

PLANNERS DEPLOY HIGH-TECH PROJECTION TOOLS

The Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) Regional Water Supply Planning (RWSP) process is one of the most challenging water use planning processes in the state, and sets the tone for all water use planning efforts across the state. With every five-year iteration of this planning process, methods and models become more consistent and technologically advanced.

Public water supply and agriculture are the two largest and most dynamic water use sectors in the CFWI RWSP region, and multiple, interrelated factors affect these sectors. Hence, they are among the most difficult to forecast. Thankfully, there are two new, high-tech products that may make forecasting easier, more consistent, and more accurate: field-level agricultural water demand projections and parcel-level population projections. These tools were not available for development of the 2015 CFWI RWSP.

Field-level agricultural water demand projections are published in the annual Florida Statewide Agricultural Irrigation Demand (FSAID) reports, created by The Balmoral Group, under contract with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Parcel-level population projections are from the University of Florida's Bureau of Economic and Business Research. This was a pilot project funded by the South Florida, St. Johns River, and Southwest Florida water management districts specifically for the CFWI RWSP area. The projections will be reviewed several times by stakeholders in an open, dynamic, and collaborative process during development of the 2020 CFWI RWSP. So far, feedback regarding the process and consistency has been positive. Below are two figures depicting the available data sets.

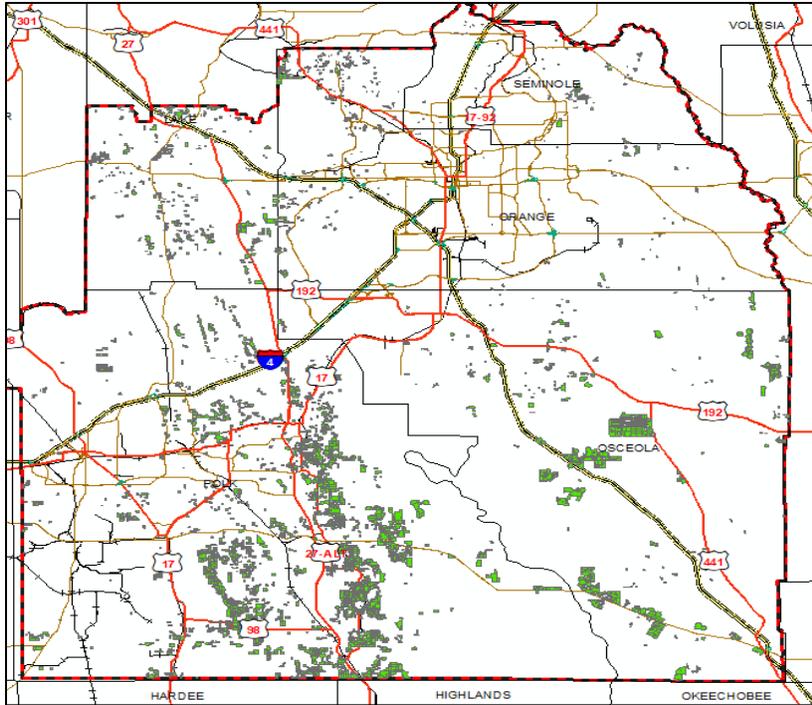


Figure 1. Field-level agricultural water demand projections in the CFWI RWSP area.

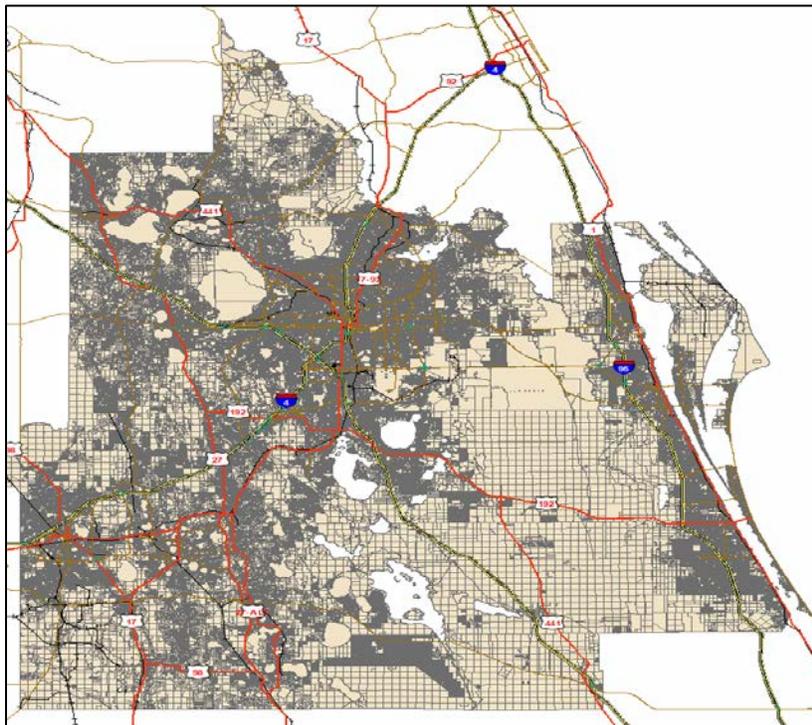


Figure 2. Parcel-level population projections in the CFWI RWSP area.