The Tampa Bay region will need 10-20 million gallons per day of additional drinking water by 2033, and this study is one of several concepts being evaluated to meet that need.

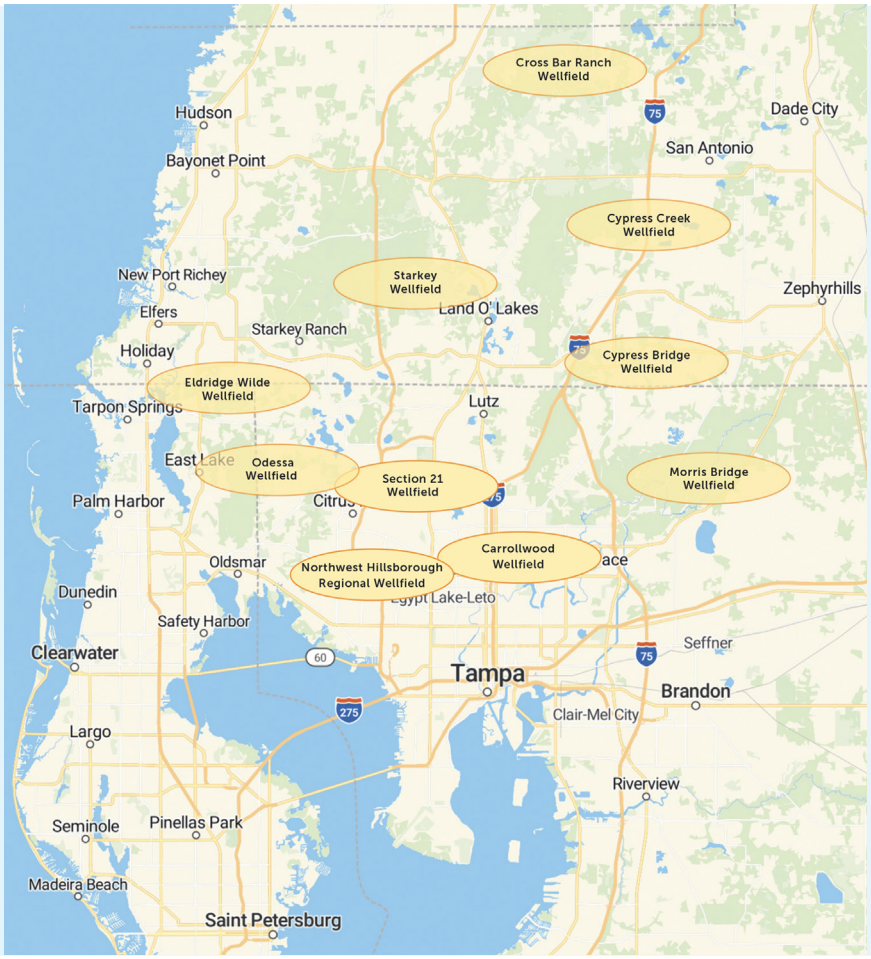
Potential Project Overview

This potential project option will study the feasibility of slightly increasing the permitted groundwater withdrawal quantity from Tampa Bay Water's existing Consolidated Water Use Permit wellfields. The current permit allows withdrawals of 90 million gallons per day (mgd) on a rolling 12-month average from 10 wellfields and 135 production wells over a 50-square mile area. Tampa Bay Water has operated these wellfields in an environmentally sound manner since 2008, achieving full environmental recovery of once damaged lakes and wetlands.

The 10 wellfields covered under the Consolidated Water Use Permit have been in operation for decades. Since 2002, Tampa Bay Water gradually reduced groundwater pumping from these facilities by about 50 percent as alternative water sources were developed. This project would explore whether additional water can be withdrawn while maintaining environmental recovery at all 10 wellfields.

This potential project option has an estimated annual yield of up to 10 million gallons per day, which could be implemented in phases. Yield estimates will be updated as part of the ongoing feasibility study.

This potential project option could cost-effectively add water to the system by taking advantage of existing wells and treatment facilities in the upper Tampa Bay region.



Consolidated Water Use Permit Increase Feasibility Study

Feasibility Studies

Feasibility studies are designed to determine if a proposed project is technically, environmentally and economically viable. Only those projects that are deemed feasible will be considered for future development. Studies for this potential project option include:

- Updating the recovery status of all previously studied lakes and wetlands around these 10 wellfields to determine their current environmental condition
- Hydrological modeling and evaluations to assess the proposed withdrawals of groundwater to ensure environmental recovery is maintained

Anticipated Regulatory Requirements

- Southwest Florida Water Management District Water Use Permit rules for this potential permit modification – these rules do not allow any adverse impacts existing legal users or to lakes, rivers, or the aquifer

Project Components (If Developed)

- Existing groundwater wellfields and wells
- Existing groundwater treatment facilities
- Some improvements to existing groundwater treatment systems may be needed to maximize operational flexibility

Benefits

- **Reliability** – Groundwater is a reliable water source
- **Affordability** – Maximizes use of existing infrastructure; groundwater is the easiest source to clean because the aquifer performs most of the filtration
- **Proximity** – The wellfields are located where regional water demands are growing

Get in Touch

Tampa Bay Water provides wholesale water to the public utility systems of Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas counties, as well as the cities of New Port Richey, St. Petersburg and Tampa. Visit **tampabaywater.org** and **futurewater.org** to learn more about the region's drinking water and options to meeting future needs.

TampaBayWater.org
(813) 550-8326
GroundwaterProjectInfo@gmail.com