

Central Florida Water Initiative



Regional Water Supply Plan

Background

The Floridan aquifer system has historically supplied the vast majority of the water used in the central Florida area. The boundaries of three water management districts — the St. Johns River Water Management District, South Florida Water Management District and Southwest Florida Water Management District — meet in the area. The three districts are studying whether the Floridan aquifer system is reaching its sustainable limits of use and exploring the need to develop supplemental sources of water.

The three water management districts, along with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS), regional public water supply utilities and other stakeholders are working to develop a unified water supply plan for central Florida as part of the Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI). The initiative area includes southern Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Polk counties.

The CFWI is working to provide a uniform approach for water management in a region where the boundaries of three districts come together and where water withdrawals in one district may impact water resources and water users throughout the area.

Regional Water Supply Plan

The regional water supply plan will ensure the protection of water resources and related natural systems and identify sustainable water supplies for all water uses in the coordination area through 2035.

A Team Approach

Several technical teams are working collaboratively to build a strong scientific foundation of knowledge upon which the regional water supply plan will be developed.

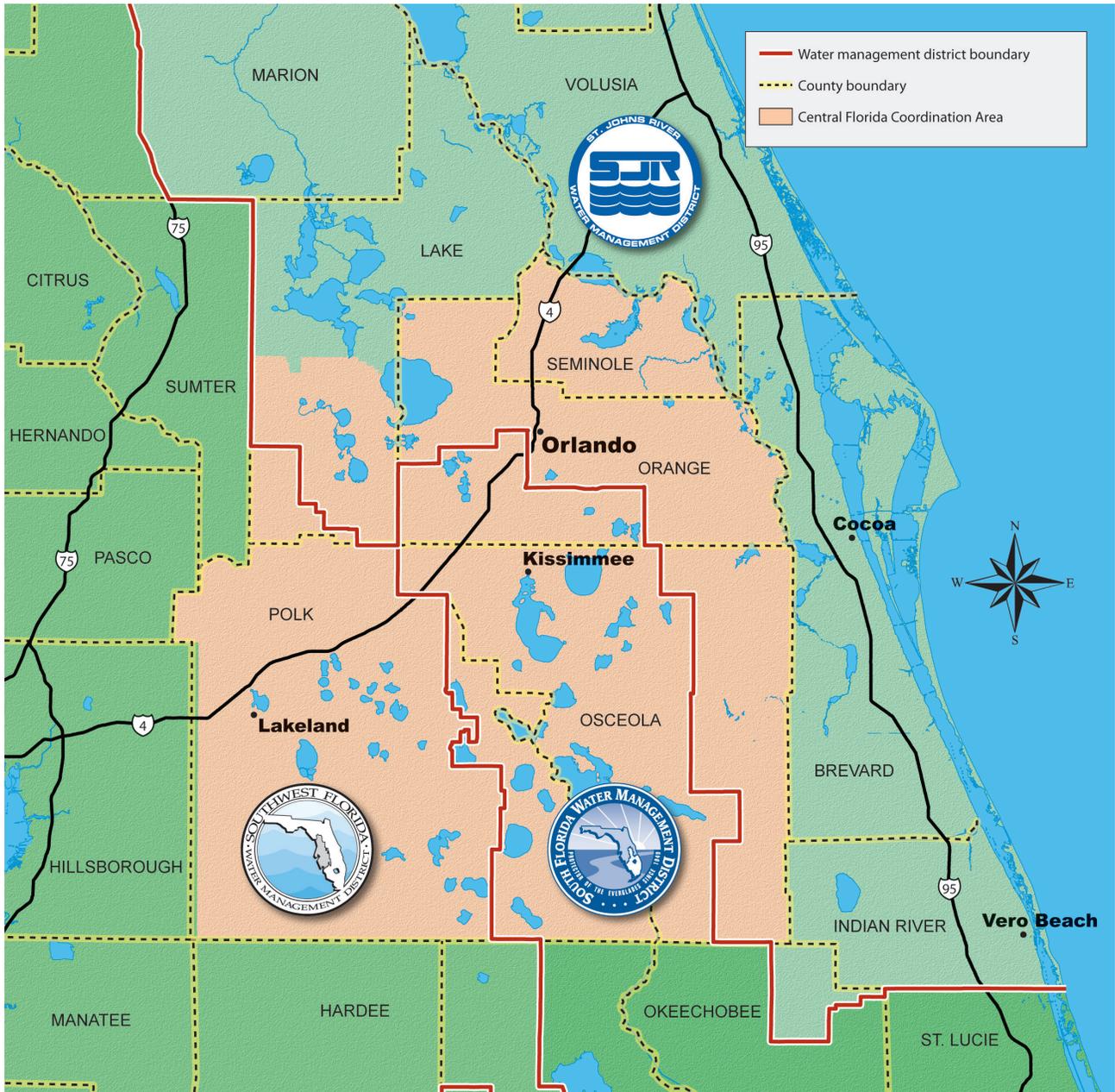
The technical analysis includes:

- Developing planning-level estimates of groundwater availability
- Ensuring the most appropriate science is applied to modeling and data analysis
- Performing environmental assessments of wetlands and surface waters
- Developing options for consistent processes to set and implement minimum flows and levels and water reservation criteria for priority water bodies
- Ensuring that available hydrologic, environmental and other pertinent data is identified, inventoried and accessible

Regional Water Supply Plan Team

Team members working on the water supply plan are focusing their efforts on:

- Developing population and water demand projections
- Ensuring consistent utilization of resource evaluation criteria
- Developing a water conservation component for the plan
- Evaluating water sources
- Identifying and analyzing water supply development and water resource development project options



Plan Development Schedule

A draft CFWI Regional Water Supply Plan is scheduled for completion by the end of 2012. Stakeholders and the public will have the opportunity to comment on the draft plan. The final plan is scheduled for completion in April 2013.

Public Input

Public input and involvement is encouraged during the development of the regional water supply plan. A public meeting will be held in late 2012 or early 2013 to present the draft plan, which will also be available for public comments on the CFWI website at cfwiwater.com.