

House Bill No. 727

An act relating to water management district planning and reporting; amending s. 373.036, F.S.; authorizing submission of an annual strategic plan in lieu of other district water management plan information and providing requirements therefor; requiring water management districts to submit a consolidated annual report and providing requirements therefor; correcting a cross reference; amending ss. 11.80, 163.3177, 193.625, 373.0397, 373.042, 373.145, 373.1961, 373.199, 373.207, 373.414, 373.4592, 373.45926, 373.4595, 373.470, and 373.536, F.S.; revising certain reporting requirements and cross references to conform; directing the Department of Environmental Protection to recommend to the Governor and Legislature additional changes to or consolidation of planning and reporting requirements of ch. 373, F.S., relating to water resources; repealing s. 373.0395, F.S., relating to groundwater basin resource availability inventories; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (4) of section 11.80, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

11.80 Joint Legislative Committee on Everglades Oversight.—

(4) Annually, no later than March ~~January~~ 1, as part of the consolidated annual report required by s. 373.036(7), the South Florida Water Management District shall report to the Joint Legislative Committee on Everglades Oversight on the status of the implementation of the Everglades Forever Act. Such report shall include, but is not limited to:

- (a) Progress on the Everglades Construction Project.
- (b) Changes to the Everglades Construction Project.
- (c) Actual revenues, compared to projected revenues.
- (d) Projected acquisition costs, construction costs, operation and maintenance costs, and projected revenues, over the succeeding 5 years.

Section 2. Paragraph (c) of subsection (6) of section 163.3177, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

163.3177 Required and optional elements of comprehensive plan; studies and surveys.—

(6) In addition to the requirements of subsections (1)-(5), the comprehensive plan shall include the following elements:

- (c) A general sanitary sewer, solid waste, drainage, potable water, and natural groundwater aquifer recharge element correlated to principles and

guidelines for future land use, indicating ways to provide for future potable water, drainage, sanitary sewer, solid waste, and aquifer recharge protection requirements for the area. The element may be a detailed engineering plan including a topographic map depicting areas of prime groundwater recharge. The element shall describe the problems and needs and the general facilities that will be required for solution of the problems and needs. The element shall also include a topographic map depicting any areas adopted by a regional water management district as prime groundwater recharge areas for the Floridan or Biscayne aquifers, ~~pursuant to s. 373.0395~~. These areas shall be given special consideration when the local government is engaged in zoning or considering future land use for said designated areas. For areas served by septic tanks, soil surveys shall be provided which indicate the suitability of soils for septic tanks. By December 1, 2006, the element must consider the appropriate water management district's regional water supply plan approved pursuant to s. 373.0361. The element must include a work plan, covering at least a 10-year planning period, for building water supply facilities that are identified in the element as necessary to serve existing and new development and for which the local government is responsible. The work plan shall be updated, at a minimum, every 5 years within 12 months after the governing board of a water management district approves an updated regional water supply plan. Amendments to incorporate the work plan do not count toward the limitation on the frequency of adoption of amendments to the comprehensive plan.

Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section 193.625, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

193.625 High-water recharge lands; classification and assessment.—

(3)

(b) Subject to the restrictions set out in this section, only lands that are used primarily for bona fide high-water recharge purposes may be classified as high-water recharge. The term “bona fide high-water recharge purposes” means good faith high-water recharge use of the land. In determining whether the use of the land for high-water recharge purposes is bona fide, the following factors apply:

1. The land use must have been continuous.
2. The land use must be vacant residential, vacant commercial, vacant industrial, vacant institutional, nonagricultural, or single-family residential. The maintenance of one single-family residential dwelling on part of the land does not in itself preclude a high-water recharge classification.
3. The land must be located within a prime groundwater recharge area ~~established in accordance with s. 373.0395~~ or in an area considered by the appropriate water management district to supply significant groundwater recharge. Significant groundwater recharge shall be assessed by the appropriate water management district on the basis of hydrologic characteristics of the soils and underlying geologic formations.

4. The land must not be receiving any other special classification.
5. There must not be in the vicinity of the land any activity that has the potential to contaminate the ground water, including, but not limited to, the presence of:
 - a. Toxic or hazardous substances;
 - b. Free-flowing saline artesian wells;
 - c. Drainage wells;
 - d. Underground storage tanks; or
 - e. Any potential pollution source existing on a property that drains to the property seeking the high-water recharge classification.
6. The owner of the property has entered into a contract with the county as provided in subsection (5).
7. The parcel of land must be at least 10 acres.

Notwithstanding the provisions of this paragraph, the property appraiser shall use the best available information on the high-water recharge characteristics of lands when making a final determination to grant or deny an application for high-water recharge assessment for the lands.

Section 4. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 373.036, Florida Statutes, is amended, paragraph (e) is added to said subsection, and subsection (7) is added to said section, to read:

373.036 Florida water plan; district water management plans.—

(2) DISTRICT WATER MANAGEMENT PLANS.—

(b) The district water management plan shall include, but not be limited to:

1. The scientific methodologies for establishing minimum flows and levels under s. 373.042, and all established minimum flows and levels.

2. Identification of one or more water supply planning regions that singly or together encompass the entire district.

3. Technical data and information prepared under s. ss. 373.0391 and 373.0395.

4. A districtwide water supply assessment, to be completed no later than July 1, 1998, which determines for each water supply planning region:

a. Existing legal uses, reasonably anticipated future needs, and existing and reasonably anticipated sources of water and conservation efforts; and

b. Whether existing and reasonably anticipated sources of water and conservation efforts are adequate to supply water for all existing legal uses

and reasonably anticipated future needs and to sustain the water resources and related natural systems.

5. Any completed regional water supply plans.

(e) At its option, a governing board may substitute an annual strategic plan for the requirement to develop a district water management plan and the district water management plan annual report required by subparagraph (7)(b)1., provided that nothing herein affects any other provision or requirement of law concerning the completion of the regional water supply plan and the strategic plan meets the following minimum requirements:

1. The strategic plan establishes the water management district's strategic priorities for at least a future 5-year period.

2. The strategic plan identifies the goals, strategies, success indicators, funding sources, deliverables, and milestones to accomplish the strategic priorities.

3. The strategic plan development process includes at least one publicly noticed meeting to allow public participation in its development.

4. The strategic plan includes separately, as an addendum, an annual work plan report on the implementation of the strategic plan for the previous fiscal year, addressing success indicators, deliverables, and milestones.

(7) CONSOLIDATED WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT.—

(a) By March 1, 2006, and annually thereafter, each water management district shall prepare and submit to the department, the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a consolidated water management district annual report on the management of water resources. In addition, copies must be provided by the water management districts to the chairs of all legislative committees having substantive or fiscal jurisdiction over the districts and the governing board of each county in the district having jurisdiction or deriving any funds for operations of the district. Copies of the consolidated annual report must be made available to the public, either in printed or electronic format.

(b) The consolidated annual report shall contain the following elements, as appropriate to that water management district:

1. A district water management plan annual report or the annual work plan report allowed in subparagraph (2)(e)4.

2. The department-approved minimum flows and levels annual priority list and schedule required by s. 373.042(2).

3. The annual 5-year capital improvements plan required by s. 373.536(6)(a)3.

4. The alternative water supplies annual report required by s. 373.1961(2)(k).

5. The final annual 5-year water resource development work program required by s. 373.536(6)(a)4.

6. The Florida Forever Water Management District Work Plan annual report required by s. 373.199(7).

7. The mitigation donation annual report required by s. 373.414(1)(b)2.

(c) Each of the elements listed in paragraph (b) is to be addressed in a separate chapter or section within the consolidated annual report, although information common to more than one of these elements may be consolidated as deemed appropriate by the individual water management district.

(d) Each water management district may include in the consolidated annual report such additional information on the status or management of water resources within the district as it deems appropriate.

(e) In addition to the elements specified in paragraph (b), the South Florida Water Management District shall include in the consolidated annual report the following elements:

1. The Lake Okeechobee Protection Program annual progress report required by s. 373.4595(3)(g).

2. The Everglades annual progress reports specified in s. 373.4592(4)(d)5., (13), and (14).

3. The Everglades restoration annual report required by s. 373.470(7).

4. The Everglades Forever Act annual implementation report required by s. 11.80(4).

5. The Everglades Trust Fund annual expenditure report required by s. 373.45926(3).

Section 5. Section 373.0397, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

373.0397 Floridan and Biscayne aquifers; designation of prime ground-water recharge areas.—Upon preparation of an inventory of prime ground-water recharge areas for the Floridan or Biscayne aquifers ~~as a part of the requirements of s. 373.0395(3),~~ but prior to adoption by the governing board, the water management district shall publish a legal notice of public hearing on the designated areas for the Floridan and Biscayne aquifers, with a map delineating the boundaries of the areas, in newspapers defined in chapter 50 as having general circulation within the area to be affected. The notice shall be at least one-fourth page and shall read as follows:

NOTICE OF PRIME RECHARGE
AREA DESIGNATION

The ...(name of taxing authority)... proposes to designate specific land areas as areas of prime recharge to the ...(name of aquifer)... Aquifer.

All concerned citizens are invited to attend a public hearing on the proposed designation to be held on ...(date and time)... at ...(meeting place)...

A map of the affected areas follows.

The governing board of the water management district shall adopt a designation of prime groundwater recharge areas to the Floridan and Biscayne aquifers by rule within 120 days after the public hearing, subject to the provisions of chapter 120.

Section 6. Subsection (2) of section 373.042, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

373.042 Minimum flows and levels.—

(2) By November 15, 1997, and annually thereafter, each water management district shall submit to the department for review and approval a priority list and schedule for the establishment of minimum flows and levels for surface watercourses, aquifers, and surface waters within the district. The priority list shall also identify those water bodies for which the district will voluntarily undertake independent scientific peer review. By March 1, 2006 ~~January 1, 1998~~, and annually thereafter, each water management district shall include ~~publish~~ its approved priority list and schedule in the consolidated annual report required by s. 373.036(7) Florida Administrative Weekly. The priority list shall be based upon the importance of the waters to the state or region and the existence of or potential for significant harm to the water resources or ecology of the state or region, and shall include those waters which are experiencing or may reasonably be expected to experience adverse impacts. ~~By January 1, 2003,~~ Each water management district's priority list and schedule shall include all first magnitude springs, and all second magnitude springs within state or federally owned lands purchased for conservation purposes. The specific schedule for establishment of spring minimum flows and levels shall be commensurate with the existing or potential threat to spring flow from consumptive uses. Springs within the Suwannee River Water Management District, or second magnitude springs in other areas of the state, need not be included on the priority list if the water management district submits a report to the Department of Environmental Protection demonstrating that adverse impacts are not now occurring nor are reasonably expected to occur from consumptive uses during the next 20 years. The priority list and schedule shall not be subject to any proceeding pursuant to chapter 120. Except as provided in subsection (3), the development of a priority list and compliance with the schedule for the establishment of minimum flows and levels pursuant to this subsection shall satisfy the requirements of subsection (1).

Section 7. Section 373.145, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

373.145 Information program regarding hydrologic conditioning and consumption of major surface and groundwater sources.—In order to aid in the development of a better understanding of the unique surface and groundwater resources of this state, the water management districts shall develop an information program designed to provide information concerning existing hydrologic conditions of major surface and groundwater sources in this state and suggestions for good conservation practices within those areas. The program shall be developed by December 31, 2002. The water

~~management districts shall utilize the most efficient means to regularly distribute this information to members of the Legislature, the media, and the public. Beginning January 1, 2003, and on a regular basis no less than every 6 months thereafter, the information developed pursuant to this section shall be distributed to every member of the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives and to local print and broadcast news organizations. Each water management district shall be responsible for the distribution of this information within its established geographic area.~~

Section 8. Paragraph (k) of subsection (2) of section 373.1961, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

373.1961 Water production.—

(2) The Legislature finds that, due to a combination of factors, vastly increased demands have been placed on natural supplies of fresh water, and that, absent increased development of alternative water supplies, such demands may increase in the future. The Legislature also finds that potential exists in the state for the production of significant quantities of alternative water supplies, including reclaimed water, and that water production includes the development of alternative water supplies, including reclaimed water, for appropriate uses. It is the intent of the Legislature that utilities develop reclaimed water systems, where reclaimed water is the most appropriate alternative water supply option, to deliver reclaimed water to as many users as possible through the most cost-effective means, and to construct reclaimed water system infrastructure to their owned or operated properties and facilities where they have reclamation capability. It is also the intent of the Legislature that the water management districts which levy ad valorem taxes for water management purposes should share a percentage of those tax revenues with water providers and users, including local governments, water, wastewater, and reuse utilities, municipal, industrial, and agricultural water users, and other public and private water users, to be used to supplement other funding sources in the development of alternative water supplies. The Legislature finds that public moneys or services provided to private entities for such uses constitute public purposes which are in the public interest. In order to further the development and use of alternative water supply systems, including reclaimed water systems, the Legislature provides the following:

(k) ~~By March 1 January 30 of each year, as part of the consolidated annual report required by s. 373.036(7), each water management district shall submit a report on an annual report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives which accounts for the disbursal of all budgeted amounts pursuant to this subsection. Such report shall describe all projects funded and shall account separately for moneys provided through grants, matching grants, revolving loans, and the use of district lands or facilities.~~

Section 9. Subsection (7) of section 373.199, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

373.199 Florida Forever Water Management District Work Plan.—

(7) By June 1, 2001, each district shall file with the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Secretary of Environmental Protection the initial 5-year work plan as required under subsection (2). By March January 1 of each year thereafter, as part of the consolidated annual report required by s. 373.036(7), each district shall file with the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Secretary of Environmental Protection a report on of acquisitions completed during the year together with modifications or additions to its 5-year work plan. Included in the report shall be:

(a) A description of land management activity for each property or project area owned by the water management district.

(b) A list of any lands surplused and the amount of compensation received.

(c) The progress of funding, staffing, and resource management of every project funded pursuant to s. 259.101, s. 259.105, or s. 373.59 for which the district is responsible.

The secretary shall submit the report referenced in this subsection to the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund together with the Acquisition and Restoration Council's project list as required under s. 259.105.

Section 10. Section 373.207, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

373.207 Abandoned artesian wells.—

(1) Each water management district shall develop a work plan which identifies the location of all known abandoned artesian wells within its jurisdictional boundaries and defines the actions which the district must take in order to ensure that each such well is plugged on or before January 1, 1992. The work plan shall include the following:

(1)(a) An initial inventory which accounts for all known abandoned artesian wells in the district.

(2)(b) The location and owner of each known abandoned well.

(3)(e) The methodology proposed by the district to accomplish the plugging of all known abandoned wells within the district on or before January 1, 1992.

(4)(d) Data relating to costs to be incurred for the plugging of all wells, including the per-well cost and personnel costs.

(5)(e) A schedule of priority for the plugging of wells, which schedule is established to mitigate damage to the groundwater resource due to water quality degradation.

~~(2) Each water management district shall submit an annual update of its work plan to the Secretary of Environmental Protection by January 1 of each year, until all wells identified by the plan are plugged.~~

Section 11. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 373.414, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

373.414 Additional criteria for activities in surface waters and wetlands.—

(1) As part of an applicant's demonstration that an activity regulated under this part will not be harmful to the water resources or will not be inconsistent with the overall objectives of the district, the governing board or the department shall require the applicant to provide reasonable assurance that state water quality standards applicable to waters as defined in s. 403.031(13) will not be violated and reasonable assurance that such activity in, on, or over surface waters or wetlands, as delineated in s. 373.421(1), is not contrary to the public interest. However, if such an activity significantly degrades or is within an Outstanding Florida Water, as provided by department rule, the applicant must provide reasonable assurance that the proposed activity will be clearly in the public interest.

(b) If the applicant is unable to otherwise meet the criteria set forth in this subsection, the governing board or the department, in deciding to grant or deny a permit, shall consider measures proposed by or acceptable to the applicant to mitigate adverse effects that may be caused by the regulated activity. Such measures may include, but are not limited to, onsite mitigation, offsite mitigation, offsite regional mitigation, and the purchase of mitigation credits from mitigation banks permitted under s. 373.4136. It shall be the responsibility of the applicant to choose the form of mitigation. The mitigation must offset the adverse effects caused by the regulated activity.

1. The department or water management districts may accept the donation of money as mitigation only where the donation is specified for use in a duly noticed environmental creation, preservation, enhancement, or restoration project, endorsed by the department or the governing board of the water management district, which offsets the impacts of the activity permitted under this part. However, the provisions of this subsection shall not apply to projects undertaken pursuant to s. 373.4137 or chapter 378. Where a permit is required under this part to implement any project endorsed by the department or a water management district, all necessary permits must have been issued prior to the acceptance of any cash donation. After the effective date of this act, when money is donated to either the department or a water management district to offset impacts authorized by a permit under this part, the department or the water management district shall accept only a donation that represents the full cost to the department or water management district of undertaking the project that is intended to mitigate the adverse impacts. The full cost shall include all direct and indirect costs, as applicable, such as those for land acquisition, land restoration or enhancement, perpetual land management, and general overhead consisting of costs such as staff time, building, and vehicles. The department or the water management district may use a multiplier or percentage to add to other direct or indirect costs to estimate general overhead. Mitigation credit for such a donation shall be given only to the extent that the donation covers the full cost to the agency of undertaking the project that is intended to mitigate the adverse impacts. However, nothing herein shall be construed

to prevent the department or a water management district from accepting a donation representing a portion of a larger project, provided that the donation covers the full cost of that portion and mitigation credit is given only for that portion. The department or water management district may deviate from the full cost requirements of this subparagraph to resolve a proceeding brought pursuant to chapter 70 or a claim for inverse condemnation. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the owner of a private mitigation bank, permitted under s. 373.4136, to include the full cost of a mitigation credit in the price of the credit to a purchaser of said credit.

2. The department and each water management district shall report by March 1 to the Executive Office of the Governor by January 31 of each year, as part of the consolidated annual report required by s. 373.036(7), all cash donations accepted under subparagraph 1. during the preceding water management district fiscal calendar year for wetland mitigation purposes. The report shall exclude those contributions pursuant to s. 373.4137. The report shall include a description of the endorsed mitigation projects and, except for projects governed by s. 373.4135(6), shall address, as applicable, success criteria, project implementation status and timeframe, monitoring, long-term management, provisions for preservation, and full cost accounting.

3. If the applicant is unable to meet water quality standards because existing ambient water quality does not meet standards, the governing board or the department shall consider mitigation measures proposed by or acceptable to the applicant that cause net improvement of the water quality in the receiving body of water for those parameters which do not meet standards.

4. If mitigation requirements imposed by a local government for surface water and wetland impacts of an activity regulated under this part cannot be reconciled with mitigation requirements approved under a permit for the same activity issued under this part, including application of the uniform wetland mitigation assessment method adopted pursuant to subsection (18), the mitigation requirements for surface water and wetland impacts shall be controlled by the permit issued under this part.

Section 12. Paragraph (d) of subsection (4) and subsections (13) and (14) of section 373.4592, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

373.4592 Everglades improvement and management.—

(4) EVERGLADES PROGRAM.—

(d) Everglades research and monitoring program.—

1. The department and the district shall review and evaluate available water quality data for the Everglades Protection Area and tributary waters and identify any additional information necessary to adequately describe water quality in the Everglades Protection Area and tributary waters. The department and the district shall also initiate a research and monitoring program to generate such additional information identified and to evaluate the effectiveness of the BMPs and STAs, as they are implemented, in improving water quality and maintaining designated and existing beneficial

uses of the Everglades Protection Area and tributary waters. As part of the program, the district shall monitor all discharges into the Everglades Protection Area for purposes of determining compliance with state water quality standards.

2. The research and monitoring program shall evaluate the ecological and hydrological needs of the Everglades Protection Area, including the minimum flows and levels. Consistent with such needs, the program shall also evaluate water quality standards for the Everglades Protection Area and for the canals of the EAA, so that these canals can be classified in the manner set forth in paragraph (e) and protected as an integral part of the water management system which includes the STAs of the Everglades Construction Project and allows landowners in the EAA to achieve applicable water quality standards compliance by BMPs and STA treatment to the extent this treatment is available and effective.

3. The research and monitoring program shall include research seeking to optimize the design and operation of the STAs, including research to reduce outflow concentrations, and to identify other treatment and management methods and regulatory programs that are superior to STAs in achieving the intent and purposes of this section.

4. The research and monitoring program shall be conducted to allow the department to propose a phosphorus criterion in the Everglades Protection Area, and to evaluate existing state water quality standards applicable to the Everglades Protection Area and existing state water quality standards and classifications applicable to the EAA canals. In developing the phosphorus criterion, the department shall also consider the minimum flows and levels for the Everglades Protection Area and the district's water supply plans for the Lower East Coast.

5. Beginning March 1, 2006, as part of the consolidated annual report required by s. 373.036(7) January 1, 2000, the district and the department shall annually issue a peer-reviewed report regarding the research and monitoring program that summarizes all data and findings. ~~The department shall provide copies of the report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.~~ The report shall identify water quality parameters, in addition to phosphorus, which exceed state water quality standards or are causing or contributing to adverse impacts in the Everglades Protection Area.

6. The district shall continue research seeking to optimize the design and operation of STAs and to identify other treatment and management methods that are superior to STAs in achieving optimum water quality and water quantity for the benefit of the Everglades. The district shall optimize the design and operation of the STAs described in the Everglades Construction Project prior to expanding their size. Additional methods to achieve compliance with water quality standards shall not be limited to more intensive management of the STAs.

(13) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Beginning March 1, 2006, as part of the consolidated annual report required by s. 373.036(7) January 1, 1992, the district shall report on ~~submit to the department, the Governor, the Speaker~~

of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, and the Minority Leader of the Senate annual progress reports regarding implementation of the section. The annual report will include a summary of the water conditions in the Everglades Protection Area, the status of the impacted areas, the status of the construction of the STAs, the implementation of the BMPs, and actions taken to monitor and control exotic species. The district must prepare the report in coordination with federal and state agencies.

(14) EVERGLADES FUND.—The South Florida Water Management District is directed to separately account for all moneys used for the purpose of funding the Everglades Construction Project as part of the consolidated annual report required by s. 373.036(7).

Section 13. Subsection (3) of section 373.45926, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

373.45926 Everglades Trust Fund; allocation of revenues and expenditure of funds for conservation and protection of natural resources and abatement of water pollution.—

(3) The South Florida Water Management District shall furnish, as part of the consolidated annual report required by s. 373.036(7) ~~on a quarterly basis~~, a detailed copy of its expenditures from the Everglades Trust Fund to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and shall make copies available to the public. The information shall be provided in a format approved by the Joint Legislative Committee on Everglades Oversight. At the direction of the Joint Legislative Committee on Everglades Oversight, an audit may be made from time to time by the Auditor General, and such audit shall be within the authority of said Auditor General to make.

Section 14. Paragraph (g) of subsection (3) of section 373.4595, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

373.4595 Lake Okeechobee Protection Program.—

(3) LAKE OKEECHOBEE PROTECTION PROGRAM.—A protection program for Lake Okeechobee that achieves phosphorus load reductions for Lake Okeechobee shall be immediately implemented as specified in this subsection. The program shall address the reduction of phosphorus loading to the lake from both internal and external sources. Phosphorus load reductions shall be achieved through a phased program of implementation. Initial implementation actions shall be technology-based, based upon a consideration of both the availability of appropriate technology and the cost of such technology, and shall include phosphorus reduction measures at both the source and the regional level. The initial phase of phosphorus load reductions shall be based upon the district's Technical Publication 81-2 and the district's WOD program, with subsequent phases of phosphorus load reductions based upon the total maximum daily loads established in accordance with s. 403.067. In the development and administration of the Lake Okeechobee Protection Program, the coordinating agencies shall maximize oppor-

tunities provided by federal cost-sharing programs and opportunities for partnerships with the private sector.

(g) Annual progress report.—Each ~~March~~ January 1, beginning in ~~2006~~ 2001, the district shall ~~report on~~ submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives annual progress reports regarding implementation of this section as part of the consolidated annual report required in s. 373.036(7). The annual report shall include a summary of water quality and habitat conditions in Lake Okeechobee and the Lake Okeechobee watershed and the status of the Lake Okeechobee Construction Project. The district shall prepare the report in cooperation with the other coordinating agencies.

Section 15. Subsection (7) of section 373.470, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

373.470 Everglades restoration.—

(7) ANNUAL REPORT.—To provide enhanced oversight of and accountability for the financial commitments established under this section and the progress made in the implementation of the comprehensive plan, the following information must be prepared annually as part of the consolidated annual report required by s. 373.036(7):

(a) The district, in cooperation with the department, shall provide the following information as it relates to implementation of the comprehensive plan:

1. An identification of funds, by source and amount, received by the state and by each local sponsor during the fiscal year.
2. An itemization of expenditures, by source and amount, made by the state and by each local sponsor during the fiscal year.
3. A description of the purpose for which the funds were expended.
4. The unencumbered balance of funds remaining in trust funds or other accounts designated for implementation of the comprehensive plan.
5. A schedule of anticipated expenditures for the next fiscal year.

(b) The department shall prepare a detailed report on all funds expended by the state and credited toward the state's share of funding for implementation of the comprehensive plan. The report shall include:

1. A description of all expenditures, by source and amount, from the Conservation and Recreation Lands Trust Fund, the Land Acquisition Trust Fund, the Preservation 2000 Trust Fund, the Florida Forever Trust Fund, the Save Our Everglades Trust Fund, and other named funds or accounts for the acquisition or construction of project components or other features or facilities that benefit the comprehensive plan.

2. A description of the purposes for which the funds were expended.

3. The unencumbered fiscal-year-end balance that remains in each trust fund or account identified in subparagraph 1.

(c) The district, in cooperation with the department, shall provide a detailed report on progress made in the implementation of the comprehensive plan, including the status of all project components initiated after the effective date of this act or the date of the last report prepared under this subsection, whichever is later.

The information required in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) shall be provided as part of the consolidated annual report required by s. 373.036(7) annually in a single report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and copies of the report must be made available to the public. The initial report is due by November 30, 2000, and each annual report thereafter is due by March 1 January 31.

Section 16. Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section 373.536, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

373.536 District budget and hearing thereon.—

(6) FINAL BUDGET; ANNUAL AUDIT; CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN; WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT WORK PROGRAM.—

(a) Each district must, by the date specified for each item, furnish copies of the following documents to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the chairs of all legislative committees and subcommittees having substantive or fiscal jurisdiction over the districts, as determined by the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives as applicable, the secretary of the department, and the governing board of each county in which the district has jurisdiction or derives any funds for the operations of the district:

1. The adopted budget, to be furnished within 10 days after its adoption.
2. A financial audit of its accounts and records, to be furnished within 10 days after its acceptance by the governing board. The audit must be conducted in accordance with the provisions of s. 11.45 and the rules adopted thereunder. In addition to the entities named above, the district must provide a copy of the audit to the Auditor General within 10 days after its acceptance by the governing board.
3. A 5-year capital improvements plan, to be included in the consolidated annual report required by s. 373.036(7) ~~furnished within 45 days after the adoption of the final budget.~~ The plan must include expected sources of revenue for planned improvements and must be prepared in a manner comparable to the fixed capital outlay format set forth in s. 216.043.
4. A 5-year water resource development work program to be furnished within 30 ~~45~~ days after the adoption of the final budget. The program must describe the district's implementation strategy for the water resource development component of each approved regional water supply plan developed

or revised under s. 373.0361. The work program must address all the elements of the water resource development component in the district's approved regional water supply plans and must identify which projects in the work program will provide water, explain how each water resource development project will produce additional water available for consumptive uses, estimate the quantity of water to be produced by each project, and provide an assessment of the contribution of the district's regional water supply plans in providing sufficient water to meet the water supply needs of existing and future reasonable-beneficial uses for a 1-in-10-year drought event. Within ~~30~~ 45 days after its submittal, the department shall review the proposed work program and submit its findings, questions, and comments to the district. The review must include a written evaluation of the program's consistency with the furtherance of the district's approved regional water supply plans, and the adequacy of proposed expenditures. As part of the review, the department shall give interested parties the opportunity to provide written comments on each district's proposed work program. Within ~~45~~ 60 days after receipt of the department's evaluation, the governing board shall state in writing to the department which changes recommended in the evaluation it will incorporate into its work program submitted as part of the March 1 consolidated annual report required by s. 373.036(7) or specify the reasons for not incorporating the changes. The department shall include the district's responses in a final evaluation report and shall submit a copy of the report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Section 17. By February 1, 2006, the Department of Environmental Protection, after consultation with the five water management districts, shall recommend to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives any additional changes to or consolidation of the existing planning and reporting requirements of chapter 373, Florida Statutes, that it deems appropriate to efficiently and effectively protect and utilize the state's water resources.

Section 18. Section 373.0395, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

Section 19. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.

Approved by the Governor May 10, 2005.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 10, 2005.