



Agenda Item Summary

File #: 26-00395

Agenda Date: 6/9/2026

Agenda Item Name:

Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers Implementation Strategy/Water First North Florida Project Resolution

Presenter:

Stacie Greco, Water Resources Program Manager, 352-264-6829

Description:

Presentation on the Water First North Florida Project as it relates to the Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers Minimum Flows and Levels Implementation Strategy. Staff will also discuss the current Water Shortage.

Recommended Action:

Hear staff presentation and approve the resolution

Prior Board Motions:

4/8/26 motion for Environmental Protection Department (EPD) to review and draft a resolution regarding the Water First North Florida project.

Fiscal Note:

N/A

Strategic Guide:

Environment and Conservation

Background:

The Minimum Flows and Levels (MFL) for the Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers and Priority Springs were adopted on 12/31/2025. The Water First North Florida project is identified in the 2025 Implementation Strategy for the Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers and Priority Springs as a large recharge project necessary to restore flow in this basin.

Water First North Florida project is projected to cost an estimated 1.1 billion dollars, not including land acquisition. The project would route 40 million gallons per day (MGD) of treated wastewater from Jacksonville (JEA) through wetland treatment systems and into the aquifer in the Santa Fe basin. It is anticipated to provide sufficient benefit to offset impacts of current water use and projected 2045 demand. The target completion date is by 2040. The public has widely communicated a multitude of concerns with the Water First North Florida Project, including water quality, cost, and schedule. Staff have been actively involved with the development of the MFL and Implementation Strategy since 2018. Staff will outline alternatives to assist with meeting the MFL and recommendations regarding the Water First North Florida Project. Staff will also provide an update on the current water shortage.