



WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS OVERVIEW

APRIL 2007

Report No. S07-06

Agency Responsibilities

Florida's water management districts manage and protect the state's water resources and related natural systems. The districts are responsible for water supply, water quality, flood protection, and natural systems.

Agency Organization

The state is divided into five water management districts along natural hydrological boundaries (see Exhibit 1 on page 2 for a map of the districts). The Department of Environmental Protection has general supervisory authority over the districts, providing policy guidance and coordinating state water resources planning. The department has delegated the administration of many water resources programs to the districts.

The Governor appoints a governing board to each district and its members are subject to confirmation by the Florida Senate. In addition to overseeing district operations, the boards are authorized by the Florida Constitution and by statute to levy ad valorem property taxes to fund their operations. District governance structures, priorities, and financial resources vary among the districts.

The districts' activities are organized among six major programs.

- **District Management and Administration** includes executive direction, ombudsman services, budgeting, inspector general, and governing board support.
- **Outreach** includes environmental and water conservation education; governmental affairs; and public relations activities, such as public service announcements.
- **Regulation** includes water use permitting; water well permitting and contractor licensing; environmental resource and surface water

management permitting; and permit administration and enforcement.

- **Water Resources Planning and Monitoring** includes water management planning (e.g., water supply planning and protecting water resources); research, data collection, analysis, and monitoring of hydrologic and meteorological data; and technical assistance.
- **Acquisition, Restoration and Public Works** includes developing and constructing capital projects; land acquisition; and restoring lands and water bodies.
- **Operation and Maintenance of Lands and Works** includes operating and maintaining facilities, flood control and water supply structures, lands, and other works.

Resources

Exhibit 2 presents resource information for the five water management districts. For Fiscal Year 2006-07, total funding for the districts was \$2.3 billion and staffing included 3,340 full-time equivalent positions. Districts' budgets are subject to approval by the Governor. As specified by the Florida Constitution, four districts are limited to a maximum property tax rate of 1.00 mill, which is \$1 for every \$1,000 of taxable property value; the Northwest Florida Water Management District is limited to 0.05 mill. For more details on the resources for each water management district, see Exhibit 3.

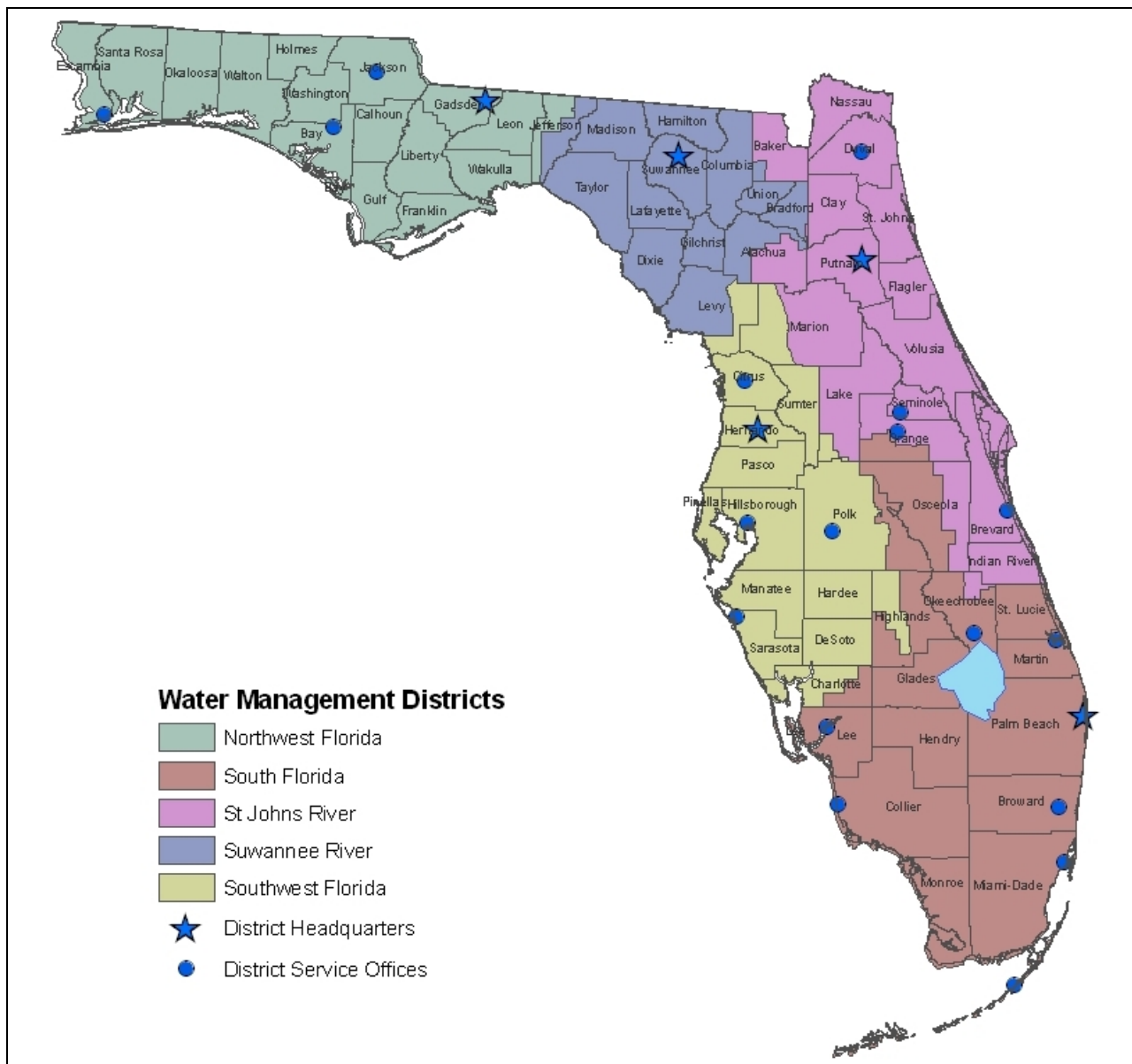
Exhibit 2

Revenues and Staffing for the Water Management Districts¹

District	FY 2004-05	FY 2005-06	FY 2006-07
Northwest Florida	\$27,007,816	\$108,799,582	\$125,859,464
Suwannee River	20,612,823	70,746,883	80,591,645
St. Johns River	165,074,573	145,418,116	353,144,417
Southwest Florida	240,450,206	275,849,627	364,489,009
South Florida	699,995,978	1,127,016,382	1,365,862,587
TOTAL	\$1,153,141,396	\$1,727,830,590	\$2,289,947,122
FTE	3,324	3,324	3,340
OPS	108	90	103

¹ Fiscal Year 2004-05 are actual amounts; Fiscal Year 2005-06 are budgeted amounts for Northwest Florida, Suwannee River, and South Florida and actual amounts for St. Johns River and Southwest Florida; Fiscal Year 2006-07 are budgeted amounts.

Exhibit 1 Florida's Water Management Districts



Source: OPPAGA, April 2007.

Exhibit 3

Water Management District Budgeted Resources by Program for Fiscal Year 2006-07 Northwest Florida Water Management District

Programs	Non-dedicated Revenues ¹	Dedicated Revenues				Total Revenues	FTE Positions	OPS Positions
		Federal Funds	State Trust Funds	General Revenues	Other ²			
Water Resources, Planning and Monitoring	\$7,213,783	\$3,579,345	\$2,179,414	0	\$341,948	\$13,314,490	17	7
Acquisition, Restoration, and Public Works	11,180,410	251,000	60,217,458	0	12,741,360	84,390,228	5	6
Operation and Maintenance of Lands and Works	0	0	6,035,855	0	5,695,567	11,731,422	7	3
Regulation	375,115	0	300,000	\$2,740,000	519,500	3,934,615	18	19
Outreach	116,237	0	95,434	0	0	211,671	2	1
Management and Administration	12,277,038	0	0	0	0	12,277,038	12	7
District Subtotal	\$31,162,583	\$3,830,345	\$68,828,161	\$2,740,000	\$19,298,375	\$125,859,464	61	43

Source: Northwest Florida Water Management District Report to the Sunset Legislative Committee, November 2006.

¹ Non-dedicated revenues include carryover (\$23,952,916), ad valorem (\$5,254,741), state appropriation for operations (\$1,044,926), and miscellaneous revenues (\$910,000).

² Other revenues include carryover, permit and license fees, local revenues, other state revenue, and miscellaneous revenues.

Suwannee River Water Management District

Programs	Non-dedicated Revenues ¹	Dedicated Revenues				Total Revenues	FTE Positions	OPS Positions
		Federal Funds	State Trust Funds	General Revenues	Other ²			
Water Resources, Planning and Monitoring	0	\$1,784,620	\$2,161,310	0	\$3,012,661	\$6,958,591	10	1
Acquisition, Restoration, and Public Works	\$200,259	3,303,722	29,922,706	0	14,712,428	48,139,115	11	1
Operation and Maintenance of lands and Works	162,000	710,638	9,519,966	0	5,840,000	16,232,604	9	0
Regulation	531,651	0	453,000	0	872,180	1,856,831	18	2
Outreach	91,000	0	0	0	274,624	365,624	1	0
Management and Administration	7,038,880	0	0	0	0	7,038,880	19	0
District Subtotal	\$8,023,790	\$5,798,980	\$42,056,982	0	\$24,711,893	\$80,591,645	68	4

Source: Suwannee River Water Management District Report to the Sunset Legislative Committee, December 2006.

¹ Non-dedicated revenues include carryover (\$2,573,790), ad valorem (\$5,300,000), and miscellaneous revenues (\$150,000).

² Other revenues include carryover, permit and license fees, other state revenue, and miscellaneous revenues.

St. Johns River Water Management District

Programs	Non-dedicated Revenues ¹	Dedicated Revenues				Total Revenues	FTE Positions	OPS Positions
		Federal Funds	State Trust Funds	General Revenues	Other ²			
Water Resources, Planning and Monitoring	\$17,780,672	\$305,510	\$200,000	0	\$140,000	\$18,426,182	96.90	0
Acquisition, Restoration, and Public Works	92,202,086	7,474,663	145,558,448	\$4,395,717	4,506,650	254,137,564	145.55	0
Operation and Maintenance of lands and Works	10,567,624	0	7,338,031	0	195,191	18,100,846	101.00	0
Regulation	13,563,791	0	600,000	0	3,500,000	17,663,791	180.45	0
Outreach	5,106,370	0	0	0	294,300	5,400,670	27.50	0
Management and Administration	39,111,969	1,500	11,250	0	290,645	39,415,364	139.60	0
District Total	\$178,332,512	\$7,781,673	\$153,707,729	\$4,395,717	\$8,926,786	\$353,144,417	691	0

Source: St. John's River Water Management District Report to the Sunset Legislative Committee, December 2006.

¹ Non-dedicated revenues include carryover (\$27,481,994), ad valorem (\$142,469,805), and miscellaneous revenues (\$8,380,713).

² Other revenues include permit and license fees, local revenues, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, specific state appropriations, other state revenue, and miscellaneous revenues.

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Programs	Non-dedicated Revenues ¹	Dedicated Revenues				Total Revenues	FTE Positions	OPS Positions
		Federal Funds	State Trust Funds	General Revenues	Other ²			
Water Resources, Planning and Monitoring	\$34,644,516	\$1,850,000	\$2,599,960	0	\$5,572,350	\$44,666,826	125	9
Acquisition, Restoration, and Public Works	157,989,992	0	56,156,640	0	576,500	214,723,132	67	5
Operation and Maintenance of lands and Works	14,487,024	0	9,048,118	0	1,600,929	25,136,071	107	8
Regulation	17,859,845	0	0	0	3,783,600	21,643,445	213	13
Outreach	\$5,456,768	0	169,794	0	0	5,626,562	20	1
Management and Administration	51,737,973	0	0	0	955,000	52,692,973	204	20
District Total	\$282,176,118	\$1,850,000	\$67,974,512	0	\$12,488,379	\$364,489,009	736	56

Source: Southwest Florida Water Management District Report to the Sunset Legislative Committee, November 2006.

¹ Non-dedicated revenues include carryover (\$32,827,824), ad valorem (\$236,160,294), and miscellaneous revenues (\$13,188,000).

² Other revenues include permit and license fees, local revenues, other state revenue, and miscellaneous revenues.

South Florida Water Management District

Programs	Non-dedicated Revenues ¹	Dedicated Revenues				Total Revenues	FTE Positions	OPS Positions
		Federal Funds	State Trust Funds	General Revenues	Other ²			
Water Resources, Planning and Monitoring	\$75,632,884	0	\$17,309,104	0	\$23,875,970	\$116,817,958	335	0
Acquisition, Restoration, and Public Works	138,790,707	\$7,646,250	73,505,298	0	661,463,030	881,405,285	201	0
Operation and Maintenance of lands and Works	164,175,707	\$10,892,000	15,878,100	0	33,217,399	224,163,206	659	0
Regulation	18,173,488	0	0	0	0	18,173,488	182	0
Outreach	7,344,020	0	0	0	0	7,344,020	37	0
Management and Administration	111,871,200	0	0	0	6,087,430	117,958,630	370	0
District Total	\$515,988,006	\$18,538,250	\$106,692,502	0	\$724,643,829	\$1,365,862,587	1784	0

Source: South Florida Water Management District Report to the Sunset Legislative Committee, December 2006.

¹ Non-dedicated revenues include carryover (\$15,898,199), ad valorem (\$479,282,869), permit and license fees (\$5,183,550), federal revenues (\$1,244,490), and miscellaneous revenues (\$14,378,898).

² Other revenues include carryover, dedicated Everglades Forever Act ad valorem (\$73,726,969), permit and license fees, local revenues, agricultural privilege tax, state appropriations, other state revenue, alligator alley tolls, certificate of participation, and miscellaneous revenues.

The Florida Government Accountability Act Sunset Reviews

The 2006 Legislature passed the Florida Government Accountability Act (Ch. 2006-146, *Laws of Florida*) to create a Sunset review process. The act



- establishes the process, criteria, and schedule for the Legislature to assess whether state agencies and advisory committees need to continue to exist;
- provides for the creation of a Legislative Sunset Advisory Committee and describes the membership and organization of the committee and committee duties;
- requires reports and assistance from state agencies and the Legislature's Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA).

Using these reports and other information, the Sunset Advisory Committee is to produce a report that includes recommendations to abolish, continue, or reorganize an agency or advisory committee under review.

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