

CFWI Steering Committee Endorses Draft Final of the 2025 Regional Water Supply Plan

On Sept. 12, the Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) Steering Committee held a meeting at the St. Johns River Water Management District's Apopka Service Center, where members reviewed and endorsed the draft final of the 2025 CFWI Regional Water Supply Plan (RWSP). The RWSP serves as a comprehensive roadmap for meeting Central Florida's future water needs while protecting the region's natural resources.

The CFWI is a collaborative effort among the St. Johns River, South Florida, and Southwest Florida water management districts, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and a diverse group of stakeholders including water utilities, environmental organizations and agricultural producers. This partnership is essential to addressing the unique water challenges in the rapidly growing area.

Updated every five years, the RWSP includes water demand projections for a 20-year planning horizon and identifies strategies to ensure reliable water supplies while protecting natural systems. Without the projects outlined in the 2025 CFWI RWSP, central Florida could face a projected groundwater shortfall of 96 million gallons per day by 2045. To prevent that outcome, the RWSP identifies a diverse portfolio of solutions, including **140** water supply and resource development project options and **27** conservation project options. Together, these efforts aim to balance long-term water needs with environmental stewardship.

The meeting also spotlighted examples of ongoing projects within the CFWI Planning Area that are already helping to advance water supply and conservation goals: Cherrylake Tree Farm's conservation efforts, the Water Cooperative of Central Florida's Cypress Lake alternative water supply project and the Polk Regional Water Cooperative's Southeast Wellfield and transmission projects.

With Steering Committee endorsement, the draft final RWSP will now go before the Governing Boards for each of the three water management districts for final approval this November. Once approved, the RWSP will guide water supply and conservation efforts across central Florida for the next 20 years. The final 2025 CFWI RWSP will be available on cfwiwater.com in December 2025.