS for incorporation into agricultural water demand projections and to the office of water supply for incorporation into annual estimates of water use.
4. Staff shall assess agricultural water use and projected demands as a part of the District's water supply planning process.
5. In lieu of project specific monitoring, staff may rely upon professionally accepted research data and information to determine the project benefit.