



# Florida WATER ALLIANCE

*Preparing for and Preserving Florida's Future Water Supply*

“In a letter to Mr. Crist, Ms. Dockery was blunt: “I recognize that we were forced to make tough decisions during this tight budget year, but there is no issue as important as a safe and adequate water supply.”

We'll drink to that.

— TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT EDITORIAL, OCTOBER 20, 2007

**A**s Florida's population continues to soar, it is estimated the State's fresh water demand will increase from 6.5 billion gallons per day to 8.5 billion by 2025<sup>[1]</sup>. By then, close to two billion more gallons of fresh water will be needed per day in Florida.

The Governor and Senate wisely recognize Florida's growing water supply problems and have recommended the continued full funding of the Water Protection and Sustainability Trust Fund (WPSTF) to develop alternative water supply projects. There is also an understanding among some state leaders that funding alternative water supply projects has the ability to trigger economic growth at a time when the state is facing a tightening of revenues. The Florida Water Alliance — a large coalition environmental, local government, water management districts, agricultural and business groups — is urging the legislature to support the Governor's full funding of the alternative water supply programs.

The state's staggering water statistics are only heightened with the ongoing drought conditions in the state. Despite recent rainfall, the Southwest Florida Water Management District is currently experiencing a mix of “abnormally dry” to “extreme” drought conditions<sup>[2]</sup>.

To meet future water demand, Florida's leadership established the WPSTF in 2005. The Water Protection and Sustainability law includes an annual \$60 million state investment.

Leading business groups — such as Associated Industries of Florida — are recommending that lawmakers reassign the full appropriation per year towards developing alternative water supply projects. AIF says such projects will help jump-start Florida's economy and create infrastructure intensive, capital investments that will produce jobs for construction workers, engineers, and others throughout the state.

The Florida Water Alliance urges state law makers to continue a meaningful investment in the WPSTF to spur economic growth and help meet the growing water demands of all Floridians.

In addition, the Water Protection and Sustainability law includes a 5 to 1 multiplier which greatly enhances the annual \$60 million state investment of funding available for alternative water supply projects. It's a valuable source of outside funding that the state cannot afford to lose.

## Florida Water Alliance Members

A. Duda & Sons  
 American Water Works Association  
 Association of Florida Community Developers  
 Associated Industries of Florida  
 Audubon Society  
 Broward County  
 CH2M Hill  
 City of Cape Coral  
 City of Lakeland  
 Conservancy of Southwest Florida  
 Flagler County  
 Florida Association of Counties  
 Florida Chamber of Commerce  
 Florida Crystals  
 Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
 Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
 Florida Farm Bureau  
 Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association  
 Florida Home Builders Association  
 Florida League of Cities  
 Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association  
 Florida Stormwater Association  
 Florida Sugar Cane League, Inc.  
 Florida Wildlife Federation  
 Hillsborough County  
 Lee County  
 Miami-Dade County  
 North Florida Growers Exchange  
 Palm Beach County  
 Peace River/Mansaota Regional Water Supply Authority  
 Polk County  
 Pinellas County  
 Northwest Florida Water Management District  
 Sarasota County  
 Sierra Club  
 South Florida Water Management District  
 Southwest Florida Water Management District  
 St. Johns River Water Management District  
 Suwannee River Water Management District  
 Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

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[1] Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Annual Status Report on Regional Water Supply Planning, March 2007

[2] Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Statewide Bi-weekly Drought Summary, March 6-19, 2008