



Northwest Florida Water Management District

81 Water Management Drive, Havana, Florida 32333-4712
(U.S. Highway 90, 10 miles west of Tallahassee)

Brett J. Cyphers
Executive Director

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August 1, 2015

The Honorable Rick Scott, Governor
Plaza Level, The Capitol
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Subject: Northwest Florida Water Management District
Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016

Dear Governor Scott:

The Northwest Florida Water Management District respectfully submits the District's Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2015-2016, in accordance with section 373.536, Florida Statutes. Through the enclosed Tentative Budget of \$59.5 million, the District continues to demonstrate its focus on projects and activities that directly benefit the water resources and communities of Northwest Florida.

This budget also reflects the District's commitment to protecting the environment without adding to the financial burden of our taxpayers. The FY 2015-2016 Tentative Budget proposes levying the rolled-back millage rate of 0.0378, which is the rate that would produce the same tax revenue as in the previous year. This proposed rate is 24.4 percent below the constitutional and statutory cap of 0.0500, and less than the 0.0390 assessed in FY 2014-2015.

The Tentative Budget continues funding priority projects and activities that are vital to support the District's core mission of water supply, water quality, natural systems and flood protections, including:

- \$23.4 million for Springs Projects. This funding will enable the District to implement springs restoration projects for Wakulla Springs and Jackson Blue Spring as well as springs associated with the Holmes and Econfina creek systems.
- \$13.9 million for Water Supply Development Assistance. This funding includes \$2.3 million for the implementation of new local grant funding for cooperative water supply development assistance.
- \$2.4 million for Watershed Restoration. This funding will facilitate continued efforts to protect and restore water quality and estuarine habitats in the Apalachicola River and Bay and St. Andrew Bay systems through the implementation of cooperative stormwater retrofit projects and other best management practices. This funding will also support focused project planning to benefit watersheds across Northwest Florida.

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- \$1.7 million for monitoring and technical assessments to develop MFLs for the St. Marks River Rise, Wakulla Spring, Sally Ward Spring, Jackson Blue Spring and the Floridan aquifer in coastal Okaloosa, Santa Rosa and Walton counties. This also includes MFL hydrologic monitoring for water levels, discharge and rainfall at 97 sites across the Panhandle.

Thank you for your consideration of our FY 2015-2016 Tentative Budget. We look forward to continuing to work closely with your office, the Florida Legislature and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to finalize our budget and protect and restore the water resources of our region for the benefit of its taxpayers and citizens.

Please contact me if you have any questions or if additional information is required.

Sincerely,



Brett J. Cyphers
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc:

The Honorable Andy Gardiner, President, Florida Senate
The Honorable Steve Crisafulli, Speaker, Florida House of Representatives
The Honorable Tom Lee, Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Alan Hayes, Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government
The Honorable Charles Dean, Sr., Chair, Senate Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation
The Honorable Richard Corcoran, Chair, House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Ben Albritton, Chair, House Agricultural and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee
The Honorable Matt Caldwell, Chair House State Affairs Committee
The Honorable Tom Goodson, Chair, Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee
Executive Office of the Governor
Jonathan P. Steverson, Secretary, Florida Department of Environment Protection