

projects represent one possibility of how to meet most of the needs of the CFWI Planning Area. The implementation of environmental recovery projects as well as other alternative water supply projects in the Solutions Strategies document (**Volume IIA, Appendix D**) could address any remaining deficit.

- ◆ The development and establishment of consistent rules and regulations for the Districts will be required to meet the CFWI collaborative process goals and implement the results of the CFWI Planning effort (**Volume II, Chapter 5**).
- ◆ Implementing the results of the CFWI Planning effort is critical to the long-term sustainability of the region’s water supplies (**Volume II, Chapter 7**).

NEXT STEPS

The Steering Committee identified eight “Next Steps” that are critical to achieve water resource sustainability in the CFWI Planning Area. The successful implementation of these “Next Steps” will require the continued commitment and collaboration by the Districts and stakeholders to initiate and achieve the key findings and recommendations of the CFWI RWSP (see **Volume I, Chapter 11** and **Volume II, Chapter 7** for more detail). The following actions will guide future water supply solutions and will help ensure that future water needs are met without resulting in unacceptable impacts to water resources and related natural systems.

Recommended actions for implementing the results of the CFWI Planning effort include the following steps:

- ◆ **Implement Water Conservation Programs**

Effective water conservation programs rely on the participation of local governments, residents, the agricultural community, and other users. Comprehensive conservation programs should be developed that include voluntary and incentive-based initiatives, research, education and outreach initiatives, and regulatory initiatives to achieve savings including prioritization of allocated funding to meet or exceed the estimated CFWI RWSP conservation savings.

These conservation programs should support participation at local, regional (CFWI Planning Area), and State levels. These programs could identify and secure funding, develop and implement comprehensive public education and outreach programs, identify and evaluate statewide clearinghouse options for public supply and agriculture, and work to enact water-conserving building codes. Other programs could develop consistent year-round irrigation rules, expand use of SMART irrigation controllers and soil moisture sensors, increase water use irrigation evaluations, expand cost-share programs for agricultural conservation, and support licensing of irrigation professionals.

◆ **Develop Specific Prevention and Recovery Strategies**

Prevention and recovery strategies are critical to the protection and recovery of natural systems. Districts should promptly complete MFL prevention and recovery strategies and continue to monitor, study, and evaluate non-MFL water bodies. As evaluations of stressed and threatened wetland systems are completed, management strategies and projects could be identified and implemented to mitigate for stressed and threatened wetland systems. District Governing Boards should consider using CFWI identified water supply project options and management strategies and support continued coordination among all appropriate stakeholders to achieve resource recovery and protection.

◆ **Support Development and Implementation of Regional Project Solutions**

Regional project solutions should maximize sustainable yields, while minimizing impacts. Proposed groundwater actions should include continuing to monitor, study, and evaluate the Upper and Lower Floridan aquifers for maximum sustainable yields. Regional analysis should continue to explore appropriate uses and users for reclaimed water, including the use of reclaimed water for natural system enhancement and recharge and indirect and direct potable reuse.

The opportunities for additional surface water storage, while continuing to ensure the environmental needs of surface water bodies are met, should continue to be explored. Stormwater projects should continue to be investigated for opportunities to provide natural system enhancement and recharge; optimize potential beneficial use of stormwater by evaluating existing drainage; and encourage coordination of watershed planning, water supply, water quality, natural systems restoration, and flood protection initiatives.

◆ **Support Additional Alternative Water Supply (AWS) Projects**

The Solutions Planning Phase focused on 16 regional, multi-jurisdictional projects options from the 150 water supply project options identified in the CFWI RWSP (**Volume IIA, Appendix D**). These 150 water supply project options have the potential to generate significant water to meet future needs.

◆ **Improve Water Resource Assessment Tools and Supporting Data**

The East Central Florida Transient Model was used to simulate water withdrawals. Although the model was sufficient for this task, recommended model updates to support future modeling efforts will reduce model run times and improve modeling efficiency and accuracy. Some of the recommended model updates include expanding the model boundaries to incorporate the actual hydrologic boundaries and areas outside the CFWI Planning Area that could influence water levels within the area. Incorporating additional hydrologic and geohydrologic data, and more recent land use information will improve model accuracy. Implementation of the Data Management and Information Team's Five-Year Work Plan is necessary to collect critical hydrologic and environmental data for the region.

◆ **Develop Options for Consistent Rules and Regulations**

With the Solutions Planning Phase substantially complete, the Regulatory Team will continue to work on developing consistent rules and regulations that meet CFWI collaborative process goals and implement the results of the CFWI. Some proposals for consideration include matching the CFWI program’s approach and regulatory tools to the problem; establishing performance measures and timetables; defining the role of regulation in achieving sustainability of water resources; implementing adaptive management; defining existing legal uses; appropriately apportioning regulatory components of prevention and recovery among existing legal uses; and providing options for all projected reasonable-beneficial uses of water.

◆ **Continued Communication and Outreach**

CFWI is a collaborative process that depends on the active engagement and participation of the stakeholders. Communications will continue to be critical to keep all stakeholders informed and engaged as programs and projects develop.

◆ **Identify Options for Future CFWI Framework to Support Implementation Strategies**

Implementation of this plan relies on the continued collaboration among the responsible entities and appropriate agencies. Recommendations include evaluating potential institutional framework options to support and coordinate strategy implementation; annual reporting on the status of the projects and actions; and conducting a 5-year assessment and update of the 2015 CFWI RWSP.