

- Identify and obtain sufficient funding resources to facilitate strategy implementation (Funding Section);
- Track the implementation of projects and adjust the Strategy measures as necessary (Monitoring Progress Section).

## Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers and Priority Springs Minimum Flows Status

Following the LSFIR MFL re-evaluation, a status assessment was made by evaluating the current and projected condition of a waterbody relative to the MFL from any aggregate change due to withdrawals. The current condition was evaluated using withdrawal data represented by 2014-2018 average water use (14-18AVG). The projected condition was evaluated using the 2045 projected withdrawals (SRWMD 2022). The results of the assessment show that the Lower Santa Fe Fort White gage meets its MFL criteria under both 14-18AVG and projected conditions, while the MFLs for the Lower Santa Fe Hwy 441 and Ichetucknee Hwy 27 gages are currently not being met (1.0 and 6.3 cubic feet per second (cfs) deficit, respectively) and are projected to face a deficit of 17.3 and 13.2 cfs by 2045, respectively (Table 2). This indicates the need for a revised Strategy. The priority springs along the Lower Santa Fe and the Ichetucknee Rivers are associated with the compliance gages in Table 1. The data used for the status assessment are based on the best available information and are consistent with the data used for the 2023 North Florida Regional Water Supply Plan (2023 NFRWSP) (SJRWMD and SRWMD 2023).

*Table 2. MFL Status Assessment Flow Comparison by River Gage (cfs)*

| Condition                       | Lower Santa Fe Fort White | Lower Santa Fe Hwy 441 | Ichetucknee Hwy 27 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 14-18AVG – 2014–2018 Net        | 29.7                      | -1.0                   | -6.3               |
| Projected Conditions - 2045 Net | 4.2                       | -17.3                  | -13.2              |
| Status                          | Meeting                   | Recovery               | Recovery           |

<sup>1</sup>RTF – Reference Timeframe

Section 373.0421, F.S., directs the assessment of a waterbody when an MFL is first developed or when it is revised. If the existing flow or water level in the waterbody is below or is projected to fall below the MFL within 20 years, the DEP or Governing Board “shall concurrently adopt or modify and implement a recovery or prevention strategy.”

## Influence by Water Use Type

When determining which projects to include in a strategy, it is important to determine the types of water use that have the largest impact on the water resource of concern-- for LSFIR, the Floridan Aquifer System (fresh groundwater). Projects can then be developed that will result in the greatest benefit to the constrained water resource. An analysis was performed that evaluated the relative impacts to the LSFIR system from groundwater withdrawals by region and water use type.