



# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Protection

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Lt. Governor

**Noah Valenstein**  
Secretary

## Memorandum

**TO:** WMD Executive Directors  
**FROM:** Edward C. Smith, Director, Office of Water Policy and Ecosystems Restoration  
**SUBJECT:** FY 20-21 Alternative Water Supply Funding  
**DATE:** July 7, 2020

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The Governor and Legislature continue to recognize the importance of alternative water supply and the protection of Florida's natural systems with an investment of \$40 million during the 2020 legislative session. Water resource and water supply development projects help to protect our water resources and ensure that the needs of existing and future users are met. The Department is proud to continue this significant funding initiative and we invite you to participate in project proposals and ranking recommendations.

This funding source is intended to prioritize regional projects in the areas of greatest need and those that provide the greatest benefit. As demonstrated in the Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI), the North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership (NFRWSP), and other regional planning documents, as well as in MFL Recovery and Prevention Strategies, there is a critical need for these regional projects. In order to advance those projects with the greatest need and benefit, the Department requests that you confirm and update projects identified in Regional Water Supply Plans, Recovery and Prevention Strategies, and/or new project solicitations, and provide recommendations, in order of priority, for state funding.

To provide policy direction and assistance with the selection of projects, the Department has finalized *Alternative Water Supply Funding Guidance* in June 2020 (attached). The guidance describes the funding sources, funding process<sup>1</sup>, and evaluation criteria that should be used in prioritizing and recommending projects.

The Department will consider all recommendations and priorities in selecting the projects of greatest need and benefit to be funded this year. We ask that these recommendations be submitted to our office via email ([Christina.G.Coger@floridadep.gov](mailto:Christina.G.Coger@floridadep.gov)), using the attached spreadsheet, by September 1, 2020. As always, we appreciate and value your kind assistance.

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<sup>1</sup> Note that the schedule for project submittal outlined in the Guidance will apply beginning with FY 21-22 funding, making the next round of projects due in May 2021. All other portions of the guidance document remain applicable to FY 20-21 funding requests.