



LEGISLATIVE MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Scott Morgan, Interim City Manager

THRU: Gabriel Bowden, Utilities Director

DATE: January 16, 2025

RE: Consideration of submitting an application for the St. Johns River Water Management District Cost-Share Program Funding for alternate water sources for Fiscal Year 2026.

SUMMARY:

The St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) will be accepting applications on behalf of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for cost-share program funding for alternative water supplies for fiscal year 2026. The projects will be submitted to SJRWMD to be approved by the District's Board, if approved the projects will then be submitted by SJRWMD to the FDEP for funding consideration.

Eligible projects should provide dual benefits to water supply and water quality, in addition to regional benefits. The Utilities Department will be applying for cost share funding from SJRWMD for the next two expansions (6-8MGD and 8-10 MGD) at our South Regional Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment Plant. These expansions are considered Alternative Water Supply (AWS) projects as they will reduce the City's consumptive use of the surficial aquifer providing benefits to water supply and water quality Cost-share funding with St. Johns River Water Management District. AWS projects may be provided with up to 50% funding through this program.

The Utilities Department is requesting approval to apply for the cost-share program funding.

REQUESTING DEPARTMENTS:

Utilities

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact to be determined if cost-share program funding is awarded.

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

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STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Motion to apply for the St. Johns River Water Management District Cost-Share Program funding for FY2026; and to authorize the City Manager to execute the grant agreement, if awarded.