



## Governance Facts

Since Oct. 1, 1998, Tampa Bay Water has been the sole and exclusive water provider to Hillsborough County, Pasco County, Pinellas County, New Port Richey, St. Petersburg and Tampa. The main goals of the agency's creation were to reduce groundwater pumping from 11 long-producing wellfields, develop new water supply sources, end litigation and obtain funding from the Southwest Florida Water Management District. Tampa Bay Water has successfully met those goals.

- Tampa Bay Water was created in 1998 after a two-year governance process that culminated in contracts and legislation that changed the name, structure and operations of the West Coast Regional Water Supply Authority.
- Tampa Bay Water was formed as a true regional utility, where all members pay the same price for water and water is provided from a diverse network of sources.
- The creation of Tampa Bay Water eliminated the economic competition, parochialism and other factors that fueled the region's "water wars."
- The Governance contracts included development of the Master Water Plan and also specified water quality parameters that the agency must meet for water delivered to our customers.
- Tampa Bay Water was fully implemented on October 1, 1998, when each member government transferred its water supply facilities to Tampa Bay Water and waived its right to individually develop water supply facilities.
- Since then, Tampa Bay Water has been the sole and exclusive water provider to Hillsborough County, Pasco County, Pinellas County, New Port Richey and St. Petersburg. The City of Tampa retained its Hillsborough River water supply and is sometimes served by Tampa Bay Water.
- With Governance, our Board of Directors expanded from six to nine members.
- The cost of developing new water supplies is shared regionally instead of by those member governments facing proposed reductions in permitted supply or rapid population growth.
- The Interlocal Agreement requires Tampa Bay Water and member governments to resolve their differences over permitting and other issues using alternative dispute resolution, such as peer review, mediation and binding arbitration, to minimize the potential for litigation.
- Tampa Bay Water and the Southwest Florida Water Management District reached a Partnership Agreement whereby the District earmarked \$183 million in locally collected ad valorem taxes to help fund alternatives to groundwater.

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