

Selection of treatment wetland and recharge sites is critical to the overall project design of Water First North Florida. Design of treatment, storage, pumping, transmission and recharge facilities are dependent on establishing the treatment wetland(s) site and estimated performance criteria during the initial conceptual design process. Initiating the site selection effort as early as possible is essential to timely implementation of the project. As part of this pre-design work, SJRWMD, in cooperation with JEA, has undertaken a pilot study at JEA's Buckman WRF to investigate the use of ozone in conjunction with a wetland to enhance treatment of the reclaimed water. SJRWMD is also managing an investigation to identify and evaluate sites for construction of treatment wetland(s) to provide additional treatment of the Buckman and Southwest WRFs reclaimed water, which will be used for aquifer enhancement efforts at recharge sites. Recommendations for the wetland and recharge sites investigation will be documented in a final report expected to be completed by January 2028. The report's findings will be used as the basis for property acquisition and the development of a preliminary design report (PDR) for design, permitting and construction of treatment wetland(s) and recharge facilities for the Water First North Florida project. Key accomplishments will be tracked as part of this project and include acquisition of treatment wetland and recharge locations, transmission of reclaimed water to treatment wetland(s), as needed, post wetland treatment to ensure water quality requirements are met, and transmission to and application at recharge locations.

The Water First North Florida project is being designated as a Regional Project in the Addendum to the 2023 North Florida Regional Water Supply Plan that is being considered by the Governing Boards concurrently with this Implementation Strategy. Funds provided to support this Regional Project by the Districts and through the programs described in the Funding section below are intended to mitigate impacts from all existing legal uses to the LSFIR MFLs through 2025. Thus, if a permittee intends to keep its allocation of groundwater at an amount no more than its Demonstrated 2025 Demand, no further offsets will be required by that permittee to address impacts to the LSFIR MFLs. The determination of the Demonstrated 2025 Demand will be in accordance with the "Offset Requirements" section of the regulatory component of the overall strategy.

It is anticipated that the project will also be capable of providing sufficient benefits to the LSFIR MFLs to offset impacts from increased water withdrawals within the Partnership area through 2045. In other words, Water First North Florida is anticipated to provide sufficient offsets to address, for example, increased water withdrawals due to growth in agricultural production and population. Accordingly, funds provided to support this Regional Project by the Districts and through the programs described in the Funding section below are also intended to mitigate impacts from potential future water withdrawals associated with the following: domestic self-supply uses, authorized uses under a general permit by rule and impacts from increased water withdrawals beyond the Demonstrated 2025 Demand, pending available offsets. In cases where allocations beyond the Demonstrated 2025 Demand demonstrate a potential impact to any MFL Compliance Point, the permittee must offset these impacts in accordance with the Offset Requirements section of the regulatory portion of the overall strategy. A permittee