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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
04/02/2025	.	
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The Committee on Appropriations (Brodeur) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete lines 157 - 832  
and insert:  
Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (8) of section 373.026,  
Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (d) of that  
subsection is reenacted, to read:  
373.026 General powers and duties of the department.—The  
department, or its successor agency, shall be responsible for  
the administration of this chapter at the state level. However,



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it is the policy of the state that, to the greatest extent possible, the department may enter into interagency or interlocal agreements with any other state agency, any water management district, or any local government conducting programs related to or materially affecting the water resources of the state. All such agreements shall be subject to the provisions of s. 373.046. In addition to its other powers and duties, the department shall, to the greatest extent possible:

(8)

(b) To ensure to the greatest extent possible that project components will go forward as planned, the department shall collaborate with the South Florida Water Management District in implementing the comprehensive plan as defined in s. 373.470(2)(b), the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Protection Plan as defined in s. 373.4595(2), and the River Watershed Protection Plans as defined in s. 373.4595(2). Before any project component is submitted to Congress for authorization or receives an appropriation of state funds, the department must approve, or approve with amendments, each project component within 60 days following formal submittal of the project component to the department. Prior to the release of state funds for the implementation of the comprehensive plan, department approval shall be based upon a determination of the South Florida Water Management District's compliance with s. 373.1501(6) ~~s. 373.1501(5)~~. Once a project component is approved, the South Florida Water Management District shall provide to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a schedule for implementing the project component, the estimated total cost of the project component, any existing federal or



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nonfederal credits, the estimated remaining federal and nonfederal share of costs, and an estimate of the amount of state funds that will be needed to implement the project component. All requests for an appropriation of state funds needed to implement the project component shall be submitted to the department, and such requests shall be included in the department's annual request to the Governor. Prior to the release of state funds for the implementation of the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Protection Plan or the River Watershed Protection Plans, on an annual basis, the South Florida Water Management District shall prepare an annual work plan as part of the consolidated annual report required in s. 373.036(7). Upon a determination by the secretary of the annual work plan's consistency with the goals and objectives of s. 373.4595, the secretary may approve the release of state funds. Any modifications to the annual work plan shall be submitted to the secretary for review and approval.

(d) The Executive Office of the Governor, pursuant to its duties under s. 373.536(5) to approve or disapprove, in whole or in part, the budget of each water management district, shall review all proposed expenditures for project components in the district's budget.

Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 373.0693, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

373.0693 Basins; basin boards.—

(1)~~(a)~~ Any areas within a district may be designated by the district governing board as subdistricts or basins. The designations of such basins shall be made by the district governing board by resolutions thereof. The governing board of



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the district may change the boundaries of such basins, or create new basins, by resolution.

~~(b) No subdistrict or basin in the St. Johns River Water Management District other than established by this act shall become effective until approved by the Legislature.~~

Section 4. Subsection (7) of section 373.079, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

373.079 Members of governing board; oath of office; staff.—

(7) The governing board shall meet at least once a month and upon call of the chair. A quorum is necessary for the board to conduct official business. A majority of the members of the governing board, which includes both appointed members and vacancies, constitutes a quorum. A board member's appearance at a board meeting, whether such appearance is in person or through the use of communications media technology, must be counted for the determination of a quorum. Except where otherwise provided by law, action may be taken by the governing board only upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the governing board. The governing board, a basin board, a committee, or an advisory board may conduct meetings by means of communications media technology in accordance with rules adopted pursuant to s. 120.54(5)(b) ~~s. 120.54~~.

Section 5. Present subsections (4) through (10) of section 373.1501, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (5) through (11), respectively, and a new subsection (4) is added to that section, and present subsection (9) of that section is amended, to read:

373.1501 South Florida Water Management District as local sponsor.—



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(4) The Legislature declares that acquiring land for water storage north of Lake Okeechobee is in the public interest, for a public purpose, and necessary for the public health and welfare. The governing board of the district is authorized to acquire land, if necessary, to implement a reservoir project north of Lake Okeechobee with the goal of providing at least 200,000 acre-feet of water storage. Any acquisition of real property for the purpose of a reservoir project constitutes a public purpose for which it is in the public interest to expend public funds. Any land necessary for implementing the projects in this subsection may only be acquired in accordance with s. 373.139(2), and chapters 73 and 74. The district and the state are not authorized to request the United States Army Corps of Engineers to acquire the lands for such reservoir project, and may not include any provision for such request in the project partnership agreement for such reservoir project.

(10)~~(9)~~ Final agency action with regard to any project component subject to s. 373.026(8)(b) must ~~shall~~ be taken by the department. Actions taken by the district pursuant to subsection (6) ~~are (5) shall~~ not be considered final agency action. Any petition for formal proceedings filed pursuant to ss. 120.569 and 120.57 requires ~~shall require~~ a hearing under the summary hearing provisions of s. 120.574, which is ~~shall be~~ mandatory. The final hearing under this section must ~~shall~~ be held within 30 days after receipt of the petition by the Division of Administrative Hearings.

Section 6. Paragraph (c) of subsection (7) of section 373.470, Florida Statutes, is amended, paragraph (d) is added to that subsection, and subsection (8) is added to that section, to



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read:

373.470 Everglades restoration.—

(7) ANNUAL REPORT.—To provide enhanced oversight of and accountability for the financial commitments established under this section and the progress made in the implementation of the comprehensive plan, the following information must be prepared annually as part of the consolidated annual report required by s. 373.036(7):

(c) The district, in cooperation with the department, shall provide a detailed report on progress made in the implementation of the comprehensive plan, including the total estimated remaining cost of implementation of the comprehensive plan. The report must also include the status of and applicable performance indicators for all project components. The project components must be subdivided into the following categories based on the project's status:

1. Planning and design phase.

2. Construction phase, for which the performance indicators must include, but are not limited to:

a. If the project is on time and on budget based on a schedule performance index; and

b. If the project had any claims, change orders, or credits upon closeout, including the description, date, and cost of the change, compensatory amounts, and the remedy or resolution exercised as it pertains to the schedule or budget of the project.

3. Operational phase, for which the performance indicators must include, but are not limited to, whether the operation of the project is achieving the goals and objectives identified in



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the final project implementation report.

4. Pending projects phase, which includes project components that have not yet entered the planning or design phase.

5. The estimated expenditures for the project in the prior fiscal year compared to the actual expenditures, with an explanation for significant variances initiated after the effective date of this act or the date of the last report prepared under this subsection, whichever is later.

(d) For a project or project component developed pursuant to s. 255.065, the performance indicators in the report must be consistent with national industry standards for the delivery method.

The information required in paragraphs (a), (b), ~~and~~ (c), and (d) shall be provided as part of the consolidated annual report required by s. 373.036(7). Each annual report is due by March 1.

(8) INTEGRATED DELIVERY SCHEDULE.—The Legislature recognizes the value of the integrated delivery schedule as a forward-looking snapshot of upcoming planning, design, and construction schedules for the comprehensive plan, as a tool that provides information to decision-makers and facilitates achievement of the goals and purposes of the comprehensive plan at the earliest possible time to the extent practical given funding, engineering, and other contractual constraints. The Legislature further recognizes that the schedule acts as a planning document and does not represent a budget or financial commitment on behalf of any of the participants of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force. Therefore, when making



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recommendations for any update to the schedule, state and local members of the task force must identify project funding sources to reflect whether funding will use recurring state funds provided pursuant to s. 375.041(3)(b)1., 4., and 5., or whether the project may be funded with nonrecurring state funds.

Section 7. Subsection (3) is added to section 373.501, Florida Statutes, to read:

373.501 Appropriation of funds to water management districts.—

(3) A water management district may not use state funds as a local match for any state grant program unless such funds have been specifically appropriated to the district for such purpose.

Section 8. Subsection (3) of section 373.503, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

373.503 Manner of taxation.—

(3)(a)1. The districts may, by resolution adopted by a majority vote of the governing board, levy ad valorem taxes on property within the district solely for the purposes of this chapter and of chapter 25270, 1949, Laws of Florida, as amended, and chapter 61-691, Laws of Florida, as amended. If appropriate, taxes levied by each governing board may be separated by the governing board into a millage necessary for the purposes of the district and a millage necessary for financing basin functions specified in s. 373.0695.

2.a. The districts may, by referendum, levy separate ad valorem taxes on property within the district or basin for the purposes of the construction of capital improvement projects. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "capital improvement projects" means projects related to water supply, including





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alternative water supply, water resource development, and water quality projects identified in the district's regional water supply plans, water quality, flood protection and floodplain management, and natural systems.

b. A governing board exercising the option to levy separate ad valorem taxes for the purposes of the construction of capital improvement projects pursuant to this subparagraph shall adopt a resolution to be approved by a majority vote of the electors in the district or basin voting in a referendum held at a general election as defined in s. 97.021. The resolution must include the millage to be levied, a description of the capital improvement projects, such projects' expected dates of completion, and the date when the millage levied under this subparagraph shall expire. No millage may be levied beyond the date of a project's expected date of completion. Such millage levied may be up to an amount that, when combined with millage levied under subparagraph 1., does not exceed the maximum total millage rate under paragraph (b). The resolution must take effect on the January 1 immediately succeeding approval. The referendum must be conducted consistent with the laws governing bond referenda as provided in ss. 100.201-100.351.

(b)(a) Notwithstanding any other general or special law, and subject to subsection (4), the maximum total millage rate for all ~~district and basin~~ purposes authorized under this section shall be:

1. Northwest Florida Water Management District: 0.05 mill.
2. Suwannee River Water Management District: 0.75 mill.
3. St. Johns River Water Management District: 0.6 mill.
4. Southwest Florida Water Management District: 1.0 mill.



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5. South Florida Water Management District: 0.80 mill.  
~~(c)-(b)~~ The apportionment in the South Florida Water Management District shall be a maximum of 40 percent for district purposes and a maximum of 60 percent for basin purposes, respectively. This calculation excludes millage raised pursuant to subparagraph (a)2.

~~(d)-(e)~~ Within the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the maximum millage assessed for district purposes may not exceed 50 percent of the total authorized millage if there are one or more basins in the district, and the maximum millage assessed for basin purposes may not exceed 50 percent of the total authorized millage.

Section 9. Subsection (1) of section 373.535, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsections (2) and (3) of that section are reenacted, to read:

373.535 Preliminary district budgets.—

(1) BUDGET DEVELOPMENT.—

(a) By January 15 of each year, each water management district shall submit a preliminary budget for the next fiscal year for legislative review to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the chairs of each legislative committee and subcommittee having substantive or fiscal jurisdiction over water management districts, as determined by the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives, as applicable, in the form and manner prescribed in s. 373.536(5)(e).

(b) Each preliminary budget must also include:

1. A section that clearly identifies and provides justification for each proposed expenditure listed in s.



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373.536(5) (e)4.e. and f. and identifies the source of funds for each proposed expenditure.

2. A section identifying the justification for proposed expenditures by core mission area of responsibility and the source of funds needed for activities related to water supply, including alternative water supply and water resource development projects identified in the district's regional water supply plans, water quality, flood protection and floodplain management, and natural systems.

3. A section that includes the district's capital improvement plan for the current fiscal year and the next fiscal year, which will be incorporated as part of the district's 5-year capital improvement plan. The following information must be included for each project contained in the capital improvement plan:

a. Estimated beginning and ending date.

b. Current status, such as planning, construction, or operations.

c. Funding source, grouped by federal, state, and local pursuant to s. 373.503(3) (a)1., local pursuant to s. 373.503(3) (a)2., or other.

d. Total cost of the project.

e. Whether the project is funded from reserves.

f. Total expenditures made to date, by fiscal year.

g. Current year estimated expenditures.

h. Annual budget, including future budget requests, until project completion, by funding source.

i. Project description.

j. State program code, such as operations and maintenance



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or ecosystems restoration.

~~4.3.~~ A section reviewing the adopted and proposed budget allocations by program area and the performance metrics for the prior year.

~~5.4.~~ An analysis of each preliminary budget to determine the adequacy of fiscal resources available to the district and the adequacy of proposed district expenditures related to the core mission areas of responsibility for water supply, including alternative water supply and water resource development projects identified in the district's regional water supply plans, water quality, flood protection and floodplain management, and natural systems. The analysis must be based on the particular needs within each district for core mission areas of responsibility. The water supply analysis must specifically include a determination of the adequacy of each district's fiscal resources provided in the district's preliminary budget to achieve appropriate progress toward meeting the districtwide 20-year projected water supply demands, including funding for alternative water supply development and conservation projects.

~~(c)-(b)~~ If applicable, the preliminary budget for each district must specify that the district's first obligation for payment is the debt service on bonds and certificates of participation.

(d) In addition to the information that must be included for projects carried out pursuant to the capital improvement plan in subparagraph (b)3., the South Florida Water Management District must include a separate section in its preliminary budget for all projects within the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. The information for the separate section must



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be provided on a project-by-project basis and include the source of funds. For each project, all of the following information must be included:

1. The project title and a brief description.

2. The total estimated cost of the project, delineated by federal and nonfederal sponsor obligations. The local sponsor obligations must be further delineated by state and district obligations.

3. The timeline for the project.

4. The total expenditures to date and estimated remaining expenditures needed for project completion.

5. The estimate of expenditures for the current year.

6. The estimate of expenditures for the next fiscal year.

(e) For expenditures funded by state appropriations, the South Florida Water Management District must indicate which fiscal year the appropriation is from. In estimating expenditures for the next fiscal year, the district may incorporate state revenues only in an amount up to the amount of funds specifically provided in s. 375.041(3)(b)1., 4., and 5., unless the district commits district revenues on a dollar-for-dollar basis for any amount over such amount specifically provided.

(2) LEGISLATIVE REVIEW.—

(a) The Legislature may annually review the preliminary budget for each district, including, but not limited to, those items listed in s. 373.536(5)(e)4.d.-f., specific to regulation, outreach, management, and administration program areas.

(b) On or before March 1 of each year, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives may



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submit comments regarding the preliminary budget to the districts, and provide a copy of the comments to the Executive Office of the Governor. Each district shall respond to the comments in writing on or before March 15 of each year to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Executive Office of the Governor.

(c) If, following such review, the Legislature does not take any action pursuant to s. 373.503 on or before July 1 of each year, a water management district may proceed with budget development as provided in subsection (3) and s. 373.536.

(3) FUNDING AUTHORITY GRANTED.—Each district shall use the preliminary budget as submitted pursuant to subsection (1), and as may be amended by the district in response to review by the Legislature pursuant to this section and s. 373.503, as the basis for developing the tentative budget for the next fiscal year as provided in s. 373.536(5). However, this subsection may not be construed to impair any contractual obligations.

Section 10. Paragraphs (c) and (e) of subsection (5) of section 373.536, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

373.536 District budget and hearing thereon.—

(5) TENTATIVE BUDGET CONTENTS AND SUBMISSION; REVIEW AND APPROVAL.—

(c) The Legislative Budget Commission may reject any of the following district budget proposals unless specifically appropriated by the Legislature:

1. A single purchase of land in excess of \$10 million, except for land exchanges.

2. Any cumulative purchase of land during a single fiscal year in excess of \$50 million.



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3. Any issuance of debt on or after July 1, 2012.

4. Any program expenditure ~~expenditures~~ as described in sub-subparagraphs (e)4.e. and f. in excess of 15 percent of a district's total annual budget.

5. Any individual variance ~~variances~~ in a district's tentative budget which is in excess of 25 percent from a district's preliminary budget.

6. Any individual portion of a district's tentative budget funded with state appropriations.

7. Any individual project in the district's 5-year capital improvement plan except for those projects fully funded with revenues approved by voters pursuant to s. 373.503(3)(a)2.b.

Written disapproval of any provision in the tentative budget must be received by the district at least 5 business days before the final district budget adoption hearing conducted under s. 200.065(2)(d). If written disapproval is not received at least 5 business days before the final budget adoption hearing, the governing board may proceed with final adoption. Any provision rejected by the Executive Office of the Governor or the Legislative Budget Commission may not be included in a district's final budget and may not be acted upon through any other means without the prior approval of the entity rejecting the provision.

(e) The tentative budget must be based on the preliminary budget as submitted to the Legislature, and as may be amended by the district in response to review by the Legislature pursuant to ss. 373.503 and 373.535, as the basis for developing the tentative budget for the next fiscal year as provided in this



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subsection, however, this subsection may not be construed to  
impair any contractual obligations. The tentative budget and  
must set forth the proposed expenditures of the district, to  
which may be added an amount to be held as reserve. The  
tentative budget must include, but is not limited to, the  
following information for the preceding fiscal year and the  
current fiscal year, and the proposed amounts for the upcoming  
fiscal year, in a standard format prescribed by the Executive  
Office of the Governor, in consultation with the Legislature:

1. The estimated amount of funds remaining at the beginning  
of the fiscal year which have been obligated for the payment of  
outstanding commitments not yet completed.

2. The estimated amount of unobligated funds or net cash  
balance on hand at the beginning of the fiscal year; an  
accounting of the source, balance, and projected future use of  
the unobligated funds; and the estimated amount of funds to be  
raised by district taxes or received from other sources to meet  
the requirements of the district.

3. The millage rates and the percentage increase above the  
rolled-back rate, together with a summary of the reasons the  
increase is required, and the percentage increase in taxable  
value resulting from new construction within the district.

4. The salaries and benefits, expenses, operating capital  
outlay, number of authorized positions, and other personal  
services for the following program areas of the district:

- a. Water resource planning and monitoring;
- b. Land acquisition, restoration, and public works;
- c. Operation and maintenance of works and lands;
- d. Regulation;





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e. Outreach for which the information provided must contain a full description and accounting of expenditures for water resources education; public information and public relations, including public service announcements and advertising in any media; and lobbying activities related to local, regional, state and federal governmental affairs, whether incurred by district staff or through contractual services; and

f. Management and administration.

In addition to the program areas reported by all water management districts, the South Florida Water Management District shall include in its budget document separate sections on all costs associated with the Everglades Construction Project and the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, incorporating the amount of state revenues appropriated for the fiscal year.

5. The total estimated amount in the district budget for each area of responsibility listed in subparagraph 4. and for water resource, water supply, and alternative water supply development projects identified in the district's regional water supply plans.

6. A description of each new, expanded, reduced, or eliminated program.

7. The funding sources, including, but not limited to, ad valorem taxes, Surface Water Improvement and Management Program funds, other state funds, federal funds, and user fees and permit fees for each program area.

8. The water management district's capital improvement plan for the current fiscal year and the next fiscal year, in the same format as required in the preliminary budget.



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Section 11. Section 373.6075, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

373.6075 Purchases from contracts of other entities.—

(1) A water management district may purchase commodities and contractual services, excluding services subject to s. 287.055, from the purchasing contracts of special districts, municipalities, counties, other political subdivisions, educational institutions, other states, nonprofit entities, purchasing cooperatives, or the Federal Government, which have been procured pursuant to competitive bid, request for proposal, request for qualification, competitive selection, or competitive negotiation, and which are otherwise in compliance with general law if the purchasing contract of the other entity is procured by a process that meets the procurement requirements of the water management district.

(2) For contractual services for the design, engineering, or construction, or for any combination of the design, engineering, or construction of capital improvement projects with a total project cost estimated at \$20 million or more, a water management district shall give preference to the lowest responsible and responsive bid, proposal, or reply that includes proof of district-defined acceptable minimum work experience within this state, project-specific payment and performance bonds in amounts appropriate for the project contract amount, and minimum warranty of 2 years beginning at substantial completion, or that includes proof of a comparable financial assurance mechanism, as defined by district rule.

(3) For the purpose of the competitive selection process in s. 287.055(4) or procurement procedures in s. 255.065(3), a



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water management district shall consider whether a bid,  
proposal, or reply includes appropriate payment and performance  
bonds, proof of a comparable financial assurance mechanism, as  
defined by district rule, or documentation of all bond faults or  
bond claims within the last 10 years, including all open and  
closed claims and agreed upon amounts with a description of the  
claim and any resolution.

Section 12. Present paragraph (i) of subsection (5) of  
section 380.093, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph  
(j) and amended, a new paragraph (i) is added to that  
subsection, and paragraphs (a), (c), (d), (e), and (h) of that  
subsection are amended, to read:

380.093 Resilient Florida Grant Program; comprehensive  
statewide flood vulnerability and sea level rise data set and  
assessment; Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience  
Plan; regional resilience entities.—

(5) STATEWIDE FLOODING AND SEA LEVEL RISE RESILIENCE PLAN.—

(a) By December 1 of each year, the department shall  
develop a Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan  
on a 3-year planning horizon and submit it to the Governor, the  
President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
Representatives. The plan must consist of ranked projects that  
address risks of flooding and sea level rise to coastal and  
inland communities in the state. All eligible projects submitted  
to the department pursuant to this section must be ranked and  
included in the plan. All eligible projects submitted by a water  
management district must be ranked on a separate list. Each plan  
must include a detailed narrative overview describing how the  
plan was developed, including a description of the methodology



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used by the department to determine project eligibility, a description of the methodology used to rank projects, the specific scoring system used, the project proposal application form, a copy of each submitted project proposal application form separated by eligible projects and ineligible projects, the total number of project proposals received and deemed eligible, the total funding requested, and the total funding requested for eligible projects.

(c) Each plan submitted by the department pursuant to this subsection must include all of the following information for each recommended project:

1. A description of the project.
2. The location of the project.
3. An estimate of how long the project will take to complete.
4. An estimate of the cost of the project.
5. The cost-share percentage available for the project, if applicable.
6. A summary of the priority score assigned to the project.
7. The project sponsor.

(d)1. By September 1 of each year, all of the following entities may submit to the department a list of proposed projects that address risks of flooding or sea level rise identified in the comprehensive statewide flood vulnerability and sea level rise assessment or vulnerability assessments that meet the requirements of subsection (3):

- a. Counties.
- b. Municipalities.
- c. Special districts as defined in s. 189.012 which are



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responsible for the management and maintenance of inlets and intracoastal waterways or for the operation and maintenance of a potable water facility, a wastewater facility, an airport, or a seaport facility.

d. Regional resilience entities acting on behalf of one or more member counties or municipalities.

For the plans submitted by December 1, 2024, such entities may submit projects identified in existing vulnerability assessments that do not comply with subsection (3) only if the entity is actively developing a vulnerability assessment that is either under a signed grant agreement with the department pursuant to subsection (3) or funded by another state or federal agency, or is self-funded and intended to meet the requirements of paragraph (3)(d) or if the existing vulnerability assessment was completed using previously compliant statutory requirements. Projects identified from this category of vulnerability assessments will be eligible for submittal until the prior vulnerability assessment has been updated to meet most recent statutory requirements.

2. By September 1 of each year, all of the following entities may submit to the department a list of any proposed projects that address risks of flooding or sea level rise identified in the comprehensive statewide flood vulnerability and sea level rise assessment or vulnerability assessments that meet the requirements of subsection (3), or that mitigate the risks of flooding or sea level rise on water supplies or water resources of the state and a corresponding evaluation of each project:



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- 591           a. Water management districts.  
592           b. Drainage districts.  
593           c. Erosion control districts.  
594           d. Flood control districts.  
595           e. Regional water supply authorities.
- 596           3. Each project submitted to the department pursuant to  
597 this paragraph for consideration by the department for inclusion  
598 in the plan must include all of the following information:
- 599           a. A description of the project.  
600           b. The location of the project.  
601           c. An estimate of how long the project will take to  
602 complete.  
603           d. An estimate of the cost of the project.  
604           e. The cost-share percentage available for the project, if  
605 applicable.  
606           f. The project sponsor.
- 607           (e) Each project included in the plan must have a minimum  
608 50 percent cost share unless the project was submitted by a  
609 water management district, or assists or is within a community  
610 eligible for a reduced cost share. For purposes of this section,  
611 the term "community eligible for a reduced cost share" means:
- 612           1. A municipality that has a population of 10,000 or less  
613 ~~fewer~~, according to the most recent April 1 population estimates  
614 posted on the Office of Economic and Demographic Research's  
615 website, and a per capita annual income that is less than the  
616 state's per capita annual income as shown in the most recent  
617 release from the Bureau of the Census of the United States  
618 Department of Commerce that includes both measurements;  
619           2. A county that has a population of 50,000 or less ~~fewer~~,



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according to the most recent April 1 population estimates posted on the Office of Economic and Demographic Research's website, and a per capita annual income that is less than the state's per capita annual income as shown in the most recent release from the Bureau of the Census of the United States Department of Commerce that includes both measurements; or

3. A municipality or county that has a per capita annual income that is equal to or less than 75 percent of the state's per capita annual income as shown in the most recent release from the Bureau of the Census of the United States Department of Commerce.

(h) The total amount of funding proposed for each year of the plan must ~~may not~~ be at least less than \$100 million and, for projects submitted by a water management district, may include funds that have been repaid by a water management district. Upon review and subject to appropriation, the Legislature shall approve funding for the projects as specified in the plan. The only funding available to water management districts under this subsection is through the loan program pursuant to paragraph (i), except for the Northwest Florida Water Management District and the Suwanee River Water Management District, which may receive grants. Multiyear projects that receive funding for the first year of the project must be included in subsequent plans and funded until the project is complete, provided that the project sponsor has complied with all contractual obligations and funds are available.

(i) To finance projects submitted by the St. Johns River Water Management District, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, or the South Florida Water Management



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District, the department may issue 20-year, interest-free loans through a promissory note or other form of written agreement evidencing an obligation to repay the borrowed funds to the department. The district may borrow funds made available pursuant to this section and may pledge any revenues or other adequate security available to it, other than state revenues, to repay any funds borrowed. The loans must be repaid in equal installments over a period not to exceed 20 years, commencing within 12 months after the execution of the loan agreement.

1. The department may impose a penalty for delinquent loan payments in the amount of 6 percent of the amount due, in addition to charging the cost to handle and process the debt. Penalty interest accrues on any amount due and payable beginning on the 30th day following the date that the payment was due.

2. If a water management district defaults under the terms of its loan agreement, no additional state loans or grants may be issued to that water management district until the default has been remedied.

~~(j)-(i)~~ The department shall adopt rules to implement this section, including, but not limited to, rules necessary to administer the revolving loan program to finance projects submitted by water management districts.

Section 13. Present subsection (3) of section 380.0935, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (4), a new subsection (3) is added to that section, and subsection (2) of that section is amended, to read:

380.0935 Resilient Florida Trust Fund.—

(2) Moneys deposited in the fund are available as a funding source for the department for the Resilient Florida Grant





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Program and the Statewide Flooding and Sea Level ~~Sea-Level~~ Rise Resilience Plan, including costs to operate the grant program, to develop the plan, and to provide grants to regional resilience coalitions pursuant to s. 380.093. The department may also use moneys deposited in the fund for administrative and operational costs of the Florida Flood Hub for Applied Research and Innovation pursuant to s. 380.0933 and coastal resilience initiatives.

(3) The department shall create and maintain a separate account in the trust fund for funds received pursuant to s. 380.095 to administer a revolving loan program for eligible projects submitted by water management districts within the Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan. All repayments must be returned to the revolving loan program and made available for the eligible projects submitted by water management districts in the plan. Notwithstanding s. 216.301, funds appropriated for the loan program are not subject to reversion.

Section 14. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section 380.095, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

380.095 Dedicated funding for conservation lands, resiliency, and clean water infrastructure.—

(2) DISTRIBUTION.—Notwithstanding s. 285.710, the Department of Revenue shall, upon receipt, deposit 96 percent of any revenue share payment received under the compact as defined in s. 285.710 into the Indian Gaming Revenue Clearing Trust Fund within the Department of Financial Services. The funds deposited into the trust fund shall be distributed as follows:

(c) The lesser of 26.042 percent or \$100 million each



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fiscal year to the Resilient Florida Trust Fund within the Department of Environmental Protection for the revolving loan fund within the Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan to be used to fund eligible projects submitted by water management districts in accordance with s. 380.093.

Allocations to trust funds shall be transferred monthly by nonoperating authority to the named trust fund.

Section 15. (1) For the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the sums of \$236,665,971 in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund and \$64 million in recurring funds and \$328,684,029 in nonrecurring funds from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund are appropriated to the Department of Environmental Protection and must be distributed to the South Florida Water Management District for the planning, design, engineering, and construction of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and allocated in the following fixed capital outlay appropriation categories:

(a) Nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund:

1. C-111 South Dade - \$54,346,161.
2. Indian River Lagoon South - \$102,374,446.
3. Central Everglades Planning Project South - \$15 million.
4. Central Everglades Planning Project North - \$47,771,823.
5. Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project - \$19,290,000.
6. Western Everglades Restoration Project - \$25,756,289.
7. Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands - \$7 million.
8. Lake Okeechobee Component A Reservoir - \$8,978,273.
9. Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project Planning and Design - \$6,148,979.



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(b) Nonrecurring funds from the Land Acquisition Trust  
Fund:

1. Caloosahatchee River C-43 West Basin Storage - \$90  
million.

2. Central Everglades Planning Project North -  
\$104,608,177.

3. Central Everglades Planning Project EAA Reservoir -  
\$84,075,852.

(c) Recurring funds of \$64 million in the Everglades  
Restoration appropriation category from the Land Acquisition  
Trust Fund to transfer to the Everglades Trust Fund within the  
South Florida Water Management District pursuant to s.  
375.041(3)(b)4., Florida Statutes.

(2) The department is authorized to submit budget  
amendments to request the realignment of funds in subsection  
(1), pursuant to s. 216.292(4), Florida Statutes, and subject to  
the approval of the Legislative Budget Commission.

Section 16. For the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the sum of  
\$39,876,213 in recurring funds and \$33,151,846 in nonrecurring  
funds from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund is appropriated to  
the Department of Environmental Protection and must be used to  
implement the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection  
Program, pursuant to s. 373.4595, Florida Statutes.

Section 17. For the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the sum of \$50  
million in recurring funds from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund  
is appropriated to the South Florida Water Management District  
for the design, engineering, and construction of the specific  
project components designed to achieve the greatest reductions  
in harmful discharges to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie



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Estuaries as identified in the Comprehensive Everglades  
Restoration Plan Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project  
Final Integrated Project Implementation Report and Environmental  
Impact Statement dated August 2020.

Section 18. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 373.503, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, section 373.0697, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

373.0697 Basin taxes.—The respective basins may, pursuant to s. 9(b), Art. VII of the State Constitution, by resolution request the governing board of the district to levy ad valorem taxes within such basin. Upon receipt of such request, a basin tax levy shall be made by the governing board of the district to finance basin functions enumerated in s. 373.0695, notwithstanding the provisions of any other general or special law to the contrary, and subject to the provisions of s. 373.503(3).

(1) The amount of money to be raised by said tax levy shall be determined by the adoption of an annual budget by the district board of governors, and the average millage for the basin shall be that amount required to raise the amount called for by the annual budget when applied to the total assessment of the basin as determined for county taxing purposes. However, no such tax shall be levied within the basin unless and until the annual budget and required tax levy shall have been approved by formal action of the basin board, and no county in the district shall be taxed under this provision at a rate to exceed 1 mill.

(2) The taxes provided for in this section shall be extended by the county property appraiser on the county tax roll



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in each county within, or partly within, the basin and shall be collected by the tax collector in the same manner and time as county taxes, and the proceeds therefrom paid to the district for basin purposes. Said taxes shall be a lien, until paid, on the property against which assessed and enforceable in like manner as county taxes. The property appraisers, tax collectors, and clerks of the circuit court of the respective counties shall be entitled to compensation for services performed in connection with such taxes at the same rates as apply to county taxes.

(3) It is hereby determined that the taxes authorized by this subsection are in proportion to the benefits to be derived by the several parcels of real estate within the basin from the works authorized herein.

===== T I T L E   A M E N D M E N T =====  
And the title is amended as follows:

Delete lines 10 - 126  
and insert:

reenacting and amending s. 373.026, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; amending s. 373.0693, F.S.; deleting a provision requiring legislative approval before the establishment of a subdistrict or basin takes effect; amending s. 373.079, F.S.; requiring a quorum for the conduct of official business by the governing board of a water management district; providing requirements for a quorum; requiring an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the governing board before any action may be taken by the board; amending s. 373.1501, F.S.; providing a legislative declaration;



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authorizing the governing board of the South Florida Water Management District to acquire land to implement a reservoir project in a certain area; providing construction and a statement of public necessity; prohibiting the district or the state from requesting that the United States Army Corps of Engineers acquire lands for such reservoir project by certain methods; prohibiting the inclusion of a provision for such request in a certain agreement; making technical changes: conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 373.470, F.S.; requiring the South Florida Water Management District, in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Protection, to provide a detailed report that includes the total estimated remaining cost of implementation of the Everglades restoration comprehensive plan and the status of all performance indicators; requiring the subdivision of the project components into specified categories based on the project's status; providing requirements for performance indicators for certain projects or project components; providing legislative recognition of the value of the integrated delivery schedule; requiring the South Florida Ecosystem Task Force to identify certain sources of funding when making recommendations for updates to the integrated delivery schedule; amending s. 373.501, F.S.; prohibiting a water management district from using state funds for a specified purpose; amending s. 373.503, F.S.; authorizing the districts to levy ad valorem taxes on



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property by resolution adopted by a majority vote of the governing board; authorizing the districts to levy certain ad valorem taxes on specified property; defining the term "capital improvement projects"; requiring a governing board levying ad valorem taxes for certain projects to adopt a resolution approved by a majority vote of the voting electors in the district or basin; providing requirements for such resolution; prohibiting a governing board from levying millage beyond a certain date; providing requirements for such millage; requiring that such resolution take effect on a specified date; providing construction for such referenda; providing requirements for the maximum total millage rate for all purposes; providing that the apportionment in the South Florida Water Management District excludes certain millage; reenacting and amending s. 373.535, F.S.; requiring that the preliminary budget for each water management district include a section that contains the district's capital improvement plan for the current fiscal year and the next fiscal year; requiring that such section contain specified information; requiring the South Florida Water Management District to include a section in its preliminary budget for all projects within the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan; requiring that the section contain specified information; requiring the South Florida Water Management District to indicate the fiscal year from which certain appropriations are expended; requiring



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the district to incorporate state revenues only in a certain manner when estimating expenditures for the next fiscal year; providing construction; amending s. 373.536, F.S.; authorizing the Legislative Budget Commission to reject certain district budget proposals; providing an exception; providing construction; requiring the South Florida Water Management District to include in its budget document certain sections that incorporate the actual amount of state revenues appropriated for the fiscal year; requiring a water management district's tentative budget for its proposed operations and funding requirements to include the district's capital improvement plan for the current year and the next fiscal year; amending s. 373.6075, F.S.; requiring a water management district to give preference to certain bids, proposals, or replies for the design, engineering, or construction of capital improvement projects in excess of a specified amount; providing requirements for the competitive selection process; amending s. 380.093, F.S.; requiring that certain projects submitted by water management districts to the department for the Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan be ranked on a separate list; providing applicability; requiring that each project included in such plan have a certain percent cost share unless the project was submitted by specified water management districts; specifying the composition of the total amount of funding for such





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plan; requiring specified financing for projects submitted by a water management districts for such plan; restricting funding available to water management districts; authorizing the department to issue certain loans by specified means to finance projects submitted by water management districts; authorizing the district to borrow certain funds and pledge certain revenues to repay such funds; providing for the repayment of such loan; providing a penalty; prohibiting the department from issuing additional loans or grants to a water management district that defaults under the terms of its loan until the default is remedied; requiring the department to adopt rules necessary to administer the loan program; amending s. 380.0935, F.S.; requiring the department to create and maintain a separate account in the Resilient Florida Trust Fund for certain funds received to administer the revolving loan program for certain projects submitted by water management districts within the Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan; requiring that all repayments be returned to the revolving loan program and made available for the eligible projects in the plan; providing that funds appropriated for the loan program are not subject to reversion; amending s. 380.095, F.S.; requiring that a specified amount of funds deposited into the Indian Gaming Revenue Clearing Trust Fund be distributed to the Resilient Florida Trust Fund for the revolving loan program for specified uses; providing



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939        appropriations; reenacting s. 373.0697, F.S., relating  
940        to basin taxes, to incorporate the amendment made to  
941        s. 373.503, F.S., in a reference thereto; providing an  
942        effective date.