



Lyle Seigler
Executive Director

Northwest Florida Water Management District

81 Water Management Drive, Havana, Florida 32333-4712
(U.S. Highway 90, 10 miles **west** of Tallahassee)

Phone: (850) 539-5999 • Fax: (850) 539-2777

September 24, 2026

The Honorable Ron Desantis, Governor
State of Florida
The Capitol PL-01
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Subject: Northwest Florida Water Management District
Adopted Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27

Dear Governor Desantis:

The Northwest Florida Water Management District respectfully submits the District's Adopted Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27 in accordance with section 373.536, Florida Statutes.

On September 23, 2026, the District's Governing Board adopted a \$98.2 million budget, which uses the rolled-back millage rate for taxpayers while maintaining a focus on priority areas including funding of water quality projects that help maximize nutrient reductions, consistent with Executive Orders 19-12 and 23-06.

The District's budget is built on a foundation of projects that are directly in line with its statutory mission of water quality, water supply, natural systems, and flood protections, including:

- \$38.9 million for springs projects. This funding will enable the District to implement or continue restoration projects for Wakulla Spring, Jackson Blue Spring, Cypress Spring, and springs associated with the Chipola River and Econfina Creek.
- \$12.7 million for alternative water supply development, water supply development assistance, and water resource development to support northwest Florida communities. Alternative water supply development funding includes support for cooperative, multijurisdictional efforts to expand water conservation, surface water sources, and reuse of reclaimed water in northwest Florida. Water resource development activities include groundwater supply evaluations and hydrogeologic investigations.
- \$14.4 million for watershed and waterway restoration. This funding will advance efforts to protect and restore water quality and aquatic habitats through cooperative water quality improvement projects and best management practices. Initiatives include the Northwest Florida Watersheds Partnerships Program; Live Oak Point Living Shoreline project on Choctawhatchee Bay; a wastewater effluent force main replacement project in DeFuniak

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Chair
Panama City

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Vice Chair
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KELLIE RALSTON
Tallahassee

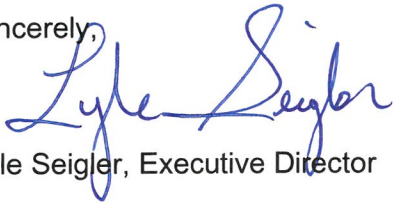
ANNA UPTON
Tallahassee

Springs; data collection and hydrodynamic modeling of water quality and freshwater inflow in St. Joseph Bay; and implementation of pilot distributed wastewater grant projects in Santa Rosa and Washington counties.

- \$8.2 million for land management and reforestation. This funding will allow the District to develop and maintain recreation sites for public use and safety, conduct habitat enhancement activities including reforestation, prescribed burning, groundcover restoration, and invasive exotic plant treatment in order to protect and enhance the water resources of northwest Florida. This also includes \$3 million in potential funding for the Dutex Breakwater and Living Shoreline Project.
- \$2.9 million for data collection and Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels technical assessments for the Floridan aquifer in coastal Bay County, the Floridan aquifer in coastal Planning Region II, Morrison Spring in Walton County, and the Shoal River.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if additional information is required.

Sincerely,



Lyle Seigler, Executive Director

Enclosures

cc:

The Honorable Ben Albritton, President, Florida Senate

The Honorable Wyman Duggan, Speaker Pro Tempore, Florida House of Representatives

The Honorable Ed Hooper, Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Jason Brodeur, Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government

The Honorable Ana Maria Rodriguez, Chair, Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

The Honorable Lawrence McClure, Chair, House Budget Committee

The Honorable John Snyder, Chair, House Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget Subcommittee

The Honorable Adam Botana, Chair, House Natural Resources and Disasters Subcommittee

The Honorable Michelle Salzman, Chair, House Housing, Agriculture, & Tourism Subcommittee

Executive Office of the Governor

Alexis Lambert, Secretary, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

**NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
FY 2026-27 ADOPTED BUDGET BY FUND**

DESCRIPTION	General Fund	Capital Improvement & Lands Acquisition	Special Projects	Lands Management	Regulation	Mitigation	TOTAL
Cash Balances Brought Forward	15,411,090	173,647	3,151,335	2,218,455	4,096,511	5,173,193	30,224,231
<u>ESTIMATED REVENUES:</u>							
TAXES: Millage Per \$1000							
Ad Valorem Taxes .0201	1,855,083	0	2,354,917	0	0	0	4,210,000
Federal Grants	0	0	13,111,182	3,033,000	0	0	16,144,182
DEP - Land Acquisition Trust Fund	0	9,297,751	31,676,104	4,922,026	4,547,599	0	50,443,480
Mitigation	0	0	0	0	0	1,678,963	1,678,963
State Funds	0	0	16,184,415	500,000	4,008,368	0	20,692,783
Local Government Units	0	0	145,970	560	0	0	146,530
Permitting and Licensing	0	0	0	0	655,000	0	655,000
Miscellaneous Revenues	0	813,798	200,000	377,077	125,000	0	1,515,875
Interfund Transfers	2,481,946	0	1,501,189	0	0	0	3,983,135
 Total Estimated Revenues, Transfers and Balances	<u>19,748,119</u>	<u>10,285,196</u>	<u>68,325,112</u>	<u>11,051,118</u>	<u>13,432,478</u>	<u>6,852,156</u>	<u>129,694,179</u>
<u>ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES:</u>							
Salaries & Benefits	3,008,098	105,177	3,443,873	2,359,645	4,687,480	329,953	13,934,226
Other Personal Services	25,782	0	58,947	277,507	69,532	843	432,611
Contractual Services	376,602	310,991	7,810,889	4,232,561	1,337,511	1,220,500	15,289,054
Operating Expenses	737,694	1,300	697,523	1,266,864	1,429,424	51,173	4,183,978
Operating Capital Outlay	37,800	0	123,801	131,400	474,000	12,000	779,001
Fixed Capital Outlay	75,000	9,673,575	0	55,000	410,905	0	10,214,480
Grants and Aids	0	0	53,410,757	0	0	0	53,410,757
Reserves	13,708,741	173,647	2,096,390	2,218,455	4,096,511	5,173,193	27,466,937
Interfund Transfers	1,778,402	20,506	682,932	509,686	927,115	64,494	3,983,135
 Total Appropriated Expenditures, Transfers and Reserves	<u>19,748,119</u>	<u>10,285,196</u>	<u>68,325,112</u>	<u>11,051,118</u>	<u>13,432,478</u>	<u>6,852,156</u>	<u>129,694,179</u>



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RESOLUTION NO. 970

Adoption of Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature created the Northwest Florida Water Management District under Chapter 373, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the ensuing 2026-2027 fiscal year of the Northwest Florida Water Management District shall extend from October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Florida Water Management District is authorized by Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, to adopt a budget in accordance with the provisions of Section 200.065, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Florida Water Management District held a Public Hearing as required by Section 200.065, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of the District has adopted Resolution 969, which establishes the millage-levy for Fiscal Year 2026-2027; and

WHEREAS, programs and projects which are of District benefit will be supported with ad valorem tax revenues and other funding sources as reflected in the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget of \$98,244,107.

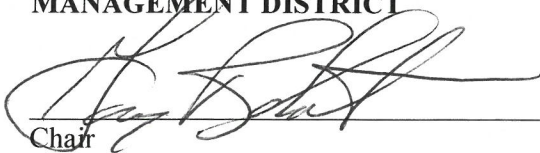
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Board of the Northwest Florida Water Management District, that:

1. The Fiscal Year Final 2026-2027 budget be adopted; and
2. This resolution will take effect immediately upon the adoption.

DULY ADOPTED at a public hearing this 23rd day of September 2026, A.D.

Time Adopted 5:17 PM

The Governing Board of the
**NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**


Chair

ATTEST:


Secretary-Treasurer

GEORGE ROBERTS
Chair
Panama City

JERRY PATE
Vice Chair
Pensacola

NICK PATRONIS
Secretary
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