

reducing the impacts that would have occurred if projected demands were met exclusively by groundwater. The 2023 NFRWSP projects are further described in the section below.

Projects identified in the Strategy do not become permit conditions by virtue of their inclusion in an approved Strategy. The projects described in this Strategy, or alternative projects that the Districts concur will provide an equivalent benefit, may be developed and incorporated as conditions on water use or consumptive use permits (WUP or CUP) through the permitting process and shall be updated with each approval of the NFRWSP.

The projected benefits of the regional projects, WSD, WRD, and water conservation projects, together with the regulatory measures, identified in this Strategy are sufficient to address the MFL targets for the Lower Santa Fe River at Hwy 441 near High Springs (USGS 02321975) and the Ichetucknee River at Hwy 27 near Hildreth (USGS 02322700) which are currently not being met (1.0 and 6.3 cfs deficit, respectively) and are projected to have a deficit of 17.3 and 13.2 cfs by 2045, respectively.

Table 7. Regional Strategy projects to achieve the LSFIR MFLs in 2045

Project	Project No.	Estimated Volume (mgd)	Estimated Hwy 27 Flow Benefit (cfs)	Estimated Hwy 441 Flow Benefit (cfs)	Estimated Capital Cost (\$M)	Priority ¹
Water First North Florida	2025_1	40	14	17	\$1,100	A
Black Creek WRD Project	2017_21	8.0	0.1	0.5	\$119	A
Agricultural Water Conservation	2760, 228, 458	8.0	0.6	1.2	\$14	A
FWS Silver Plus Implementation ²	2025_2	17	0.4	1.5	\$0.97	B

¹A= Project is being implemented or planned for implementation; B=Project will be considered in whole or part for implementation

²Average estimated administrative cost for implementing a Florida Water Star (FWS) Silver Plus program by utility condition-of-service or local government ordinance in the Partnership area can be up to \$0.97 million. FWS Silver Plus will result in an overall savings of \$1,171 per home construction costs when compared to traditional home construction costs.

North Florida Project Conceptualization Effort

As part of the development of this Strategy and following completion of the 2023 NFRWSP, it was determined that there was a need to evaluate the feasibility of regional projects to address all or a significant portion of the flow deficits in the LSFIR MFLs. Therefore, in 2024, a jointly funded cooperative study, with participation by SJRWMD, SRWMD, DEP, JEA, Clay County Utility Authority (CCUA), Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU), and St. Johns County Utilities Department (SJCUD), was conducted to identify potential large-scale projects that could work in concert with conservation efforts and