



Next Steps: Developing the 2020 Regional Water Supply Plan

Teams working within the Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) are on schedule to complete the 2020 Regional Water Supply Plan (RWSP), developed in response to increases in population growth and demand for water across Central Florida.

Because the boundaries of three separate water management districts meet in Central Florida, the decision to pump water from groundwater in one area can have impacts in another. Today, the districts are working together with other governments and stakeholders to identify and apply a more coordinated approach to protecting the resource. The CFWI planning team led the nation as it developed Florida's first joint RWSP in 2015.

Development of the 2020 RWSP is a highly collaborative effort to identify existing and projected water needs, as well as the projects and funding sources to help meet those needs over the next 20 years.

The reality of future water supply concerns is not new, but several key items were developed to help better understand and manage long-term water resources. "Within the draft 2020 RWSP effort, teams implemented an expanded groundwater model as well as a more consistent methodology for water demand projections," explains Tammy Bader-Gibbs, RWSP Team Lead. "Next, groundwater availability within the region was reassessed, and new project options were identified to help meet future water needs."

Technical teams are currently reviewing the first draft of the RWSP and expect to present the draft plan to each water management district's governing board in March 2020. Following the March presentations, four public workshops will be held in April 2020. Public engagement is key to many aspects within the CFWI, with the public encouraged to attend meetings and comment on the draft plan. All public comments and feedback are taken into consideration and will be included in the plan's appendix.

The final plan will be presented to the governing boards of each water management district for approval in November 2020. Following approval, water managers and stakeholders will work to implement projects and plans, as well as continue to evaluate future projects and funding opportunities.



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The CFWI encompasses five counties: Orange, Osceola, Polk, Seminole and southern Lake. Through the CFWI, three water management districts — South Florida, Southwest Florida and St. Johns River — are working collaboratively with other agencies and stakeholders to implement effective water resource planning, including water resource and supply development and management strategies to protect, conserve and restore our water resources. To learn more, please visit cfwiwater.com.