



26 Supply Plan developed pursuant to s. 373.0465, Florida Statutes,  
27 projected the population of the region to reach 4.4 million by  
28 2040, which is a 49 percent increase from a 2015 estimate. The  
29 total average of surface and ground water use in the initiative  
30 planning area is projected to increase 36 percent from 667  
31 million gallons per day in 2015 to 908 million gallons per day  
32 in 2040.

33 (4) The Central Florida Water Initiative Water Supply Plan  
34 concluded that in some areas of the initiative planning area,  
35 fresh groundwater is near or has exceeded the limits of  
36 groundwater availability and that alternative water sources will  
37 need to be developed along with additional water conservation  
38 efforts and local management strategies to meet the 2040  
39 projected water demands or currently permitted allocations while  
40 allowing currently stressed water resources and natural systems  
41 to recover.

42 (5) Consistent funding support is required in order to  
43 support the efforts of the water management districts to protect  
44 the rivers, springs, and wetlands in the region while providing  
45 for responsible development of the water resources to support  
46 growth and provide for public health and safety.

47 Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section  
48 375.041, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

49 375.041 Land Acquisition Trust Fund.—

50 (3) Funds distributed into the Land Acquisition Trust Fund

51 pursuant to s. 201.15 shall be applied:

52 (b) Of the funds remaining after the payments required  
53 under paragraph (a), but before funds may be appropriated,  
54 pledged, or dedicated for other uses:

55 1. A minimum of the lesser of 25 percent or \$200 million  
56 shall be appropriated annually for Everglades projects that  
57 implement the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan as set  
58 forth in s. 373.470, including the Central Everglades Planning  
59 Project subject to congressional authorization; the Long-Term  
60 Plan as defined in s. 373.4592(2); and the Northern Everglades  
61 and Estuaries Protection Program as set forth in s. 373.4595.  
62 From these funds, \$32 million shall be distributed each fiscal  
63 year through the 2023-2024 fiscal year to the South Florida  
64 Water Management District for the Long-Term Plan as defined in  
65 s. 373.4592(2). After deducting the \$32 million distributed  
66 under this subparagraph, from the funds remaining, a minimum of  
67 the lesser of 76.5 percent or \$100 million shall be appropriated  
68 each fiscal year through the 2025-2026 fiscal year for the  
69 planning, design, engineering, and construction of the  
70 Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan as set forth in s.  
71 373.470, including the Central Everglades Planning Project, the  
72 Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir Project, the Lake  
73 Okeechobee Watershed Project, the C-43 West Basin Storage  
74 Reservoir Project, the Indian River Lagoon-South Project, the  
75 Western Everglades Restoration Project, and the Picayune Strand

76 Restoration Project. The Department of Environmental Protection  
77 and the South Florida Water Management District shall give  
78 preference to those Everglades restoration projects that reduce  
79 harmful discharges of water from Lake Okeechobee to the St.  
80 Lucie or Caloosahatchee estuaries in a timely manner. For the  
81 purpose of performing the calculation provided in this  
82 subparagraph, the amount of debt service paid pursuant to  
83 paragraph (a) for bonds issued after July 1, 2016, for the  
84 purposes set forth under this paragraph shall be added to the  
85 amount remaining after the payments required under paragraph  
86 (a). The amount of the distribution calculated shall then be  
87 reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid pursuant to  
88 paragraph (a) on bonds issued after July 1, 2016, for the  
89 purposes set forth under this subparagraph.

90 2. A minimum of the lesser of 7.6 percent or \$50 million  
91 shall be appropriated annually for spring restoration,  
92 protection, and management projects. For the purpose of  
93 performing the calculation provided in this subparagraph, the  
94 amount of debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) for bonds  
95 issued after July 1, 2016, for the purposes set forth under this  
96 paragraph shall be added to the amount remaining after the  
97 payments required under paragraph (a). The amount of the  
98 distribution calculated shall then be reduced by an amount equal  
99 to the debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) on bonds  
100 issued after July 1, 2016, for the purposes set forth under this

101 subparagraph.

102 3. The sum of \$5 million shall be appropriated annually  
 103 each fiscal year through the 2025-2026 fiscal year to the St.  
 104 Johns River Water Management District for projects dedicated to  
 105 the restoration of Lake Apopka. This distribution shall be  
 106 reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid pursuant to  
 107 paragraph (a) on bonds issued after July 1, 2016, for the  
 108 purposes set forth in this subparagraph.

109 4. The sum of \$64 million is appropriated and shall be  
 110 transferred to the Everglades Trust Fund for the 2018-2019  
 111 fiscal year, and each fiscal year thereafter, for the EAA  
 112 reservoir project pursuant to s. 373.4598. Any funds remaining  
 113 in any fiscal year shall be made available only for Phase II of  
 114 the C-51 reservoir project or projects identified in  
 115 subparagraph 1. and must be used in accordance with laws  
 116 relating to such projects. Any funds made available for such  
 117 purposes in a fiscal year are in addition to the amount  
 118 appropriated under subparagraph 1. This distribution shall be  
 119 reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid pursuant to  
 120 paragraph (a) on bonds issued after July 1, 2017, for the  
 121 purposes set forth in this subparagraph.

122 5. The sum of \$50 million shall be appropriated annually  
 123 to the South Florida Water Management District for the Lake  
 124 Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project in accordance with s.  
 125 373.4599. This distribution must be reduced by an amount equal

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126 to the debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) on bonds  
127 issued after July 1, 2021, for the purposes set forth in this  
128 subparagraph.

129 6. The sum of \$100 million shall be appropriated annually  
130 to the Department of Environmental Protection for the  
131 acquisition of land pursuant to s. 259.105.

132 7. The sum of \$20 million shall be appropriated annually  
133 to the Department of Environmental Protection to implement the  
134 Heartland Headwaters Protection and Sustainability Act pursuant  
135 to chapter 2017-111, Laws of Florida. The funds must be used to  
136 enter into financial assistance agreements and distributed in  
137 accordance with the projects identified in the Heartland  
138 Headwaters Annual Report submitted to the Legislature pursuant  
139 to s. 373.463 to finance the cost of designing or constructing  
140 projects that protect, restore, or enhance the headwaters of the  
141 river systems located in Heartland Region of Central Florida.  
142 This distribution shall be reduced by an amount equal to the  
143 debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) on bonds issued  
144 after July 1, 2024, for the purposes set forth in this  
145 subparagraph.

146 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.