



**AGENDA**  
**SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**  
**GOVERNING BOARD MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING**

YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/@SRWMD>  
Open to Public

January 13, 2026  
9:00 a.m.

District Headquarters  
Live Oak, FL

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Announcement of any Amendments to the Agenda by the Chair  
**Amendments Recommended by Staff:** None
4. Public Comment
5. Consideration of the following Items Collectively by Consent:
  - Agenda Item No. 6 - December 9, 2025, Governing Board Meeting, Workshops, and Lands Committee Meeting Minutes
  - Agenda Item No. 8 - Authorization for General Counsel to Request Attorney General Opinion on Delegation of Authority for Executive Director to Execute Instruments of Sale, Lease, Release, or Conveyance
  - Agenda Item No. 14 - Agricultural Cost-Share Task Work Assignment with Michael Wilkerson, Gilchrist, and Levy Counties
  - Agenda Item No. 15 - Agricultural Cost-Share Contract and Task Work Assignment with Tillis Farms, LLC, Levy County
  - Agenda Item No. 16 - November 2025 Financial Report
  - Agenda Item No. 24 - Funding for Little River Springs Erosion Control Project, Suwannee County
  - Agenda Item No. 25 - Amendment to Contract 22/23-166, Waccasassa Water and Wastewater Cooperative
  - Agenda Item No. 29 - Declaration of Surplus for the Riverbend Estates Tract, Dixie County
6. December 9, 2025, Governing Board Meeting, Workshops, and Lands Committee Meeting Minutes - **Recommend Consent**
7. Items of General Interest for Information/Cooperating Agencies and Organizations
  - A. Cooperating Agencies and Organizations
  - B. Service Recognitions - Mary Diaz (10 years), David King (5 years)

**GOVERNING BOARD LEGAL COUNSEL**  
**Tom Reeves**

LC Page 1

8. Authorization for General Counsel to Request Attorney General Opinion on Delegation of Authority for Executive Director to Execute Instruments of Sale, Lease, Release, or Conveyance – **Recommend Consent**

9. Update on Legal Activities

**WATER RESOURCES**

**Amy Brown, Deputy Executive Director**

10. Water Resources Division Updates

11. Hydrologic Conditions Report

WR Page 1 12. Water Shortage Advisory Order Number 26-001

**BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**Tim Alexander, Assistant Executive Director**

*Administration*

13. Facilities Update

*Agriculture Projects*

BCS Page 1 14. Agricultural Cost-Share Task Work Assignment with Michael Wilkerson, Gilchrist, and Levy Counties – **Recommend Consent**

BCS Page 8 15. Agricultural Cost-Share Contract and Task Work Assignment with Tillis Farms, LLC, Levy County- **Recommend Consent**

*Finance*

BCS Page 12 16. November 2025 Financial Report – **Recommend Consent**

*Resource Management*

BCS Page 17 17. Permitting Summary Report

BCS Page 19 18. Chapter 40B-3, Florida Administrative Code, Rulemaking

*Environmental Projects*

BCS Page 26 19. Agriculture and Environmental Projects Monthly Report

20. FEMA Flood Risk Review Update

BCS Page 28 21. GBD26-0001, Regional Initiative Valuing Environmental Resources Cost-Share Program Directive Amendment

BCS Page 37 22. Agreements with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Local Cooperative Entities to Receive Alternative Water Supply Grant Funds

BCS Page 39 23. Agreements with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Local Cooperative Entities to Receive Springs Grant Funds

BCS Page 41 24. Funding for Little River Springs Erosion Control Project, Suwannee County – **Recommend Consent**

BCS Page 42      25. Amendment to Contract 22/23-166, Waccasassa Water and Wastewater Cooperative – **Recommend Consent**

**OUTREACH AND OPERATIONS**  
**Katelyn Potter, Division Director**

*Communications and Outreach*

OPS Page 1      26. Outreach and Communications Activity Summary

OPS Page 3      27. 2026-2030 Strategic Plan

*Land Acquisition*

OPS Page 4      28. Land Acquisition and Disposition Activity Report

OPS Page 7      29. Declaration of Surplus for the Riverbend Estates Tract, Dixie County – **Recommend Consent**

*Land Management*

OPS Page 16      30. Land Management Update Report

OPS Page 18      31. Offer Additional Tracts of Land to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for Inclusion within the Wildlife Management Area Program

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

**Hugh Thomas, Executive Director**

32. Announcements

33. Governing Board Comments

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are at District Headquarters in Live Oak, Florida

February 10, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Board Meeting

Workshop / Committee Meetings

*Workshops and Committee Meetings will begin following the Board Meeting unless otherwise noted.*

34. Adjournment

Any member of the public who desires to address the Board at a Board Meeting, must appear in person at the Board Meeting and sign up (including the completion of the required speaker forms showing any agenda item(s) on which the speaker wishes to comment) with District staff before the time designated for Public Comment on the agenda. During Public Comment, the chair shall recognize those persons signed up to speak on agenda items first. To the extent time permits, the chair may thereafter recognize those persons signed up to speak on non-agenda items. Provided that if, after the regular time for Public Comment, the agenda is amended to add an item for consideration, the chair shall allow public comment on the added agenda item prior to the Board taking action thereon. Unless, leave is given by the chair, (1) all speakers will be limited to a maximum of three minutes per topic, (2) any identifiable group of three persons or more shall be required to choose a representative, who shall

be limited to a maximum of five minutes per topic. Speakers will have an option to waive in support or opposition of a position, in lieu of speaking.

When recognized by the chair during Public Comment, a speaker may request to be allowed to make his or her comments at the time the Board considers an agenda item. The chair may grant or deny such request in the Chair's sole discretion.

The Board may act upon (including reconsideration) any agenda item at any time during a Board Meeting. The agenda may be changed only for good cause as determined by the Chair and stated in the record.

The chair may order the removal, from the Board Meeting, of any person interfering with the expeditious or orderly process of such Board Meeting, provided the chair has first issued a warning that continued interference with the orderly processes of the Board Meeting will result in removal. Additionally, the public is cautioned that such conduct may constitute a violation of criminal law under sections 871.01 and/or 877.03, Florida Statutes.

All decisions of the Chair concerning parliamentary procedures, decorum, and rules of order will be final, unless they are overcome by a majority of the members of the Board in attendance. Speakers are prohibited from using props, slides, or posters.

Any speaker who wishes to provide supporting materials for the members of the Board at a Board Meeting, must provide such materials in the form of a standard-sized paper handout. If the speaker brings handouts, the speaker must have 11 copies ready and give them to the District team when the speaker signs up to speak.

Persons who wish to make a written statement must deliver the statement to District Headquarters or email the written statement to [writtencomments@srwmd.org](mailto:writtencomments@srwmd.org). The written statement must include the submitter's name. In addition, the submitter must indicate which specific agenda item their statement addresses, or if the statement is for general comment. The written statement must be delivered or emailed at least two business days prior to the day of the Board Meeting. Written statements will be provided to the members of the Board prior to the applicable Board Meeting.

The District will attempt to "live stream" the video and audio of Board Meetings. The District will also attempt to record the video and audio of the Board Meetings. However, the public is cautioned that such "live stream" and recordings are not guaranteed and that any interruption or loss of the "live stream" or failure of the recording will not affect the validity of any action by the Board or result in any Board action being reconsidered. Members of the public who wish to ensure that they may view and/or participate in a Board Meeting should arrange to attend such Board Meeting in person.

Individuals lobbying the District must be registered as lobbyists (Section 112.3261, Florida Statutes).

Definitions:

- "Lobbies" is defined as seeking to influence a district policy or procurement decision or an attempt to obtain the goodwill of a district official or employee. (112.3261(1)(b), Florida Statutes [F.S.])
- "Lobbyist" is a person who is employed and receives payment, or who contracts for economic consideration, for the purpose of lobbying, or a person who is principally employed for governmental affairs by another person or governmental entity to lobby on behalf of that other person or governmental entity. (112.3215(1)(h), F.S.)



## SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT MINUTES OF GOVERNING BOARD MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING(S)

YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/@SRWMD>

Open to Public

Note: A digital recording system was used to record these proceedings and is on file in the permanent files of the District. A copy of the materials and handouts are a part of the record as set out in full herein and are filed in the permanent files of the District.

December 9, 2025  
9:00 a.m.

District Headquarters  
Live Oak, Florida

Agenda Item No. 1 – Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

### Agenda Item No 2 – Roll Call

#### Governing Board

Seat	Name	Office	Present	Not Present
Aucilla Basin	George Wheeler		X	
Coastal River Basin	Richard Schwab	Vice Chair	X	
Lower Suwannee Basin	Larry K. Thompson			X
Santa Fe & Wacc. Basins	William Lloyd		X	
Upper Suwannee Basin	Larry Sessions		X	
At Large	Virginia H. Johns	Chair	X	
At Large	Charles Keith	Sec./Treas.	X	
At Large	Harry Smith		X	
At Large	Vacant		-	-

#### Governing Board Legal Counsel

Name	Firm	Present	Not Present
George T. Reeves	Davis, Schnitker, Reeves & Browning, P.A.	X	

#### Leadership Team

Position	Name	Present	Not Present
Executive Director	Hugh Thomas	X	
Assistant Executive Director	Tim Alexander	X	
Deputy Executive Director	Amy Brown	X	
Executive Office & Board Coordinator	Robin Lamm	X	

Agenda Item No. 3 – Announcement of any Amendments to the Agenda by the Chair: None

#### Agenda Item No. 4 – Public Comment:

- John Quarterman, Suwannee Riverkeepers – Concerns regarding wastewater and drought conditions.

#### Agenda Item No. 5 – Consideration of the Following Items Collectively by Consent:

- Agenda Item No. 6 - November 12, 2025, Governing Board Meeting and Workshops Minutes
- Agenda Item No. 10 - Agricultural Cost-Share Task Work Assignment with Sanchez Farms, LLC, Dixie, Gilchrist, Lafayette, Levy and Suwannee Counties
- Agenda Item No. 11 - Agricultural Cost-Share Task Work Assignment with Herman Sanchez III, Dixie, Gilchrist, and Suwannee Counties
- Agenda Item No. 12 - Agricultural Cost-Share Task Work Assignment with SanRiver Farms, LLC, Suwannee County

- Agenda Item No. 13 - October 2025 Financial Report
- Agenda Item No. 18 - 2026 Federal Emergency Management Agency Risk Mapping and Planning Program Five-Year Business Plan

MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHWAB, SECONDED BY SESSIONS TO APPROVE THE ITEM.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item No. 6 – November 12, 2025, Governing Board Meeting and Workshops Minutes.  
Approved on Consent.

Agenda Item No. 7 – Items of General Interest for Information/Cooperating Agencies and Organizations.

- A. Robbie McKinney, Chief, Office of Water Resources, gave a presentation on hydrologic conditions of the District.
- B. Cooperating Agencies and Organizations. None.

### **GOVERNING BOARD LEGAL COUNSEL**

Agenda Item No. 8 – Legal Activities Update. No updates.

### **BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Administration

Agenda Item No. 9 – Facilities Update. Ben Glass, Chief, Office of Administration, provided this update to the Board.

Agriculture Projects

Agenda Item No. 10 – Agricultural Cost-Share Task Work Assignment with Sanchez Farms, LLC, Dixie, Gilchrist, Lafayette, Levy and Suwannee Counties. Approved on Consent.

Agenda Item No. 11 – Agricultural Cost-Share Task Work Assignment with Herman Sanchez III, Dixie, Gilchrist, and Suwannee Counties. Approved on Consent.

Agenda Item No. 12 – Agricultural Cost-Share Task Work Assignment with SanRiver Farms, LLC, Suwannee County. Approved on Consent.

Finance

Agenda Item No. 13 – October 2025 Financial Report. Approved on Consent.

Agenda Item No. 14 – Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Preliminary Budget. Kristin Thompson, Manager, Office of Finance, presented this item to the Board.

MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHWAB, SECONDED BY LLOYD TO APPROVE THE ITEM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### Environmental Resource Permitting

Agenda Item No. 15 – Permitting Summary Report. This report was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

### Environmental Projects

Agenda Item No. 16 – Agriculture and Environmental Projects Monthly Report. This report was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

Agenda Item No. 17 – Task Work Assignment 23/24-166.02, with Black & Veatch Corporation. Mary Diaz, Chief, Office of Environmental Projects, presented this item to the Board.

MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHWAB, SECONDED BY SMITH TO APPROVE THE ITEM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item No. 18 – 2026 Federal Emergency Management Agency Risk Mapping and Planning Program Five-Year Business Plan. Approved on Consent.

## **OUTREACH AND OPERATIONS**

### Communications and Outreach

Agenda Item No. 19 – Outreach and Communications Activity Summary. This summary was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

### Land Acquisition

Agenda Item No. 20 – Land Acquisition and Disposition Activity Report. This report was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

Agenda Item No. 21 – Resolution 2025-16, Sale of Nature Coast Lots 16 and 17 to Mark Willis, Gilchrist County. Katelyn Potter, Director, Outreach and Operations, presented this item to the Board.

MOTION WAS MADE BY SMITH, SECONDED BY SCHWAB TO APPROVE THE ITEM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item No. 22 – Resolution 2025-17, Sale of Suwannee Run Shores Lot 16 to Harold G. Sharp, Dixie County. Mrs. Potter presented this item to the Board.

MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHWAB, SECONDED BY SESSIONS TO APPROVE THE ITEM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item No. 23 – Governing Board Directive Number 25-0009, Land Acquisition and Surplus Guidelines – Revised. Mrs. Potter presented this item to the Board.

MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHWAB, SECONDED BY SMITH TO APPROVE THE ITEM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Land Management

Agenda Item No. 24 – Land Management Update Report. This report was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

Agenda Item No. 25 – Amend to Management Agreement 07/08-254 with Alachua County to Add 21 +/- Acres on the Lake Alto Tract, Alachua County. Lorna Ratliff, Chief, Office of Land Management, presented this item to the Board.

MOTION WAS MADE BY KEITH, SECONDED BY SCHWAB TO APPROVE THE ITEM WITH THE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS ADDED TO THE AGREEMENT REQUESTED BY BOARD PRIOR TO SIGNATURES TO PROTECT THE DISTRICT ASSETS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**WATER RESOURCES**

Agenda Item No. 26 – Water Resources Division Updates. Amy Brown, Deputy Executive Director, provided updates to the Board.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

Agenda Item No. 27 – Announcements. Mr. Thomas updated the Board on District activities.

Agenda Item No. 28 – Governing Board Comments. None.

Agenda Item No. 29 – Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

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Chair

ATTEST:

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## **SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD WORKSHOPS**

Workshops began at 10:14 a.m.

### University of Florida Smart Soaker Presentation

Hirys Olmo, University of Florida, provided a powerpoint presentation on the smart soaker system for cattle.

### Drought Conditions and Review of the District's Water Shortage Process

Amy Brown and Robbie McKinney provided a powerpoint presentation regarding the water shortage process and drought conditions.

Workshop adjourned at 11:27 a.m.



**SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF LANDS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Open to Public

Note: A digital recording system was used to record these proceedings and is on file in the permanent files of the District. A copy of the materials and handouts are a part of the record and are filed in the permanent files of the District.

December 9, 2025  
Following Board Meeting

District Headquarters  
Live Oak, FL

1. Call to Order / Committee Roll Call. Meeting began at 11:28 a.m.

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Not Present</b>
Richard Schwab - Chair	X	
Charles Keith	X	
Larry Sessions	X	
Harry Smith	X	
Larry Thompson		X
George Wheeler	X	

-Mrs. Johns and Mr. Wheeler also attended the Lands Committee Meeting.

2. Public Comment. None

**Property Exchange / Surplus / Conveyance**

3. Declaration of Surplus for the Riverbend Estates Parcels, Dixie County. Katelyn Potter, Director, Outreach and Operations Division, presented this item to the Committee.

MOTION MADE BY KEITH, SECONDED BY SMITH TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION.  
MOTION CARRIED.

4. Announcements: None

5. Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

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Chair

ATTEST:

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SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Governing Board

FROM: George T. Reeves, General Counsel

DATE: December 23, 2025

RE: Authorization for General Counsel to Request Attorney General Opinion on Delegation of Authority for Executive Director to Execute Instruments of Sale, Lease, Release, or Conveyance

**RECOMMENDATION**

Authorize and direct the General Counsel to request an opinion of the Florida Attorney General as to whether the Governing Board may delegate to its Executive Director the authority to execute instruments of sale, lease, release, or conveyance on behalf of the District.

**BACKGROUND**

When the District conveys real property, the District does so by action of the Governing Board as authorized by Section 373.089, Florida Statutes (for conveyances to private parties); Section 373.056, Florida Statutes (for conveyances to public entities); or Section 373.093, Florida Statutes (Leases of land or interests in land).

The District's normal procedure is for a possible sale to be considered by District staff and/or the District's Land Committee and then the final decision made by the Governing Board at a regular public meeting. If the Governing Board decides to approve the sale, then a deed would be executed later as part of closing.

Section 373.099, Florida Statutes provides:

Any instruments of sale, lease, release, or conveyance executed pursuant to the provisions of this chapter shall be executed in the name of the district by its governing board acting by the chair or vice chair of said board and shall have the corporate seal of the board affixed thereto attested by its secretary and any such instrument shall be effective to pass the title or interest of the district in the property conveyed; provided, the district shall not warrant the title to any property sold, leased, released, or conveyed.

Pursuant to such statute, when the time comes for the execution of the deed of conveyance, District staff takes the deed to the chair and then the secretary for execution.

District staff has asked whether the execution of deeds and other instruments of sale, lease, release, or conveyance may be delegated by the Governing Board to the District's Executive Director. (This would not change the Governing Board's decision making process. Rather the only question is whether the actual execution of the deeds and other instruments, which occurs after the Governing Board has made its decision, may be delegated.)

The answer to this question depends on the scope of the Governing Board's statutory delegation authority. The Governing Board's delegation authority is contained in Section 373.083, Florida Statutes which provides:

In addition to other powers and duties allowed it by law, the governing board is authorized to: . . . Execute any of the powers, duties, and functions vested in the governing board through a member, the executive director, or other district staff as designated by the governing board. The governing board may establish the scope and terms of any delegation, and no delegation shall be subject to the rulemaking requirements of chapter 120. . . . The authority to delegate under this subsection is supplemental to any other provision of this chapter granting authority to the governing board to delegate specific powers, duties, or functions.

So, the question is whether the delegation authority provided in Section 373.083, Florida Statutes allows the Governing Board to delegate the authority to execute deeds and other instruments as required by Section 373.099, Florida Statutes.

Pursuant to Section 16.01(3), Florida Statutes, the Florida Attorney General may, upon the written requisition of an officer of a political subdivision, give an official opinion and legal advice in writing on any question of law relating to the official duties of the requesting officer. Such opinions Such opinions are guides for government officials in performing their official duties. See *State v. Family Bank of Hallandale*, 623 So. 2d 474, 478 (Fla. 1993) ("The official opinions of the Attorney General, the chief law officer of the state, are guides for state executive and administrative officers in performing their official duties until superseded by judicial decision.")

Therefore, I recommend that if the Governing Board is interested in delegating to the Executive Director the authority to execute deeds and other instruments of sale, lease, release, or conveyance, that the Governing Board authorize and direct me to formally request an opinion from the Florida Attorney General on whether the Governing Board may so delegate. The request would specify that the only issue is whether the Governing Board may delegate to the Executive Director the authority to execute deeds and other instruments of sale, lease, release, after the Governing Board has made its decision.

/tr

**SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**  
**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Governing Board  
FROM: Hugh Thomas, Executive Director  
Date: January 13, 2026  
RE: Water Shortage Advisory Order Number 26-001

**RECOMMENDATION**

Approve Water Shortage Advisory Order Number 26-001, Water Shortage Advisory.

**BACKGROUND**

The District has been monitoring the hydrologic conditions to determine if action is required regarding potential water shortage advisories and/or declarations within the District. As of December 21, 2025, fourteen District counties had an average rainfall deficit of approximately 11.5 inches based on records dating back to 1932. Further, the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center for the one-month (January 2026) and three-month (January – March 2026) timeframes call for below normal rainfall.

The District is observing drier than average conditions for surface conditions, groundwater, and surface water Districtwide. As of December 18, 2025, the U. S. Drought Monitor identifies all counties of the District within one of three drought categories: Moderate Drought (D1), Severe Drought (D2), or Extreme Drought (D3). Districtwide mean Upper Floridan aquifer levels remain near the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile. Additionally, monitoring indicates that the Aucilla, New, Santa Fe, Suwannee, and Withlacoochee rivers have at least one gage with daily flows below the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile.

Current conditions warrant heightened water conservation awareness throughout the District, and the District encourages all users to reduce water use, defer water intensive activities, and conserve water to the maximum extent possible. In addition, the District is encouraging all users to plan proactively for the possibility of an extended drought.

The issuance of a water shortage advisory would apply to all counties within the District and unincorporated portions of Alachua and Levy counties, consistent with existing memoranda of understanding with neighboring Districts.

Neighboring water management districts are also monitoring drought conditions. Southwest Florida Water Management District issued a Phase I Water Shortage Order for their district as of November 2025.

Because of the aforementioned hydrologic factors, staff recommends that the Governing Board approve Water Shortage Advisory Order Number 26-001.

RLM/ak  
Attachment

## **SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT** **GOVERNING BOARD ORDER**

**Order Number:** 26-001

**Date Approved:** January 13, 2026

**Subject:** Water Shortage Advisory  
**Approval:**

Virginia Johns, Chair



Charles Keith, Secretary/Treasurer

### **WATER SHORTAGE ADVISORY ORDER NUMBER 26-001**

The Governing Board of the Suwannee River Water Management District (District), during a scheduled workshop held on December 9, 2025, in Live Oak, Florida, received information from District staff regarding hydrologic conditions and the District's water shortage declaration process. The Governing Board being fully apprised of the matter, issues this document containing the following findings of fact and recommendations:

#### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. The District's Water Shortage Plan (Plan), adopted as Chapter 40B-21 of the Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) provides that the District will evaluate and monitor water conditions within the District and compare current data to historical data to determine whether estimated present and available water supplies are sufficient.

2. The purposes of the plan are to protect the water resources of the District from serious harm; to assure equitable distribution of available water resources among all water users during times of shortage; to provide advanced knowledge; and promote greater security for water use permittees.

3. The District currently maintains year-round lawn and landscape irrigation measures based on a twice-yearly updated irrigation schedule.

4. The District has entered into Interagency Agreements with St. Johns River Water Management District and Southwest Florida Water Management District to coordinate year-round water conservation and water shortage measures to ensure consistent implementation in Alachua and Levy counties.

5. All counties and cities throughout the District have adopted year-round water conservation measures and water shortage ordinances.

6. As of December 21, 2025, surface water conditions in much of the District are below-normal to much-below normal, Upper Floridan Aquifer levels are near 25th percentile, and rainfall in

each District county is deficient. Hydrologic conditions indicate that enhanced monitoring of drought conditions and outreach efforts to maximize the efficiency of water use within the District should be employed to protect the water resource from serious harm in all counties within the District, as well as in unincorporated areas of Alachua and Levy counties within other water management District boundaries, in accordance with interagency agreements in place.

7. Drought indicators are summarized as follows:

#### **Rainfall**

- For the period December 22, 2024, through December 21, 2025, there was a Districtwide average rainfall deficit of approximately 11.5 inches based on records beginning in 1932.
- The 12-month rainfall average, ending December 21, 2025, is in the lowest 10 percent of all 12-month periods, with 5 counties showing below 5 percent of all 12-month periods.

#### **Groundwater Conditions**

- Of the 90 Upper Floridan Aquifer monitor wells queried on December 20, 2025, six wells had levels in the lowest 10 percent of all records and are considered extremely low. Forty-one wells (46 percent) had levels in the lowest 25 percent of all records.

#### **Surface water Conditions**

- The Suwannee River at Branford gage monitors flow contributed by 79 percent of the 9,973-square mile Suwannee River drainage area and has continuous records since 1931. The average flow rate on December 21, 2025, was in the lowest 20 percent of all 7-day and 8-week average flows.
- The Santa Fe River near Fort White gage monitors flow contributed by 74 percent of the 1,374-square mile Santa Fe River drainage area and has continuous records since 1927. The average flow rate on December 21, 2025, was in the lowest 10 percent of all 7-day and 8-week average flows.
- The average flow rate on December 21, 2025, for the Econfina River near Perry and the Steinhatchee River near Cross City was in the lowest 20 percent for all 7-day average flows and the lowest 10 percent of all 8-week average flows.
- The average flow rate on December 21, 2025, for the Withlacoochee near Pinetta was in the lowest five percent for all 7-day and 8-week average flows.
- The daily flow rate on December 21, 2025, in the upper Santa Fe River basin at Worthington Springs, near Graham, and on the New River was below the 10<sup>th</sup> percentile.

#### **Drought Indices**

- As of December 18, 2025, the U.S. Drought Monitor for Florida designates the District within either Moderate Drought (D1), Severe Drought (D2), or Extreme Drought (D3). Neighboring water management districts are also monitoring drought conditions. Southwest Florida Water Management District issued a Phase I Water Shortage Order for the entire area of their district as of November 2025. The U.S. Drought Monitor monthly outlook for December 2025 shows drought persisting within our District.
- The Long-Term Composite Drought Indicator map published by the National Drought Mitigation Center shows parts of North Florida in the abnormally dry category with an area of moderate drought for the week of December 22.

#### **Forecast and Climatology**

- The three-month precipitation probability outlook, published by the Climate Prediction Center on December 18, 2025, shows North Florida having warmer than normal temperatures across the District, and below normal precipitation for the District through March 31, 2026.

8. Upon careful consideration of these hydrologic conditions, District data, qualitative factors, and staff recommendations, the Executive Director has determined that a Water Shortage Advisory for the District is necessary and should be so Resolved.

## ORDER

THEREFORE, based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

1. A Water Shortage Advisory is declared for all ground and surface water sources within the District boundary and including those unincorporated areas of Alachua and Levy counties within the St Johns River Water Management District and the Southwest Florida Water Management District, respectively, in accordance with interagency agreements in place.

2. All classes of water users are encouraged to reduce their water use and to conserve water to the maximum extent possible.

3. All classes of water users are encouraged to plan proactively for extended severe drought conditions and additional mandatory water use restrictions should this Water Shortage Advisory Order advance to a Phase 2 Water Shortage Order. This should include having a low-pressure irrigation alternative to high-pressure irrigation systems where possible.

4. All landscape irrigation users are urged to reduce their irrigation to the maximum extent practical and ensure compliance with the existing one day per week irrigation restrictions as set forth in Rule 40B-2.041, F.A.C.

5. The District encourages the public to defer planting of shrubs, trees, or landscape, which will require watering for establishment, while the advisory is effect.

6. All golf course irrigation users are encouraged to use water in accordance with the provisions of subsection 40B-21(6)(b), F.A.C., and to defer overseeding while the advisory is in effect.

7. The District encourages the public to contact their respective county or city to determine the specific year-round water conservation measures and water shortage ordinance requirements.

8. This advisory shall remain in effect from January 13, 2026, until July 31, 2026, unless otherwise modified, revoked, or rescinded by the Governing Board.

**SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**  
**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Ben Glass, Chief, Office of Administration

THRU: Tim Alexander, Assistant Executive Director, Business and Community Services

DATE: January 12, 2026

RE: Agricultural Cost-Share Task Work Assignment with Michael Wilkerson, Gilchrist and Levy Counties

**RECOMMENDATION**

Authorize the Executive Director to enter into a task work assignment with Michael Wilkerson to implement agricultural cost-share practices for an amount not to exceed \$150,993.48.

**BACKGROUND**

The Suwannee River Water Management District (District) has provided agricultural cost-share funds along with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection as part of the Suwannee River Partnership to help agricultural producers implement best management practices. Best management practices help farmers conserve water and improve water quality in the District.

Michael Wilkerson has applied for agricultural cost-share under the District Agricultural Cost-Share Program in Gilchrist and Levy counties. The original contract and task work assignment (TWA) was approved by the Executive Director on January 25, 2025, for \$89,524. The second TWA was approved by the Executive Director on February 20, 2025, for \$96,450. This TWA contains pivot retrofits, control panels, GPS end gun shutoffs, tissue sampling, grid soil sampling, and variable rate nutrient application for use across 2,000 acres of corn, peanuts, snap beans, and watermelon. There is one funding source that will be used to execute this contract. The amount allocated per funding source will not exceed \$300,000.

This project is located in the Suwannee Basin Management Plan, Eastern and Western water supply planning area, and Devil's Ear and Fanning Manatee Priority Focus Area. The associated nutrient reduction and water savings estimated from this contract is 100,000 pounds of nitrogen at land surface and 0.1676 mgd of water savings.

Attachment A lists the cost share items and funding breakdown. Funding for this project is included in the Fiscal Year 2026 Final Budget.

JC/ak  
Attachments

## ATTACHMENT A

PRODUCER MICHAEL J WILKERSON  
 WATER USE PERMIT 237947, 233330, 216438, 227567, 230705,  
 BMAP :SUWA Contract 24/25-059  
 PFA Fanning Manatee TWA # 3  
 COUNTY Levy  
 COUNTY Gilchrist  
 APPLICATION 575

### Reimburseable Rates for Cost-Share Equipment and Precision Agriculture Practices

Item	Percent Cost-Share	Maximum Cost-Share per Unit	Producer quote per Unit if provided	No. of Units	Estimated Cost-Share Total	Producer Share	Completion Due Date
LP61038 Program Sustainable Suwannee Low Input					\$150,993.48		
*Tissue Sampling	85%	\$22.67		50	\$1,133.50	\$200.03	1 year from effective date
*LPS GPS end-gun shut-offs	80%	\$1,600.00		6	\$9,600.00	\$2,400.00	1 year from effective date
*Grid Soil Sampling with VRNA	85%	\$7.93		2000	\$15,860.00	\$2,798.80	1 year from effective date
*GBD Variable Rate Nutrient Application	85%	\$10.20		2000	\$20,400.00	\$3,600.00	1 year from effective date
*GBD Control Panel Upgrade	80%	\$5,333.33		6	\$31,999.98	\$8,000.00	1 year from effective date
GBD Center Pivot Retrofit	90%	\$12,000.00		6	\$72,000.00	\$8,000.00	1 year from effective date

## ATTACHMENT A

### FUNDING

**Contract Amount \$150,993.48**

Estimated PRODUCER funds \$24,998.83

\* Please see statement below regarding payment schedule.

## ATTACHMENT A

**\*IF INVOICES FOR THESE ITEMS ARE SUBMITTED TOGETHER, AT THE SAME TIME, THE MAXIMUM PERCENTAGES AND DOLLAR AMOUNTS WILL BE REIMBURSED. OTHERWISE, REIMBURSEMENT WILL BE BASED ON THE SCHEDULE BELOW.**

<b>BMP Irrigation Items</b>	<b>Precision Ag Practices</b>
Centralized Remote Control	Grid Soil Sampling
Control Panel Upgrade	Tissue Sampling
GPS Endgun Shutoff	Variable Rate Nutrient Application
Portable Fertigation System	<b>Any 1 - 75%</b>
Pump Upgrade (High to Low Pressure	<b>Any 2 - 80%</b>
Remote Control (Radios)	<b>All 3 - 85%</b>
Stationary Fertigation System	
Variable Frequency Drive (VFD)	
Weather Station w/ ET Measurement	
<b>Any 1 - 75%</b>	
<b>Any 2 - 80%</b>	
<b>Any 3 - 85%</b>	
<b>Any 4 - 90%</b>	

## **ATTACHMENT A**

### **District Specifications**

The PRODUCER shall complete the purchase, installation and/or implementation of the authorized EQUIPMENT and/or PRECISION AGRICULTURE PRACTICES in accordance with the above schedule.

The PRODUCER shall be actively participating in the DISTRICT'S AUTOMATED WATER USE MONITORING PROGRAM prior to reimbursement.

The PRODUCER shall maintain compliance with the associated Water Use Permit(s) for the duration of the contract.

All invoices and payments shall have dates showing when they were invoiced and paid. The dates for all financial transactions must coincide within the contract term to be eligible for reimbursement.

The PRODUCER shall own or have control of the property where the EQUIPMENT and/or PRECISION AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES are located for the duration of the CONTRACT.

The PRODUCER has executed and maintains a current FDACS Notice of Intent (NOI) to comply with Best Management Practices.

### **District Terms and Conditions**

#### **Agricultural BMP Irrigation Cost-Share**

Maximum cost-share per applicant is capped at \$300,000 over five (5) years per funding source. Equipment may include weather stations, pump upgrades, centralized remote control panels. For reimbursement, the producer must provide a copy of the paid invoice and cancelled check (front and back) or some verifiable form of payment to vendor providing the equipment. District staff must also verify and photo document the equipment.

#### **Center Pivot Retrofits**

The producer must first select a Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL) vendor to test the irrigation system. The MIL selected must follow the latest version of the MIL Handbook as developed by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), Office of Agricultural Water Policy. Deliverables should include at a minimum: A uniformity score (Weighted Distribution and Christiansen's), recommendations to improve irrigation uniformity, and a laminated sprinkler chart with center pivot information. The selected MIL must also update the State of Florida MIL program website in accordance with FDACS Office of Agricultural Water Policy guidelines. The District will only reimburse for equipment recommended by the MIL and only for equipment considered newer technology. The District will not reimburse for equipment considered maintenance. Equipment eligible for reimbursement includes more efficient nozzle packages, such as Senninger IWOBs or Nelson Rotators, pressure regulators, drop down hoses, adjusting end guns and other associated water savings features. For reimbursement, the producer must provide a copy of the paid invoice, cancelled check (front and back) or some verifiable form of payment, copies of the pre- and post-MIL evaluations, and pictures of the pivot before, during and after the retrofit.

## ATTACHMENT A

### **GPS End-Gun Shut off**

GPS End-gun shut off can reduce water loss by precisely controlling the end-gun operation. For reimbursement, the producer must provide a copy of the paid invoice and cancelled check (front and back) or some verifiable form of payment to vendor providing the equipment. District staff must also verify and photo document the equipment.

### **Grid Soil Sampling**

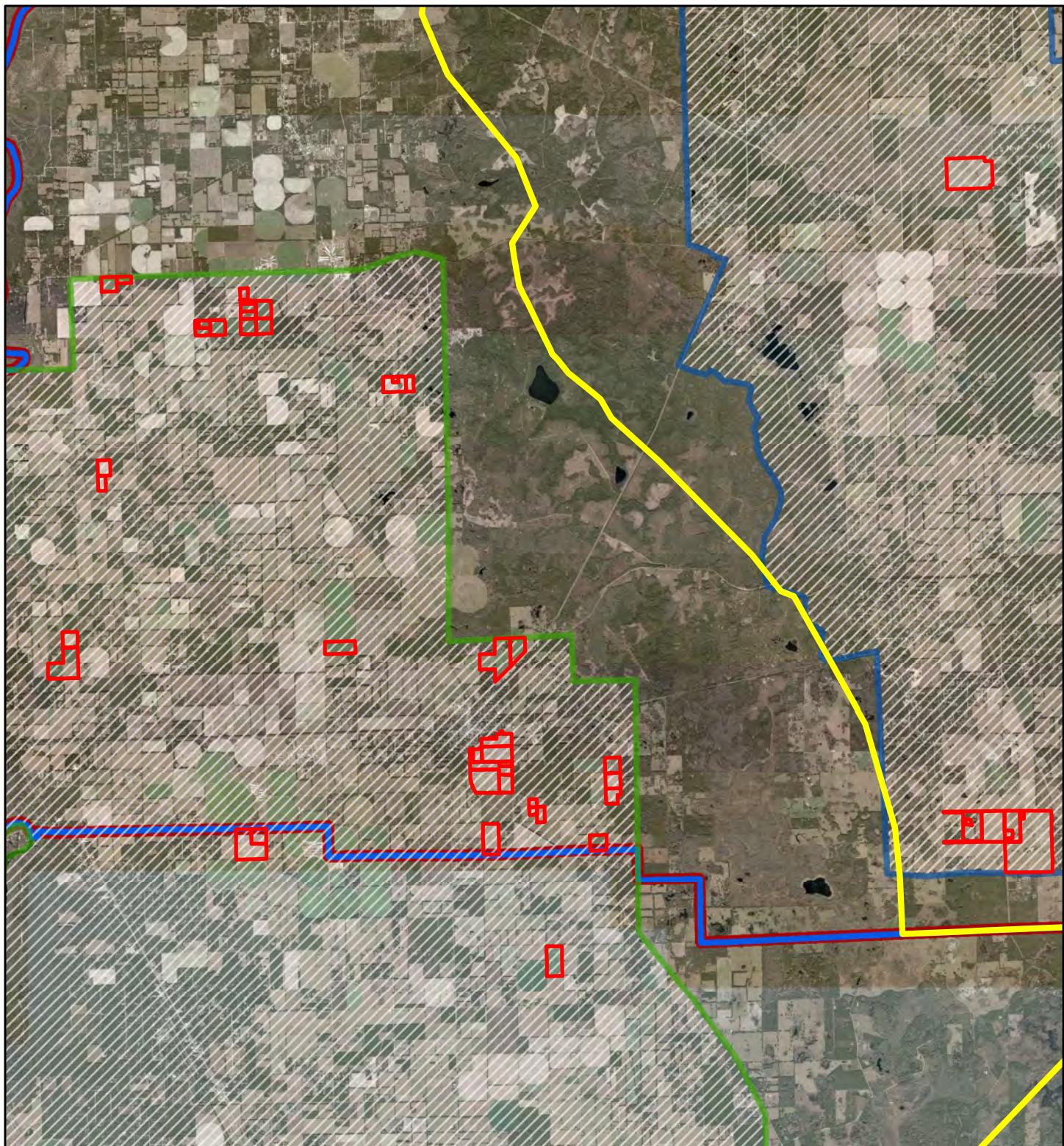
Grid soil sampling allows growers to manage nutrient application in as small a unit as 2.5 acres by having a soil nutrient analysis taken on 2.5-acre grids. Grid sampling can be conducted in straight grids, or alternatively to scientifically delineated zones. Grid-based soil analysis assists growers with applying the needed nutrient in the right amount, at the right time, in the right place, and the right source. Cost-share is limited to 75% up to \$7/acre/year. Straight grids shall be no larger than 10 acres and no smaller than 2.5 acres. When cost-sharing this item, the applicant must variable rate apply nutrients (see below: Variable Rate Nutrient Application) at least once in the season if the sample analysis recommends a variable rate application. For reimbursement, the producer must provide a copy of the sampling map, lab report for the sampling event, the paid invoice, and canceled check (front and back) or some verifiable form of payment to the vendor providing the service. For this item one unit is one acre.

### **Tissue Sampling**

Tissue sampling is a crop management tool that allows growers to make informed decisions with regard to nutrient application by determining their crops nutrient need at various stages of development. This practice assists growers in putting the right source and amount at the right time and place reducing unnecessary nutrient application while maximizing production efficiency. Cost-share is limited to 75% up to \$20/sample, 1 sample/5 acres. These samples must be geo-referenced. For reimbursement, the producer must provide a copy of the sampling map, lab report for the sampling event, the paid invoice, and canceled check (front and back) or some verifiable form of payment to the vendor providing the service. For this item one unit is one acre.

### **Variable Rate Nutrient Application**

Variable rate nutrient application allows growers to have nutrients applied to their fields at a variable rate based upon the results and recommendations of a grid soil sample analysis (see above: Grid Soil Sampling). Variable rate nutrient application allows growers to put the right source and amount at the right time and place, thus eliminating unnecessary nutrient application, and optimizing plant growth efficiency. Cost-share is limited to 75% up to \$9/acre/application, 2 applications/year. For reimbursement, the producer must provide a copy of the prescription map, the paid invoice, and canceled check (front and back) or some verifiable form of payment to the vendor providing the service. For this item one unit is one acre.



### Michael Wilkerson

Cost-Share

January 2026



- Michael Wilkerson
- Suwannee BMAP
- ▢ Fanning Manatee PFA
- ▢ Devils Ear PFA
- ▢ Water Supply Planning Area - East
- Water Supply Planning Area - West

0 0.75 1.5 Miles



Note: This map was created by the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) to be used for planning purposes only. SRWMD shall not be held liable for any injury or damage caused by the use of data distributed as a public records request regardless of their use or application. SRWMD does not guarantee the accuracy, or suitability for any use of these data, and no warranty is expressed or implied. For more information please contact the SRWMD at 386-362-1001.  
Map Created on 12/11/2025

**SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**  
**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Ben Glass, Chief, Office of Administration

THRU: Tim Alexander, Assistant Executive Director, Business and Community Services

DATE: January 14, 2026

RE: Agricultural Cost-Share Contract and Task Work Assignment with Tillis Farms, LLC, Levy County

**RECOMMENDATION**

Authorize the Executive Director to enter into a task work assignment with Tillis Farms, LLC, to implement agricultural cost-share practices for an amount not to exceed \$4,200 and a combined contract total not to exceed \$174,489.68.

**BACKGROUND**

The Suwannee River Water Management District (District) has provided agricultural cost-share funds along with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection as part of the Suwannee River Partnership to help agricultural producers implement best management practices. Best management practices help farmers conserve water and improve water quality in the District.

Tillis Farms, LLC has applied for agricultural cost-share under the District Agricultural Cost-Share Program for a project in Levy County. The original contract and Task Work Assignment was approved by the Executive Director on March 28, 2025, and contained grid soil sampling and variable rate nutrient application. The second task work assignment was approved by the governing board September 9, 2025, and contained soil moisture probes and soil moisture probe service agreement. This new task work assignment contains soil moisture probes for use across 240 acres of peanuts in Levy County. There is one funding source that will be used to execute this contract for an amount not to exceed \$4,200.

This project is located in the Suwannee Basin Management Plan, Eastern water supply planning area, Fanning Manatee Priority Focus Area. The associated water savings estimate for this contract is 0.0654 MDG.

Attachment A lists the cost share items and funding breakdown. Funding for this project is included in the Fiscal Year 2026 Final Budget.

SA/ak  
Attachments

**ATTACHMENT A**

PRODUCER TILLIS FARMS, LLC  
WATER USE PERMIT 220952

Contract 24/25-105  
TBD

BMAP SUWA  
PFA Fanning Manatee  
COUNTY Levy

**Reimburseable Rates for Cost-Share Equipment and Precision Agriculture Practices**

Item	Percent Cost-Share	Maximum Cost-Share per Unit	Producer quote per Unit if provided	No. of Units	Estimated Cost-Share Total	Producer Share	Completion Due Date
LPS0087 Program	<b>Ag Springs Protection</b>				<b>\$4,200.00</b>		
GBD Soil Moisture Probe Purchase	90%	\$2,100.00		2	\$4,200.00	\$466.66	1 year from effective date

**FUNDING**

**Contract Amount \$4,200.00**

Estimated PRODUCER funds \$466.66

## **ATTACHMENT A**

### **District Specifications**

The PRODUCER shall not purchase, install, implement or complete the above authorized EQUIPMENT and/or PRECISION AGRICULTURE PRACTICES prior to the EFFECTIVE DATE of the CONTRACT.

The PRODUCER shall complete the purchase, installation and/or implementation of the authorized EQUIPMENT and/or PRECISION AGRICULTURE PRACTICES in accordance with the above schedule.

The PRODUCER shall be actively participating in the DISTRICT'S AUTOMATED WATER USE MONITORING PROGRAM prior to reimbursement.

The PRODUCER shall maintain compliance with the associated Water Use Permit(s) for the duration of the contract.

All invoices and payments shall have dates showing when they were invoiced and paid. The dates for all financial transactions must coincide within the contract term to be eligible for reimbursement.

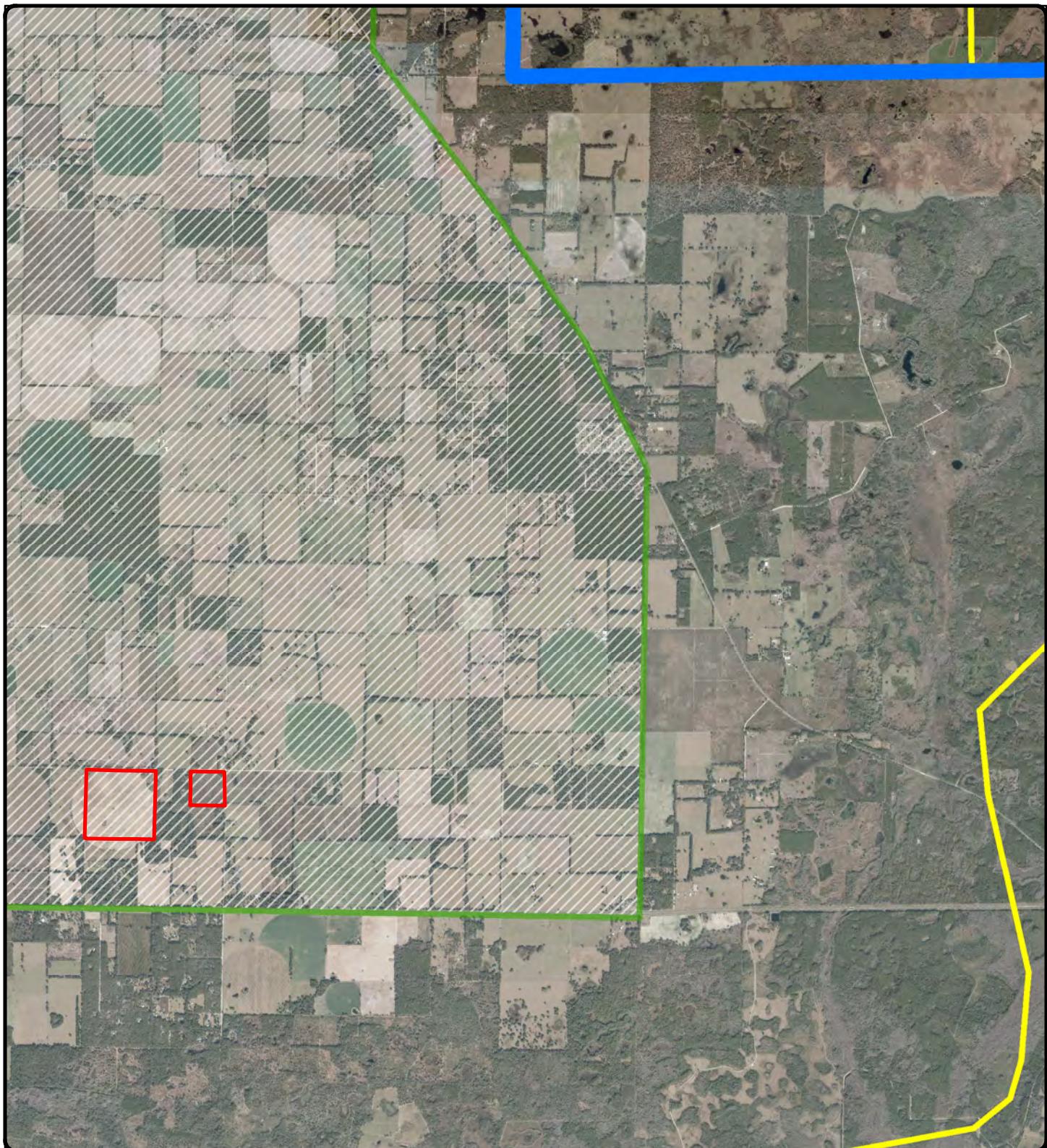
The PRODUCER shall own or have control of the property where the EQUIPMENT and/or PRECISION AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES are located for the duration of the CONTRACT.

The PRODUCER has executed and maintains a current FDACS Notice of Intent (NOI) to comply with Best Management Practices.

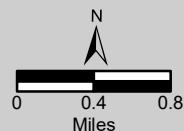
### **District Terms and Conditions**

#### **Soil Moisture Probes Purchase**

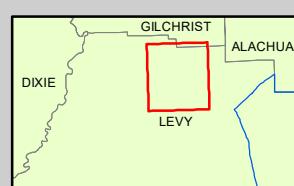
Soil moisture probes (or sensors) measure the soil moisture and electrical conductivity at varying depths within the soil profile, providing real-time data that allows the producer to make informed decisions on when to irrigate and how much irrigation water is needed. This technology when applied properly results in a more efficient and effective use of irrigation water in responding to the crops moisture needs. Probe installation should provide a remote access data platform and a service agreement to help the producer implement the technology. For reimbursement, the producer must provide a copy of the paid invoice, cancelled check (front and back) or some verifiable form of payment to the vendor, installation locations, proof of data reporting, and pictures of the installed probe. For this item one unit is one probe.



- Tillis Farms, LLC
- Fanning Manatee PFA
- Suwannee BMAP
- Water Supply Planning Area - West



## Tillis Farms, LLC. January 2026



Note: This map was created by the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) to be used for planning purposes only. SRWMD shall not be held liable for any injury or damage caused by the use of data distributed as a public records request regardless of their use or application. SRWMD does not guarantee the accuracy, or suitability for any use of these data, and no warranty is expressed or implied. For more information please contact the SRWMD at 386-362-1001.  
Map Created on 5/30/2024

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Pam Shaw, Chief, Office of Finance

THRU: Tim Alexander, Assistant Executive Director, Business and Community Services

DATE: December 12, 2025

RE: November 2025 Financial Report

**RECOMMENDATION**

Approve the November 2025 Financial Report and confirm the expenditures of the District.

**BACKGROUND**

Section 373.553(1), Florida Statutes (F.S.), authorizes the delegation of authority by the Governing Board to the Executive Director to disburse District funds, providing certification is made to the Board at the next regular meeting that such disbursement is proper, in order, and within budgetary limits. In compliance with the statutory provisions in Chapter 373, F.S., the Governing Board of the Suwannee River Water Management District has directed staff to prepare a financial report as attached.

PS/ak  
Attachments

**Suwannee River Water Management District**  
**Cash Report**  
**November 2025**

<b>Financial Institution/Account</b>	<b>Monthly Interest</b>	<b>Closing Balance</b>
First Federal Permit Fee	\$13.18	\$2,653.18
First Federal Accounts Payable	\$47.55	\$35,000.00
First Federal EFT Disbursements	\$0.00	\$0.00
First Federal Depository	\$1,201.04	\$670,607.49
Florida PRIME (SBA LGIA)	\$17,783.49	\$5,235,116.76
First Federal ICS Custodian Account	\$36,401.28	\$12,602,936.91
Special Purpose Investment Account (SPIA)*	<u>\$68,690.59</u>	<u>\$19,825,330.70</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$124,137.13</u></b>	<b><u>\$38,371,645.04</u></b>

\*SPIA is part of the Treasury Investment Pool administered by Florida Department of Financial Services.

**SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**  
**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY - REVENUE AND EXPENSE ROLLUP (UNAUDITED)**  
**FOR 11/30/2025**

	Y-T-D ACTUAL	ENCUMBRANCE	ANNUAL BUDGET
<b>Report Recap -</b>			
<b>REVENUES</b>			
DISTRICT REVENUES	1,319,619	0	9,897,624
LOCAL REVENUES	0	0	0
STATE REVENUES	693,150	0	55,318,210
FEDERAL REVENUES	306,345	0	6,151,500
FUND BALANCE UTILIZATION	44,830	0	12,261,991
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>2,363,944</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>83,629,325</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
SALARIES AND BENEFITS	1,022,830	0	9,206,200
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	980,364	21,951,480	33,066,784
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	366,661	204,671	2,525,400
OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY	1,353	68,317	288,044
FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY	193,252	117,349	11,325,000
INTERAGENCY EXPENDITURES	798,323	14,612,131	27,217,897
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>3,362,783</b>	<b>36,953,948</b>	<b>83,629,325</b>
<b>EXCESS REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>(998,839)</b>	<b>(36,953,948)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>General Fund -</b>			
<b>REVENUES</b>			
DISTRICT REVENUES	978,064	0	7,819,527
LOCAL REVENUES	0	0	0
STATE REVENUES	0	0	6,375,000
FEDERAL REVENUES	0	0	0
FUND BALANCE UTILIZATION	7,093	0	3,855,554
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>985,157</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18,050,081</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
SALARIES AND BENEFITS	927,943	0	8,288,542
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	104,990	1,573,867	3,567,195
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	353,953	108,544	2,229,800
OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY	1,353	68,317	288,044
FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY	193,252	110,849	2,386,000
INTERAGENCY EXPENDITURES	4,342	650,134	1,290,500
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>1,585,833</b>	<b>2,511,711</b>	<b>18,050,081</b>
<b>EXCESS REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>(600,676) *</b>	<b>(2,511,711)</b>	<b>0</b>
<i>*To be reimbursed by State Appropriations and Ad Valorem</i>			
<b>Land Management and Acquisitions -</b>			
<b>REVENUES</b>			
DISTRICT REVENUES	309,764	0	1,578,097
LOCAL REVENUES	0	0	0
STATE REVENUES	0	0	2,985,369
FEDERAL REVENUES	0	0	631,500
FUND BALANCE UTILIZATION	0	0	1,089,937
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>309,764</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,284,903</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
SALARIES AND BENEFITS	94,887	0	912,584
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	117,386	1,823,708	2,817,219
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	12,708	96,128	251,100
OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY	0	0	0
FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY	0	6,500	1,439,000
INTERAGENCY EXPENDITURES	0	453,952	865,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>224,981</b>	<b>2,380,288</b>	<b>6,284,903</b>
<b>EXCESS REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>84,783</b>	<b>(2,380,288)</b>	<b>0</b>

**SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**  
**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY - REVENUE AND EXPENSE ROLLUP (UNAUDITED)**  
**FOR 11/30/2025**

	Y-T-D ACTUAL	ENCUMBRANCE	ANNUAL BUDGET
District Special Revenue -			
REVENUES			
DISTRICT REVENUES	0	0	0
LOCAL REVENUES	0	0	0
STATE REVENUES	0	0	0
FEDERAL REVENUES	0	0	0
FUND BALANCE UTILIZATION	35,955	0	4,589,500
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>35,955</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4,589,500</u>
EXPENDITURES			
SALARIES AND BENEFITS	0	0	0
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	25,349	898,365	2,183,500
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	0	0	30,000
OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY	0	0	0
FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY	0	0	0
INTERAGENCY EXPENDITURES	10,606	1,199,914	2,376,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>35,955</u>	<u>2,098,279</u>	<u>4,589,500</u>
EXCESS REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	<u>0</u>	<u>(2,098,279)</u>	<u>0</u>
State Special Revenue -			
REVENUES			
DISTRICT REVENUES	31,792	0	500,000
LOCAL REVENUES	0	0	0
STATE REVENUES	693,150	0	45,957,841
FEDERAL REVENUES	0	0	0
FUND BALANCE UTILIZATION	1,782	0	2,727,000
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>726,724</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>49,184,841</u>
EXPENDITURES			
SALARIES AND BENEFITS	0	0	5,074
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	426,294	11,030,485	19,990,870
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	0	0	6,500
OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY	0	0	0
FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY	0	0	7,500,000
INTERAGENCY EXPENDITURES	783,375	12,308,131	21,682,397
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>1,209,669</u>	<u>23,338,616</u>	<u>49,184,841</u>
EXCESS REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	<u>(482,945)*</u>	<u>(23,338,616)</u>	<u>0</u>
* To be reimbursed by State Grants			
Federal Special Revenue -			
REVENUES			
DISTRICT REVENUES	0	0	0
LOCAL REVENUES	0	0	0
STATE REVENUES	0	0	0
FEDERAL REVENUES	306,345	0	5,520,000
FUND BALANCE UTILIZATION	0	0	0
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>306,345</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5,520,000</u>
EXPENDITURES			
SALARIES AND BENEFITS	0	0	0
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	306,345	6,625,056	4,508,000
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	0	0	8,000
OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY	0	0	0
FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY	0	0	0
INTERAGENCY EXPENDITURES	0	0	1,004,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>306,345</u>	<u>6,625,056</u>	<u>5,520,000</u>
EXCESS REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	<u>0</u>	<u>(6,625,056)</u>	<u>0</u>

**Suwannee River Water Management District**  
**Statement of Sources and Uses of Funds**  
**For the Month ending November 30, 2025**  
**(Unaudited)**

**Sources**

	Current Budget	Actuals Through 11/30/2025	Variance (Under)/Over Budget	Actuals As A % of Budget
Ad Valorem Property Taxes	\$ 7,307,624	\$ 796,386	\$ (6,511,238)	10.9%
Intergovernmental Revenues	\$ 61,469,710	\$ 999,496	\$ (60,470,214)	1.6%
Interest on Invested Funds	\$ 250,000	\$ 186,546	\$ (63,454)	74.6%
License and Permit Fees	\$ 300,000	\$ 58,220	\$ (241,780)	19.4%
Other	\$ 2,040,000	\$ 278,466	\$ (1,761,534)	13.7%
Fund Balance <sup>1</sup>	\$ 12,261,991	\$ 44,830	\$ (12,217,161)	0.4%
<b>Total Sources</b>	<b>\$ 83,629,325</b>	<b>\$ 2,363,944</b>	<b>\$ (81,265,381)</b>	<b>2.8%</b>

**Uses**

	Current Budget	Expenditures	Encumbrances <sup>2</sup>	Available Budget	%Expended	%Obligated <sup>3</sup>
Water Resources Planning and Monitoring	\$ 11,838,179	\$ 810,407	\$ 8,876,753	\$ 2,151,019	7%	82%
Acquisition, Restoration and Public Works	\$ 57,259,654	\$ 1,404,842	\$ 25,232,435	\$ 30,622,377	2%	47%
Operation and Maintenance of Lands and Works	\$ 9,683,558	\$ 676,113	\$ 2,668,875	\$ 6,338,570	7%	35%
Regulation	\$ 2,507,619	\$ 203,852	\$ 82,645	\$ 2,221,122	8%	11%
Outreach	\$ 291,126	\$ 35,411	\$ 34,180	\$ 221,535	12%	24%
Management and Administration	\$ 2,049,189	\$ 232,159	\$ 89,061	\$ 1,727,969	11%	16%
<b>Total Uses</b>	<b>\$ 83,629,325</b>	<b>\$ 3,362,783</b>	<b>\$ 36,983,949</b>	<b>\$ 43,282,593</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>48%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Actual Fund Balance used is recorded at the end of the fiscal year. This amount represents Fund Balance used for the District Agricultural and RIVER Cost-Share, Regional Water Resource Development, Project Effectiveness Metrics Programs, FY24 Operational Transfer for Hydro/Ag Monitoring, and SRP Ag Cost-Share.

<sup>2</sup> Encumbrances represent unexpended balances of open purchase orders, contracts, and task work assignments.

<sup>3</sup> Represents the sum of expenditures and encumbrances as a percentage of the available budget.

This financial statement is prepared as of November 30, 2025 and covers the interim period since the most recent audited financial statements.

**SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**  
**MEMORANDUM**

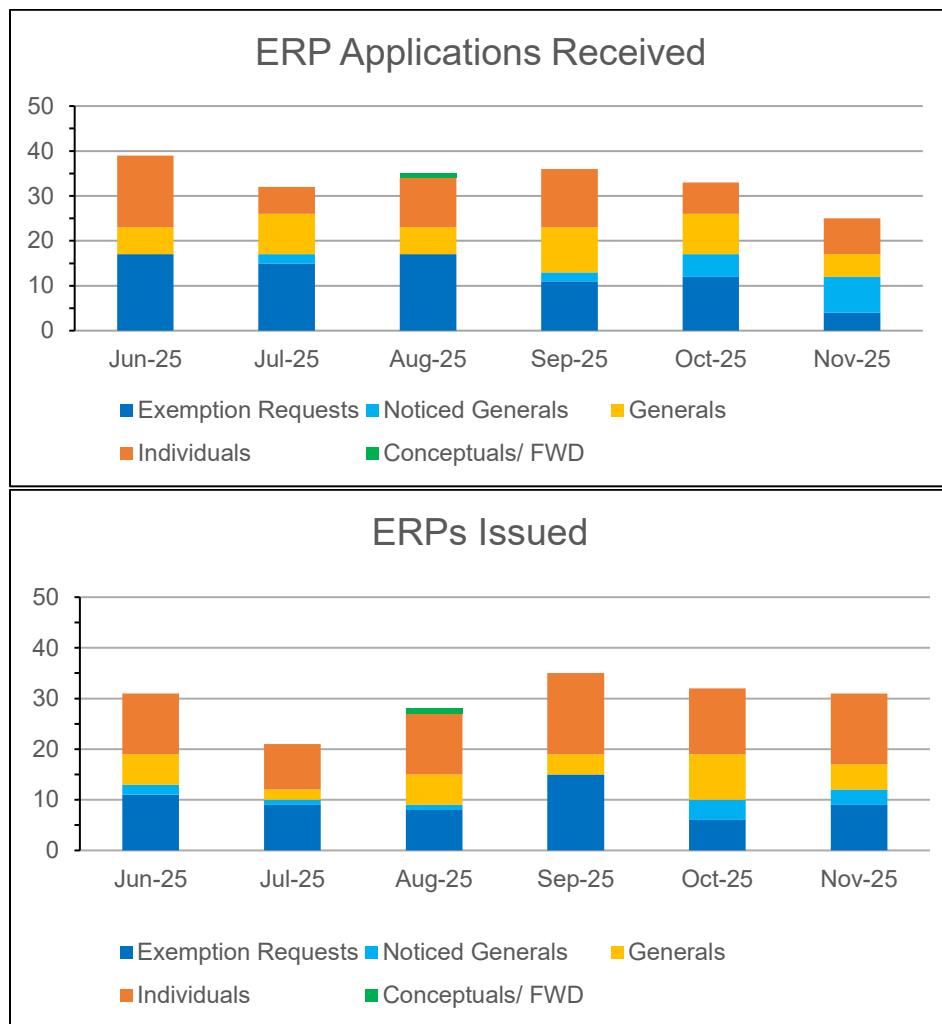
TO: Governing Board

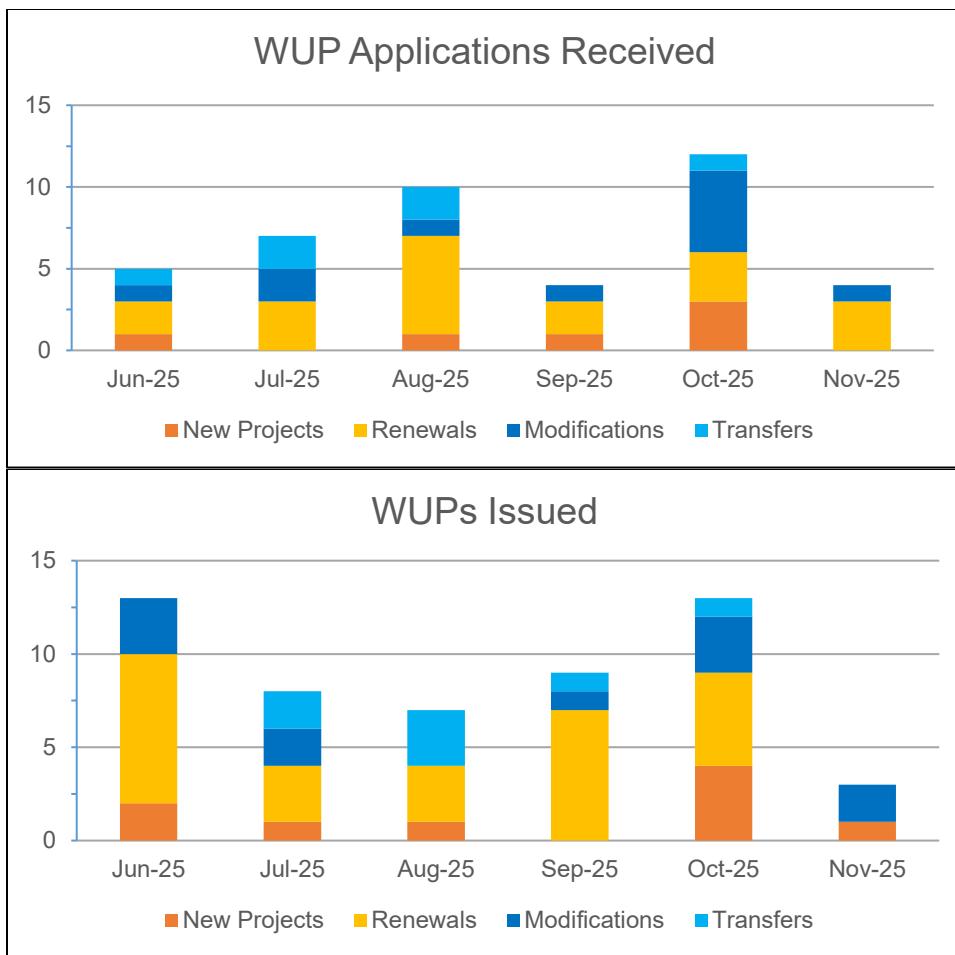
FROM: Leroy Marshall, Director, Resource Management/ Projects Division

THRU: Tim Alexander, Assistant Executive Director, Business and Community Services

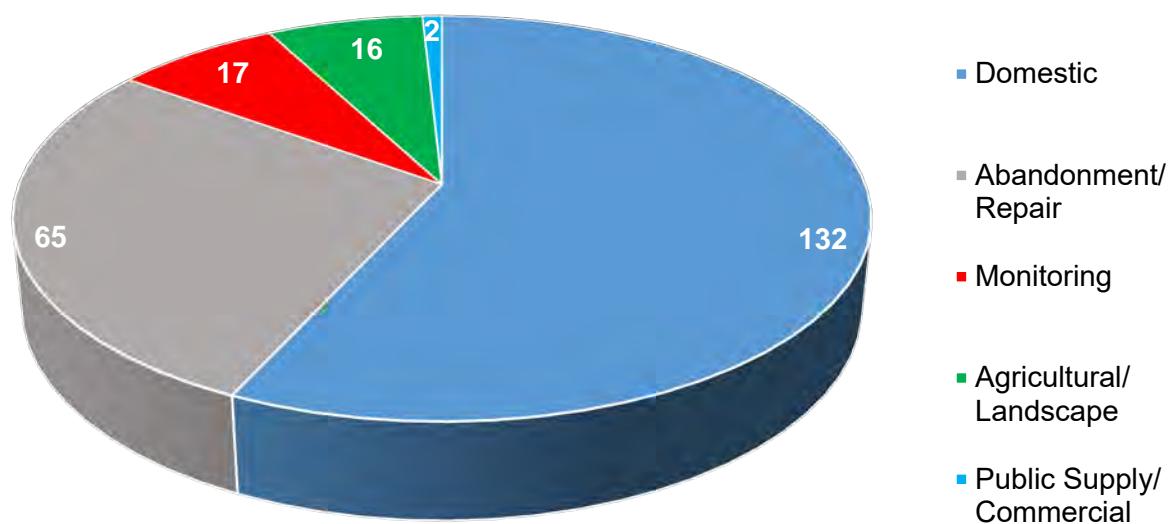
DATE: January 2, 2026

RE: Permitting Summary Report





### Water Well Permits Issued - November 2025



**SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**  
**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Leroy Marshall, Director, Resource Management/ Projects Division

THRU: Tim Alexander, Assistant Executive Director, Business and Community Services

DATE: January 2, 2026

RE: Chapter 40B-3, Florida Administrative Code, Rulemaking

**RECOMMENDATION**

Authorize staff to amend nine rules and repeal three rules in Chapter 40B-3, Florida Administrative Code, Permitting of Well Construction.

**BACKGROUND**

New legislation from the 2025 session, codified in Section 120.5435, Florida Statutes (F.S.), requires all State agencies to conduct a comprehensive review of their rules over the next five years. The District's rule review schedule was submitted in September with our Annual Regulatory Plan. The schedule for 2025/2026 included the review of all 22 rules in Chapter 40B-3, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), Permitting of Well Construction, and the first rule review summary was provided to the Legislature in December 2025. Substantive amendments to nine rules, technical changes to five rules, no changes to five rules, and the repeal of three rules were proposed in the review. The technical changes are currently underway, rulemaking to implement the substantive amendments must begin before April 1, 2026, and rule repeals must be completed by April 1, 2026, pursuant to Section 120.5435(6), F.S.

This comprehensive rulemaking request includes publishing the Notice of Rule Development, publishing the Notice of Proposed Rule, and filing the proposed rules and any changes that do not change the intent of the rulemaking with the Florida Department of State if no objections are received. It also includes authorizing the Executive Director to provide the minor violation certification pursuant to Section 120.695, F.S. The purpose for each rule amendment and repeal shown in the attachment is provided below:

- 40B-3.040 (Scope of Part I): Repeal due to the elimination of reference to Part I of a Chapter that is no longer divided into two parts;
- 40B-3.041 (Permits Required): Amend to clarify exemption criteria, provide an alternative method for drillers to report failed attempts, and establish a general permit by rule for site rehabilitation wells;
- 40B-3.051 (Exemptions): Amend to include additional exemptions for well modifications and wetland piezometers;
- 40B-3.201 (Permit Fees): Amend to simplify rule language and eliminate application fees for District-sponsored well work;
- 40B-3.301 (Conditions for Issuance): Amend to articulate basic conditions for issuance and standard limiting permit conditions;
- 40B-3.341 (Suspension and Revocation of Permits): Repeal to consolidate violations into rule 40B-3.492, F.A.C.;

- 40B-3.451 (Emergency Authorization): Amend to remove specific emergency criteria and simplify rule language;
- 40B-3.461 (Inspection): Amend to remove rule language that paraphrases statutory language and provide regulatory justification for public water supply well site inspections;
- 40B-2.492 (Violations of Permits): Amend to remove ambiguity about actions considered to be violations;
- 40B-2.502 (Construction Methods): Repeal due to incorporation of Chapter 62-532, F.A.C., by reference;
- 40B-3.512 (Well Construction Requirements): Amend to remove duplicative rule language already contained in Chapter 62-532, F.A.C.; and
- 40B-3.531 (Abandoned Well Plugging): Amend to provide lower-cost well abandonment alternatives.

These proposed amendments have been presented to the North Central Florida Water Well Association in a rule workshop held in October 2025 and will be brought before them monthly while rule language is further developed. All amendments either clarify existing rule language, reduce regulatory burdens, or provide lower-cost alternatives; therefore, staff have determined that the requested rulemaking will have no adverse impact on the regulated public.

WZ/tm  
Attachment

## ATTACHMENT A

### 40B-3.040 Scope of Part I.

*Rulemaking Authority 373.044, 373.113, 373.171 FS. Law Implemented 373.303, 373.308, 373.309, 373.316, 373.326, 373.342 FS. History—New 7-1-85, Amended 6-22-99, [Repealed](#) [DATE].*

### 40B-3.041 Permits Required.

(1) Unless expressly exempted in Rule 40B-3.051, F.A.C. by law or District rule, a permit must be obtained from the District prior to the construction, repair, modification, or abandonment of any well within the District. Applications for permits required by this rule shall be considered under the general permit procedures of Chapter 28-107, F.A.C., and, if in a delineated area established by the Department as defined in subsection 62-524.200(2), F.A.C., and as incorporated in Rule 62-524.430, F.A.C., the applicant must also meet the requirements of Chapter 62-524, F.A.C.

(2) A permittee shall obtain a separate permit to abandon any failed attempt to construct a water well unless the drilling depth, casing depth, and location of the failed attempt are documented on the completion report of the completed well at the same permitted location.

(3) A general permit is hereby granted for the construction, repair, or abandonment of a piezometer, monitoring well, or remediation well installed for site rehabilitation conducted as a Department-managed cleanup pursuant to Chapter 376, F.S., provided all of the following conditions are met:

- (a) The work is conducted by, or under the supervision of, a water well contractor;
- (b) The work complies with the construction and abandonment requirements of this Chapter;
- (c) The final water-bearing casing diameter is four inches or less;
- (d) The total borehole depth does not exceed 150 feet; and
- (e) The piezometer or monitoring well is plugged by, or under the supervision of, a water well contractor upon completion of the site remediation.

*Rulemaking Authority 373.044, 373.113, 373.136, 373.171, 373.308, 373.309, 373.333 FS. Law Implemented 373.103, 373.309, 373.313, 373.316, 373.308, 373.309 FS. History—New 4-15-81, Amended 9-15-81, 1-31-83, 1-11-84, 7-1-85, 6-16-88, 8-20-95, 6-22-99, [\[DATE\]](#).*

### 40B-3.051 Exemptions.

The following activities wells are exempt from the requirements of this Chapter Rule 40B-3.041, F.A.C.:

- (1) through (2) No change.
- (3) Modification of a potable well to a non-potable well type.
- (4) Installation of piezometers or monitoring wells to monitor wetlands or other surface waters.

*Rulemaking Authority 373.044, 373.113, 373.171, 373.323(8), 373.324(1), 373.333(1), 373.337 FS. Law Implemented 373.303, 373.308, 373.309, 373.313, 373.316, 373.326 FS. History—New 4-15-81, Amended 1-31-83, 7-1-85, 6-22-99, 10-18-22, [\[DATE\]](#).*

### 40B-3.201 Permit Fees.

(1) Section 373.109, F.S., authorizes the Governing Board to establish a schedule of fees for filing applications for permits required by District rules. The schedule of fees is listed in TABLE 1 SCHEDULE OF WATER WELL PERMIT FEES. Permit application fees are nonrefundable and shall be due at the time of filing an application. Unless otherwise specified by District rule, the date of filing shall be considered to be the date received by the District. Fees are nonrefundable. Failure of an applicant any person to pay the fees established herein is grounds for the denial of the a permit application or revocation of a permit.

(2) Upon delegation of the administration of a permitting program from the Department to the District, the fees for such permits established by Department rule shall be collected by the District pursuant to Section 373.109, F.S.

(2) (3) Any portion of the fees enumerated in this rule in excess of \$100 shall be waived for well permits issued on behalf of a municipality any city or county government qualified under upon receipt of a certification from such city or county of hardship required in Section 218.075, F.S. Any such certification shall be presumed to be valid for the entire fiscal year of the city or county during which certification is made, unless the certification clearly indicates a duration to the contrary.

(3) (4) Fees for permits to construct or repair wells required by this Chapter shall be as listed in Table 1 below, and shall apply to each well constructed or repaired. No fee shall be required for a permit to abandon or modify a well; or for wells constructed or repaired for the District.

(4) Water well contractor licensing fees are enumerated in Rule 62-531.340, F.A.C.

**TABLE 1 SCHEDULE OF WATER WELL PERMIT FEES** No change

*Rulemaking Authority 373.044, 373.109, 373.113, 373.171, 373.323(8), 373.324(1), 373.333(1), 373.337 FS. Law Implemented 218.075, 373.109, 373.308, 373.309, 373.313 FS. History—New 4-15-81, Amended 9-15-81, 1-31-83, 7-1-85, 6-16-88, 6-22-99, 10-18-22, [DATE].*

**Substantial rewording of Rule 40B-3.301, F.A.C. follows. See Florida Administrative Code for present text.**

**40B-3.301 Conditions for Issuance of Permits.**

(1) In order to obtain a water well construction, repair, modification, or abandonment permit, an applicant must provide reasonable assurance that the following conditions have been met:

- (a) The applicant has submitted a complete permit application as set forth in Rule 40B-3.101, F.A.C.;
- (b) The applicant has submitted the appropriate permit application fee as set forth in Rule 40B-3.201, F.A.C.;
- (c) The proposed well will meet the criteria in this Chapter and Chapter 62-532, F.A.C., which is incorporated by reference in subsection 40B-3.035(3), F.A.C.;
- (d) The proposed well, if located in a delineated area, will meet the criteria in this Chapter and Chapter 62-524, F.A.C., which is incorporated by reference in subsection 40B-3.035(4), F.A.C.;
- (e) The proposed well will not adversely impact the groundwater resources of the District; and
- (f) A Water Use Permit, if applicable under Chapter 40B-2, F.A.C., has been obtained. When considering well diameter for Water Use Permit applicability, the smallest water bearing well casing diameter installed as set forth in Rule 40B-3.517, F.A.C., shall be used.

(2) The following standard limiting conditions shall be included in any permit issued under this Chapter:

(a) The well contractor shall follow the well construction, repair, modification, or abandonment plan described in the application and authorized in this permit. Changes to the plan are not authorized unless approved in advance by the District.

(b) The well contractor shall meet the sanitary hazard setback requirements of Chapter 62-532, F.A.C., Table 1. Variances from these setbacks are not authorized unless approved in advance by the District.

(c) The well contractor shall have this permit available for inspection on-site during all phases of well construction, repair, modification, or abandonment.

(d) The well contractor shall submit a Well Completion Report as set forth in Rule 40B-3.411, F.A.C., within 30 days of the completion of the construction, repair, modification, or abandonment authorized by this permit.

(e) The well owner shall provide District staff access to the well site during all phases of well construction, repair, modification, or abandonment.

(f) Issuance of this permit does not relieve the well owner of obtaining any necessary federal, state, local, or special District permits or authorizations.

(g) The well contractor shall supervise on-site any person or driller subcontractor that will be conducting all or part of the construction, repair, modification, or abandonment authorized by this permit. This condition does not apply to drillers that are employees of the well contractor's business, or are Florida licensed water well contractors themselves.

(3) Special limiting conditions based upon well use, drilling method, or drilling location may be included in any permit issued under this Chapter to ensure the protection of the groundwater resources. Upon receipt of notice of intended agency action, any substantially affected person shall have the right to request a hearing in accordance with Chapter 28-106, F.A.C.

*Rulemaking Authority 373.044, 373.113, 373.171, 373.308, 373.309, 373.136, 373.333 FS. Law Implemented 373.103, 373.306, 373.308, 373.309, 373.313, 373.333, 373.342 FS. History—New 4-15-81, Amended 9-15-81, 1-31-83, 7-1-85, 8-20-95, 6-22-99, [DATE].*

#### **40B-3.341 Suspension and Revocation of Permits.**

*Rulemaking Authority 373.044, 373.113, 373.171 FS. Law Implemented 373.103, 373.306, 373.308, 373.309, 373.313, 373.342 FS. History—New 4-15-81, Amended 9-15-81, 1-31-83, 7-1-85, 6-22-99, Repealed [DATE].*

#### **40B-3.451 Emergency Authorization.**

(1) Emergency permits may be applied for as set forth in Rule 62-532.420, F.A.C. Upon verbal authorization, the permittee shall submit application as set forth in Rule 40B-3.101, F.A.C., within 10 days, issued by the Executive Director or his designee when one of the following conditions exists:

(a) An existing well supplying a particular use has failed and must be immediately replaced or repaired;

(b) The health, safety, or general welfare of the people of this District would be jeopardized without such authorization;

(c) Emergency authorization is needed to immediately mitigate or resolve potentially hazardous degradation of water resources; or

(d) A serious set of unforeseen and unforeseeable circumstances exists which creates the emergency.

(2) Emergency permits may be applied for and issued orally. Mere carelessness or lack of planning on the part of the applicant shall, contractor, or driller will not constitute sufficient cause for the issuance of an emergency permit.

(3) The applicant for an emergency permit shall submit the application and fee in accordance with Rules 40B-3.101 and 40B-3.201, F.A.C., and any other requested information within ten days after making oral application.

(3) (4) Rule 40B-3.411, F.A.C., and Part II—The provisions of this Chapter shall apply to all construction, repair, modification, or abandonment performed under an emergency permit unless the rules are waived by the Executive Director or his designee in conformance with Section 120.542, F.S.

*Rulemaking Authority 373.044, 373.171 FS. Law Implemented 373.308, 373.309, 373.313, 373.326, 373.342 FS. History—New 4-15-81, Amended 1-31-83, 7-1-85, 6-22-99, [DATE].*

#### **40B-3.461 Inspection.**

(1) In addition to the provisions of Rule 62-532.510, F.A.C., The Department or the District is authorized to inspect any well, including those wells permitted under Rule 40B-3.041, F.A.C., within its jurisdiction as it deems necessary to ensure conformity with this Chapter, pursuant to Section 373.319, F.S. applicable standards. Such inspection may include, but not be limited to, geophysical logging, water level measurements, or other methods. Duly authorized representatives of the Department or the District may, upon proper identification and at reasonable times, enter upon and shall be given access to any premises for the purpose of such inspection.

(2) If, upon the basis of such inspection, the District finds the standards of Part II have not been met, the District shall give the contractor and owner, if applicable, a written notice stating which rules have been violated and shall order that necessary corrective action be taken within a reasonable length of time to be prescribed in such order.

(2) (3) The District is authorized to inspect the proposed location of a public supply well to verify compliance with setbacks listed in Table 1 of Chapter 62-532, F.A.C., prior to permit issuance. A site inspection shall be conducted by an authorized representative of the District prior to issuing a permit for construction of a public supply well.

(3) (4) The District shall be notified no less than at least 24 hours in advance of the placement of grout in any public supply well. A District representative may be on site to observe the grouting. If the District is properly notified and a representative is not at the site at the appointed time, the grouting shall be accomplished in the representative's absence.

(5) If, upon basis of an inspection, the District finds any well is a potential hazard to the water resources, the well shall be plugged in accordance with Part II.

*Rulemaking Authority 373.044, 373.171 FS. Law Implemented 373.103, 373.308, 373.309, 373.319 FS. History-New 4-15-81, Amended 9-15-81, 1-31-83, 7-1-85, 6-22-99, [DATE].*

#### **40B-3.492 Violations of Permits.**

(1) In addition to those violations set forth in Rule 62-531.450, F.A.C., aActions, omissions, or conduct which are also considered as violations of this Chapter for the purposes of Part II shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (a) Failure to file an accurate permit application; Failure to obtain a permit where required under Rule 40B-3.041, F.A.C.
- (b) Failure to comply with any or all permit conditions; -
- (c) Failure to submit a completion report within 30 days of the completion of the construction, repair, or abandonment of any well.
- (c) ~~(d)~~ Failure to file an accurate well completion report; and -
- (e) Failure to report to the district within 30 days of expiration of the permit when no work is performed or the well is not completed.
- (f) Failure to notify the District 24 hours prior to the grouting of the annular space of any public supply well.
- (d) Construction, repair, modification, or abandonment of a well in a manner that adversely impacts the water resources.

(2) Actions which may be taken by District staff upon determination that a violation has occurred are set forth in the Department's Water Well Construction Disciplinary Guidelines and Citations Dictionary, which is incorporated by reference in subsection 40B-3.035(2), F.A.C. outlined in Chapter 40B-1, F.A.C.

*Rulemaking Authority 373.044, 373.113, 373.171 FS. Law Implemented 373.308, 373.309, 373.316, 373.333, 373.336, 373.337, 373.342 FS. History-New 7-1-85, Amended 6-22-99, [DATE].*

#### **40B-3.502 Construction Methods.**

*Rulemaking Authority 373.044, 373.171, 373.309 FS. Law Implemented 373.113, 373.306, 373.308, 373.309, 373.316 FS. History-New 7-1-85, Amended 6-22-99, Repealed [DATE].*

#### **40B-3.512 Well Construction Requirements.**

(1) Wells shall be constructed, repaired, or modified as set forth in this Chapter and Chapter 62-532, F.A.C., which is incorporated by reference in subsection 40B-3.035(3), F.A.C. In the construction of a well, reasonable caution shall be taken to maintain the premises in sanitary condition and to minimize the entrance of contaminants into the water resource. Water and materials used in construction shall be reasonably free of contamination.

(2) Potable wells located in delineated areas shall be constructed, repaired, or modified as set forth in this Chapter and Chapter 62-524, F.A.C., which is incorporated by reference in subsection 40B-3.035(4), F.A.C. For wells which penetrate multiple aquifers or zones, the well shall be completed so as to prevent cross-contamination of different aquifers or zones if significantly different water quality exists between these aquifers or zones, and to prevent leakage of water from one aquifer or zone to another aquifer or zone.

(3) For wells completed into unconsolidated aquifers, casing shall extend from land surface to the well screen.

~~The well screen shall be attached to the casing with a watertight seal.~~

~~(4) For wells obtaining water from consolidated aquifers, a continuous casing shall extend from land surface into the top of the producing aquifer, provided however, that the bottom end of the well casing must extend to or below the static water level of the aquifer intended to supply the water to the well. In addition, all caving zones below the uppermost consolidated unit shall be cased.~~

*Rulemaking Authority 373.044, ~~373.309~~, 373.171, ~~373.308~~, ~~373.309~~ FS. Law Implemented 373.306, 373.308, 373.309, 373.113 FS. History—New 7-1-85, Amended 6-22-99, [DATE].*

**Substantial rewording of Rule 40B-3.531, F.A.C. follows. See Florida Administrative Code for present text.**

**40B-3.531 Abandoned Well Plugging.**

(1) All abandoned water wells, abandoned artesian wells, and wells that no longer serve an intended purpose shall be plugged using all or a combination of the following materials and methods unless an alternative abandonment plan is approved in advance by the District in accordance with Section 373.326(1), F.S.:

(a) Neat cement grout or a bentonite slurry applied from the bottom of the originally drilled depth of the well to the upper well terminus using the tremie method.

(b) Bentonite chip material introduced into the well as follows:

1. The material is screened at land surface to remove fine particles prior to introduction into the well;
2. The material is only placed below the static water level; and
3. The material is introduced into the well in a manner that prevents bridging.

(c) Clean sand or aggregate introduced into the well as follows:

1. The material is used after significant loss of grout has occurred or is anticipated;
2. The integrity of any confining unit is maintained;
3. The material is introduced into the well in a manner that prevents bridging; and
4. The material is not used to plug any portion of the well casing.

(2) In addition to the provisions set forth in subsection 40B-3.531(1), F.A.C., the following methods are authorized for well abandonments:

(a) Wells completed or plugged to a depth of less than 40 feet may be abandoned by pouring neat cement grout through a tremie until return is observed at land surface;

(b) Piezometers or monitoring wells that do not penetrate any consolidated or confining units may be abandoned by the removal of the entire length of well casing and screen, and plugging the portion of the borehole that does not naturally infill as set forth in this Section.

(3) All well abandonments shall be finished with no less than a one-foot thickness of neat cement grout at the top of the remaining borehole or within the upper well terminus, regardless of whether the upper well terminus is buried post-plugging.

*Rulemaking Authority 373.044, 373.171, 373.309 FS. Law Implemented ~~373.206~~, 373.306, 373.308, 373.309, ~~373.313~~, ~~373.316~~ ~~373.413~~ FS. History—New 7-1-85, Amended 6-22-99, [DATE].*

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Leroy Marshall, Director, Resource Management/Projects Division

THRU: Tim Alexander, Assistant Executive Director, Business and Community Services

DATE: January 2, 2026

RE: Agriculture and Environmental Projects Monthly Report

Attached for your information is the Agriculture and Environmental Projects Monthly Report.

LMII/tm  
Attachment

# Office of Agriculture and Environmental Projects Monthly Report

Period ending November 30, 2025

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS PROGRAM</b>		
	Number of Contracts	Amount under contract
Active Contracts	17	\$ 11,473,027
Completed within the last 6 months	5	\$ 12,417,073
<b>Totals</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>\$ 23,890,100</b>

<b>AGRICULTURAL COST-SHARE PROGRAM</b>		
	Number of Contracts	Amount under contract
Active Contracts	184	\$ 15,035,197
Completed within the last 6 months	18	\$ 2,735,319
<b>Totals</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>\$ 17,770,516</b>

<b>FLOOD RISK OUTREACH AND MAPPING PROGRAM</b>		
	Number of Contracts	Amount under contract
Number of Contracts (TWAs)	21	\$ 11,113,822
Completed within the last 6 months	0	\$ -
<b>Totals</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>\$ 11,113,822</b>
<b>TOTAL CONTRACTS / TWAs</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>\$ 52,774,438</b>

<b>AEP APPLICATIONS</b>	
	Number of Projects
Agriculture Applications under review	23
AWS and Springs	0
Conceptual Projects under review	9
Projects in Queue	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34</b>

<b>AEP FUNDING SOURCES</b>		
	Number of Grants	Grant amount provided
District	3	\$ 10,461,592
FDEP	36	\$ 58,683,926
Federal through FDEP	5	\$ 14,600,000
Federal (CTP Program)	7	\$ 11,359,417
Cooperator Match	-	\$ 12,666,986
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>\$ 107,771,921</b>

FDEP	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
CTP	Cooperating Technical Partner (FEMA)
AEP	Agriculture and Environmental Projects
TWA	Task Work Order
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Leroy Marshall, Director, Resource Management/Projects Division

THRU: Tim Alexander, Assistant Executive Director, Business and Community Services

DATE: January 2, 2026

RE: GBD26-0001, Regional Initiative Valuing Environmental Resources Cost-Share Program Directive Amendment

**RECOMMENDATION**

Approval of Governing Board Directive GBD26-0001 for the Suwannee River Water Management District Regional Initiative Valuing Environmental Resources Cooperative Funding Program.

**BACKGROUND**

The Governing Board originally adopted the Regional Initiative Valuing Environmental Resources (RIVER) directive on October 12, 2012, which provides guidelines to staff for selecting entities requesting cost-share funding to implement projects that protect and improve the District's core mission areas. The directive has been revised and improved twice since then. In the current and past directives, eligibility for funding has been open to public and other interested entities without a clear indication of what other entities may apply. To eliminate confusion, staff recommend revising this ambiguous language by specifically indicating that nonprofit land conservation trusts are the only non-public entities eligible for RIVER cost-share. Additional edits in the directive correct grammatical errors.

This Directive will supersede the previous Directive 25-0006.

MD/tm

**SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
GOVERNING BOARD DIRECTIVE**

**Directive Number:** **GBD26-000X**

**Date Approved:** **January 13, 2026**

**Subject:** **Regional Initiative Valuing Environmental Resources (RIVER) Cooperative Funding Program**

**Approval:**



**Virginia Johns, Chair**

**Charles Keith, Secretary/Treasurer**

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**1.0 Reference to Prior Directive**

This directive supersedes GBD12-0004, ~~and~~ GBD22-0003, ~~and~~ GBD25-0006.

**2.0 Purpose and Intent**

The purpose of this Directive is to establish a policy and procedure for the Regional Initiative Valuing Environmental Resources (RIVER) Cooperative Funding Program. The intent of this Directive is to offer District funding assistance to public entities and ~~other interested entities~~nonprofit land conservation trusts (local entities), through a conceptual portal submission webpage and ranking process, to implement projects that protect and improve the District's core mission areas of water supply, water quality, natural systems, and flood protection.

**3.0 Statement of Policy**

In accordance with Chapter Section 373.083(1), Florida Statutes (F.S.), the Governing Board (Board) may participate and cooperate with a county government, town, city, municipality, water supply and/or wastewater utility or ~~other interested entity~~local entities~~nonprofit land conservation trust~~ in water management projects of mutual benefit, provided such projects are consistent with the District's statutory authority and will ensure proper development, utilization, and conservation of the water resources and ecology within the jurisdictional boundaries of the District.

**4.0 Policy Guidelines**

1. The Board will give priority consideration to those projects designed to protect or improve multiple District core mission areas and that are located in ~~high~~high-priority areas.

2. The Board will consider the local entities' entity's efforts in developing and implementing monitoring and best management practices.
3. Funding may be provided to assist with the cost of water conservation, water quality, and ecosystem restoration, alternative water supply, water resource development, and construction of associated capital projects.
4. Funding assistance will be contingent upon past and current project performance and commitment by the local entity to ensure the project goals will be implemented.
5. The Board will consider funding based on the local entities' entity's ability to demonstrate that the project supports or improves the District's core missions areas and such funding is necessary to make the project economically feasible.
6. The local entity must demonstrate that matching funds or in-kind services have been appropriated, are contained within a Capital Improvement Plan, or otherwise committed to the project.
7. Any state or federal appropriations or grant monies received by a local entity for a specific project shall be first applied toward the total cost of the local entities' that proposed project. The District may fund up to 50 percent of the remaining project costs.
8. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 288.06561, F.S., the Board may reduce or waive requirements for matching funds when requested by rural counties or municipalities, as defined by Subsection 288.0656, F.S.
9. All projects submitted for funding consideration must be signed by a single Senior Administrator acting as a coordinator for the local entity. If a local entity submits multiple projects, a priority ranking of the projects is required.
10. The local entity must be in compliance with all District Water Use Permits, Water Well Construction rules, and/or Environmental Resource Permits as well as any previous or current District contracts.
11. Final approval for funding of the project proposals are-is the exclusive responsibility of the Board and the Executive Director in accordance with the District's procurement procedures relating to signature authority as found in section 20 of the Procedures Manual.
12. The Executive Director's signature authority and maximum funding allowed under said authority are established by the Board and can be found in the Procedures Manual. The signature authority applies to each individual or contract entity over the course of the contractual agreement. Requests to enter into or amend a contract that meet or exceed the signature authority for an individual or entity during the fiscal year or in aggregate, must be brought to the Board for approval.

## **5.0 Procedure**

1. In coordination with the District's annual planning and budgeting process, the District will allocate an amount of cooperative funding for projects submitted through the conceptual portal.
2. Deadline for Submittal - Project applications may be submitted to the conceptual portal at any time. Project applications received will be reviewed and can be modified by the local entity until the application is determined to be complete by the District review team (Team). Complete project applications will be moved to the Projects Queue.
3. Information Requirements - Each project proposal shall include a completed application form, taking into consideration the information known at the time, the type of project and the criteria noted on the application form. At a minimum, the application should include:
  - project name;
  - applicant's project manager;

- address; phone number; project manager's email address;
- project type;
- strategic initiatives;
- counties and watershed/basin to benefit from the project;
- project objectives and goals;
- project description;
- location map;
- conceptual plans;
- project costs/benefits;
- best management practices or technologies to be implemented;
- a monitoring plan;
- available funding sources; and
- assurance that matching funds are in an approved capital improvement plan or within a current or proposed budget. Multiple project proposals must be ranked in order of priority.

4. Evaluation Criteria –The Team will consider:

- the quality of the application as measured by thoroughness and clarity;
- the location of the project;
- the applicant's past performance in the RIVER Cooperative Funding Program;
- the effectiveness of the project to protect, conserve, restore, or augment the area's water resources and ecology;
- the use of best management practices;
- the cost effectiveness of the project;
- the regional nature of the project;
- the potential of the project to start and proceed in a timely manner;
- if the application is for a multi-year or phased project, the project benefits to be realized if future phases are not funded;
- the results of a pre-application meeting with state regulatory agencies;
- counties and municipalities meeting the rural community definition established by Section 288.0656, F.S., may request a reduction or waiver of financial match, pursuant to the provisions of Section 288.06561, F.S., As a part of such requests, the county or municipality must demonstrate how they meet the requirements of Section 288.0656, F.S.;
- if the local ~~entities'-entity's~~ matching funds are included in an approved capital improvement plan or budgeted at the time of application, the appropriate documentation from the plan or budget indicating the local entities' matching funds are available must be included as part of the application. Otherwise, the Senior Administrator shall attest the local ~~entities'-entity's~~ matching funds will be included in ~~the local entities' their~~ proposed budget no later than for the year the project is submitted; and
- projects are limited to a 15 percent cap on contingency requests, unless justification by applicant is provided.

5. The Executive Director may authorize project review termination when the Team has determined that the project does not provide the necessary benefits to the core mission areas of the District, duplicates efforts, or provides deliverables or outcomes that are not consistent with the District's needs. Terminated projects shall be included in the annual report to the Board.

6. Projects determined to be complete, beneficial to the District, and protecting or enhancing the core missions of the District shall be placed in the Project Queue. Projects will remain in the Project Queue until they are:

- withdrawn by the applicant;

- funded by the District; -or
- recommended and/or submitted for external funding.

7. Projects remaining in the queue in excess of one year may need to be resubmitted for evaluation.
8. Yearly Project Funding - Projects in the Project Queue may be funded throughout the year by either external funding sources or by District funding. For funding by external funding sources, the District may provide funding for the match requirements of the external funding source. For match funding or for projects funded by the District, final approval for funding of the project proposals ~~are-is~~ the exclusive responsibility of the Board and the Executive Director in accordance with the District's procurement procedures relating to signature authority as found in section 20 of the Procedures Manual. The Executive Director's signature authority and maximum funding allowed under said authority are established by the Board and can be found in the Procedures Manual. The signature authority applies to each individual or contract entity over the course of the contractual agreement. Requests to enter into or amend a contract that meets or exceeds the signature authority for an individual or entity during the fiscal year or in aggregate, must be brought to the Board for approval.
9. RIVER Project Prioritization/Recommendations - On or immediately after May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, the Team shall meet to prioritize all project proposals in the Project Queue. Based on prioritization and available funding, projects under consideration or recommended by the Team shall be presented to the Board no later than September of that year. In addition, all projects that have been terminated, funded by the District, submitted to external funding sources, and projects remaining in the Projects Queue will be presented to the Board.
10. Once a project has been approved and included in the adopted budget, a contractual agreement will be prepared for execution by the involved parties. The contract, at a minimum, shall set forth:
  - the specific commitments and obligations of each party;
  - financial and other considerations to be exchanged;
  - indemnification and damages to be paid upon injury, default or termination;
  - the term of completion of the project; and
  - performance measures.

**SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
GOVERNING BOARD DIRECTIVE**

**Directive Number:** **GBD26-0001**

**Date Approved:** **January 13, 2026**

**Subject:** **Regional Initiative Valuing Environmental Resources (RIVER) Cooperative Funding Program**

**Approval:**



Virginia Johns, Chair

Charles Keith, Secretary/Treasurer

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**1.0 Reference to Prior Directive**

This directive supersedes GBD12-0004, GBD22-0003, and GBD25-0006.

**2.0 Purpose and Intent**

The purpose of this Directive is to establish a policy and procedure for the Regional Initiative Valuing Environmental Resources (RIVER) Cooperative Funding Program. The intent of this Directive is to offer District funding assistance to public entities and nonprofit land conservation trusts (local entities), through a conceptual portal submission webpage and ranking process, to implement projects that protect and improve the District's core mission areas of water supply, water quality, natural systems, and flood protection.

**3.0 Statement of Policy**

In accordance with Section 373.083(1), Florida Statutes (F.S.), the Governing Board (Board) may participate and cooperate with a county government, town, city, municipality, water supply and/or wastewater utility or nonprofit land conservation trust in water management projects of mutual benefit, provided such projects are consistent with the District's statutory authority and will ensure proper development, utilization, and conservation of the water resources and ecology within the jurisdictional boundaries of the District.

**4.0 Policy Guidelines**

1. The Board will give priority consideration to those projects designed to protect or improve multiple District core mission areas and that are located in high-priority areas.
2. The Board will consider the local entity's efforts in developing and implementing monitoring and best management practices.

3. Funding may be provided to assist with the cost of water conservation, water quality, and ecosystem restoration, alternative water supply, water resource development, and construction of associated capital projects.
4. Funding assistance will be contingent upon past and current project performance and commitment by the local entity to ensure the project goals will be implemented.
5. The Board will consider funding based on the local entity's ability to demonstrate that the project supports or improves the District's core missions areas and such funding is necessary to make the project economically feasible.
6. The local entity must demonstrate that matching funds or in-kind services have been appropriated, are contained within a Capital Improvement Plan, or otherwise committed to the project.
7. Any state or federal appropriations or grant monies received by a local entity for a specific project shall be first applied toward the total cost of that proposed project. The District may fund up to 50 percent of the remaining project costs.
8. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 288.06561, F.S., the Board may reduce or waive requirements for matching funds when requested by rural counties or municipalities, as defined by Subsection 288.0656, F.S.
9. All projects submitted for funding consideration must be signed by a single Senior Administrator acting as a coordinator for the local entity. If a local entity submits multiple projects, a priority ranking of the projects is required.
10. The local entity must be in compliance with all District Water Use Permits, Water Well Construction rules, and/or Environmental Resource Permits as well as any previous or current District contracts.
11. Final approval for funding of the project proposals is the exclusive responsibility of the Board and the Executive Director in accordance with the District's procurement procedures relating to signature authority as found in section 20 of the Procedures Manual.
12. The Executive Director's signature authority and maximum funding allowed under said authority are established by the Board and can be found in the Procedures Manual. The signature authority applies to each individual or contract entity over the course of the contractual agreement. Requests to enter into or amend a contract that meet or exceed the signature authority for an individual or entity during the fiscal year or in aggregate, must be brought to the Board for approval.

## **5.0 Procedure**

1. In coordination with the District's annual planning and budgeting process, the District will allocate an amount of cooperative funding for projects submitted through the conceptual portal.
2. Deadline for Submittal - Project applications may be submitted to the conceptual portal at any time. Project applications received will be reviewed and can be modified by the local entity until the application is determined to be complete by the District review team (Team). Complete project applications will be moved to the Projects Queue.
3. Information Requirements - Each project proposal shall include a completed application form, taking into consideration the information known at the time, the type of project and the criteria noted on the application form. At a minimum, the application should include:
  - project name;
  - applicant's project manager;
  - address; phone number; project manager's email address;
  - project type;
  - strategic initiatives;

- counties and watershed/basin to benefit from the project;
- project objectives and goals;
- project description;
- location map;
- conceptual plans;
- project costs/benefits;
- best management practices or technologies to be implemented;
- a monitoring plan;
- available funding sources; and
- assurance that matching funds are in an approved capital improvement plan or within a current or proposed budget. Multiple project proposals must be ranked in order of priority.

4. Evaluation Criteria –The Team will consider:
  - the quality of the application as measured by thoroughness and clarity;
  - the location of the project;
  - the applicant's past performance in the RIVER Cooperative Funding Program;
  - the effectiveness of the project to protect, conserve, restore, or augment the area's water resources and ecology;
  - the use of best management practices;
  - the cost effectiveness of the project;
  - the regional nature of the project;
  - the potential of the project to start and proceed in a timely manner;
  - if the application is for a multi-year or phased project, the project benefits to be realized if future phases are not funded;
  - the results of a pre-application meeting with state regulatory agencies;
  - counties and municipalities meeting the rural community definition established by Section 288.0656, F.S., may request a reduction or waiver of financial match, pursuant to the provisions of Section 288.06561, F.S., As a part of such requests, the county or municipality must demonstrate how they meet the requirements of Section 288.0656, F.S.;
  - if the local entity's matching funds are included in an approved capital improvement plan or budgeted at the time of application, the appropriate documentation from the plan or budget indicating the local entities' matching funds are available must be included as part of the application. Otherwise, the Senior Administrator shall attest the local entity's matching funds will be included in their proposed budget no later than for the year the project is submitted; and
  - projects are limited to a 15 percent cap on contingency requests, unless justification by applicant is provided.
5. The Executive Director may authorize project review termination when the Team has determined that the project does not provide the necessary benefits to the core mission areas of the District, duplicates efforts, or provides deliverables or outcomes that are not consistent with the District's needs. Terminated projects shall be included in the annual report to the Board.
6. Projects determined to be complete, beneficial to the District, and protecting or enhancing the core missions of the District shall be placed in the Project Queue. Projects will remain in the Project Queue until they are:
  - withdrawn by the applicant;
  - funded by the District; or
  - recommended and/or submitted for external funding.
7. Projects remaining in the queue in excess of one year may need to be resubmitted for evaluation.

8. Yearly Project Funding - Projects in the Project Queue may be funded throughout the year by either external funding sources or by District funding. For funding by external funding sources, the District may provide funding for the match requirements of the external funding source. For match funding or for projects funded by the District, final approval for funding of the project proposals is the exclusive responsibility of the Board and the Executive Director in accordance with the District's procurement procedures relating to signature authority as found in section 20 of the Procedures Manual. The Executive Director's signature authority and maximum funding allowed under said authority are established by the Board and can be found in the Procedures Manual. The signature authority applies to each individual or contract entity over the course of the contractual agreement. Requests to enter into or amend a contract that meets or exceeds the signature authority for an individual or entity during the fiscal year or in aggregate, must be brought to the Board for approval.
9. RIVER Project Prioritization/Recommendations - On or immediately after May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, the Team shall meet to prioritize all project proposals in the Project Queue. Based on prioritization and available funding, projects under consideration or recommended by the Team shall be presented to the Board no later than September of that year. In addition, all projects that have been terminated, funded by the District, submitted to external funding sources, and projects remaining in the Projects Queue will be presented to the Board.
10. Once a project has been approved and included in the adopted budget, a contractual agreement will be prepared for execution by the involved parties. The contract, at a minimum, shall set forth:
  - the specific commitments and obligations of each party;
  - financial and other considerations to be exchanged;
  - indemnification and damages to be paid upon injury, default or termination;
  - the term of completion of the project; and
  - performance measures.

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Leroy Marshall, Division Director, Resource Management/Projects

THRU: Tim Alexander, Assistant Executive Director, Business and Community Services

DATE: January 2, 2026

RE: Agreements with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Local Cooperative Entities to Receive Alternative Water Supply Grant Funds

**RECOMMENDATION**

Authorize the Executive Director to enter into agreements with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to receive Alternative Water Supply Funds and to enter into agreements with local cooperative entities to implement the projects.

**BACKGROUND**

During the final months of calendar year 2024, District staff collaborated with local governments and interested stakeholders throughout the 15-county area, inviting them to submit Alternative Water Supply (AWS) projects.

In May 2025, the Governing Board authorized the Executive Director to recommend and submit five project applications to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for consideration for the AWS Funding. In June 2025, the FDEP opened an application portal for entities to submit additional projects.

The FDEP has allocated \$50,000,000 in AWS funding of 14 projects across the state. Within the District, three projects were funded, totaling \$4,262,195. The District will receive \$3,005,000 for Remote Irrigation Management and Reporting, \$750,000 for AWS Feasibility Studies, and the remaining project will be directly funded from FDEP to the City of Live Oak. These projects support district-wide implementation efforts.

Attached is a list of the projects approved for AWS Grant Funding. The District will enter into agreements with FDEP to receive the funds, which are included in the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget.

LM/tm  
Attachment

Project Name	Cooperating Entity	Project Type	Project description	Primary MFL Benefited	Water Made Available at Completion (MGD)	BMAP	Anticipated Start Date	State Funding Granted	Additional Information
AWS Feasibility Studies Phase 2	Suwannee River Water Management District	Data Collection and Evaluation	Investigate water available during high flow events and alternative sources to provide recharge and/or storage options to support MFLs in the District. Includes but not limited to preliminary designs to support projects with a focus on the SR NFRWSP area.	Lower Santa Fe Ichetucknee	3	Santa Fe, Suwannee, Wacissa	2/1/2026	\$750,000.00	This project provides the groundwork information to determine the available take and benefits to the UFA and the preliminary costs to evaluate site suitability for project implementation.
Remote Irrigation Management and Reporting	Suwannee River Water Management District	Data Collection and Evaluation	Increase monitoring and reporting efforts for consumptive water users through the implementation of monitoring equipment and automated report. The focus of this effort will be enhancing reporting reliability and accuracy. These funds may include hardware, software, and contracted services. Data will be used to support water supply planning and compliance with permitting conditions.	Lower Santa Fe Ichetucknee		Santa Fe, Suwannee, Wacissa	1/1/2026	\$3,005,000.00	This funding will support implementation of the Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee River Minimum Flow and Minimum Water Levels Rule.
Direct Funding with DEP									
Park Street Drainage Well Replacement	City of Live Oak, Florida	Stormwater	This project involves the replacement of a 6-inch Class V injection well within the City of Live Oak and the construction of a stormwater management facility to provide water quality treatment and sediment/trash screening prior to discharge to the drainage well. MGD to be verified post construction.	Lower Suwannee River	0.5	Suwannee	3/30/2026	\$507,195.00	This project reduces flooding impacts within a 14.2 Ac basin in the Park Street area of Live Oak, reduces nutrients and provides beneficial recharge. Flood elevation reduction of 0.65 ft.

**SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**  
**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Governing Board

**FROM:** Leroy Marshall, Division Director, Resource Management/Projects

**THRU:** Tim Alexander, Assistant Executive Director, Business and Community Services

**DATE:** January 2, 2026

**RE:** Agreements with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Local Cooperative Entities to Receive Springs Grant Funds

**RECOMMENDATION**

Authorize the Executive Director to enter into agreements with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to receive Springs Funding and to enter into agreements with local cooperative entities to implement the projects.

**BACKGROUND**

During the final months of calendar year 2024, District staff collaborated with local governments and interested stakeholders throughout the 15-county area, inviting them to submit springs and watershed restoration projects.

In May 2025, the Governing Board authorized the Executive Director to submit ten project applications to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for consideration for the Springs Grant Funding and multi-year commitments. In June 2025 the FDEP opened an application portal for entities to submit additional projects. Thirteen additional projects within the District were submitted through the portal and reviewed by FDEP and District staff.

The FDEP has allocated \$50,000,000 in Springs Grant Funding to 23 projects across the state. Within the District, six projects were funded, totaling \$16,144,000. The District will receive \$3,000,000 in state Springs Grant Funding for our Agricultural Springs Protection Cost-Share Program and the remaining projects will be directly funded from FDEP to the local entities. The Agricultural Springs Protection Cost-Share Program is implemented District-wide.

Attached is a list of the projects approved for Springs Grant Funding. The District will enter into agreements with FDEP to receive the funds for the projects listed in the attached spreadsheet, which are included in the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget.

LM/tm  
Attachment

SRWMD FY2025-2026 Springs Projects Funded by DEP

Project Name	Cooperating Entity	Project Type	Project description	N Reduced lbs/year	Water Made Available at Completion (MGD)	BMAP	Anticipated Start Date	State Funding Granted	Additional Information
Agricultural Springs Protection Ph 2	SRWMD	Agricultural	District wide cost-share to reduce nutrient load and water usage with priority given to projects within a BMAP and / or a WRCA.	388102	4	Santa Fe, Suwannee, Wacissa	1/1/2026	\$3,000,000	This project continues the agricultural cost-share currently under LSP0087 (Ag Springs Protection) for nutrients and groundwater reductions.
Direct Funding with DEP									
Avalon Woodland Ravines Conservation Easement Acquisition	Tall Timbers Research, Inc.	Land Acquisition	Purchase of a conservation easement on +/- 5,495-acre property in Jefferson County within the Wacissa River and Wacissa Springs Group BMAP and the Wacissa Springs Group PFA. The project will reduce 1,912 lbs. of N/year from potential septic systems.	1912			2/3/2026	\$1,580,000	Funding awarded by U.S. Forest Service Forest Legacy Program will cover 75% of acquisition. The Springs Funding will cover the remaining acquisition. Due diligence will be covered by the Tall Timbers, the Landowner, and other external funders.

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Leroy Marshall, Director, Division of Resource Management/Projects

THRU: Tim Alexander, Assistant Executive Director, Business and Community Services

DATE: January 2, 2026

RE: Funding for Little River Springs Erosion Control Project, Suwannee County

**RECOMMENDATION**

Authorize the Executive Director to execute a contract with Suwannee County for the Little River Springs Erosion Control Project not to exceed \$387,793 using a combination of Regional Initiative Valuing Environmental Resources cost-share funding and Water Management Lands Trust Fund.

**BACKGROUND**

On September 9, 2025, the Governing Board approved the execution of a contract with Suwannee County for the Little River Springs Erosion Control Project, for an amount not to exceed \$387,793, using Regional Initiative Valuing Environmental Resources (RIVER) cost-share funding. District staff is requesting a funding source change for this project to include a combination of RIVER and the Water Management Lands Trust Fund. The overall project cost has not changed.

In accordance with Resolution 2015-06, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection released the balance of Water Management Land Trust Fund appropriations to the District. These funds were appropriated by the Legislature for springs protection and restoration projects. The District requests authorization to utilize the remaining Water Management Lands Trust Fund appropriations previously transferred to the District, and the interest accumulated therein.

MD/tm

**SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**  
**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Leroy Marshall, Director, Resource Management/ Projects Division

THRU: Tim Alexander, Assistant Executive Director, Business and Community Services

DATE: January 2, 2026

RE: Amendment to Contract 22/23-166, Waccasassa Water and Wastewater Cooperative

**RECOMMENDATION**

Authorize the Executive Director to amend the agreement with the Waccasassa Water and Wastewater Cooperative to provide additional funding in the amount of \$50,000 for administrative operational costs for a total contract amount not to exceed \$150,000.

**BACKGROUND**

A feasibility study was completed by the District in 2022 that identified an opportunity to regionalize water and wastewater infrastructure in Levy County. Benefits include providing a high-quality source of water from Bronson to Otter Creek, Cedar Key, and unincorporated areas of Levy County. The wastewater from these communities will return to Bronson to be treated and provide aquifer recharge to reduce impacts associated with their withdrawals.

The regional water and wastewater cooperative, the Waccasassa Water and Wastewater Cooperative (W3C) was formed in July 2023. The District executed Contract 22/23-166 on October 6, 2023, for an original amount not to exceed \$50,000 to provide administrative and operational start-up costs. In June 2024, the District provided an additional \$50,000 to continue supporting the cooperative in its efforts to organize and secure other funding for design and construction. Funds are used to support administrative costs, legal fees, and website domain expenses. As of November 2025, W3C has expended \$96,187.16 of the funds. In the November 2025 W3C board meeting, W3C requested \$50,000 to cover additional operational and start-up expenses.

W3C has received notice of awards of funding from State Revolving Funds (SRF) through the Hurricane Helene recovery funds for the drinking water plant design and construction. Additional funds from the SRF Clean Water funds have been awarded for the design of the wastewater plant. These funds are subject to completing the formal application in March 2026 and do not cover W3C operational costs.

KE/tm

**SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**  
**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Governing Board

**FROM:** Troy Roberts, Office Chief, Communications and Outreach

**THRU:** Katelyn Potter, Director, Outreach and Operations

**DATE:** December 4, 2025

**RE:** Outreach and Communications Activity Summary

The following information summarizes Outreach and Communications activities for the month of November 2025:

<b>Facebook</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Instagram</b>
Total Posts: 16 Total Views: 170,131 Content Interactions: 2,384	Total Posts: 15 Total Impressions: 689	Total Posts: 11 Total Views: 4,646 Total Engagement: 647

<b>Press Releases</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>November 5 – <a href="#">Governing Board Meeting</a></li><li>November 13 – <a href="#">Water First North Florida</a></li><li>November 14 – <a href="#">Water First North Florida “What They Are Saying”</a></li><li>November 17 – <a href="#">Hydrologic Conditions Report</a></li></ul>

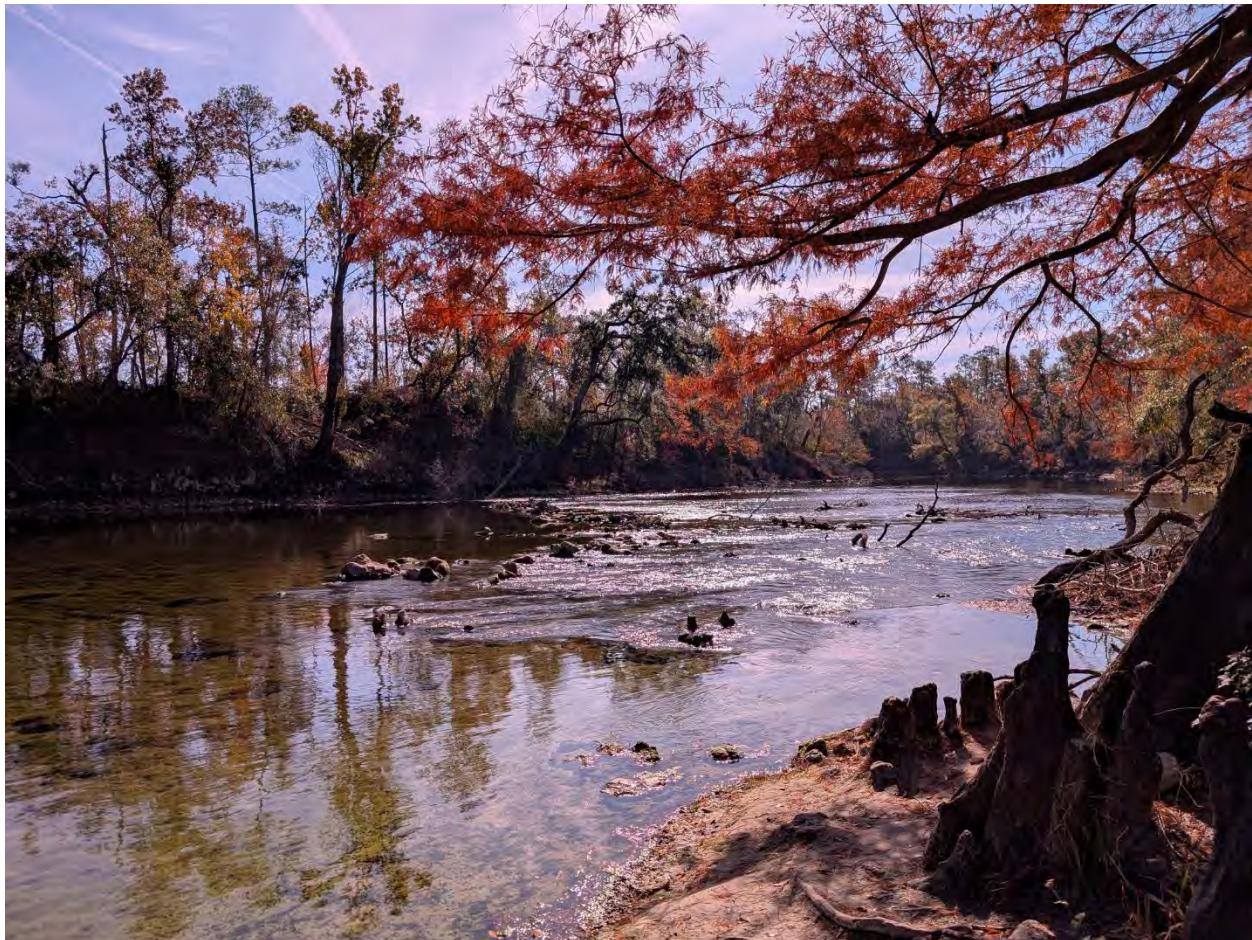
<b>Media Inquiries / Responses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>November 12 – Troy Roberts coordinated an interview with Florida Trend Magazine to discuss water conservation and Water First North Florida.</li><li>November 21 – Troy Roberts conducted an interview with WCTV Tallahassee to discuss drought in the District.</li><li>November 24 – Troy Roberts conducted an interview with the Lake City Reporter to discuss Water First North Florida.</li></ul>

<b>Meetings with Vendors / Consultants / Public</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>November 4 – Troy Roberts and staff met with Atkins to discuss enhanced outreach for FEMA flood risk reviews.</li><li>November 5 – Troy Roberts met with Strategic Digital Services to discuss upcoming FY 26 feature story work.</li><li>November 7 – Troy Roberts met with the Moore Agency to discuss changes to the District calendar.</li></ul>

- November 10 – Troy Roberts met with the Moore Agency to discuss work related to a Permit to Protect outreach TWA.
- November 14 – Troy Roberts and staff met with contractors to discuss changes to FEMA flood risk review outreach.
- November 18 – Troy Roberts held a kickoff meeting with TREW Media for low-flow photography work.
- November 20 – Troy Roberts and staff met with contractors to discuss the upcoming Suwannee flood risk review.

### **October Photo Highlight:**

Fall colors can be seen around the District, especially in this photo taken on the Withlacoochee River near Madison Blue Spring.



**SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**  
**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Troy Roberts, Chief, Office of Communications and Outreach

THRU: Katelyn Potter, Director, Division of Outreach and Operations

DATE: December 22, 2025

RE: 2026-2030 Strategic Plan

**FOR INFORMATION**

Review of the draft 2026-2030 Strategic Plan

**BACKGROUND**

In lieu of the District developing a water management plan and the water management plan annual report pursuant to section 373.036(2), Florida Statutes (F.S.), the District has selected the option to develop a five-year strategic plan pursuant to paragraph 373.036(2)(e), F.S. The strategic plan is included in the District's Consolidated Annual Report due March 1, of each calendar year, for submission to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Office of Economic and Demographic Research, and the Department of Environmental Protection, as required by section 373.036(7), F.S.

The District has four areas of responsibility which include water supply, water quality, natural systems, and flood protection. To meet these responsibilities, the District's Strategic Plan establishes priorities and goals for the next five years and identifies strategies to accomplish these goals. An Annual Work Plan Report is also required as an addendum to the five-year strategic plan, which will be brought to the board as an informational item at the end of the fiscal year and will be included as part of the Consolidated Annual Report.

Overall, changes to the 2026-2030 plan were minor.

The 2026-2030 Strategic Plan can be accessed on the District website. The plan is available for public review and comment. Specific actions and expenditures are considered and approved separately from, but in support of the plan. Annual updates are made to the plan based on operational needs or policy changes.

Link - [2026-2030 Strategic Plan](#)

TR/ao

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Katelyn Potter, Director, Outreach and Operations

THRU: Hugh Thomas, Executive Director

DATE: January 3, 2025

RE: Land Acquisition and Disposition Activity Report

Attached for your information is the Land Acquisition and Disposition Activity Report.

KP/ao  
Attachment

Surplus									
Tract	Acres	County	Parcel Number(s)	Terms	Status	Acquired Date	Funding	Lands Committee Date	Board Surplus Date
Country Club Road (Southern Parcel)	12.58	Columbia	03-04S-17-07486-001 (portion of)	No Restrictions.	Available.	07.01.2015	N/A	--	07.09.2019
County Club Road (Pond & Northern Parcel)	47.4	Columbia	03-04S-17-07486-001 (portion of) 03-04S-17-07487-000 (portion of)	No Restrictions.	Preparing documentation for bid sale.	07.01.2015	N/A	--	07.09.2019
Three Rivers	1	Columbia	1017000	Subject to a restrictive deed that no well, no septic, and no permanent development be installed.	Available.	12.30.1997	Save Our Rivers	07.09.2019	08.13.2019
Suwannee Run Shores*	1.175	Dixie	17-08-14-6877-0000-0100	Subject to a restrictive deed that no well, no septic, and no permanent development be installed.	Pending closing. Board approved on 12.09.2025.	12.30.1997	Save Our Rivers	07.09.2019	08.13.2019
Forest Woodlands	11	Gilchrist	320814008300000370 320814008300000380	Subject to a restrictive deed that no well, no septic, and no permanent development be installed.	Available.	10.11.1996	Save Our Rivers	10.11.2019	11.12.2019
Nature Coast Lots*	2.09	Gilchrist	19-10-14-0284-0002-0160 19-10-14-0284-0002-0170	Subject to a restrictive deed that no well, no septic, and no permanent development be installed.	Pending closing. Board approval 12.09.2025.	03.15.1995	Save Our Rivers	09.22.2025	10.14.2025
Nature Coast Lots	2.06	Gilchrist	19-10-14-0284-0002-0010 19-10-14-0284-0002-0180	Subject to a restrictive deed that no well, no septic, and no permanent development be installed.	Available.	03.15.1995	Save Our Rivers	09.22.2025	10.14.2025
Santa Fe Oasis*	1	Gilchrist	36-06-15-0086-000F-0080	Subject to a restrictive deed that no well, no septic, and no permanent development be installed.	Closed.	04.28.1998	Save Our Rivers	04.14.2020	05.12.2020
Falmouth North (8 lots)	6.51	Suwannee	24-01S-11E-10897-030240 24-01S-11E-10897-030310 24-01S-11E-10897-030340 10897020130 10897010010 10897010020 10897010030 10897010040	Subject to conservation.	Available.	04.24.1998	Save Our Rivers	--	06.08.2010

Santa Fe Spring*	5.91	Suwannee	32-06S-15E-1534-020150 32-06S-15E-1534-020140	Subject to a restrictive deed that no well, no septic, and no permanent development be installed.	Closed.	07.01.1998	Save Our Rivers	12.10.2024	01.14.2025
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\* Indicates properties with a current offer(s) or which are under contract for sale.

Intergovernmental Conveyance											
Tract	Acres	County	Parcel Number(s)	Terms	Status	Acquired Date	Funding	Lands Committee Date	Board Date	Agency	
Falmouth Spring Park Suwannee Spring Park	9.28 14.34	Suwannee	32-01S-12E-097640 17-01S-14E-017510	Under negotiation s.	Land Committee authorized negotiations. Ongoing.	March 1993 August 1992 July 2022	P-2000 Save Our Rivers Springs Funding	04.08.2025	--	Suwannee County	
Ellaville Tract (Portion of)	696	Madison	15-1S-11-1529-000-000 22-1S-11-1551-000-000	--	Board approved to investigate options for conveyance.	December 01, 1988	Water Management Land Trust Funds	--	Pending	Unknown	
203 <sup>rd</sup> Road and Boat Ramp	--	Suwannee	Portin of Parcels: 25-04S-11E-12062-000000 25-04S-11E-12063-000000 25-04S-11E-12066-001000	Retained access easement	Pending approval of survey and final conveyance.	2022	Assorted	09.22.2025	10.14.2025	Suwannee County	
Hatchbend Uplands Lot	0.3	Lafayette	26-07-14-0000-0000-00010	--	Available.	05.13.2023	Florida Forever	--	03.10.2015		

Detailed Assessment									
Project Name	Acres	County	Submittal Date	Asking Price	Acquisition Type	Lands Committee Date	Governing Board Date	Comments	
Bascom Southern	52,121	Dixie	07.2025	\$260,605 or 0.5% of Total: \$52,121,000	Conservation Easement	09.22.2025	10.14.2025	Ranked #2. Potential partnership with FDACS RFLPP.	
Green	451	Columbia	07.2025	\$1,600 per acre	Conservation Easement	09.22.2025	10.14.2025	Ranked #3, Partnership with ACT and NRCS. SRWMD have enforcement rights on easement. Pending Contract.	
Hodges	753	Levy	03.2023	\$1,500 per acre	Conservation Easement	05.09.23	06.13.23	Ranked #4. Moved into negotiations. Pending appraisal.	
Williams Family Investments, LLC	947	Levy	06.2023	\$4,000 per acre	Conservation Easement	09.25.23	10.10.23	Ranked #5. Project pending funding.	

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Katelyn Potter, Director, Division of Outreach and Operations

THRU: Hugh Thomas, Executive Director

DATE: December 15, 2025

RE: Declaration of Surplus for the Riverbend Estates Tract, Dixie County

**RECOMMENDATION**

Declare as surplus parcels within the Riverbend Estates Tract consisting of 15.5 acres +/- located in Dixie County.

**BACKGROUND**

The Riverbend Estates Tract parcels were acquired in various transactions from 1995-2001 using Save Our Rivers funds for a total of \$87,650 across 14.2 acres. In 2023, an additional lot was added as part of an exchange. Due to the natural community type, small acreage, proximity to residential areas, and isolation from other tracts, the parcels are not actively being managed.

The following parcels are recommended for surplus, totaling 15.5 acres: 06-11-14-7070-000-A0100, 06-11-14-7068-0000-0420, 06-11-14-7070-000A-0090, 06-11-14-7070-000A-0110, 06-11-14-7070-000A-0300, 06-11-14-7070-000A-0160, 06-11-14-7068-0000-0390, and 06-11-14-7070-000A-0150.

Pursuant to GBD25-0004, the properties were screened using the water resource evaluation shown in the triage summary maps and surplus land guidelines shown in Table 1. Based on the analysis, the parcels do not further the District's land conservation purposes and are recommended for surplus, allowing for development only with advanced septic systems.

In October 2025, an adjacency offer was received for two portions of the River Bend Estates parcel, consisting of 2.22 acres +/- . After reviewing the request, staff recommended surplus of the entire tract. If approved for surplus, staff will begin negotiations with the requestor.

Parcel 06-11-14-7068-0000-0420 is adjacent to a county boat ramp and is being used for boat trailer parking. The County maintains a portion of the parcel for the trailer parking and staff recommend conveyance of this lot to Dixie County.

In accordance with the procedure, a site visit was performed on November 17, 2025. The Land Acquisition and Surplus Team approved the surplus on November 13, 2025. The Lands Committee approved the surplus on December 9, 2025. Based on the date of acquisition, a 2/3 vote will be required by the Governing Board to surplus the parcel in accordance with Section 373.089(6)(a), Florida Statutes.

Any property not sold through an adjacency sale will be sold to the general public. A map indicating the surplus parcels is attached.

KCP/ao  
Attachments

<b>Table 1 – Surplus Lands Guidelines</b>
<b>The extent to which disposing of the lands will adversely affect management effectiveness and efficiency.</b>
<b>The extent to which the lands are currently used by the public for recreational purposes.</b>
None, the parcels have no known recreation or established recreation facilities.
<b>Whether disposal of the lands would result in a net loss of lands open to public hunting.</b>
None, the parcels are not open to hunting.
<b>The extent to which the lands provide other significant archaeological, historical, or ecological value.</b>
None, there are no observed significant cultural resources on the parcels.
<b>The extent to which the lands provide a valuable linkage to conservation property owned by the District or other publicly owned conservation lands.</b>
None, the parcels are located within a residential neighborhood.
<b>The extent to which the lands would be accessible to a future owner without causing adverse impacts to natural resources or hindering the District's management of the property, including prescribed fire management.</b>
None, the parcels are not actively managed.
<b>The extent to which the lands are marketable.</b>
High, the lands are located with a residential neighborhood and desired for purchase.
<b>The extent to which concerns of other public conservation land managers or members of the public have been addressed.</b>
There are no known concerns.
<b>The extent to which disposing of the lands will adversely affect potential future water resource development projects.</b>
None, this property is not suitable for a project due to its small size location.
<b>The extent to which lands are more suitable for management by others due to size or location with the District retaining a conservation easement.</b>
None, these parcels are located within a residential neighborhood. Permitting will address conservation concerns. The lot associated with boat trailer parking is recommended for conveyance to the county.
<b>The extent to which lands acquired for projects are no longer being pursued or the project is completed and the land or a portion thereof is no longer needed.</b>
N/A
<b>The extent to which lands acquired with Preservation 2000 or Florida Forever funds, the intent of the Act as prescribed in section 259.101(6), F.S.</b>
N/A
<b>For lands with merchantable timber, the extent to which disposing of the land would reduce timber revenue available to the District.</b>
None, the parcels contain hardwoods of negligible value and are not harvestable.
<b>Access to public or private water and/or wastewater utilities.</b>
N/A



# SUWANNEE TRIAGE ANALYSIS

## RESULTS

### General

Property Name: River Bend Estates	Date: 11/12/2025
Acreage: ± 15.5 ac	SRWMD Florida Forever: No
Transaction Type: Surplus	SRWMD 5 Year Acquisition Plan: No
County: Dixie	Statewide Florida Forever: No

### Surface Water Protection

### Flood Protection

Major River: (N)	Floodway: (Y) [± 15.5 ac]   100%
Riverine Surface Waters: (Y) [± 2.2 ac]   14%	10 Year Floodplain: [± 15.5 ac]   100%
Wetland Acreage: ± 5.1 ac   33%	100 Year Floodplain: [± 15.5 ac]   100%
Upland Acreage: ± 10.4 ac   75%	

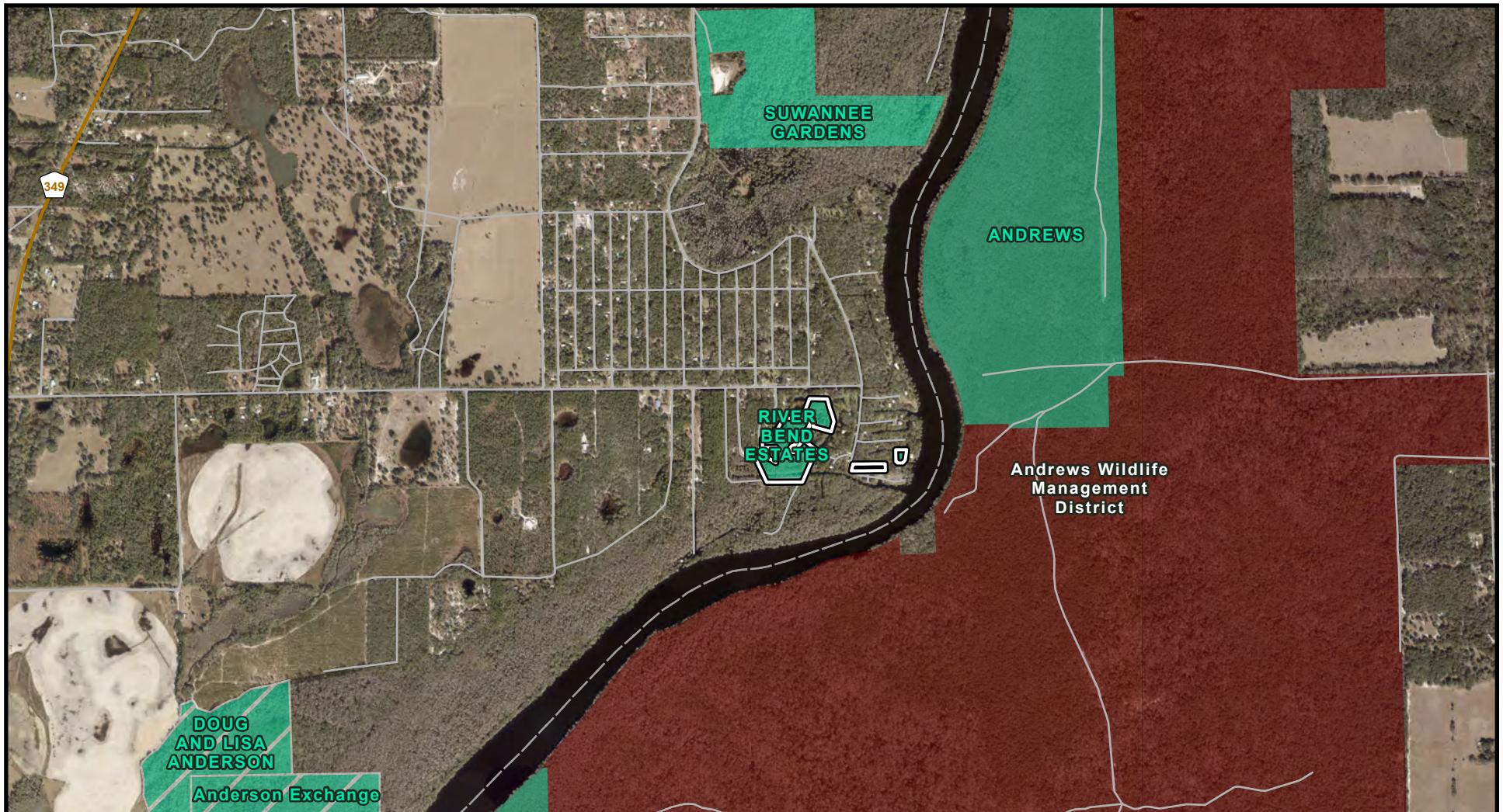
### Springs Protection

### Land Management

Springshed: (Y) [Springs Buffer]	Adjacency: (SRWMD OWNED)
Spring on Site: (N)	Rare Species: (N/A)

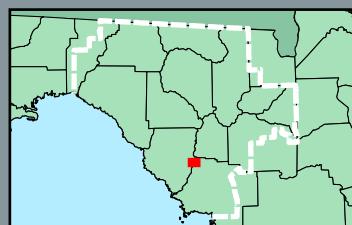
### Miscellaneous

Priority Focus Area: (N)	Wildlife Corridor: (Y)
Water Supply Planning Area: (Y) [Western]	Wells: (N)
Basin Management Action Plan: (Y) [Suwannee]	River Frontage: (N)



**River Bend Estates**  
 $\pm 15.5$  ac  
Dixie County

- Property Boundary
- SRWMD Ownership
- SRWMD Conservation Easement
- Other Public Ownership



0 2,000  
Feet



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Property Boundary

Surface Waters (Riverine)

Creeks and Streams

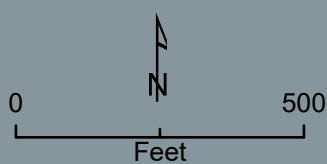
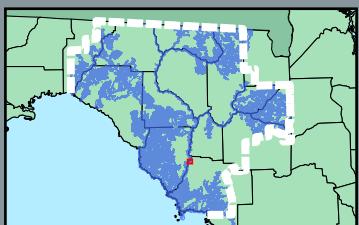
SRWMD Major Rivers

Priority 1

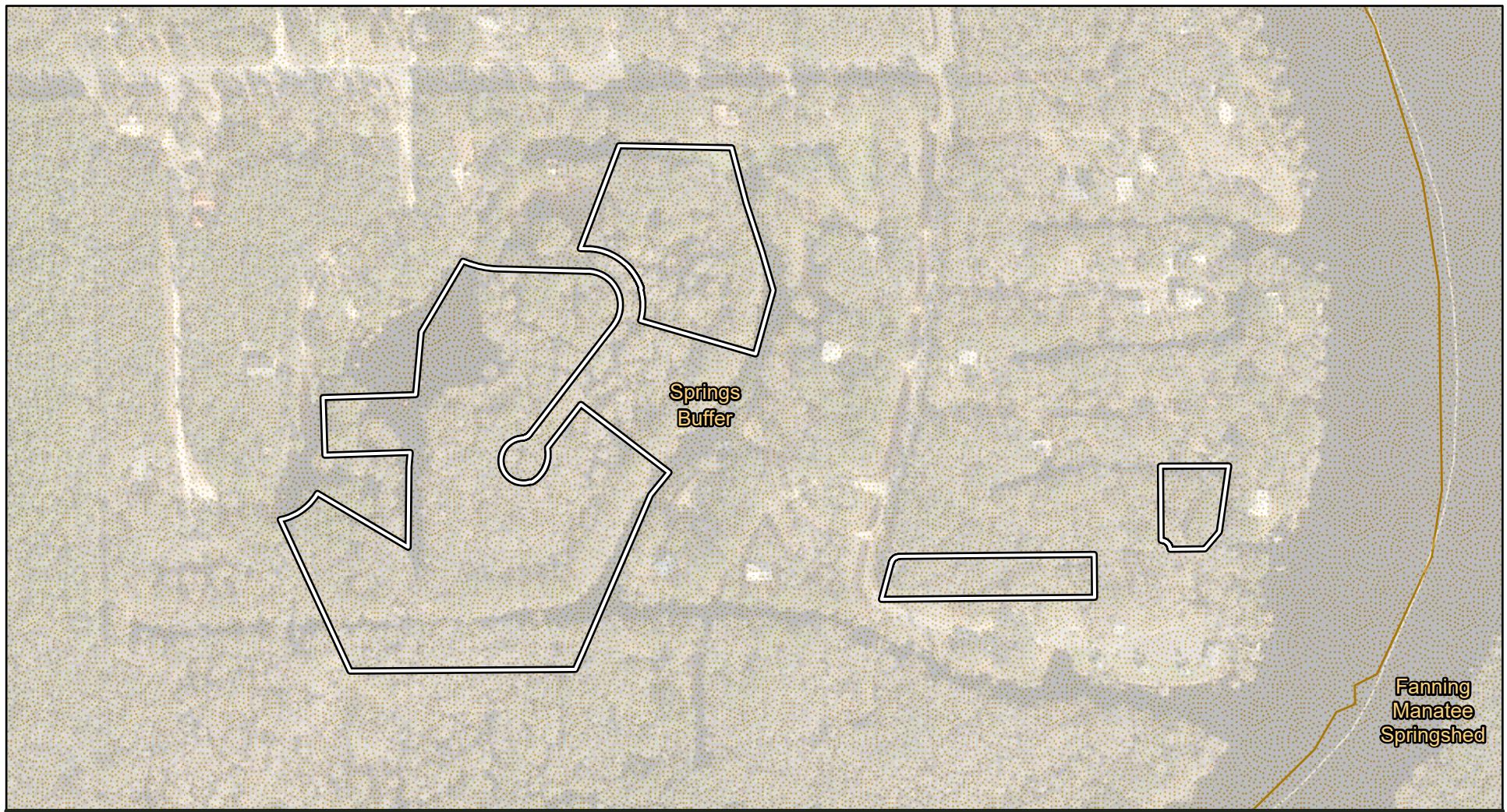
Priority 2

Other

## River Bend Estates Property Offer Surface Water Protection



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## River Bend Estates Property Offer Springs Protection



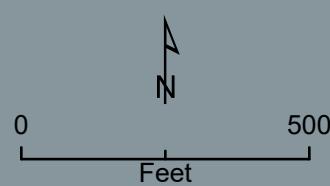
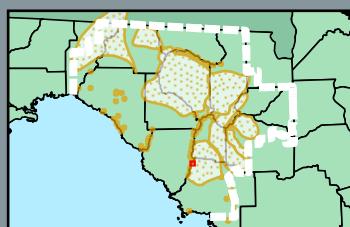
Property Boundary



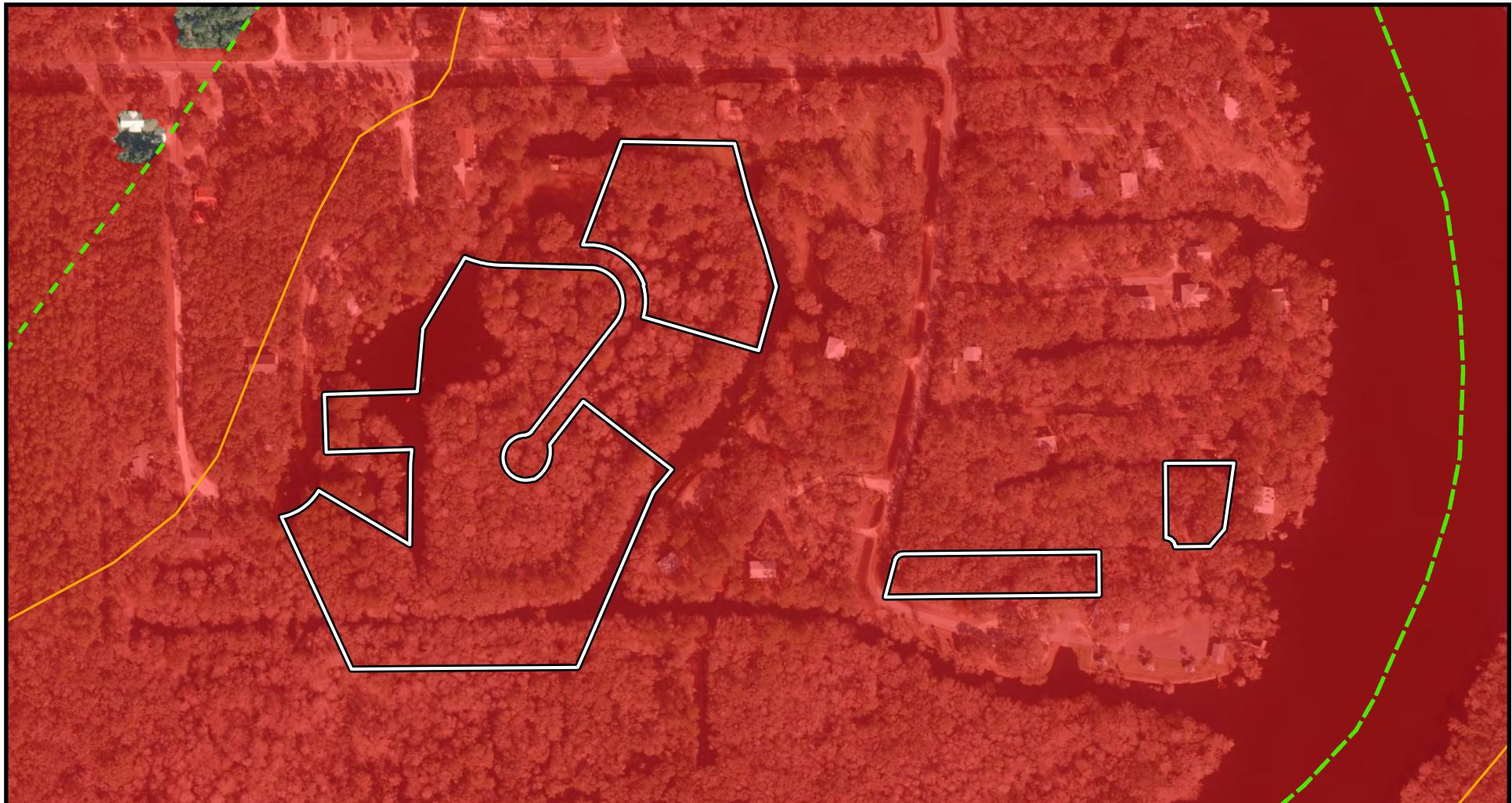
Springs Protection



Springs



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Property Boundary

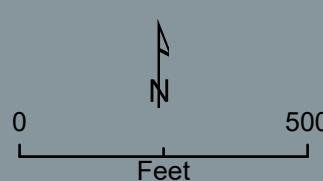
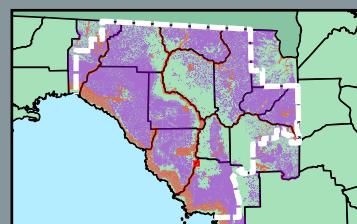
10 Year Floodplain

Floodway

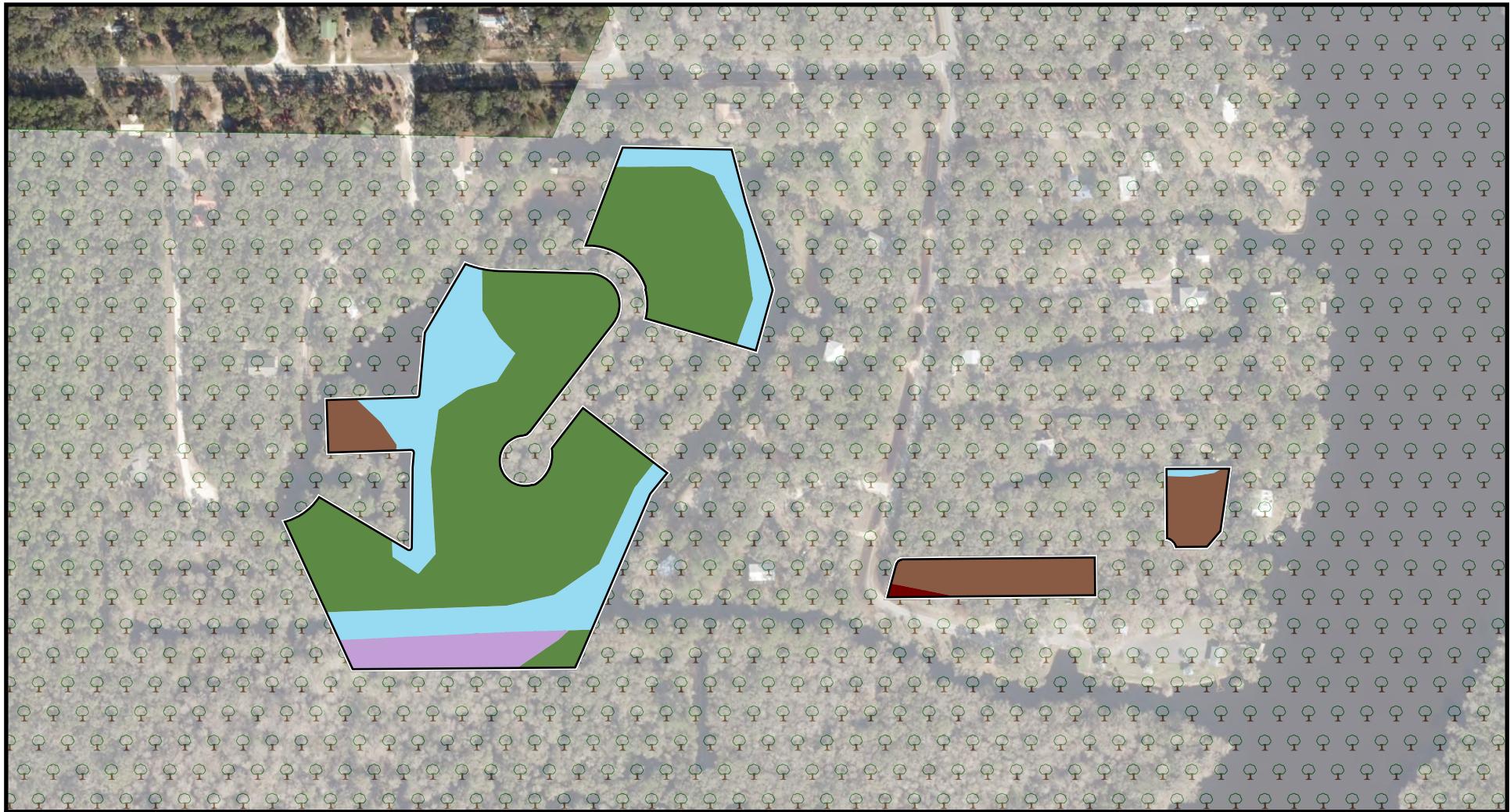
100 Year Floodplain

Zone AE

## River Bend Estates Property Offer Floodplain Protection



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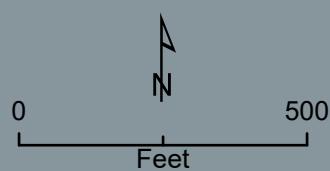
Property Boundary

FL Wildlife Corridor

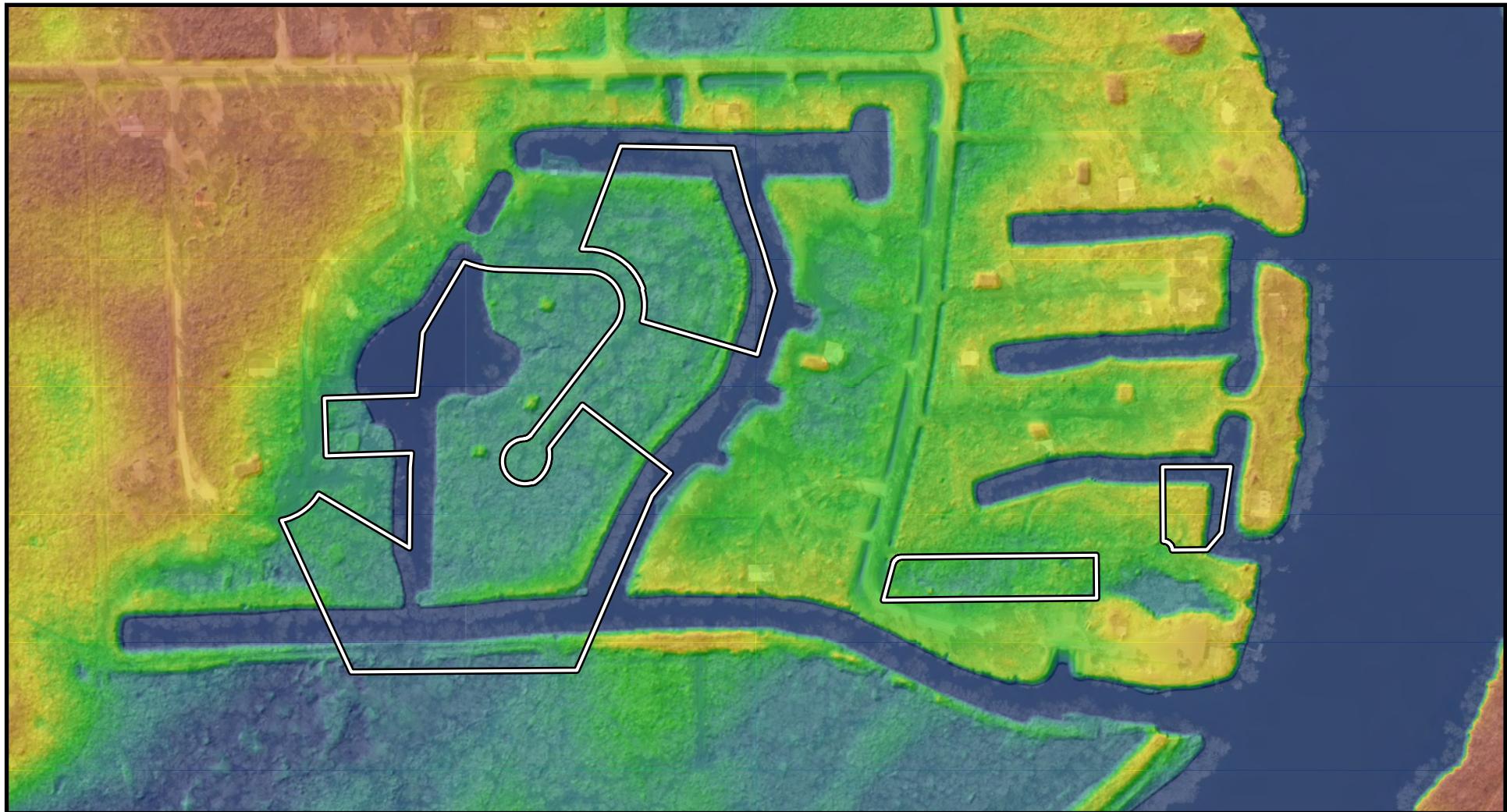
#### Land Cover

- Urban
- Upland Forest
- Water
- Wetlands
- Transportation

## River Bend Estates Property Offer Land Management



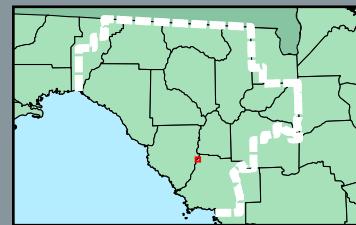
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**River Bend Estates  
Property Offer  
LIDAR**

 Property Boundary

Bare Earth Elevation



0 500  
N  
Feet



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## SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Lorna Radcliff, Chief, Office of Land Management

THRU: Katelyn Potter, Director, Outreach and Operations

DATE: December 23, 2025

RE: Land Management Update Report

**BACKGROUND**

The following information summarizes land management activities cumulative as of November 30, 2025.

Vegetative Management (acres)	FY 2026 Planned	Reporting Period Completed	Percent Complete
<b>Herbicide Treatments</b>	160	Start in June	0%
<b>Mechanical Treatments</b>	1,657	175	10.6%
Prescribed Fire (acres)	FY 2026 Planned	Reporting Period Completed	Percent Complete
<b>Districtwide</b>	11,725	47	0.1%
<b>TRSF</b>	807	500	62%
Invasive Plant Treatments	FY 2026 Planned	Reporting Period Completed	Percent Complete
<b>Contractors (acres)</b>	217	Starts in April	0%
Ecological Services Monitoring	FY 2026 Planned	Reporting Period Completed	Percent Complete
<b>Wading Bird Rookeries (sites)</b>	14	Starts in May	0%
<b>Natural Community Mapping (acres)</b>	617	Starts in February	0%
<b>Gopher Tortoise Surveys (acres)</b>	157	Starts in November	0%
Timber Harvests	FY 2026 Planned	Reporting Period Completed	Percent Complete
<b>Acreage Sold</b>	2,324	476	20%
<b>Revenue (estimated)</b>	\$1,429,000	\$167,000	12%
Reforestation	FY 2026 Planned	Reporting Period Completed	Percent Complete
<b>Reforestation (acres)</b>	248	Start in January	0%

Conservation Easements	FY 2026 Planned	Reporting Period Completed	Percent Complete
<b>Monitor Current Easements</b>	14	2	14%
Hydrologic & Road Maintenance	FY 2026 Planned	Reporting Period Completed	Percent Complete
<b>Culvert Replacements</b>	17	0	0%
<b>Road maintenance (miles)</b>	199	35	18%
Tract Maintenance	FY 2026 Planned	Reporting Period Completed	Percent Complete
<b>Mowing (total miles)</b>	1,634	0	0%
<b>Site Maintenance (total visits)</b>	2568	342	13%
<b>Enhanced Patrols (hours)</b>	800	110	14%
<b>Sign Replacements</b>	42	2	5%
<b>Boundary Line Painting (miles)</b>	100	0	0%

### Special Projects

**Mount Gilead Tract:** EUTAW, Inc. provided an estimate for design to update and fortify the boat ramp. Project is on hold pending hurricane repairs at other sites.

**Starke Bypass Mitigation Area:** Site monitoring work conducted by FDOT is complete, and the 2025 Monitoring Report is expected by the end of November.

**Christian Tract:** The spring overlook and parking area guardrail will be installed, completing the Shirley Spring access, by December 15, 2025.

**Telford Spring:** The parking area guardrail will be installed by December 31, 2025, which will complete the parking area.

**Falmouth Springs Park:** Design, permitting, and reconstruction of access pending funding.

**Steinhatchee Falls Park:** Design and permitting is complete. Renovation of the boat ramp is pending funding.

**SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**  
**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Governing Board

**FROM:** Lorna Radcliff, Chief, Office of Land Management

**THRU:** Katelyn Potter, Director, Division of Outreach and Operations

**DATE:** December 15, 2025

**RE:** Offer Additional Tracts of Land to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for Inclusion within the Wildlife Management Area Program

**RECOMMENDATION**

Authorize the Executive Director to offer additional tracts of District-owned land to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for inclusion within the Wildlife Management Area Program.

**BACKGROUND**

The 2006 Florida Legislature committed the state to the preservation of hunting lands and hunting opportunities for the future. In October 2023, Governor DeSantis reaffirmed this commitment by encouraging public land managers to open lands for hunting to the greatest extent possible.

Currently, the District has 114,878 acres or 71% of its lands open for hunting through the wildlife management area (WMA) program in coordination with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Specific dates, bag limits, and other hunting regulations for each tract are established by the FWC based on the tract size, location, habitat, etc. The actual footprint of the WMA may not consist of the whole tract.

Participation in the WMA system provides management of the hunt program by FWC. The District does not currently offer hunting on any of its properties outside of the WMA system.

Staff conducted a thorough review of all District lands not currently enrolled in a WMA to assess suitability. Site visits were performed to evaluate specific hunting areas relative to boundaries, infrastructure, inholdings, etc. Further, acquisition and deed records were evaluated for each proposed site to ensure there are no prohibitions on hunting.

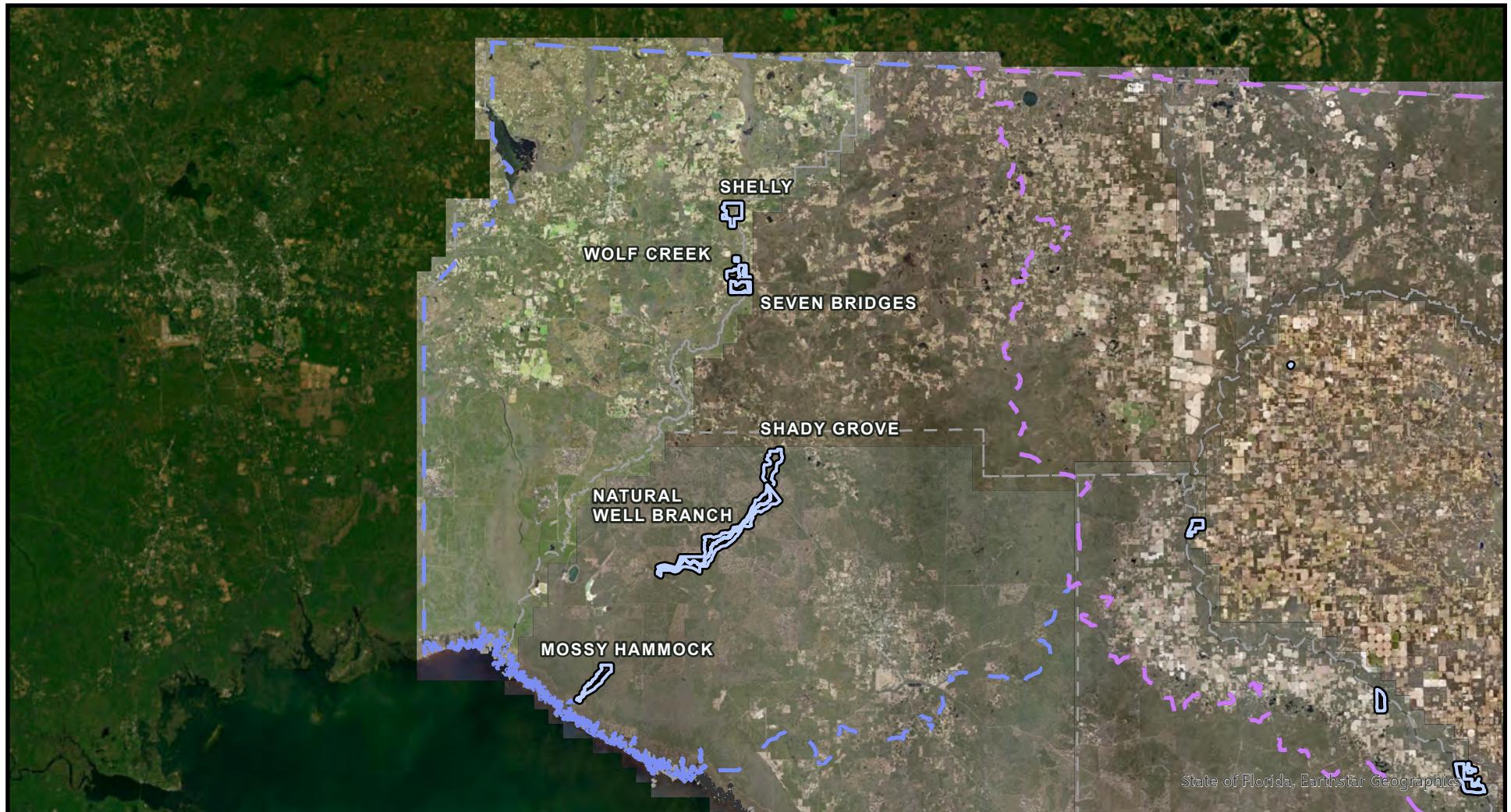
Inclusion of these tracts in the WMA system could add an additional 17,000 acres of public hunting opportunities to residents and visitors of Florida. The addition of these tracts to the WMA system may require rule ratification by FWC and would be implemented in phases over the next several years, pursuant to FWC rules.

Any tracts not currently in the WMA or recommended for the WMA, are being evaluated for other hunting opportunities which will be brought back to the board at a later time.

Each year, the District reports the amount of its acreage open to hunting "No Net Loss of Hunting Lands" report, pursuant to Section 379.3001(6), Florida Statutes to FWC. Further, all acquisitions and exchanges are evaluated for hunting opportunities.

<b>Tract</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Tract</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Blue Sink	Suwannee	617	McAlpin Landing	Hamilton	1,061
Branford Bend	Suwannee	887	Mossy Hammock	Taylor	787
Christian	Suwannee	338	Natural Well Branch	Taylor	3,754
Falmouth	Suwannee	261	Rocky Creek	Suwannee	251
Grady	Lafayette	722	Seven Bridges	Jefferson	523
Hart Springs Subdivision	Gilchrist	98	Shady Grove	Taylor	999
Hatchbend Uplands/ Turtle Springs	Lafayette	86	Shelly	Jefferson	814
Jerry Branch	Hamilton	517	Steinhatchee Falls	Taylor	1,748
Lasky	Gilchrist	353	Swift Creek	Hamilton	328
Levings	Columbia	135	Wolf Creek	Jefferson	673
Little Creek	Columbia	680	Woods Ferry	Suwannee	1,059
Manatee South	Levy	333			

LLR/ao  
Attachments



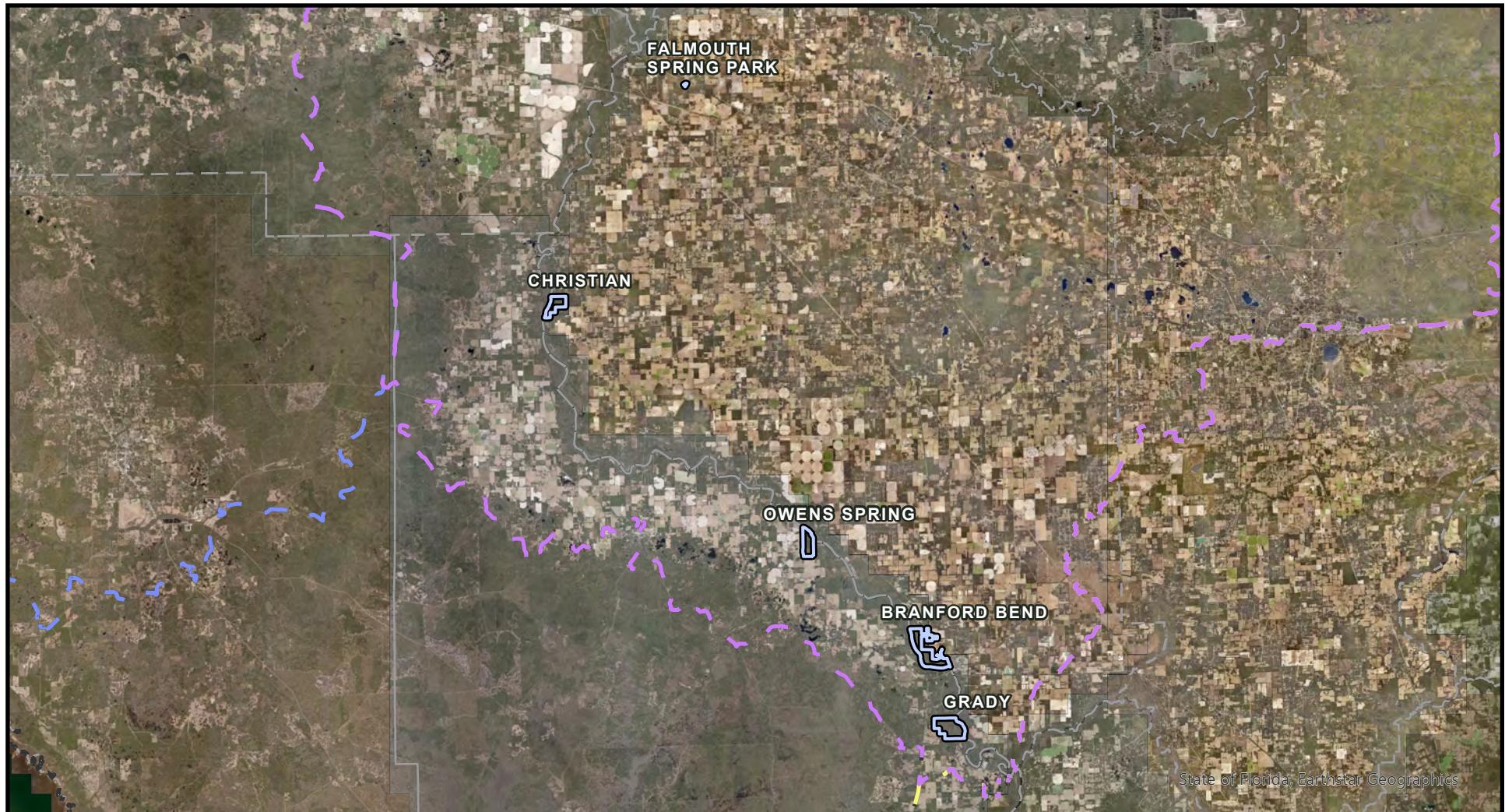
## WMA Updates Map Northwest Region



0 10  
Miles



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Proposed Tracts for Inclusion in WMA Program

#### LM - Operational Regions

- Northwest Region
- Northeast Region
- Southwest Region
- Southeast Region

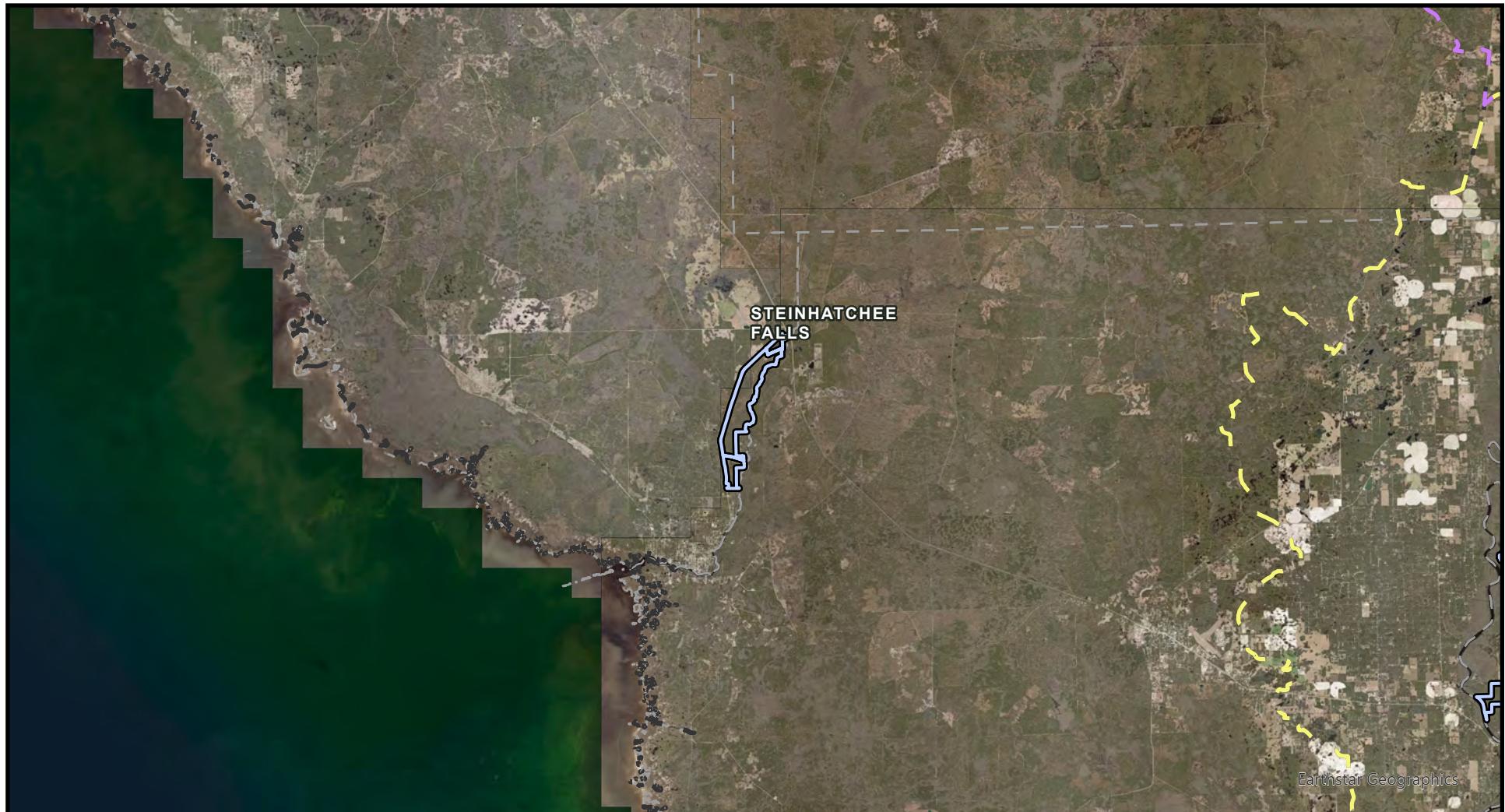
## WMA Updates Map Northeast Region



0 10  
Miles



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Proposed Tracts for Inclusion in WMA Program

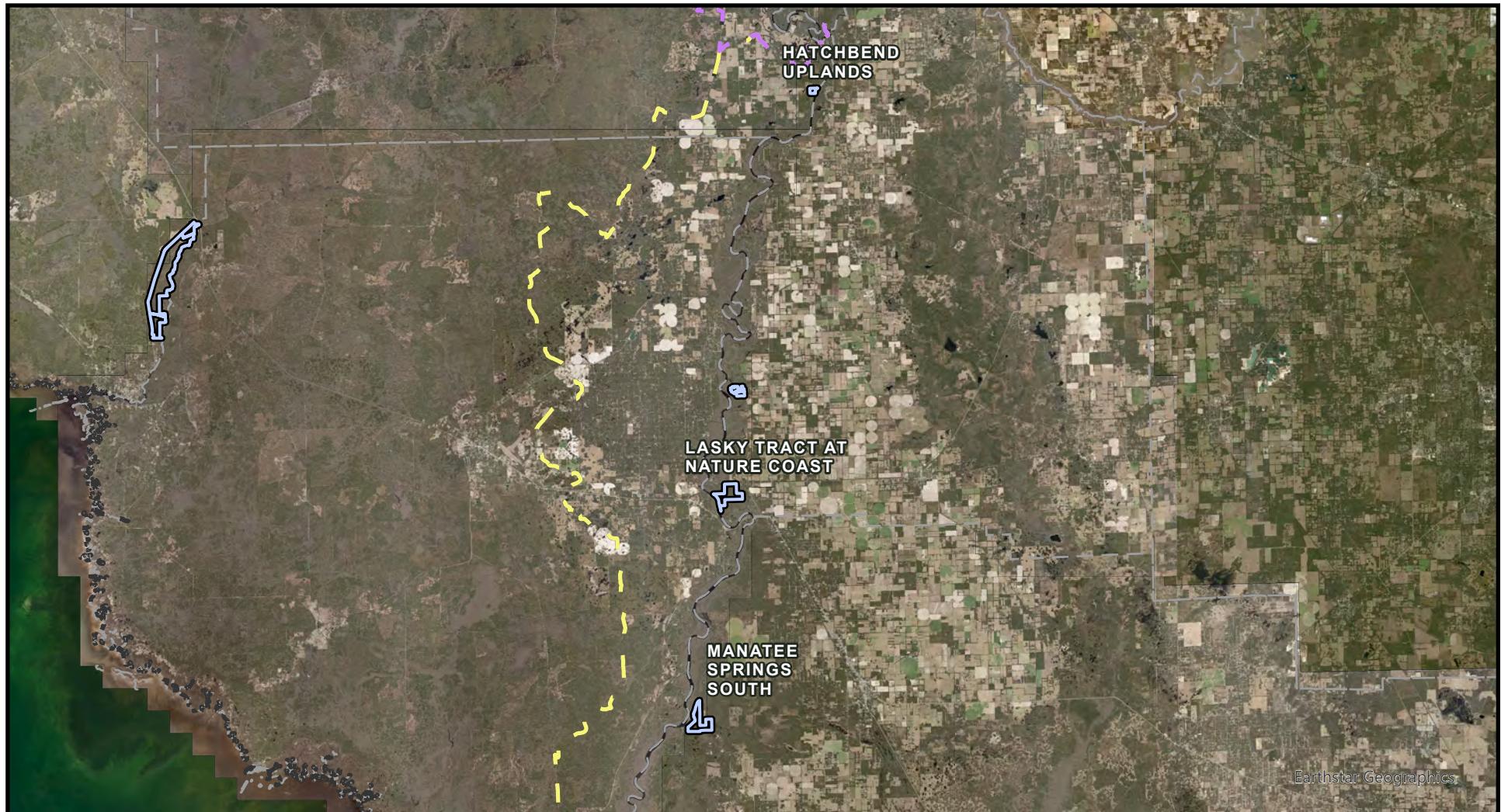
#### LM - Operational Regions

- Northwest Region
- Northeast Region
- Southwest Region
- Southeast Region

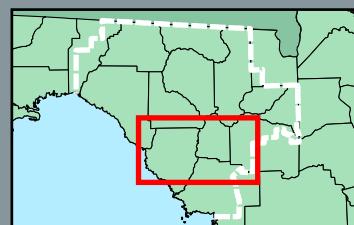
## WMA Updates Map Southwest Region



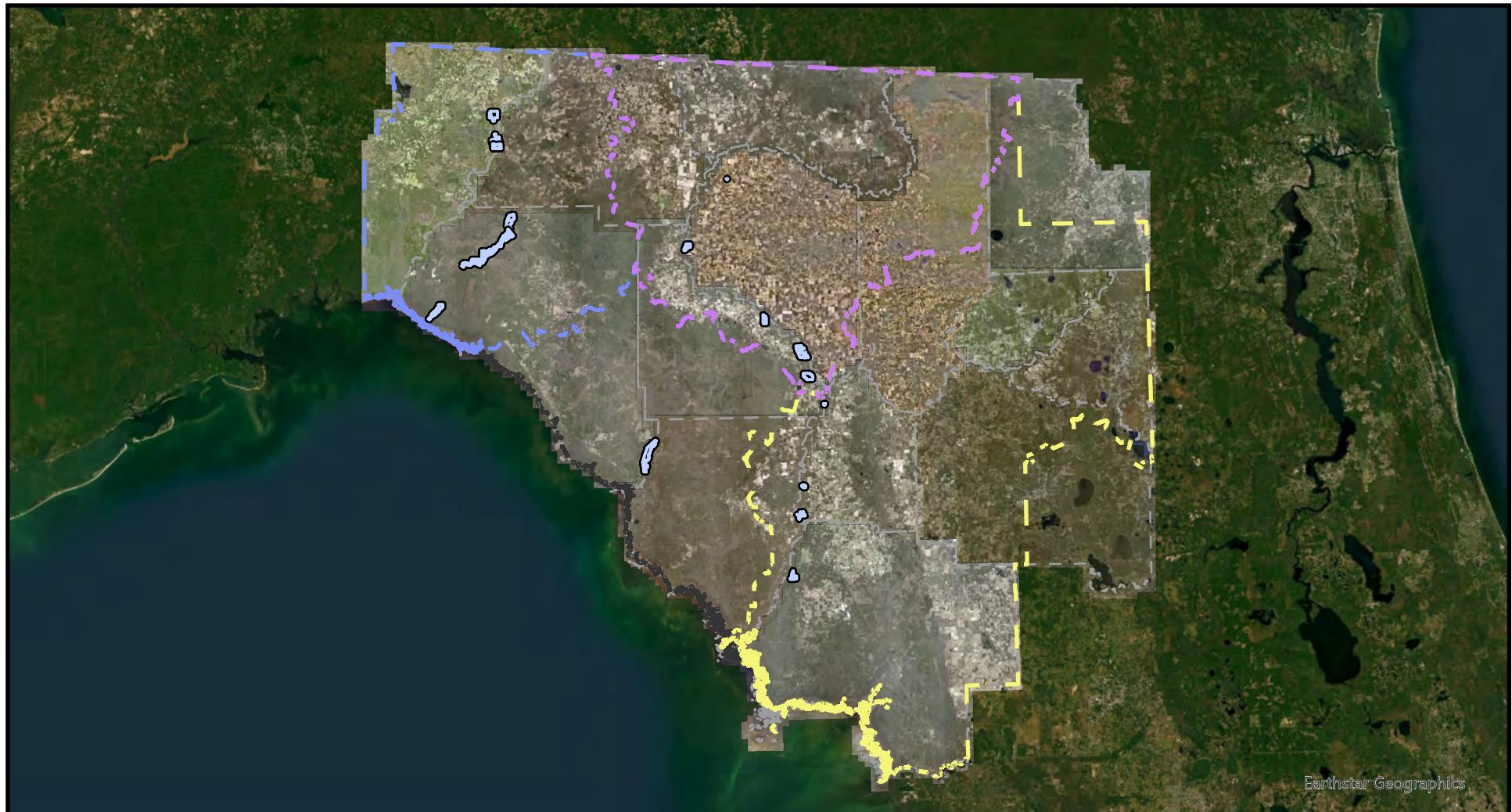
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## WMA Updates Map Southeast Region



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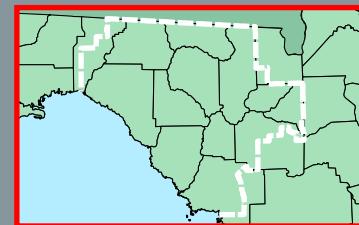


 Proposed Tracts for Inclusion in WMA Program

#### LM - Operational Regions

-  Northwest Region
-  Northeast Region
-  Southwest Region
-  Southeast Region

## WMA Updates Map All Region Overview



0 20  
Miles



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