



MEMORANDUM

To: Council Members

AGENDA ITEM 8

From: Staff

Date: October 18, 2019

Subject: Florida's Water Infrastructure Challenge Update – Presentation by Frank Bernardino, Partner, Anfield Consulting and Joint Resolution TCSF #19-03

Introduction

Failure to properly maintain and plan for critical infrastructure is a well-documented national problem. In their 2016 report titled “Buried No Longer,” the American Water Works Association documented that much of the nation’s infrastructure is “nearing the end of its useful life and approaching the age at which it needs to be replaced.” Their report estimated that replacement, not including the cost of new infrastructure that will be needed to meet the needs of our growing population, would exceed \$1 trillion over the next 25 years.

This presentation will provide an overview of Florida’s investment in water resources development, management, and protection infrastructure over the last 15 years and will include revenue and expenditure trends and needs. With that information as background, a summary of legislation filed to date for consideration during the 2020 Session of the Florida Legislature will be provided.

Background

Over the past 15 years in Florida, the average State investment as a percentage of the total State budget has been only 0.63% for water infrastructure (including urban, natural, and agricultural water supply; wastewater management; flood control; water quality protection; and natural system restoration). By comparison, the average State investment for transportation infrastructure over the same period has been 11% of the total budget.

Various groups are seeking to bring attention to the State’s water infrastructure need and this disparity in funding. The State’s historic spending pattern is inconsistent with the public’s values which, as documented in numerous surveys, place higher importance on water over any other issue impacting not only the health and safety of the citizens of Florida, but also the State’s economy and quality of life. Florida should accurately account for its needs, establish recurring

funding sources sufficient to address these needs, and develop predictable and transparent mechanisms and programs to administer them.

Recommendation

The South Florida and Treasure Coast regional planning councils should jointly adopt Resolution TCSF #19-03 and authorize its distribution to the Governor, Legislature, and local government associations.

Joint Council Action – October 25, 2019

Attachment

1. Resolution TCSF #19-03