



MEMORANDUM

To: Council Members

AGENDA ITEM 9

From: Staff

Date: October 12, 2018 Joint Council Meeting

Subject: Florida's Water Infrastructure Challenge – Presentation by Frank Bernardino, Partner, Anfield Consulting

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 how 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 its 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 is designed to provide information defining and quantifying Florida’s future water infrastructure needs.

Background

In their 2017 “Report Card,” the American Society of Civil Engineers rated Florida’s water infrastructure as:

- “D” for Stormwater, citing that although the State’s funding needs will double over the next decade, fees needed to address this challenge have steadily declined since 2011;
- “C+” for Drinking Water, noting that the demand projections through 2035 will necessitate a 20 percent increase in water supply production; and
- “C” for Wastewater, documenting that one third of the state’s population is still served by on-site sewage and disposal systems (septic tanks).

At present, it is estimated that Florida will need approximately \$50 billion over the next 20 years to adequately manage and protect its water resources. This estimate does not include costs associated with the impact of sea level rise and other climatic changes that are increasing stress on the state’s flood control and water management systems.

Despite this need, over the last 14 years the percentage of the State’s budget dedicated to providing drinking water, wastewater, flood control, pollution reduction, and environmental restoration has

averaged merely four tenths of one percent. By comparison, the transportation infrastructure budget has averaged approximately 11 percent of the State budget.

Conclusion

Various groups are seeking to bring attention to the State's 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

For information and discussion purposes only.