

DICK GRUENWALD ASSOCIATES

561.622.3200 • dgallc@bellsouth.net

Public Information Monthly Report July 2026

**TO: Board of Supervisors
South Indian River Water Control District**

**FROM: Dick Gruenwald Associates
District Public Information Specialists**

News releases/Notices were sent out to local newspapers and community publications:

- 1) July 16, 2026, Monthly Meeting release – AI generated graphic
- 2) Board of Supervisors' election release

The following Board Meeting items were added to the website:

- 1) Monthly Meeting (May 21, 2026) minutes
- 2) Board of Supervisors Budget Workshop and Monthly Meeting (July 16, 2026) information and Zoom registration invitation links
 - Agendas, Staff Reports and Slide Presentations for Workshop and Monthly Meeting

Attended Budget Workshop and monthly Board meeting and recorded minutes (June 18, 2026) at the District office.

Prepared the minutes of the June Board of Supervisors meeting and Budget Workshop and sent them to Ms. Hammond for inclusion in District meeting materials.

Attended Teams Meeting (June 30, 2026) – regarding Policy and Procedures Manual – Chapter 8 updates and changes.

Consulted with District administration and staff regarding proposed Canal C Phase 2 Project.

We are assisting Ms. Hammond with the Mission and Vision Statement signage.

We continue with the review of the Policies and Procedures manual and will be working with Mr. Kennedy and staff on updates, including the Chief Financial Officer position, Board Secretary and Recording Secretary, organizational chart, roadway petition form, driveway culvert forms, the Financial chapter and Permit chapters, and other potential policy changes or additions being considered.

We are beginning work on the July/August newsletter that will include election and Annual Meeting information, a budget overview, Budget Public Hearing, the proposed Canal C Phase 2 Project, and other articles if space allows.

Streamline Website Update

This past month we updated the National Resources Conservation Service Grant, Public Hearings and Workshops, Meetings, Landowner Road Petitions, Supervisor Elections, Budget, Annual Budget Public Hearing, and District News pages.

We presented the new DocAccess Americans with Disability Act accessibility program at the May Board Meeting. This program uses artificial intelligence to convert PDF documents to accessible HTML, which is essentially a work-around, providing an “alternative” for accessibility. The program also has the

capability to translate documents to over 100 languages. In addition, it features access to live operators should users need additional assistance.

We will be working with the District office and District Engineer to implement a new internal webpage with a GIS-based form for Operations and Maintenance staff to document and track utility strikes encountered during Operations and Maintenance activities. Similar to the Service Request Form, this would be embedded in a password-protected, staff-only page on our website.

We will have the capability to create forms and surveys as needed. And in the future, should the District wish to allow credit card payment for permits and driveway culverts, we can add this capability as well.

The premier of the Drainage in the District Video was shown at the Annual Landowners' Meeting in September 2022, and links to the You-Tube video were provided to community social media. The video has received 1064 views, and 17 likes as of July 8, 2026. The video has also been run on Jupiter Farms Resident's social media a number of times, which has increased views.



Established 1923

15600 Jupiter Farms Road, Jupiter, Florida • (561) 747-0550 • Fax (561) 747-9182

Treasurer Monthly Report – June-July 2026

To: Board of Supervisors
From: Charles F. Haas, Treasurer
RE: Treasurer's Report for July 16, 2026, Board Meeting
CC: Staff
Date: July 9, 2026

We continue to work with the District's Chief Financial Officer to transfer responsibility for various projects.

In the past six months, we have collectively transferred responsibility for overseeing the audit process and preparing the budget, as well as completely handing over the day-to-day accounting.

The one item that has not yet been transferred to his responsibility is preparation of the assessment roll. This was a considered decision, in that the initial part of the assessment roll process — developing and submitting the assessment rates from the proposed budget to the County's computer system is very complex and operates under a very short time constraint of approximately forty days. This time period is significantly coterminous with the other responsibilities the Chief Financial Officer was completing, as described above.

During the month of June, I spent considerable effort getting the assessments prepared and subject to the Board's decision will be submitted for the Truth in Millage notices. These assessments will be finalized after the meeting and before the July 20th deadline.

The final assessments which go on the individual tax bills must be certified by the end of August. My plan is to streamline the process and then work with the Chief Financial Officer to hand this responsibility over to him such that future assessment rolls will be completed by him.

One consequence of this activity is that billing for this time period will reflect the additional work I have put in to ensure the assessment roll was in place before the deadline, so may be greater than recent invoices.

Of course, should you have any questions, please contact me.



Established 1923

A Florida Special District

15600 Jupiter Farms Road • Jupiter, Florida 33478-9399 • (561) 747-0550

www.sirwcd.org

sirwcd@sirwcd.org

Memorandum

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Executive Director
SUBJECT: Consideration of Flood Control Assessment – Parcel Number 00-42-41-16-00-000-1001
DATE: July 16, 2026

Recommendation

Board direction to staff regarding whether Parcel Number **00-42-41-16-00-000-1001** should be included in the District's flood control assessment roll and, if so, direct staff, the District Engineer, and District Counsel to evaluate the necessary actions and return with a recommendation for implementation.

Alternatively, the Board may direct staff to contact the property owner regarding the potential conveyance of the parcel to the South Indian River Water Control District.

Background

Parcel Number **00-42-41-16-00-000-1001** consists of approximately **14.22 acres** and is currently owned by

Dalton Terrence Trust

The parcel appears to have been acquired many years ago, reportedly from Palm Beach Development and Sales or a related entity, although staff have not independently verified the chain of title. The property consists primarily of a canal and, to the best of staff knowledge, has historically not been assessed for District flood control services. The reason the parcel was originally excluded from assessment is unclear. There does not appear to be any recent Board action regarding the assessment status of the property, and staff have not located documentation explaining the basis for the exclusion.

Discussion

The Board may wish to consider whether the parcel receives benefit from the District's flood protection and water management system and whether it should therefore be included in the District's assessment program consistent with other properties that receive similar benefits.

Based on the current assessment methodology, staff estimates that annual flood control assessments for the 14.22-acre parcel would be approximately **\$4,200.00 per year**, subject to the official assessment rates adopted by the Board.

Because the parcel is a canal feature, there may also be an opportunity to pursue ownership by the District. Ownership of the canal by the District could potentially simplify long-term maintenance, operation, and management responsibilities associated with the water control system.

Accordingly, the Board may wish to direct staff to contact the owner, **Dalton Terrence Trust**, to determine whether there is any interest in voluntarily deeding the property to the District.

Options for Board Consideration

Option 1 – Maintain Current Status

Take no action and continue the historical practice of not assessing the parcel.

Option 2 – Evaluate Assessment

Direct staff, District Counsel, and the District Engineer to determine whether the parcel should be assessed for flood control benefits and return with recommendations and any required resolutions or assessment modifications.

Option 3 – Pursue Acquisition

Direct staff to contact **Dalton Terrence Trust** regarding the potential conveyance of the parcel to the District and report back to the Board.

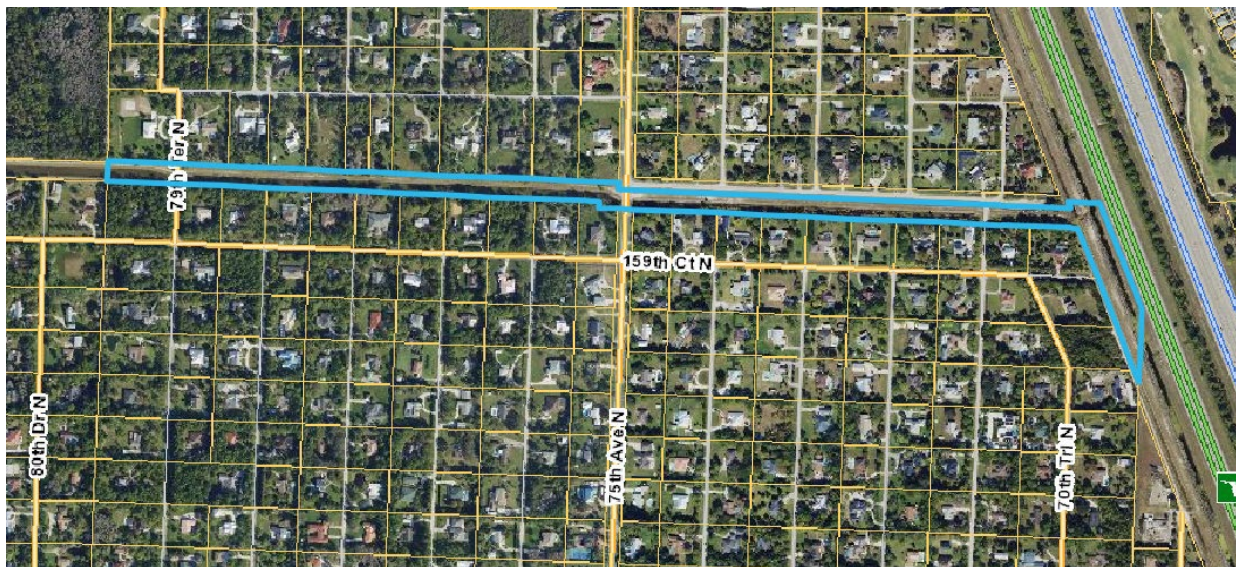
Option 4 – Combined Approach

Direct staff to both:

1. Evaluate the parcel for inclusion in the flood control assessment roll, and
2. Contact the owner regarding a possible deed transfer to the District.

Suggested Motion

Board directs staff, District Counsel, and the District Engineer to review the assessment status of Parcel Number **00-42-41-16-00-000-1001** and return with recommendations regarding its eligibility for flood control assessments, and further authorize staff to contact the property owner, **Dalton Terrence Trust**, regarding the potential conveyance of the parcel to the District.



William Chad Kennedy
Executive Director



Established 1923

A Florida Special District

15600 Jupiter Farms Road • Jupiter, Florida 33478-9399 • (561) 747-0550

www.sirwcd.org

sirwcd@sirwcd.org

Memorandum

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Executive Director
SUBJECT: Report for June 19, 2026, through July 7, 2026
DATE: July 7, 2026

Administration

Kimley-Horn Professional Services Contract Initial Task Order

The District entered into a professional services agreement with Kimley-Horn to provide General Engineering Services under a structured, task-order-based contract model. The Executive Director has approved Work Order 1 which includes three Tasks.

- Task 1: Project Kick Off meeting and associated work (lump sum \$3,730.00),
- Task 2: Data Collection and Existing Conditions Assessment (lump sum \$23,660.00), and
- Task 3: Project Development and Grant Application Submittal (lump sum \$71,080.00) require Board of Supervisors review and approval due to the cost exceeding the Executive Director's \$65,000.00 spending cap (See attached Task 3 description below).

On July 7, 2026, the Work Order 1 Kickoff Meeting was held to align all relevant parties with respect to Work Order 1 and associated scope, fee, and schedule. Task 2 starts immediately after Task 1.

To improve fiscal control and transparency, all work under this agreement will be performed only pursuant to Board-authorized or Executive-Director-approved task-specific orders, each of which will define the deliverables, schedule, and not-to-exceed cost prior to initiation of any billable activity.

Fiscal Impact:

Task 3 is intended to position the District to pursue State grant funding, thereby reducing the potential financial burden on District landowners. Any future work orders will be subject to available budget appropriations and oversight consistent with District policy.

Action Requested:

Board of Supervisors' approval of Task 3 of the Kimley-Horn Professional Services Contract.

Operations

Canal C Reshaping Project – Palm Beach Country Estates

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-08

A Resolution Of The Board Of Supervisors Of The South Indian River Water Control District Awarding A Contract For The Canal C Reshaping Project – Palm Beach Country Estates To Loren Jock Trucking As The Lowest Responsible And Responsive Bidder; Authorizing The Executive Director To Execute The Contract And Take All Necessary Actions To Implement The Project; Providing For Implementation; And Providing An Effective Date.

The Invitation to Bid was posted on Tuesday May 26, 2026, seeking a contract with a qualified contractor to perform the realignment of approximately 4,615 linear feet of Canal C within South Indian River Water Control District easements. Work of this proposed Contract comprises excavation, fill and grading for the Canal C realignment specified by the District to restore capacity and improve function of the canal. The contract also includes removing excess material, adjusting the length of culverts and seed and mulch and sodding. Additional work not depicted in the Contract Documents may be added at the discretion of the District and shall be performed for a unit price or lump sum amount agreed upon between the District and the Contractor.

The lowest responsible and responsive qualified Bidder that meets all the requirements of this Solicitation will be brought to the Board of Supervisors for consideration. (See attached *RESOLUTION NO. 2026-08* below)

Action Requested:

Board of Supervisors' approval of *RESOLUTION NO. 2026-08*.

Florida Turnpike Expansion Stormwater Concerns Persist

The discussion regarding the South Indian River Water Control District stormwater model during the June 24, 2026, meeting between the Florida's Turnpike Enterprise and the District raised several significant concerns related to the stormwater management approach associated with the proposed Turnpike widening project.

A primary concern continues to be the substantial differences in baseline assumptions utilized by Florida's Turnpike Enterprise and the District's models, particularly regarding:

- A. Existing canal stages and operating water levels,
- B. Stormwater contribution volumes and the reduction of available storage resulting from proposed project features, and
- C. Available storage capacity within the combined Florida Turnpike and Interstate 95 drainage systems.

Because the modeling approach remains misaligned regarding existing conditions, there is a significant risk that available storage capacity within the regional system is being inaccurately represented. As a result, disagreements between the District and Florida's Turnpike Enterprise may continue throughout the permitting process rather than being resolved during the design phase. Of particular concern is that Florida's Turnpike Enterprise has substantially simplified the detailed District stormwater model and is not utilizing the full level of detail and system representation provided by the District.

Based on the issues identified during meetings held on May 14, 2026, and June 24, 2026, the Executive Director directed the District Engineer to continue coordination efforts with both the South Florida Water Management District, and Florida's Turnpike Enterprise to obtain clarification regarding how these modeling differences are being addressed and reconciled. The District's objective remains the development of a unified modeling approach and regional system framework that accurately reflects existing conditions and is developed collaboratively among South Indian River Water Control District, South Florida Water Management District, and Florida's Turnpike Enterprise.

In parallel with the engineering review process, Supervisor Berman has maintained direct communication with Nicola A. Liquori, C.P.A., Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of Florida's Turnpike Enterprise. This correspondence before the June 24, 2026, meeting resulted in additional technical information being provided to the District Engineer for review in advance of the release of the project's 45.00% design plans for public review.

Staff will continue to monitor project developments, participate in coordination meetings, and work with agency partners to ensure that the District's concerns regarding stormwater conveyance, storage capacity, and flood protection are adequately addressed as the project advances through design and permitting.

Action Requested:

Receive and file. No Board action required.

Storm Recovery – Hurricane Milton (October 2024) Phase 2

The Natural Resources Conservation Service grant provided to the District has concluded with Crowder Gulf (District contractor).

Action Requested:

Receive and file. No Board action required.

Chief Financial Officer Update

Internal Financial Operating Procedures:

There is no change in status for the internal financial operating procedures. Final revisions are currently in progress.

Bank and Credit Card Reconciliations:

Bank and credit card reconciliations for May 2026 have been completed. June 2026 reconciliations are currently being finalized, which will bring the District fully up to date.

Permit Revenue and Escrows:

AECOM submitted its April and May 2026 invoices to the District, with each invoice identifying a permit subtask code corresponding to the permit reviews performed by the engineering staff. Upon receipt of the invoices, the Chief Financial Officer developed a permit tracking spreadsheet to monitor permit application fees and the associated costs of permit review services. Additionally, the District Engineers are currently revising the District's permit review policies and procedures. As part of these revisions, applicants will be required to submit payment of the applicable permit fees before any permit review services are initiated by the District Engineers.

Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget:

The Chief Financial Officer prepared the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 preliminary budget book and will provide the Board of Supervisors with an update during the Board of Supervisors meeting on July 16, 2026. Please see the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 preliminary budget book, the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 preliminary budget book Excel file, and the Chief Financial Officer's updated Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget power point presentation attached. The Public Information Officer will post the preliminary budget book and power point presentation on the District's website.

Palm Beach County Property Appraisers has provided the District with the Non-Ad Valorem data file. The Non-Ad Valorem data file contains all District parcel control numbers and associated acreage information, which will be used to prepare the assessment rolls. The Treasurer is in the process of comparing the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Non-Ad Valorem data file to the new file received from Palm Beach County for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. The Treasurer will be responsible for the population of the assessment roll for the Truth in Millage (TRIM). The preliminary TRIM is due to the Palm Beach County Property Appraisers by July 24, 2026. The Treasurer will meet with the Chief Financial Officer to review the assessment roll preparation process and facilitate the transition of these responsibilities to the Chief Financial Officer in future years.

District Investment Policy

The Chief Financial Officer has drafted a new District Investment Policy for review and consideration by the Board of Supervisors at its July 16, 2026, meeting. The proposed policy has been developed in accordance with Section 218.415, Florida Statutes. Upon approval of the policy, the Chief Financial Officer will research Florida PRIME, the local government investment pool administered by the Florida State Board of Administration, as well as other

eligible investment vehicles, to identify opportunities that align with the District's investment objectives and statutory requirements. Following this evaluation, the Chief Financial Officer anticipates presenting a recommendation regarding participation in these investment opportunities to the Board at its August 2026 meeting.

Action Requested: Board's approval of the new District Investment Policy.

Chief Financial Officer Action Items:

- Finalize the Internal Financial Operating Procedures
- Assist Treasurer with the Non-Ad Valorem Assessment rolls for the July 2026 deadline
- Prepare the final Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget book for the Board of Supervisors August 2026 meeting

William Chad Kennedy
Executive Director

South Indian River Water Control District

Resolution No. 2026-08

A Resolution of The Board of Supervisors of The South Indian River Water Control District Awarding A Contract For Invitation To Bid No. 2026-02: Canal C Phase 2 Realignment Project To Loren Jock Trucking, Inc. As The Lowest Responsible and Responsive Bidder; Authorizing The Executive Directory To Execute the Contract and Take All Necessary Actions To Implement The Project; And Providing An Effective Date.

WHEREAS, the South Indian River Water Control District is an independent special district of the State of Florida charged with managing and maintaining water control infrastructure within its jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, on May 26, 2026, the District issued Invitation to Bid No. 2026-02 seeking bids from qualified contractors for the Canal C Phase 2 Realignment Project located within Palm Beach Country Estates; and

WHEREAS, the Project consists of the realignment of approximately 4,615 linear feet of Canal C within District easements, including excavation, fill, grading, removal of excess material, culvert modifications, seeding, mulching, and sodding and other work more particularly described in the Contract Documents, for the purpose of restoring canal capacity and improving the function of the District's drainage system; and

WHEREAS, the Invitation to process was conducted in accordance with the District Procurement Policy, and bids received were reviewed, and evaluated by District staff and the District Engineer; and

WHEREAS, based upon the District Engineer's review and recommendation, Loren Jock Trucking, Inc. submitted the lowest responsive and responsible bid in the amount of Four Hundred Forty-Four Thousand Fifty-Eight Dollars and Eighteen Cents (\$444,058.18; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors finds that awarding the Contract to Loren Jock Trucking is in the best interests of the District and its landowners and will further the District's mission of maintaining and improving its water management infrastructure; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved By The Board Of Supervisors Of The South Indian River Water Control District That:

SECTION 1. Incorporation of Recitals.

The foregoing recitals (the "WHEREAS" clauses) are true and correct and are incorporated herein by reference.

SECTION 2. Contract Award and Authorization.

The Board of Supervisors hereby awards the Contract for Invitation to Bid No. 2026-02, Canal C Phase 2 Realignment Project, to Loren Jock Trucking, Inc., as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, in accordance with the Contract Documents.

SECTION 3. Implementation.

The Executive Director is authorized to execute the Contract on behalf of the District and any other documents necessary to effectuate the award, to approve and execute change orders in an amount not to exceed the Executive Director purchasing authority as set forth in the

District Procurement Policy, and to take such administrative actions as are necessary to implement this Resolution and administer the Project in accordance with the Contract Documents and applicable District policies.

SECTION 4. Effective Date.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

SOUTH INDIAN RIVER WATER CONTROL DISTRICT

By: _____

Susan Kennedy, President
Board of Supervisors

Attest: _____
District Secretary

Memorandum

To South Indian River Water Control District
Board of Supervisors

CC William Chad Kennedy, Executive Director

Subject Engineer's Report for June

From Karen D. Brandon, PE, District Engineer

Board Meeting Date July 16, 2026

The following is a summary of activities and communications that were of significance during the past month. Updated information is presented in **bold**:

I. Current Capital Improvements And Other District Projects

- A. The Executive Director has requested that AECOM work on compiling a list of recommended Capital Improvement Projects to be included in the Water Control Plan.

A Teams meeting was held on April 2, 2026 to discuss potential projects and moving forward with the Amended Water Control Plan.

A Resolution is on the Board Agenda for the May meeting, authorizing the District Engineer to proceed with preparation of an Amended Water Control Plan.

- B. **Bids were received for the Canal C Realignment Project – Phase 2 on June 23, 2026. A total of 10 (ten) bids were received. The bids were reviewed for responsiveness and qualifications. Additionally, a reference was checked with South Florida Water Management District, and the unit prices were reviewed with the lowest bidder. A Recommendation for Award has been made for the lowest bidder, Loren Jock Trucking, Inc. for a bid in the amount of \$444,058.18.**

II. Operation And Maintenance

- A. A proposal for bridge inspections for the bridge over the C-18 Canal (old Reese Bridge) and the bridge over the C-14 Canal has been received and a Purchase Order is being processed through AECOM for a subconsultant to perform the work.

AECOM has issued a Purchase Order to Underwater Engineering Services, Inc. to perform the C-18 and C-14 Canal bridge inspections. Underwater Engineering Services, Inc. has been tasked with requesting a temporary access permit for the C- 18 Bridge from the South Florida Water Management District Right-of-Way permitting staff. They have tentatively scheduled the inspections for one day between February 25-27, 2026.

Underwater Engineering Services, Inc. is drafting the Bridge Inspection Reports for review and comments. However, based on preliminary observations from the inspection, there appears to be no major structural concerns, mostly maintenance items. The draft Inspection Reports are scheduled to be submitted by March 13, 2026.

The draft Inspection Reports were received on March 20, 2026. Recommendations for repairs were provided for both the C-18 and C-14 bridges. Repair recommendations include concrete deck repairs (patches), joint repairs in deck joints and abutment concrete sheet piling, guardrail post repairs, and load posting signs.

The District Engineer is working on preparing specifications to accompany the Bridge Inspection Report in a Request for Bid package to solicit contractors to perform the repairs.

The District has requested a proposal from Underwater Engineering Services, Inc. to prepare the specifications for the bridge repairs and to provide inspection services during the repairs.

The District has received a proposal from Underwater Engineering Services, Inc. to prepare specifications for the bridge repairs and to provide inspection services during the repairs in the amount of \$13,200. A Teams call is being scheduled to review the proposal with Underwater Engineering Services, Inc.

- B. The District's Geographic Information System based asset management system is now operational. Efforts this month focused on refining system performance and enhancing usability for both office and field staff. The online resident ticketing portal is live and actively used, with positive feedback received from residents and staff for its ease of use and improved coordination of responses.

All field equipment, including the Emlid RS3 Geographic Information System unit and field tablets, are active and functioning. Geographic Information System locates are being refined to further improve horizontal and vertical accuracy, and new construction permits and field verified assets are being added to the system as they become available. Ongoing work continues to streamline data organization and optimize field workflows to increase efficiency and reliability across all user levels.

AECOM has been supporting the Supervisor of Operations in expanding use of the Emlid RS3 Geographic Information System unit beyond basic asset location by providing training and guidance on collecting spot elevations throughout the system. The Supervisor of Operations is performing the field data collection, while AECOM reviews the incoming Geographic Information System shots as they are logged into the District's Geographic Information System -based asset management system and provides engineering support to help identify localized grading constraints and high spots that affect conveyance. This effort also supports improved driveway and culvert installations by confirming appropriate culvert inverts and roadway/ditch tie-in elevations to improve hydraulic efficiency and reduce localized ponding.

AECOM continued supporting the Supervisor of Operations with review of roadway and swale elevation data collected using the District's Geographic Information System based workflow to assist in identifying hydraulic deficiencies and localized drainage issues. Based on the field data, AECOM also assisted with refinement of proposed driveway culvert and swale elevations to improve hydraulic performance and system flow.

In addition, AECOM worked with KDT and District staff on development of a Power Automate workflow to generate automatic email notifications from the District's Survey123 service ticket system when tickets are completed. Final implementation is currently being completed by KDT.

AECOM continued supporting the Supervisor of Operations with review of roadway and swale elevation data collected through the District's Geographic Information Systems-based workflow. This information is being used to assist with identifying localized drainage deficiencies, evaluating swale performance, and refining proposed driveway culvert and swale elevations to improve hydraulic performance and overall system flow.

In addition, AECOM met with the Executive Director and Supervisor of Operations to review potential Geographic Information Systems-based roadway assessment tools that could assist



District staff with evaluating the condition of paved and unpaved roads throughout the District. The proposed workflow would allow staff to document roadway conditions in the field, assign condition ratings, identify deficiencies, and view results spatially within Geographic Information Systems. This information can be used to better prioritize roadway maintenance needs, support future mill and overlay planning, develop maintenance schedules, and project long-term roadway improvement costs. The tool would also provide a more consistent and data-driven method for tracking roadway conditions over time and targeting maintenance efforts in areas with the greatest need.

Based on current direction from the meeting, AECOM will provide the Executive Director with a breakdown of anticipated labor hours needed to develop an operational roadway assessment tool for the District. A rough estimate was discussed during the meeting; however, AECOM will prepare a more detailed breakdown based on the additional information and direction gathered during the discussion.

On June 1, 2026, the District Executive Director approved and provided direction for AECOM to proceed with further development of the District's existing ArcGIS-based system to include a roadway asset management component. This roadway management system will be used by District staff to inventory District roadways and roadway characteristics, conduct routine pavement condition assessments, and support inspection, maintenance, and repair planning activities. The system is intended to improve the District's ability to document roadway conditions, track maintenance needs, prioritize repairs, and maintain a more organized roadway asset inventory for long-term operations and capital planning.

On June 25, 2026, AECOM and District staff met to review the District's ArcGIS-based roadway asset management system. The meeting included an overview of how the system functions, how District staff can begin using the system in the field, and how roadway condition information should be documented. AECOM also provided training aids for District staff to review to better understand how to classify roadway conditions and apply consistent pavement condition ratings.

District staff has begun using the system to assess the District's paved roadways. As of the preparation of this report, District staff has assessed approximately 21.9 miles of paved roadway within the District.

AECOM will continue to coordinate with District staff as the roadway assessment effort progresses. At a future date, AECOM will meet with District staff to review the data collected, discuss staff feedback, and provide recommendations for updates or refinements to the Geographic Information System to improve usability, consistency, and overall user experience.

- C. Natural Resources Conservation Service Grant Application for Hurricane Damage – A meeting was held on November 1, 2024, with Natural Resources Conservation Service staff at their office in Royal Palm Beach. A draft Damage Survey Report was prepared and presented at the meeting to obtain submitted on November 8, 2024. A few additional comments were received and addressed on November 21, 2024. Once the application has been “approved” by the local Natural Resources Conservation Service staff, it will go to the State Engineer for final approval prior to formal submittal as a request for funding.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service confirmed on February 14, 2025, that the funds approved for the District have been frozen indefinitely through the Presidential executive order.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service has sent the Grant Agreement to South Indian River Water Control District for execution. Once it is executed and returned by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, a pre-design conference will be scheduled.



A Pre-Design conference was held on July 16, 2025, at the District's office. A field visit with the Contractor was held on August 12, 2025, along with a conference call with Natural Resources Conservation Service to clarify options for proceeding with the work items.

The Contractor was issued a Notice to Proceed on September 8, 2025. Work has been progressing along Canal 7 with approximately 4400 cubic Yards of vegetative debris being removed and 1.5 miles of canal banks cleared. Work is also being done on Canal 3. A request for an amendment to the District's agreement with Natural Resources Conservation Service for additional work in Canal 3 has been approved by Natural Resources Conservation Service, however, the funding for that work has not yet been approved.

Crowder Gulf (Contractor) has completed debris removal activities authorized under the current round of Natural Resources Conservation Service funding. On November 12, 2025, the Contractor submitted a pay request in the amount of \$636,867, which is within \$1,886.00 of the current contract value of \$638,753. Once the District pays the Contractor, a Request for Reimbursement will be submitted to the Natural Resources Conservation Service funding.

Natural Resources Conservation Service funding has approved additional funding for the District at a 100% Federal cost share, providing an additional \$846,737. Including construction inspection and technical assistance, the total Natural Resources Conservation Service funding grant award to the District is now \$1,549,365.30. We are currently awaiting the Natural Resources Conservation Service funding to release the additional funds before authorizing Crowder Gulf to resume work, which is anticipated to occur after the first of the year.

The executed Natural Resources Conservation Service Agreement for the approved additional funds was received on January 6, 2026. A coordination call with the Natural Resources Conservation Service Grant Manager is being scheduled to discuss starting work. A Request for Reimbursement in the amount of \$680,673.73 is being prepared for submittal to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

The Request for Reimbursement for the completed work in the first phase in the amount of \$698,019.74 is being processed for payment by Natural Resources Conservation Service. A Request for Time Extension has been submitted to Natural Resources Conservation Service for processing. The Request extends the current grant period from April 10, 2026, until November 6, 2026, allowing time to complete the second phase of work on Canals 3 and 7, for which additional funding has been approved.

The Request for Reimbursement was processed and paid by Natural Resources Conservation Service, in the amount of \$698,019.74 on March 3, 2026. The Request for Time Extension was approved on February 9, 2026, extending the current grant period from April 10, 2026, until November 6, 2026. The Executive Director is coordinating with Crowder-Gulf to determine when they may be able to start work again. However, low water levels in the canals may delay the start of work.

A meeting is scheduled with the Contractor, Crowder-Gulf, on April 15, 2026, to discuss their remobilization and schedule.

Crowder-Gulf was issued a Notice to Proceed on April 22, 2026. They have completed work in Canal 3 and have moved on to Canal 7. The work is anticipated to be completed in approximately two months.

Crowder-Gulf has notified the Engineer that the work in Canal 7 was completed on June 10, 2026. A final inspection will be scheduled with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Crowder-Gulf will also submit a Pay Application with all required back-up documentation.



A final inspection was conducted on June 24, 2026 with the National Resources Conservation Service Grant Manager. Once Crowder-Gulf's final invoice is submitted, AECOM will review and compile the reimbursement request package.

- D. On November 14th, staff conducted a field visit with the Executive Director and Supervisor of Operations to review site conditions for the design of pre-storm drainage control structures at the west ends of Canal C and Canal E. These structures will improve the operations of the Palm Beach Country Estates drainage network by enabling South Indian River Water Control District to direct water westward through existing connections to the South Florida Water Management District C-18 Canal during pre-storm drawdown, assuming South Florida Water Management District lowers stages in the C-18 Canal, ahead of a major storm. This will provide additional storage capacity within S South Indian River Water Control District's system and enhance stormwater conveyance during the event.

Staff is currently working on the design of the control structures and has been coordinating with Contech on the control structure gate and walkway.

Staff is preparing a design memorandum describing work completed to date for future use, should South Indian River Water Control District decide to move forward with these structures.

Staff is finalizing the draft design memorandum for submittal to the District for review and comments.

The draft design memorandum is undergoing internal Quality Control review and editing.

A conference call was held with Jesse Markle with South Florida Water Management District to discuss whether a permit will be required for internal structures and culverts within South Indian River Water Control District. He said a riser and culvert structure to lower the stage in Canal E to the west would require a General Permit. A proposed operation schedule should be submitted indicating what stages upstream and downstream would be experienced for the flashboards to be pulled and under what conditions the boards would be put back in. All operations would be coordinated with and subject to approval by South Florida Water Management District's Operations Control Center.

- E. **There has not been a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Steering Committee Meeting since our last report. The next meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2026, and the agenda includes Program Budget Reports and the Public Education Program.**
- F. Staff continues to monitor and participate in the activities of the Loxahatchee River Ecosystem Management Committee, the Loxahatchee River Initiative, and the Loxahatchee River Management Coordinating Council.

Staff assisted the Executive Director with preparation of a PowerPoint presentation regarding a grant application for easement surveys and Geographic Information System services for the Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative meeting on August 5, 2024.

Staff attended the April 7, 2025, Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative meeting where the District's Executive Director presented a vision for improving the District's operational flexibility for water management to benefit water conservation, flood protection and potential benefits to the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River.

A Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative meeting was held on August 4, 2025. The District's Executive Director presented an application for exotic removal along the C-14 Canal and tributaries within the District.



The District applied for and was awarded grant funding in the amount of \$75,000 for the Loxahatchee River Headwaters Easement Mapping in Jupiter Farms project, with \$75,000 in proposed matching funds by the District. The District is waiting on the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for final execution of the Grant Agreement.

The Grant Agreement was executed December 9, 2025, and has a Task End date for Easement Mapping of October 31, 2028, and an expiration date of April 30, 2029. AECOM has requested a proposal from the surveyor for the remaining survey work in Jupiter Farms.

Legacy Surveying submitted a proposal dated February 12, 2026, with a total fee of \$78,000 (to be billed monthly based on progress). The District's Executive Director approved proceeding with the survey on February 12, 2026. Staff has transmitted the required documentation to Procurement to initiate the work, and field activities are anticipated to begin before the end of the month.

AECOM issued a purchase order to Legacy Surveying for the Survey work. A kick-off meeting was held on March 11, 2026. Legacy will be providing a schedule within the next two weeks.

As of this week, Legacy Survey is nearly complete with Section 9. A deliverable and an invoice will be submitted before the May Board meeting.

Legacy Survey submitted the survey files for Section 9 on May 11, 2026, and has proceeded to perform the field work in the next section.

Legacy is performing final fieldwork on Section 4 and completing the drafting this week. They are also having a title company review a specific easement for 133rd. Legacy plans to have a draft deliverable of the Section 4 survey submitted next week.

The Section 4 survey was transmitted to AECOM on June 19, 2026. Legacy is currently performing field work in Section 3, and they anticipate delivering the survey files by July 16.

- G. Staff met with representatives from the Turnpike Authority and Florida Department of Transportation on April 7, 2025, to discuss maintenance of the canal/ditches on the east and west sides off the Turnpike. Topics discussed included the importance of clearing the canals and outfall route for flood protection and access for District maintenance staff.

As a follow-up to the meeting on April 7, 2025, the Turnpike Authority's consultant forwarded some old as-builts from 1955 and a typical section of the proposed Turnpike widening. These plans will not be sufficient to design a culvert crossing for South Indian River Water Control access on the east side of the Turnpike or for designing a platform on the west end of the box culvert under I-95. Therefore, as a next step, a survey quote has been requested from Legacy Survey.

A site meeting with the Turnpike Authority consultants was held on July 9, 2025, to review the vegetation removal work completed by the District on the west Turnpike canal. The work was determined to be satisfactory from a maintenance standpoint.

A meeting was held on December 15, 2025, with the Turnpike Enterprise's consultants to discuss preliminary drainage design for the proposed widening of the Turnpike from PGA Blvd. to Jupiter, from four to six lanes. They are proposing piping the West Borrow canal and having manholes at intervals for maintenance access to the pipe(s). The final design started the end of November, with plans anticipated by the Fall of 2026 and bidding in the Spring of 2028. Indian River Water Control District's concerns are any increase in discharge which will impact tailwater for Palm Beach Country Estates control structures, water quality, and operation and maintenance of the proposed pipe.



District staff held a Teams meeting with South Florida Water Management District Regulatory staff to communicate the concerns, so that they are aware during the Environmental Resource Permit review process.

On January 28, 2026, the District received a Florida Turnpike Enterprise response letter to our concerns. Staff assisted with drafting a letter, which the Executive Director sent to Florida Turnpike Enterprise on February 5, 2026. The letter clarified the need for the Florida Turnpike Enterprise to apply for a District Permit, cross-drain pipe maintenance, as well as some action items to move forward.

Additionally, staff is completing a review of the 45% plans.

Staff has supported the Executive Director and District Attorney with information from the 7th Plan of Reclamation, the South Florida Water Management District Permit for Palm Beach Country Estates and easement information for the Header Canal.

A Teams meeting was held on April 6, 2026, with Florida Turnpike Enterprise, Florida Department of Transportation and their consultants to discuss the Turnpike Widening project status and to review how South Indian River Water Control District's East Basin drainage system functions. The hydrologic and hydraulic model will be provided to the Florida Turnpike Enterprise consultant who is in charge of modeling the system. The 45% Drainage Plans are scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.

Also discussed, was that the Operation and Maintenance agreement will need to be revisited based on the type of proposed improvements (culverts vs. canals) and that based on the correspondence, we were informed that there is every indication there will be a sound wall constructed on the west side of the Turnpike in the section from Donald Ross Road to Indiantown Road.

A Teams meeting was held on May 14, 2026, with Florida Turnpike Enterprise, Florida Department of Transportation and their consultants to discuss the Turnpike Widening project. A meeting summary will be prepared by staff and provided separately. Items discussed include:

- The 45% submittal deadline in August
- Pre-development versus post-development discharge criteria
- Differences between AECOM's calculations and Florida Turnpike Enterprise's storage assumptions in the Turnpike/Florida Department of Transportation area
- The Operation and Maintenance Agreement
- AECOM requested the Pre-development discharge calculations for review, once they are completed however, Florida Turnpike Enterprise is not prepared to satisfy the request.

Staff had a Teams meeting with South Florida Water Management District Regulatory staff on June 10, 2026.

Key points from our discussion include:

- The District Engineering staff has performed a preliminary review of Pre-development calculations from Florida's Turnpike Enterprise and have identified significant errors in how the Palm Beach Country Estates system was modeled. The comments will be summarized in writing and sent back to Florida's Turnpike Enterprise, with a copy to South Florida Water Management District.
- South Florida Water Management District reiterated that Florida's Turnpike Enterprise cannot adversely impact those properties adjacent to their project or those upstream or downstream of the Florida's Turnpike Enterprise/Florida Department of Transportation.

- Prior to South Florida Water Management District's review of a permit application for the Florida's Turnpike Enterprise widening project, they requested the currently permitted criteria for level of service for the minimum road crown, minimum finished floor elevation, and canal berm elevation. They will use this information to compare Florida's Turnpike Enterprise's peak stages against, along with the allowable discharge.
- The South Florida Water Management District permit for the South Indian River Water Control District outfall control structure can only be modified by the entity (South Indian River Water Control District) to which the permit is issued, not by a third party.
- South Florida Water Management District requested that we continue to work with Florida's Turnpike Enterprise on their pre-development model.

A Teams meeting was held on June 24, 2026, with Florida's Turnpike Enterprise, Florida Department of Transportation and their consultants to discuss their existing conditions model for the Turnpike Widening project.

Key points from the meeting include:

- **The Florida's Turnpike Enterprise's existing condition model did not include any additional detail on the Florida's Turnpike Enterprise/Florida Department of Transportation corridor. Instead, the Florida's Turnpike Enterprise consultant re-worked the Palm Beach Country Estates portion of the existing condition model that AECOM provided and added long overland flow weirs which discharge from the C-14 Canal to the Turnpike West Borrow Canal. This results in a much higher existing condition discharge from the District's outfall control structure. The District explained that the overland flow weirs is not a valid assumption based on historical events.**
- **The District explained that any low points identified in the berm between the C-14 Canal and the West Borrow Canal will be raised to the 25-year 3-day storm elevation. The final elevations will be transmitted to Florida's Turnpike Enterprise.**
- **Florida's Turnpike Enterprise explained that their consultants are still working to complete the remainder of the existing conditions model, which will include the drainage facilities in the transportation corridor.**
- **If Florida's Turnpike Enterprise wants to make any improvements that will impact the District's permitted design, they will need to coordinate with the District and request a permit to do so.**
- **Florida's Turnpike Enterprise requested the District put any comments in writing so they can be addressed.**
- **Two other concerns were expressed by the District: 1) The storage in the middle area of the Transportation corridor – to make sure it is not being accounted for twice by Florida Department of Transportation corridor for I-95 and then again by Florida's Turnpike Enterprise; and 2) The constriction at the existing box culvert under I-95. At this point these features are not included in the model.**

- H. Staff had a conference call with South Florida Water Management District staff members Beth Kacvinsky and Jeff Buck on February 10, 2022, to discuss the G-92 Agreement between South Indian River Water Control District and South Florida Water Management District for operation of the structure. Beth will discuss with South Florida Water Management District operations staff and others to initiate the process of developing an updated agreement. Staff received an email with flow graphs for G-92 on March 9, 2022, for review. An update on the status of internal discussions at South Florida Water Management District regarding a new G-92 agreement was requested on March 11, 2022.



Staff attended the Palm Beach County Water Resources Task Force Meeting on March 31, 2022, and had the opportunity to speak with Jennifer Reynolds, who is the Director of Ecosystem Restoration and Capital Projects for South Florida Water Management District. The South Florida Water Management District is proposing to amend consumptive use permitting criteria to protect water made available by the Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project. This water resource protection is a prerequisite for the South Florida Water Management District signing a Project Partnership Agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers for the Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project by September 2022. Ms. Reynolds is not authorized to begin drafting agreements, such as the new G-92 Agreement, until after the rule is final. Staff reached out to Jeff Buck on December 2, 2022, to request an update as to when South Florida Water Management District will be ready to start discussing a new G-92 Agreement.

Staff had a conference call with Jeff Buck, Adnan Mirza (Operations), and Matt Alexander (Lead Engineer for Flow-way 2) of South Florida Water Management District on January 6, 2023. South Florida Water Management District is currently working on the C-18 West Impoundment design, and it is scheduled to take 2-3 years. No discharge through the G-92 structure is proposed during rainfall events. However, there may be the need for emergency releases from the reservoir. Staff explained that keeping the stages in the 13-13.5 ft National Geodetic Vertical Datum range in the C-14 Canal works best for South Indian River Water Control District. The C-14, C-4, C-5 and C-6 Canals are the most impacted when South Florida Water Management District discharges through the G-92 structure. The stages in the South Indian River Water Control District canals come up very quickly, especially when the ground is saturated. For now, South Florida Water Management District recommended that South Indian River Water Control District continue to work with Operations. More detailed modeling information will become available during the C-18 W Impoundment design process. South Indian River Water Control District can coordinate with Jeff Buck and Matt Alexander.

Staff requested an update from Jeff Buck in September 2025. A detailed update was received from Jeff Buck and included in the Annual Report of the Engineer.

- I. Staff was contacted by the Palm Beach County Building Dept regarding the Policies and Procedures Manual for Regulation of Lot Filling and Grading Activity. As a result of comments from both homeowners and contractors, they are considering making some changes. The Engineer for Indian Trail Improvement District is going to suggest some edits based on the Village of Wellington's policy and send them to South Indian River Water Control District to review.

The Engineer for Indian Trail Improvement District forwarded some suggested edits based on the Village of Wellington's policy to South Indian River Water Control District, and the revisions are under review.

Doug Wise, the Building Director for Palm Beach County, requested that South Indian River Water Control District attend a Palm Beach County Workshop on July 9, 2024. The workshop included a discussion on Stormwater and Floodplain Management.

- J. We continue to receive, review, and comment on various permit applications for projects to be constructed within the District. Additionally, we attend site meetings and inspections related to permit applications and landowner requests.
- K. We continue to provide engineering assistance to the Executive Director, as needed, on operation and maintenance items, as well as landowner requests, utility requests, and inquiries from other governmental entities on issues that involve engineering support.

Should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me for more detailed information on any of the above subjects.

Legislative Update – Coral Springs Improvement District July 2, 2026

On June 29, 2026, Governor Ron DeSantis signed the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 State Budget ([HB 5001E](#)) totaling \$117.6 billion following nearly \$810 million in [line-item vetoes](#). As a reminder, the Legislature passed the final budget on May 29 after a budget stalemate during the Regular Session led to overtime in Special Session E.

This budget marks Governor DeSantis' eighth and final budget and represents the fourth consecutive year of reduced state spending. In his [press release](#), Governor DeSantis emphasized the reductions were necessary to maintain Florida's strong financial position, highlighting a fully funded rainy-day reserve of \$5 billion, approximately \$18 billion in total state reserves, and the accelerated repayment of more than 50% of the state's debt. At the same time, the Governor highlighted continued investments in education, teacher pay, transportation, Everglades restoration, and public safety. The new fiscal year officially began on July 1, 2026.

The Governor also signed the Tax Package, [HB 7031E](#), on June 29, providing approximately \$300 million in tax relief. The package maintains the permanent Back-to-School tax holiday and the year-round disaster preparedness sales tax holiday. It also provides a second consecutive Second Amendment sales tax holiday, running from September 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026. Additionally, the tax package creates a new sales tax refund of up to \$500 per eligible residential property for sales tax paid on impact-resistant windows and doors purchased between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2029.

As budget negotiations concluded in May, attention quickly shifted to property tax reform. On May 27, Governor DeSantis called another special session, [Special Session F](#), to consider his property tax proposal. Meeting from June 1 through June 2, the Legislature amended and ultimately approved a joint resolution proposing changes to the Florida Constitution, along with implementing legislation to administer the proposed property tax reforms. The constitutional amendment will appear on the November 3, 2026, General Election ballot and must receive at least 60% voter approval to take effect.

With all three special sessions complete and the budget acted upon by the Governor, legislators are back in their districts and focused on the 2026 election cycle, beginning with the August 18 primary election just around the corner.

JACKSONVILLE
245 Riverside Ave.
Suite 510
Jacksonville, FL 32202
T: 904.353.6410
F: 904.353.7619

ST. PETERSBURG
100 Second Ave. South
Suite 501-S
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
T: 727.245.0820
F: 727.290.4057

TALLAHASSEE
106 East College Ave.
Suite 1500
Tallahassee, FL 32301
T: 850.222.5702
F: 850.224.9242

TAMPA
301 West Platt St.
Suite 364
Tampa, FL 33606
T: 813.775.2331

WEST PALM BEACH
360 South Rosemary Ave.
Suite 1100
West Palm Beach, FL 33401
T: 561.640.0820
F: 561.640.8202

026 Final Bill Update

This year, the Legislature passed 237 bills out of the 1,896 bills filed. In total, the Governor signed 228 bills and vetoed 8, including the sovereign immunity bill, HB 145 and a biosolids management bill, HB 1245. One bill was a Joint Resolution that bypasses the Governor and is sent directly to the Secretary of State. Following is the final status of each of the tracked bills that passed:

Biosolids Management – [HB 1285](#) by Rep. Nathan Boyles (R-Baker) restricts the issuance or renewal of Class B biosolids land application permits when a suitable, government-owned or -operated wastewater treatment facility capable of higher-level septage treatment is located within 50 miles. Specifically, the Department of Environmental Protection would be prohibited from issuing or renewing permits for land application of septage as Class B biosolids if such a facility is publicly operated, accepting septage, and is not defunct, repurposed, or at capacity. HB 1285 was approved by the Governor and takes effect July 1, 2027.

Biosolids Management – [HB 1245](#) by Rep. Jason Shoaf (R- Port St. Joe) restricts the land application of Class AA biosolids fertilizer and compost products to agronomic rates and establish new requirements for sales, labeling, and recordkeeping. Bulk Class AA biosolids products must be applied at or below agronomic rates, with application records maintained by site operators. The legislation allows biosolids products to be marketed as fertilizer or soil amendments only through a bona fide sale that meets labeling and registration standards, excluding nominal charges intended to offset disposal costs. Products not sold through a bona fide sale may be applied only at Department-approved sites, unless otherwise exempt. Certain Class AA compost products enrolled in the U.S. Composting Council's Seal of Testing Assurance program are exempt from specific marketing and site approval requirements. The bills also direct UF/IFAS to publish updated agronomic rate recommendations every two years for the beneficial reuse of these products. HB 1245 was vetoed by the Governor.

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services – [SB 290](#) by Sen. Keith Truenow (R-Tavares) is the Department's legislative package for 2026. Buried within the bill is language that requires all new land application site permits for biosolids land application, or renewals of existing permits, ensure that only Class AA biosolids are applied to the soil. Local governments that do not transport biosolids for land application outside of their county boundaries do not have to meet the above requirement until 2031. SB 290 was approved by the Governor and took effect July 1, 2026.

Electronic Payments Made to Units of Local Governments – [HB 967](#) by Rep. James Buchanan (R-Sarasota) advances electronic payment accessibility by obligating local governments to accept credit cards, bank debit cards, and electronic funds transfers. The bill removes prior optional authority and replaces it with a clear requirement that these payment methods be offered, including a specific directive that an online payment option be made available to the public. HB 967 was approved by the Governor and takes effect January 1, 2027.

Ethics for Public Employees – [SB 572](#) by Sen. Gayle Harrell (R-Stuart) expands the Florida Ethics Code’s definition of “relative” to include legally recognized foster parents and foster children. An adopted amendment also removes prior restrictions on relatives serving together on public boards and clarifies that a relative, including an elected official, may be appointed, employed, promoted, or placed in a leadership position on the same board. SB 572 was approved by the Governor and took effect April 1, 2026.

Local Government Cyber Security – [HB 1085](#) by Rep. Monique Miller (R-Palm Bay) establishes the Local Government Cybersecurity Protection Program within the Florida Digital Service to protect against threats and ransomware incidents. The bills require local governments to apply for and use approved cybersecurity programs and give priority to fiscally constrained counties when awarding cybersecurity resources. An adopted amendment clarifies the structure of the program and outlines how grants, data-sharing agreements, and technology services will be administered through the Florida Digital Service. HB 1085 was approved by the Governor and took effect July 1, 2026.

Local Government Spending – [HB 1329](#) by Rep. Yvette Benarroch (R-Marco Island) requires cities and counties, but not special districts, to post tentative, adopted and final budgets on their websites in PDF format or a similar electronically accessible form. The bill provides other requirements to purportedly increase transparency and accountability. The bill also contains new provisions relating to impact fees, including providing a definition of “extenuating circumstances. HB 1329 was approved by the Governor and takes effect January 1, 2027.

Net-zero Policies by Governmental Entities – [HB 1217](#) by Rep. John Snyder (R-Palm City) prohibit governmental entities from adopting, enforcing, or funding net-zero policies or related cap-and-trade programs. The bills create a new statutory provision barring the use of government expenditures, taxes, or fees to support or advance net-zero goals. Further, they expressly forbid carbon emissions trading programs at the governmental level. To ensure compliance, the bills require annual affidavits from governmental entities certifying adherence to these restrictions. HB 1217 was approved by the Governor and took effect July 1, 2026.

Public Meetings – [HB 655](#) by Rep. Wyman Duggan (R-Jacksonville) allows governmental entities to meet privately with their attorneys to discuss Bert Harris claims, brought under Chapter 70, Florida Statutes. HB 655 was approved by the Governor and took effect July 1, 2026.

Special District Funding – [HB 273](#) by Rep. Chad Johnson (R-Newberry) broadens access to state financial assistance for special districts serving rural areas. The bill authorizes state agencies to directly pay invoices for eligible special districts experiencing financial hardship when located within a rural county or municipality. HB 273 was approved by the Governor and took effect July 1, 2026.

Suits Against the Government – [HB 145](#) by Rep. Fiona McFarland (R-Sarasota) revise Florida's sovereign immunity framework by raising statutory liability limits for tort claims against governmental entities. The bill increases individual claims to \$350,000 and per incident claims to \$500,000. HB 145 was vetoed by the Governor.