



November 24, 2025

Hernando County
Government Center, Room 263
20 North Main Street
Brooksville, Florida 34601

RECEIVED

DEC 05 2025

HERNANDO COUNTY
BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Dear Local Government Official:

Chapter 189.08, Florida Statutes, requires special districts such as the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) to file public facilities reports with each local government in which the special districts are located, and post these reports to their websites.

The purpose of the public facilities report is to provide local governments with information that is pertinent to developing and updating the local governments' comprehensive plans. Once an initial public facilities report has been filed with the appropriate local governments, the Authority is required to prepare and file an annual notice of any changes with the local governments. In addition, every seven years, each independent special district, including the WRWSA, must submit a Public Facilities Updated Report to each county and/or municipality in which it is located.

Based upon the schedule provided by the Department of Economic Opportunity, Special District Online Handbook, the schedule calls for the WRWSA to prepare and file a Public Facilities Report with the City of Webster by December 2025. Enclosed is a copy of the WRWSA's Special District Public Facilities Report.

Should you have any questions regarding the report, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Suzannah J. Folsom, PE, PMP
Executive Director

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Enclosure

Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

Special District Public Facilities Updated Report

September 18, 2024



**WITHLACOOCHEE
REGIONAL
WATER
SUPPLY
AUTHORITY**

**Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
Special District Public Facilities Updated Report**

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**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
SPECIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC FACILITIES UPDATED REPORT
September 18, 2024**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This purpose of this report is to assist those counties and municipalities where the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) is located in their periodic determination of the necessity to update their comprehensive plans. Specifically, this report is intended to provide information regarding public facilities that are operated by the WRWSA, including a description of any recent facility improvements or expansions, or plans to build or expand public facilities in the near future.

In the time period since the 2017 Public Facilities Updated Report, the WRWSA has not undertaken any major upgrades or expansions to the existing water supply facilities other than the necessary maintenance of equipment through the renewal and replacement program. There are no WRWSA plans or projects within the next seven (7) years to construct new water supply facilities or expand or replace the existing water supply facilities at this time. In addition, the WRWSA has no plans to assist other entities to build, improve, or expand their water supply facilities within the next seven (7) years.

The WRWSA has been involved with extensive efforts to manage the growth of water demand by promoting water conservation efforts. These programs are described later in the Report, and they have helped to forestall the need for new water supply infrastructure within the Authority's service area. However, the WRWSA did complete a planning assessment in 2019 that suggested expansion of water supply options would be required in the future to meet potential growth in demand beyond the next seven (7) year period. Consequently, the Authority may begin to further explore future groundwater supply options from the Lower Floridan Aquifer beginning after 2030, as well as further explore surface water alternative supply options as early as 2040. At this time the WRWSA has no specific plans in place to develop these water supplies, nor is there a plan in place for financing the expansion or development of future water supply alternatives.

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

Beginning March 1, 1991, pursuant to state law enacted in the 1989 legislative session, [Chapter 89-169, Laws of Florida (Chapter 189, F.S.)], special districts such as the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority have been required to file a Public Facilities Updated Report with each local government in which the special districts are located. The purpose of the Report is to provide local governments with information pertinent to the development and updating of their comprehensive plans, which is

required by the state. The report is to contain the following elements (Source – *Florida Special District Handbook*, October 2022 and revised July 2024):

- Updates concerning anything from the Initial Public Facilities Report.
- Each public facility the special district is building, improving, or expanding.
- Each public facility the special district is proposing to build, improve or expand within at least the next seven years.
- Any public facilities that the special district is helping another entity (except a county or municipality) build, improve or expand through a lease or other agreement.
- How the special district proposes to finance each public facility.
- The anticipated completion times.
- The anticipated capacity of and demands on each public facility when completed. If a public facility will be improved or expanded, include existing and anticipated capacity.
- If applicable within the next 10 years, the date the special district currently proposes to replace any of the public facilities identified above or in the Initial Public Facilities Report.

Since local governments are required to determine if their comprehensive plans need to be amended at least once every seven years, special districts are required to provide a Public Facilities Updated Report at least once every seven years. This requirement is part of a series of reporting requirements for special districts that includes:

- Public Facilities Initial Report
- Public Facilities Annual Notice of Any Changes (as needed)
- Public Facilities Updated Report

The statute requires that the special district shall submit a Public Facilities Annual Notice of Any Changes to each county and / or municipality in which it is located on an as-needed basis. This notice describes changes or updates to public facilities, if any, that may need to be made to the Public Facilities Initial Report.

As indicated in the statute, the Public Facilities Updated Report must be submitted to local governments at least twelve months before each county and/or municipality must notify the state land planning agency of its determination of whether they need to amend their comprehensive plan.

HISTORY OF THE WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

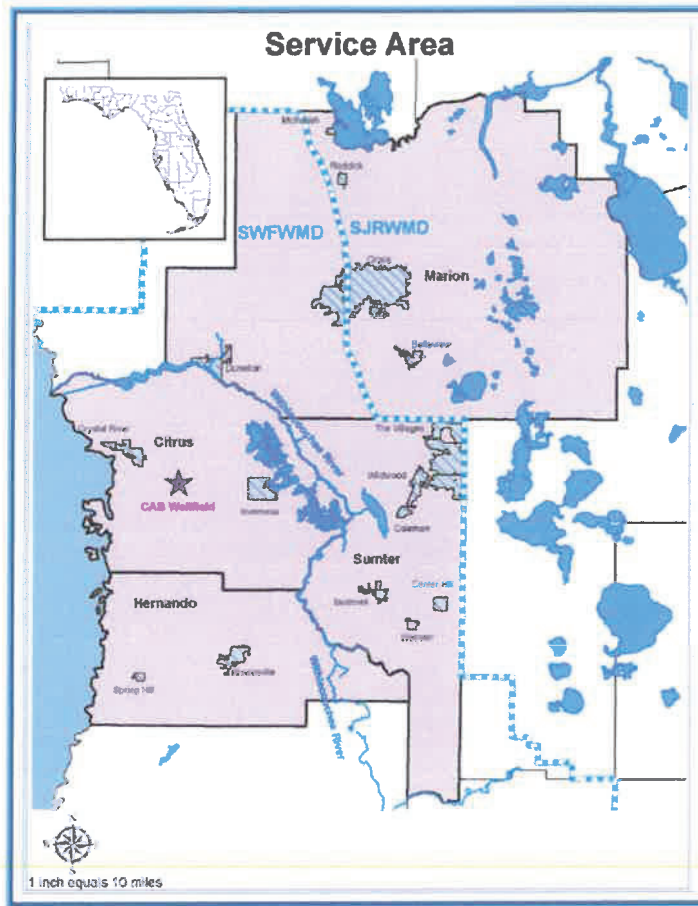
The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) is an independent special district of the state of Florida, created and existing pursuant to Section 373.713 and 163.01, Florida Statutes. It is one of four water supply authorities within the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD). As can be seen in Figure

1, the WRWSA spans two adjacent water management districts because the northeast corner of the service area is located in the watershed of the St. John's River Water Management District (SJRWMD). The WRWSA was founded in 1977 by Hernando, Citrus, Sumter, Marion and Levy counties. However, in 1982 Levy County formally withdrew. The WRWSA is charged with planning for and developing cost-efficient, high-quality water supplies for its member governments and promotes environmental stewardship through its water conservation programs. As part of this mission, the WRWSA may partner with its member governments as needed to develop water sources to augment current supplies and meet the region's long-term needs.

In 1984, an amendment to the WRWSA's Interlocal Agreement provided for municipal membership, which allowed cities within each county to become members. These include Belleview, Brooksville, Bushnell, Center Hill, Coleman, Crystal Regional, Dunnellon, Inverness, McIntosh, Ocala, Reddick, Webster, and Wildwood. Figure 1 depicts the WRWSA four-county region and its member governments.

In 2014, a revised and restated Interlocal Agreement was approved by Citrus, Hernando, Marion and Sumter counties. Pursuant to the agreement, the WRWSA Board is comprised of two county commissioners from Citrus, Hernando and Sumter counties, three commissioners from Marion County and one municipal representative from each of the member counties (currently Crystal River, Brooksville, Belleview and Bushnell), for a total of 13 members.

Figure 1: WRWSA Service Area



EXISTING WATER SUPPLY FACILITES

The WRWSA owns the Charles A. Black (CAB) wellfield in Citrus County, with a permitted average daily capacity of 7.1819 mgd. This capacity was approved by SWFWMD as Water Use permit No. 7121.007 on August 22, 2023 for a twenty-year period. The CAB water supply system consists of seven groundwater production wells and two water treatment facilities, CAB-1 and CAB-2. CAB-1 consists of two groundwater supply wells, disinfection equipment, storage tanks, and distribution piping equipment. CAB-2 consists of five groundwater supply wells, disinfection equipment, storage tanks, and distribution piping equipment. Both facilities are regulated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and SWFWMD. Prior to the increase in permitted capacity in 2023, the CAB average monthly pumpage rate was near the permitted limit, but since the change in limit was made the pumpage rate has consistently remained below the requirement.

The WRWSA and Citrus County are parties to a Water Supply Contract that governs the operation and maintenance of the CAB wellfield and treatment facilities. The contract allows for the continued operation of the facilities by Citrus County in a cost-effective manner ensuring a long-term water supply for the County and its customers while also providing for long-term financial stability for WRWSA. As part of the Water Supply Contract, Citrus County deposits an annual contribution to the Renewal and

Replacement Fund of \$270,000 to account for inflation, additional planned activities, and to maintain the required fund balance of between \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000.

PLANS FOR FACILITY CONSTRUCTION AND/OR EXPANSION

There are no WRWSA plans or projects to construct new water supply facilities or expand the Charles A. Black wellfield facilities at this time. However, the WRWSA did complete an engineering analysis of the CAB facilities that recommends projected expenditures from the Renewal and Replacement Fund. Expenditures for such items as wells, pumps, motors, storage, emergency power generation, meters and other items are recommended through the year 2040. Table 1 summarizes current and planned renewal and replacement programs for the CAB facilities.

Table 1: WRWSA Renewal & Replacement Program for CAB-1 and CAB-2

| Facility / Item | FY 2024 | FY 2025 | FY 2026 | FY 2027-31 (5 Yrs) |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| CAB-1 R&R | \$ 217,601 | \$ 138,173 | \$ 23,092 | \$ 1,127,944 |
| CAB-2 R&R | \$ 54,743 | \$ 15,600 | \$ - | \$ 18,980 |
| TOTAL | \$ 272,344 | \$ 153,773 | \$ 23,092 | \$ 1,146,924 |

The WRWSA completed a planning assessment in 2019 that suggested expansion of water supply options would be required in the future to meet potential growth in demand. Consequently, the Authority may begin to plan for future groundwater supply options from the Lower Floridan Aquifer beginning after 2030, as well as surface water alternative supply options as early as 2040. At this time the WRWSA has no specific plans in place to develop alternative water supplies, nor is there a plan in place for financing the expansion or development of future water supply alternatives. This may be updated later in 2024 as part of the 2024 Regional Water Supply Plan Update and again in the 2029 Regional Water Supply Update.

FISCAL YEAR 2024 – 2025 WORK PROGRAM

While there are no plans to construct new, or expand existing water supply production facilities, the WRWSA has a robust conservation, technical assistance and member advocacy program funded and active for FY 2024 - 2025.

1. 2024 Regional Water Supply Plan Update

In an effort that is co-funded by SWFWMD, the WRWSA has continued to update the 2024 Regional Water Supply Plan. Updates to the plan will include new population and demand projections, an evaluation of water supply sources, conservation and water reuse alternatives, and an assessment of alternative water supply options. The resulting plan will be incorporated into the updates for the

SWFWMD 2025 Northern Region Regional Water Supply Plan, and the SJRWMD 2026 Central Springs/East Coast Regional Water Supply Plan.

2. Joint Funding of Water Conservation Projects with Member Local Governments

The WRWSA will continue its grant program to assist local governments in improving water conservation within the region in order to extend the use of groundwater as long as possible. Fresh groundwater is the least expensive source available to meet growing demands, however there is a limit to this source due to environmental impacts and impacts on other existing legal users. As the sustainable limit to fresh groundwater resources is reached, alternative, more expensive water sources will need to be developed. At the present time, water conservation programs are the most appropriate way for the WRWSA to help local governments extend the use of lower cost groundwater supplies.

The 2024-25 proposed budget includes \$180,000 toward local government water supply and conservation projects. Proposals will be considered from local governments and public supply utilities in the Authority's jurisdiction. The grant program guidelines and application package may be found on the WRWSA's web page at www.wrwsa.org. The water conservation activities co-funded by this grant program help participating utilities meet and improve upon the maximum 150 gallons per person per day goal that is required by SWFWMD and to meet the SJRWMD conservation requirements.

3. Enhancement of the Regional Residential Irrigation Audit Program to Promote Water Conservation within the Region

The WRWSA initiated the Pilot water conservation program in 2011 with joint funding from SWFWMD. This ongoing program provides an opportunity for residential water utility customers to obtain site-specific evaluations for optimizing the use of water through landscaping techniques and efficient irrigation systems, and to implement recommendations provided by a professionally certified contractor. Contractors used for the site-specific evaluations are professionals certified by the Florida Irrigation Society (FIS) or another recognized certifying agency in the targeted region. The initiative includes program information, water conservation education, reporting and analysis by a consultant. This continuing project targets existing inefficient landscape and irrigation water use and results in significant water savings and can lead to water quality protection through reduced leaching of fertilizers and lawn chemicals.

More than 1500 audits have been conducted as part of Phases 1 to 7. Results from the initial phases of the project have demonstrated the effectiveness of water conservation as a method for managing demand. Beginning with Phase 4, which started in FY 2017, the Authority began offering enhanced audits that have a more intense implementation of improvements, and have an improved benefit to reduce water usage. An average reduction in total water use of 28% has been achieved

for the locations that have been audited.

Phase 7 started in January 2023. This program is co-funded by SWFWMD. Participating utilities incur the cost of only 25% of their respective portion of the project, leveraging local dollars with regional funds. Beginning with Phase 8, project phases are on an annual budgeting cycle to match the Florida Waterwise program, as opposed to two-year cycles for past initiatives.

In Fiscal Year 2023-24 the WRWSA began a new program co-funded by SJRWMD that included Marion County and the City of Belleview as cooperating utilities. This pilot program includes 60 enhanced evaluations.

These water conservation initiatives help participating utilities meet and improve upon the maximum 150 gallons per person per day goal that is required by the water management districts.

4. Legislative and Governmental Affairs Advocacy on Behalf of the WRWSA and Its Member Governments

The WRWSA conducts legislative and executive branch advocacy year-round to promote initiatives on behalf of the WRWSA and its member governments, and to protect the WRWSA's interests. Historically, the WRWSA has played a vital role in influencing state and regional water supply planning, permitting and funding programs including "local sources first," the Water Protection and Sustainability Program. Each year prior to the Legislative Session, the WRWSA Board of Directors reviews and approves policy direction to guide its advocacy efforts. Throughout the year progress reports are provided on a regular basis. The WRWSA will remain fully engaged in assisting the Legislature to implement and refine legislation related to the state's comprehensive water policies and funding programs, as well as engage as appropriate on new legislation that would affect the WRWSA and water supplies of our member governments.

5. Participation in Maintenance and Enhancement of Groundwater Models

The WRWSA will continue to participate in discussions with SJRWMD and SWFWMD on the implementation of the Central Springs Groundwater model. The intent is for both water management districts to utilize this common model for determining the availability of groundwater in the region, particularly in Marion County which is split by the districts' boundaries. SJRWMD and SWFWMD continue to improve upon the model and seek the engagement of various stakeholders. The model has significant implications for sustainable groundwater availability in the region and the WRWSA's continued participation and

coordination with member governments is essential to ensure water supply implications are considered as the model is updated. This model is being used for the 2024 Regional Water Supply Plan update.

6. Springs Protection and Restoration

The WRWSA continues to work with SWFWMD on its springs coast initiative. The WRWSA staff continue to actively participate in the Springs Coast Management Committee as the public supply Representative, and monitor activities of the District and the Steering Committee for implications on water supply in the region. WRWSA is also providing a representative on the Technical Advisory Committee.

7. Program Development and Technical Assistance

- a) Support efforts to further define the hydrogeology of the region. Continue cooperation with the water management districts on the collection of hydrologic data to further refine the Districts' planning and regulatory models. Coordinate on efforts to better define the lower Floridan aquifer and the extent of fresh and brackish groundwater within the aquifer.
- b) Promote the WRWSA Regional Framework through coordination with WRWSA member governments to facilitate regional and sub-regional cooperation on water supply development and reclaimed water projects. Work with the water management districts in defining strategic priorities for the region and how these priorities may influence the ranking criteria for the Districts' Cooperative Funding Initiatives, including potential District funding for regional and sub-regional traditional and non- traditional water supply development that is consistent with the WRWSA Regional Framework.
- c) Participate in SWFWMD and SJRWMD minimum flows and levels (MFLs) programs representing the interests of member governments. Provide technical assistance to WRWSA member governments in determining the potential impact to both the environment and potential water supply development based on proposed MFLs.
- d) Coordinate with FDEP, SJRWMD, SWFWMD and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services on policy and rule development. Provide assistance to WRWSA member governments on FDEP and District rule development that may include Water Use Permitting, Environmental Resource Permitting, water conservation and future water supply development, including statewide consistency initiatives. Monitor water management programs and rule development in other parts of the state, including the Central Florida Water Initiative, for implications to the WRWSA and its member governments.
- e) Monitor and coordinate with the water supply planning and development activities in adjacent communities and regions, including but not limited to

Tampa Bay Water, the Central Florida Water Initiative, the Polk Water Cooperative, and Lake and Levy counties for possible implications on water resource availability within the WRWSA region. Provide input to such activities when appropriate.

- f) Monitor applications for significant water use permits and permit modifications within the region for potential impacts on WRWSA and member government existing and planned water supply facilities and engage in the permitting process where appropriate.