



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

September 12, 2013

Mr. George Roberts
Chair, Governing Board
Northwest Florida Water Management District
1603 Bay Avenue
Panama City, Florida 32405

Dear Mr. Roberts:

In accordance with Section 373.536, Florida Statutes, I have reviewed the Northwest Florida Water Management District's Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-14. I want to applaud the district for working cooperatively with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to focus on the core missions of water supply, flood protection, water quality, and the protection of our natural systems, all while holding the ad valorem tax rate at the same rate as last year.

I also want to extend my appreciation to you and the rest of the Governing Board and its staff for your continued work on reducing the administrative overhead of the district and dedicating more of your budget to protecting and restoring Florida's water resources. I specifically commend you for adjusting your budget to increase funding for water restoration and public works projects by 119 percent from last year. As you know well, our water resources and environment are a key part of the foundation for Florida's growing economy. The continued cost sharing assistance for alternative water supply development and regional water system interconnections will ensure the region's water supply will meet the future demands of our economy and environment.

I would like to personally commend you and the rest of the Governing Board for your efforts to protect Florida's springs. I applaud your efforts to restore and protect Williford Springs and Jackson Blue Spring. Your recent efforts to expedite the setting of Minimum Flows and Levels and your partnership with DEP and local governments to leverage as many dollars as possible for springs restoration and protection will make a lasting difference for Florida's families.

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Lastly, I want to commend all the districts for continuing to work with the department to ensure consistency across district boundaries while providing the most effective and efficient use of taxpayer dollars. Moving forward, I encourage you and your fellow Governing Board Members to continue your focus on restoration and public works projects, and look for efficiencies that reduce operational expenses. It is critical that we carefully oversee the citizens' precious tax dollars and maximize their use to best position our state for the future.

Pursuant to Chapter 2012-126, Laws of Florida, I am approving the district's Fiscal Year 2013-14 Tentative Budget. I want to thank you and your fellow Governing Board Members for your commitment to serving Floridians and I look forward to working with you during the coming year as we continue to strive for the most efficient and effective manner to protect Florida's water resources together.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Scott", written in a cursive style.

Rick Scott
Governor

cc: Jon Steverson, Executive Director, Northwest Florida Water Management District
Herschel T. Vinyard Jr., Secretary, Department of Environmental Protection
Noah D. Valenstein, Policy Coordinator, Office of Policy and Budget