

Questions and responses from FAC Webinar *Navigating the Waters of HB 53*

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What happens if Special Districts or municipalities don't provide information to the County?

If Special Districts or municipalities don't provide information to the County then there will be no record of their infrastructure funding needs included in the Office of Economic and Demographic (EDR) Research Statewide Analysis presented to the Legislature. The County is not required to generate information on behalf of Special Districts or municipalities, just to pass on information provided to the County.

When will wastewater template be available?

The wastewater template was made available on February 15, 2022 at [Stormwater & Wastewater 20-Year Needs Analyses \(state.fl.us\)](https://edr.state.fl.us/Content/natural-resources/stormwaterwastewater.cfm) (<http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/natural-resources/stormwaterwastewater.cfm>)

What is a special district?

Special Districts are defined under Section 189.012(6), Florida Statutes as “a unit of local government created for a special purpose, as opposed to a general-purpose, which has jurisdiction to operate within a limited geographic boundary and is created by general law, special act, local ordinance, or by rule of the Governor and Cabinet.”

There are Independent and Dependent Special Districts. Independent Special Districts will report directly to EDR, dependent Special Districts will provide their Needs Analysis information to the County they are within. More information can be found at <https://floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/special-districts/special-district-accountability-program/florida-special-district-handbook-online/introduction-to-special-districts>

Are CDD's required to prepare this?

Yes, CDDs that own or operate stormwater management systems or programs are considered Special Districts and are asked to submit a needs analysis report.

You mentioned that part 3 we are to use EDR's tool to determine projected residents. What line are we to enter that result? The spreadsheet implies they will fill this in.

EDR provided a separate spreadsheet tool with optional growth rate schedules for use by Counties and other reporting entities. This spreadsheet includes a population growth tool. Users can use this tool to determine projected residents at a County or Municipal level. Users have the option of leaving the field blank and letting EDR enter a value. The tool is available at http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/natural-resources/Optional_Growth_Rate_Schedules.xlsx

Do we include the city's information with the County's like the total of pipes between both or are they separated but included?

Each entity's information should be provided separately. To avoid double-counting in cases of shared systems there should be an agreement between the sharing parties on which portion each party will report.

Is there any requirement for counties to notify Special districts or municipalities?

There is no requirement, though it is an opportunity for collaboration and relationship building and we encourage it since some Special Districts may not be as aware of the requirement as counties are.

Can you predict to what use the state will put all this information, or is it just an exercise in forced planning for local communities?

The Legislature will use the Analysis to assess infrastructure needs in Florida. Beyond that it is speculative, but the hope is that the Legislature will consider these needs when directing and prioritizing future legislative funding.

Are public school districts required to provide this info?

No, public school districts are not considered Special Districts and are not required to provide a separate Needs Analysis report.

Are qualifying projects infrastructure only ?.... what about watershed management plans or similar type of studies

Funding for plans or studies needed to identify or design infrastructure could be included in the projected funding needs. There is no guarantee of funding for projects included in the Needs Analysis. The Needs Analysis is an opportunity for communities to consider their future needs, levels of funding, and funding gaps. We expect that projects will have a better chance of receiving future funding if they are included in planning efforts such as this Needs Analysis. This standardized inventory of stormwater and wastewater needs across the State will help legislators better identify the magnitude of the common needs across communities and counties.

If a county opts out, can a municipality or special district still participate?

EDR is encouraging all counties to participate and hopes that none will opt out. If a County opts out, the municipality or dependent special district could still provide its Needs Analysis report directly to EDR.

Is the speakers focus on water quality or reduction of flooding?

Both plus resilience. Note that the Needs Analysis report provides three categories – Flooding, water quality, and resilience. Resilience projects could include flooding and/or water quality elements.

What level of effort is required from the County to compile the individual reports? Can the County attach individual forms from each entity to their own form? Is a separate report/form required to sum up the individual reporting entities?

The Excel workbook has a hidden tab that allows counties to simply cut and paste city/district workbooks into the county's workbook. The directions to counties will be forthcoming shortly.

No separate summation forms are required. Ideally the counties will include the municipal and Special District reports in a single report.

Define again what infrastructure we are concerned with. i.e. every cross drain, side drain, ditches, bridges etc.

EDR is not requiring a detailed asset inventory. The template is not seeking small drainage structures such as cross drains. Generally, EDR is interested in what should be considered a drainage "system" that might be characterized as having multiple manholes linking drainage pipes together. Much of the system description is narrative. The goal of the Statewide Needs Analysis is to better understand the full picture of stormwater and wastewater infrastructure funding needs by quantifying recent funding levels and projected future funding levels. This will help legislators allocate and prioritize State funding. Ideally, all stormwater and wastewater infrastructure in a community would be accounted for, but communities may only be able to estimate total assets within the time frame for this first report cycle.

Is a community responsible for reporting that infrastructure under the control of an HOA or CAM association?

No, a community should only report the infrastructure it owns and maintains.