



## Partnership Agreement

Through protracted litigation with the Southwest Florida Water Management District and through the governance negotiations, local governments agreed that new, alternative water supplies needed to be developed to offset production from long-producing groundwater facilities. Driven by their fiduciary responsibility to the citizens that paid for the public infrastructure at those wellfields, local elected officials struck a historic funding agreement with the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

- The Northern Tampa Bay New Water Supply and Ground Water Withdrawal Reduction Agreement (Partnership Agreement) was signed in May 1998 by the District, Tampa Bay Water, Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas counties, the cities of New Port Richey, St. Petersburg and Tampa.
- Upon signing the Partnership Agreement, the face value of 11 regional wellfield permits was cut from 192 million gallons per day (mgd) to 158 mgd. The agreement further required pumping to be reduced from 158 mgd to 121 mgd annual average by Dec. 31, 2002 and to 90 mgd annual average by Dec. 31, 2008.
- The District agreed to provide up to \$183 million in locally collected ad valorem taxes to offset the cost of developing more costly alternative water supply projects. Additionally, local basin boards continue funding conservation projects at approximately \$9 million a year, which could total up to \$90 million over 10 years to develop conservation projects to reduce demand for drinking water.
- In addition to funding alternative water supplies to offset pumping reduction, the Partnership Agreement also ended litigation among Tampa Bay Water, its members and the District.

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