wastewater utilities to submit to the Department of Environmental Protection by a specified date a plan for eliminating nonbeneficial surface water discharge within a specified timeframe."

- **Phasing and Near-Term Benefits:** Combined into strategic portfolios, some of the recommended alternatives offer the potential for implementation to address recovery targets within 20 years of the effective date of the rule while longer-term projects are further developed to address prevention targets.
- **Geographic Diversity:** Collectively, the recommended projects include potential water sources from both water management districts, and to the north, south, east, and west of the MFL water bodies.
- **Surface Water Evaluation Needs:** The surface water alternatives (North Fork Black Creek and Lower Suwannee) could be considered as supplemental projects but would not be viable as a primary mechanism to meet the MFLs. These alternatives would need to be evaluated in more detail to develop operational guidelines to protect the ecology and water quality of the source water body. Furthermore, water from these sources, particularly the Lower Suwannee, would likely not be available during the most critical dry periods. The balance between recharge location, aquifer storage capacity, residence time, and influence on the MFL flows would require detailed analysis to evaluate long-term effectiveness through drier periods.

6.3 Next Steps

Through the comprehensive and collaborative process documented in this report, four alternatives have been identified for further study. The development of these alternatives is a complex undertaking involving technical, financial, environmental, hydrologic and governance issues, among others. Therefore, to provide for a path forward in the development of these alternatives, several actions are recommended for future work efforts as follows:

Technical feasibility studies of selected alternatives

Technical feasibility studies should include the following key considerations:

- Water quality requirements and potential treatment technologies,
- Intake, transmission and pumping requirements, including potential routes for future consideration,
- Source availability, which includes both reclaimed water sources and natural sources,
- Recharge technology requirements to encompass the potential for RIBs, treatment wetlands or recharge wells,
- Modular, phased, spatially distributed, or hybrid project designs to maximize flexibility and cost efficiency, and
- Potential project design, permitting and construction schedules that would allow for the MFLs to be met as soon as feasible and within 20 years.