

approved project. The grower is expected to cover operation and maintenance costs; however, future requests for long-term maintenance items (such as drip tape) may be considered for funding. For FY 2024/25, the SJRWMD expects to fund about \$1.5 million in projects.

Tri-County Agricultural Area (TCAA) Water Management Partnership

Multiple agencies are contributing funding, education, and technical assistance for growers in the TCAA of Flagler, Putnam, and St. Johns counties to implement projects that contribute to improving the health of the St. Johns River and implementation of effective water conservation measures. These projects are anticipated to contribute to the improved health of the river through on-farm and regional water management projects and practices that reduce the movement of nutrients to the river, improve irrigation efficiencies, which will result in more efficient farm management practices, while maintaining the long-term viability of agriculture in the TCAA. Funds allocated to this program vary year-to-year based upon funding availability from the FDACS, DEP, and the SJRWMD. For the FY 2024/25, there was approximately \$2.75 million in funding made available through the TCAA Water Management Partnership.

REDI Program

In the SJRWMD's portion of the Partnership area, there are four REDI counties (Baker, Bradford, Nassau, and Putnam) and four REDI municipalities (Baldwin, Hawthorne Keystone Heights, and Penney Farms,) which qualify for match waivers.

State Funding

State funding options for water-related projects encompass a variety of programs aimed at improving water management and conservation. The FDACS Office of Agricultural Water Policy provides regional cost-share funding for producers to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs), such as enhancing irrigation system efficiency and using soil moisture sensors.

For Springs Protection, significant investments have been made to support projects that improve both water quality and quantity, including wastewater treatment upgrades, septic system conversions, and water conservation measures. The state supports springs restoration with \$50 million in recurring appropriations annually from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund (SJRWMD and SRWMD 2023). The Springs Restoration Grant Program provides grants to protect and restore the quality and quantity of water that flows from springs. Relevant eligible project types include agricultural best management practices, water conservation, hydrologic restoration, aquifer recharge, and land acquisition for preservation among other projects.

The DEP's Alternative Water Supply Grant Program also allocates funds for WRD and AWS projects, prioritizing regional initiatives facing water constraints. The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program offers low-interest loans for planning, designing,