



# 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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January 15, 2016

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

Subject: Northwest Florida Water Management District  
Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017

Dear Governor Scott:

The Northwest Florida Water Management District respectfully submits the District's Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016-2017 in accordance with section 373.535, Florida Statutes. Through the enclosed Preliminary Budget of \$36.7 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 2016-2017 Preliminary Budget proposes levying the millage rate of 0.0378, which is the same rate assessed in FY 2015-2016 and 24.4 percent below the constitutional and statutory cap of 0.0500.

The Preliminary 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 protection, including:

- \$8.2 million for Water Supply and Water Resource Development Assistance to continue support for cooperative grant projects across northwest Florida. This funding also supports the collaborative efforts with Bay County, Gulf Power, and Panama City to expand reclaimed water use in Bay County.
- \$8.0 million for Springs Projects. This funding will enable the District to implement springs restoration projects for Wakulla Springs, Jackson Blue Spring, and springs associated with the Econfina Creek System.
- \$2.0 million for monitoring and technical assessments to develop MFLs for the St. Marks River Rise, Wakulla Spring, Sally Ward Spring, Jackson Blue Spring, the Floridan aquifer in coastal Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, and Walton counties, and the Lower Yellow and Shoal River system.

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- \$1.8 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.

Thank you for your consideration of our FY 2016-2017 Preliminary 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 Hays, 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 Agriculture 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, Office of Policy and Budget  
Jonathan P. Steverson, Secretary, Florida Department of Environment Protection