

**RESILIENT ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
URBAN PLANNING DIVISION**

STAFF REPORT

25-T1: Water Supply Planning

I. Proposed Amendment

The Urban Planning Division proposes to amend the Broward County Comprehensive Plan's Water Management Element to incorporate Broward County's 2025 Water Supply Facilities Work Plan (WSFWP).

A. Staff Recommendation – Summary of Findings.

Staff reviewed the WSFWP for consistency with the goals, objectives, and policies (GOPs) of the Broward County Comprehensive Plan (BCCP). An update to Water Management Element Policy WM 2.1 is proposed to adopt the Broward County Water Supply Facilities Work Plan by reference (See Section IV).

B. Background.

The South Florida Water Management District's Governing Board adopted the 2023-2024 Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan Update (LEC Plan) on September 12, 2024. Its planning area includes Broward, Palm Beach, and Miami-Dade counties, as well as portions of Monroe and Collier counties. Reservations of the Miccosukee and Seminole tribes are included in the planning area, as well as unique and critical ecosystems, such as the Everglades and Big Cypress Preserve.

The planning period for LEC Plan is 2021 to 2045. The LEC Plan addresses the following:

1. Water demand projections for six water use categories,
2. Water supply development,
3. Water resource development,
4. Adopted minimum flows and levels (MFLs),
5. MFL recovery and prevention strategies,
6. Manner in water supply and water resource development serves the public interest,
7. Technical data,
8. Funding strategies.

The LEC Plan identified public water supply as the largest user of water in the LEC Planning Area, followed by agriculture. The average daily water use in the LEC Planning Area is expected to be 2,086.36 million gallons per day (mgd) in 2045, a 208.84 mgd increase from 2021. The LEC Plan concluded additional water resource and water supply development projects are needed to ensure adequate water supply through 2045 for the following:

1. Existing and projected reasonable-beneficial uses,
2. Sustenance of water resources and related natural systems during average and 1-in-10 year drought conditions.

It recommends the following:

1. Continued coordination with local governments, utilities, agricultural stakeholders, and other water users,

2. Natural resource protection,
3. Water level and water quality monitoring

Section 163.3177(6)(c)4, Florida Statutes, requires that a local government's comprehensive plan and its water supply facilities work plan be updated within 18 months after a water management district's governing board approves an updated regional water supply plan. On June 6, 2025, the Board of County Commissioners initiated amendments to the Broward County Comprehensive Plan and its WSFWP.

The WSFWP focuses on the Broward County Water and Wastewater Division service areas and the Broward Municipal Services District. When planning for water supply, Broward County faces the following broad challenges that are discussed in the WSFWP:

1. Variable rainfall, including more frequent and severe droughts.
2. Increased tidal and storm-related flooding.
3. Decreased coastal wellfield capacity due to saltwater intrusion and sea level rise.
4. Integration of local water supply plans with regional water supply plans.
5. Growing population,
6. Biscayne aquifer protection,
7. Alternate water supply source development, such as the Floridan Aquifer and reuse.
8. Water storage,
9. Compliance with standards for minimum flows and levels for surface and groundwater.

C. Comprehensive Plan Consistency.

The proposed amendments are evaluated based upon the various goals, objectives, and policies (GOPs) set forth in the Broward County Comprehensive Plan (BCCP).

The WSFWP addresses the various GOPs as such relate to the following:

1. Implementation of the WSFWP,
2. Concurrency for water supply availability,
3. Water conservation programs,
4. Alternative water supply projects,
5. Reclaimed water programs,
6. Level of service standards,
7. Population projections,
8. Water supply/source needs and demands,
9. Intergovernmental coordination,
10. Incorporation of the WSFWP into the BCCP.

The proposed amendment updates Water Management Element Policy WM 2.1 to adopt the Broward County Water Supply Facilities Work Plan by reference.

POLICY WM2.1 Broward County hereby adopts by reference the 2025 Broward County Water Supply Facilities Work Plan (WSFWP), dated ~~April 21, 2020~~ and included as (see Attachment A of the Water Management Element), that, at a minimum:

1. Provides for a planning period of not less than 10 years;
2. Requires updates every five (5) years within 18 months after the South Florida Water Management District governing board approves its Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan;
3. Address development and building of public, private, and regional water supply facilities, including development of alternative water supplies that are identified in the Broward County Comprehensive Plan's Water Management Element;

4. ~~The WSWFP addresses issues that pertain to~~ Guarantees water supply facilities and requirements needed to serve current and future development within the County's water service area;
5. ~~The County shall review and update the WSWFP at least every 5 years, within eighteen (18) months after the adoption of an update to the SFWMD LECRWSP. Any changes to occur within the first 5 years of the WSWFP shall be included in the~~ Achieves annual Capital Improvements Plan update to ensure consistency between with the Water Management Element and the Capital Improvements Element;
6. Endeavors to cooperatively plan with local governments, public and private utilities, regional water supply authorities, special districts, and water management districts for the development of multijurisdictional traditional and alternative water supply facilities to meet projected demands.

II. **Attachments**

Exhibit 4: Proposed Broward County Water Supply Facilities Work Plan