

## Fact Sheet

### ***Joint Statement of Commitment for the Development and Implementation of a Statewide Comprehensive Water Conservation Program for Public Water Supply***

#### **Why Conserve Water?**

Water conservation helps public water supply utilities save water, save money, and protect our water-dependent natural resources.

#### **What is the “Joint Statement”?**

The “Joint Statement of Commitment for the Development and Implementation of a Statewide Comprehensive Water Conservation Program for Public Water Supply” is a written agreement by key water supply partners in Florida to collaborate on measures to improve water use efficiency. (A copy of the “Joint Statement of Commitment” may be obtained from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Office of Water Policy (850-245-8677, [www.dep.state.fl.us/water/waterpolicy](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/waterpolicy).)

#### **How Does This Relate to the 2002 Florida Water Conservation Initiative?**

The Joint Statement resulted from discussions on how best to implement the public water supply recommendations in the Florida Water Conservation Initiative.

#### **Who Are the Signatories to the Joint Statement?**

The signatories are the Florida Department of Environmental Protection; the South Florida Water Management District; the St. Johns River Water Management District; the Southwest Florida Water Management District; the Northwest Florida Water Management District; the Suwannee River Water Management District; the Florida Public Service Commission; the Utility Council of the American Water Works Association, Florida Section; the Utility Council of the Florida Water Environment Association; and the Florida Rural Water Association.

#### **What is the Joint Statement Intended to Achieve?**

Improved water conservation will benefit all water users, both economically and environmentally, and will also help to ensure the sustainability of Florida’s water resources. Allowing public water supply utilities the flexibility to tailor cost-effective goal-based, accountable, and measurable water conservation programs to reflect their individual circumstances will result in greater water use efficiency.

#### **What Happens Next?**

Based on the principles of the Joint Statement, the signatories are now developing a work plan with specific tasks, interim milestones, completion dates, estimates of costs, and assignment of responsibilities. The work plan is to be completed by February 2005 and will include recommendations for:

- Developing standardized definitions and performance measures for water conservation data collection and analysis.
- Establishing a clearinghouse for water conservation that will provide an integrated statewide database, technical assistance capabilities, and continual assessment of the effectiveness of water conservation programs and practices.
- Developing and implementing a standardized water conservation planning process for utilities.
- Developing and maintaining a Florida-specific water conservation guidance document.
- Implementing pilot applications of various elements of the program, or the entire program, through cooperative agreements with volunteer utilities.