



## State water grants boost Port St. Joe efforts



Wes Locher | The Star

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The Northwest Florida Water Management District has awarded a pair of grants to the city of Port St. Joe to continue addressing water quality issues.

The funding was part of a second cycle of competitive grants awarded to assist local governments in addressing water supply challenges and meet regional goals for water supply protection and management.

In the first round, the district awarded nearly \$10 million, including dollars to Port St. Joe to begin to rehabilitate the Chipola Pump Station.

The water management district announced the disbursement of another \$8 million for 26 projects.

“An important part of the District’s mission is ensuring a safe and reliable supply of water for the people of this region,” said George Roberts, chairman of the district’s governing board. “This grant program allows the District to play an active part in contributing to the health and well-being of our communities by addressing regional water resource and supply development needs.”

Among those grants is \$358,920 to Port St. Joe to install a lime injection system to improve drinking water quality.

City officials have sought to transition to a lime pre-treatment protocol to both enhance water quality and reduce chemical costs for treating water from the Chipola River, through the county freshwater canal, which is the surface water source for the city.