



Northwest Florida Water Management District

81 Water Management Drive, Havana, Florida 32333-4712

(U.S. Highway 90, 10 miles west of Tallahassee)

Jonathan P. Stevenson
Executive Director

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August 1, 2014

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 2014–2015

Dear Governor Scott:

The Northwest Florida Water Management District respectfully submits its Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-2015, in accordance with section 373.536, Florida Statutes. Through the enclosed Tentative Budget of \$52.5 million, the District continues to demonstrate its focus on moving forward with projects and activities that will provide a direct benefit to 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 residents. The FY 2014-2015 Tentative Budget proposes levying the roll-back millage rate of .039, which is less than the 0.04 assessed in FY 2013-2014 and 22 percent below the constitutional and statutory cap of 0.05.

The District remains committed to implementing priority projects during the upcoming fiscal year, including springs restoration; the development of minimum flows and levels; water supply development assistance; and protection of the Apalachicola River and Bay and St. Andrew Bay watersheds. The District will also continue to move forward with improvements to our Information Technology and data collection and monitoring system, which will help our dedicated staff better achieve our goals.

The District's major objectives for FY 2014-2015 focus on its core mission of water supply, water quality, natural systems and flood protection and include:

- \$8.2 million for springs restoration and protection projects. This includes more than \$6.8 million in newly appropriated funding that was recommended by you and appropriated by the Legislature during the 2014 Legislative Session to implement projects to improve the health of springs ecosystems throughout Northwest Florida.
- \$2.4 million for the development of minimum flows and levels (MFLs). This funding will be used to help the District accomplish its ambitious schedule to develop MFLs—a major component of its overall effort to ensure the long-term protection and sustainability of our

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water resources. The District will move forward with intensive hydrologic, ecologic and water quality data collection that is vital to a successful MFL program.

- \$15 million for water supply development assistance to local governments and non-profit utilities. This includes \$8 million for a new cycle of competitive grant funding designed to help communities in Northwest Florida meet local water supply challenges.
- \$3.8 million for the protection and restoration of the Apalachicola River and Bay watershed. The District will continue to partner with state and local agencies to improve the health of this environmentally and economically important natural system, including the development of a hydrodynamic model that will help assess and evaluate potential actions to improve and maintain a healthy bay.
- \$3.6 million for the restoration and protection of the St. Andrew Bay watershed. This includes grant funding assistance to local governments for water quality improvement activities, including four stormwater retrofits that will treat runoff generated from more than 500 acres of drainage area.

Thank you for your consideration of our FY 2014-2015 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. Please contact me if you have any questions or any additional information is required.

Sincerely,



Jonathan P. Steverson
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc:

The Honorable Don Gaetz, President, Florida Senate

The Honorable Will Weatherford, Speaker, Florida House of Representatives

The Honorable Joe Negron, Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Alan Hays, Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government

The Honorable Charles Dean, Sr., Chair, Senate Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation

The Honorable Seth McKeel, Chair, House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Ben Albritton, Chair, House Agricultural and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee

The Honorable Jim Boyd, Chair, House State Affairs Committee

The Honorable Matthew Caldwell, Chair, Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee
Executive Office of the Governor

Herschel T. Vinyard Jr., Secretary, Florida Department of Environmental Protection