



# because water

2022 Year in Review



# because regionalism

## Letter From Tampa Bay Water's Chairman and General Manager

Tampa Bay Water was formed nearly 25 years ago to provide a reliable supply of clean, safe drinking water at an equitable rate while safeguarding our environment. We continue to deliver on that promise, which is more important than ever because our region is growing, because public health and safety depend on it and because our communities need it to thrive.

2022 involved implementing solutions to meet the needs of our growing region – specifically southern Hillsborough County – with improvements to our infrastructure, a temporary permit increase for the South-Central Hillsborough Regional Wellfield and bringing temporary pumps online for the Brandon Booster Station.

We also laid the foundation for future water needs by selecting a new water supply project, expanding the Tampa Bay Regional Surface Water Treatment Plant, and selecting the first segment of the new South Hillsborough Pipeline.

We officially renewed our primary groundwater permit at the current 90-million-gallon-per-day annual average rate, demonstrating groundwater is a reliable source for our region when used sustainably.

Our agency gained new team members and saw promotions in key positions. We extended the capabilities of our laboratory, which was certified to detect emerging contaminants of concern. And we continued the partnerships we've spent years cultivating to protect our water sources, restore our watersheds and encourage water conservation.

We are honored to serve the Tampa Bay region and proud to present our accomplishments in this 2022 Year in Review. We look forward to supporting our region's health, economy and way of life as all are possible because ... water.

**Chairman Ron Oakley,**  
Commissioner, Pasco County

**Chuck Carden,**  
General Manager, Tampa Bay Water

## Our Member Governments

Tampa Bay Water supplies wholesale drinking water to Hillsborough County, Pasco County, Pinellas County, New Port Richey, St. Petersburg and Tampa. We supply water to more than 2.5 million people through the governments we serve.

Tampa Bay Water is often cited as a model of regional cooperation, thanks to the spirit of regionalism that created the utility as well as the continual regional efforts of our board of directors. Each elected official on our nine-member board represents an individual city or county that we serve, but at the dais, each also represents the Tampa Bay region as a whole. The policy decisions and directives of our board ensure our region has adequate and sustainable drinking water to support our economy, environment and way of life.

## 2022 Board of Directors



**CHAIRMAN RON OAKLEY**  
Commissioner  
Pasco County



**VICE CHAIR MARIELLA SMITH**  
Commissioner  
Hillsborough County



**HARRY COHEN**  
Commissioner  
Hillsborough County



**DAVE EGGERS**  
Commissioner  
Pinellas County



**LISSET HANEWICZ**  
Council Member  
City of St. Petersburg



**ROB MARLOWE**  
Mayor  
City of New Port Richey



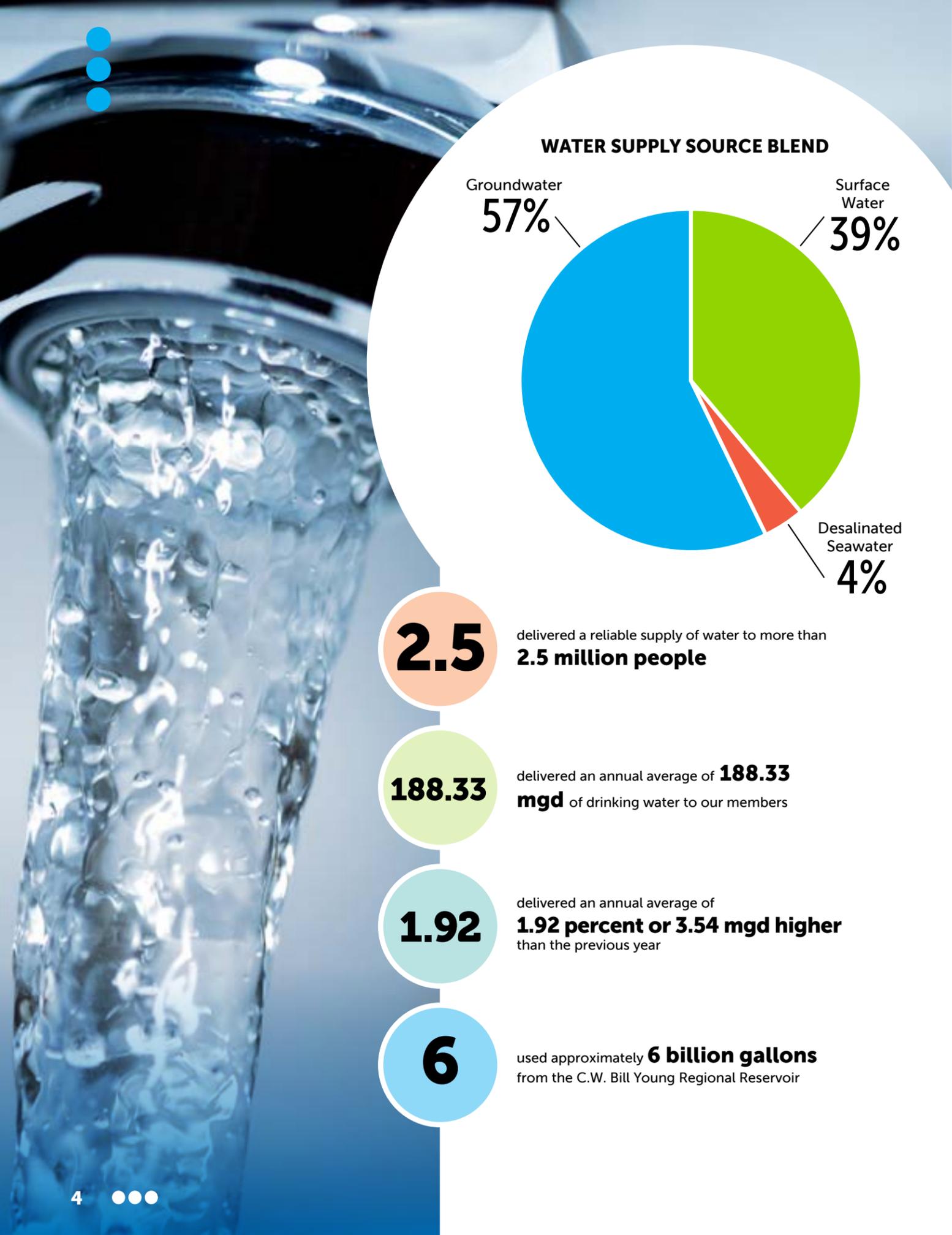
**CHARLIE MIRANDA**  
Council Member  
City of Tampa



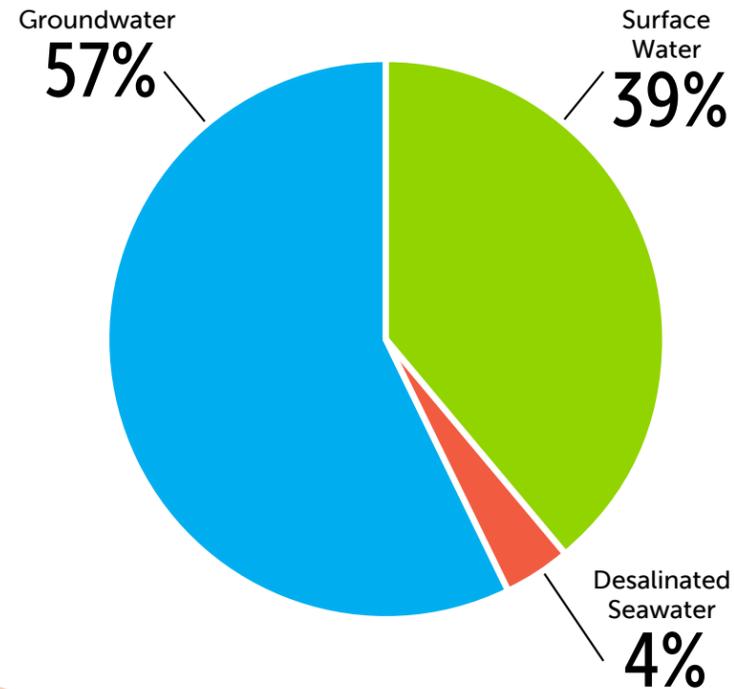
**KATHLEEN PETERS**  
Commissioner  
Pinellas County



**KATHRYN STARKEY**  
Commissioner  
Pasco County



### WATER SUPPLY SOURCE BLEND



**2.5**

delivered a reliable supply of water to more than **2.5 million people**

**188.33**

delivered an annual average of **188.33 mgd** of drinking water to our members

**1.92**

delivered an annual average of **1.92 percent or 3.54 mgd higher** than the previous year

**6**

used approximately **6 billion gallons** from the C.W. Bill Young Regional Reservoir

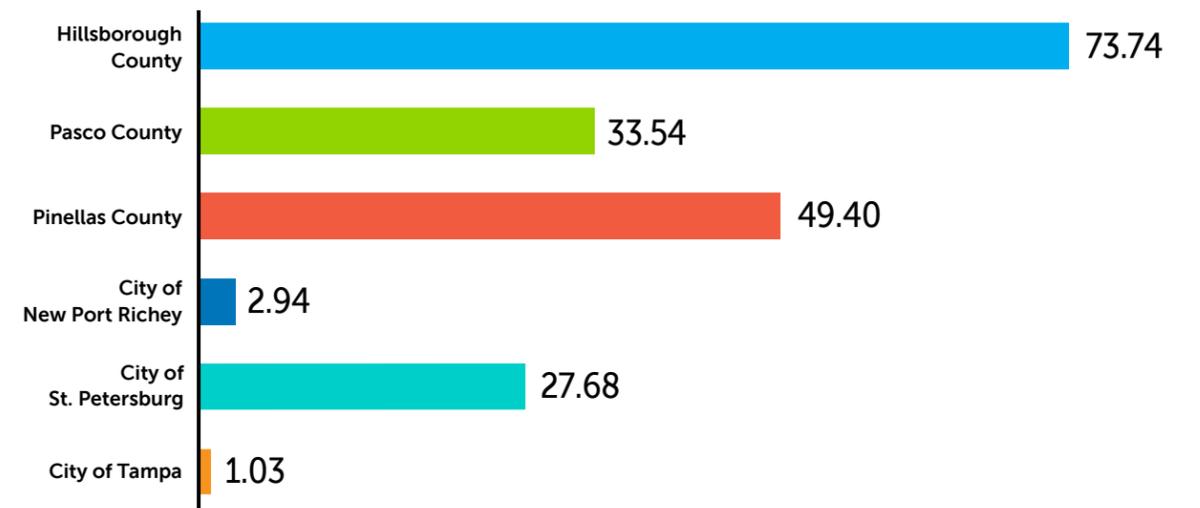
## 2022 Supply and Demand at a Glance

Tampa Bay Water provides a treated blend of groundwater, river water and seawater to deliver a reliable supply of clean, safe water to more than 2.5 million people in the region through our member governments.

During fiscal year 2022 (Oct. 1, 2021, to Sept. 30, 2022) Tampa Bay Water delivered an annual average of 188.33 million gallons per day (mgd) of water to our member governments, about 1.92 percent or 3.54 mgd higher than the previous fiscal year.

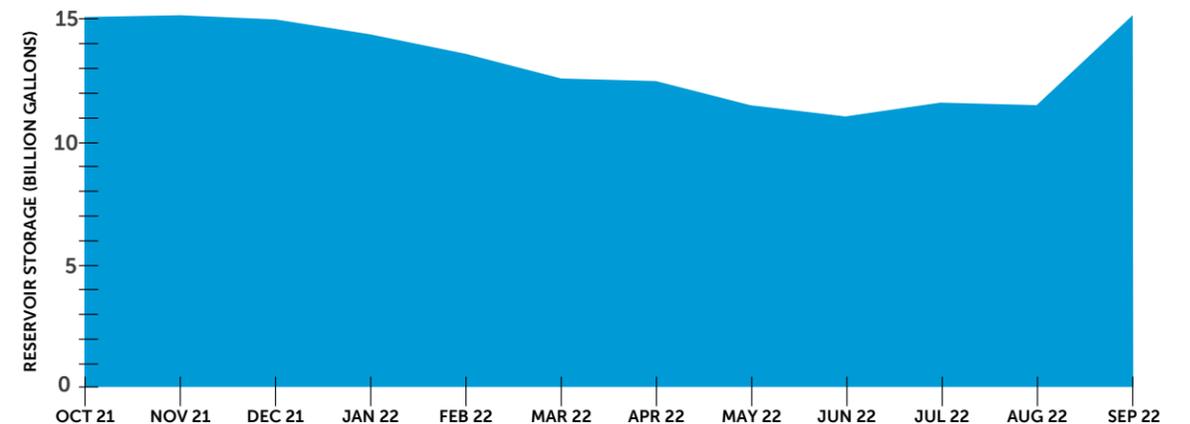
### WATER DELIVERED TO OUR MEMBER GOVERNMENTS

(million gallons per day)



### 2022 RESERVOIR USE

We used approximately 6 billion gallons of water from the C.W. Bill Young Regional Reservoir, the region's water savings account. We store water when it's raining for use during dry times of the year to make our supply more resilient and drought resistant.





# because growth

Just as all living things need water to live, our region needs water to live and grow. And are we ever growing! Both Hillsborough and Pasco counties are growing faster than the state of Florida overall. According to the Tampa Bay Economic Development Council, from 2020 to 2025, population is projected to grow 8.3 percent in Hillsborough and 7.8 percent in Pasco, above the state's projected 6.8 percent growth. For Tampa Bay Water, more people mean more demand for water.

This year we worked toward several solutions to bring more water to fast-growing southern Hillsborough County.

## Meeting Hillsborough County's Water Needs

We received approval from the Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) to **temporarily increase the permitted annual average limit** for the South-Central Hillsborough Regional Wellfield by 850,000 gallons per day as an interim solution to help meet the increasing drinking water demands of southern Hillsborough County.

We also installed **temporary pumps** at the Brandon Booster Station site, sending up to 5 million gallons per day of more water to Hillsborough County's Lithia Water Treatment Plant while we build the permanent booster station scheduled to be online in late 2023. These temporary pumps, combined with other solutions Tampa Bay Water implemented over the last half of 2022, delivered more than 5 mgd to southern Hillsborough County and reduced the utility's reliance on the South-Central Hillsborough Regional Wellfield.



Our board of directors selected the first segment of the new **South Hillsborough Pipeline** to deliver up to an additional 65 mgd to Hillsborough County. **Segment A** will be approximately 18 miles long and connect our regional water plant in Brandon to the County's Lithia Water Treatment Plant, offering system redundancy between these two facilities in addition to more water. At the request of Hillsborough County, the board deferred action on Segment B, the County's portion of the pipeline that will connect our regional system to the County's new point of connection at its future South County Drinking Water Facility.

## Meeting the Region's Future Water Needs

We completed the latest iteration of our **Long-term Master Water Plan**, a 20-year framework for meeting the region's future water needs. In August 2022, the **board voted** to expand the Tampa Bay Regional Surface Water Treatment Plant and we are now working toward bringing this expansion project online by 2028. The next Long-term Master Water Plan update is underway and will go before the board for approval in late 2023.



*Expanding the Tampa Bay Regional Surface Water Treatment Plant will produce an additional 10-12.5 million gallons of water per day (mgd) for the region in 2028.*





BEFORE



AFTER

Planning for the future is a continual process at Tampa Bay Water. Every year, we update our annual demand forecast by analyzing factors that contribute to demand, such as population growth, water use, climate change and environmental sustainability to ensure we meet the region's water needs. And this year, we updated our [strategic plan](#) to ensure we're prepared for new challenges and growth in our region.

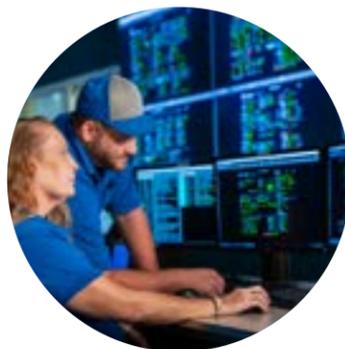
### Adapting to a Changing Climate

In 2022, our staff completed a sea level rise framework and action plan project as part of our agency climate adaptation plan development. We also work closely with the Water Utility Climate Alliance, Florida Water and Climate Alliance and the Climate Science Advisory Panel of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council to study the effects of climate change and sea level rise on public water supplies and use that data to inform our long-term planning.



### Refining Security

Protecting our future depends on our ability to continue operations uninterrupted. Our technology team geographically distributed our data center and made upgrades to our control system's disaster recovery infrastructure in addition to completing several upgrades to improve our data network. We refined our cybersecurity program throughout 2022 to align with industry best practices, enlisting the counsel of private partners and public agencies, and deploying new hardware and software to advance our cybersecurity defense and response capabilities.



### Renewed Permit Secures Water Future

In January 2022, we hit another major milestone for the agency and [renewed our Consolidated Water Use Permit](#), Tampa Bay Water's largest groundwater permit, after we successfully demonstrated environmental recovery in and around the wellfields in northern Tampa Bay. This was the final step in our Partnership Agreement with the Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) that included the co-funding for alternative water supplies for Tampa Bay Water.

Renewing the Consolidated Water Use Permit is vital to an affordable, reliable and sustainable public water supply. The District renewed the permit at 90 million gallons per day, proving groundwater is a reliable resource when used in an environmentally sustainable manner.

To demonstrate recovery of lakes and wetlands in northern Tampa Bay, we developed a multi-year Recovery Assessment of environmental health and the effects of wellfield pumping reductions. This assessment was the first of its kind performed in the state of Florida at a regional scale. A total of 1,360 lakes and wetlands were studied through this evaluation and results proved that wetlands and lakes have recovered to their fullest extent and most aquifer water levels are at their highest in more than 40 years.

[Learn more](#) about Tampa Bay Water's environmental success story.



# because accountability

As a non-profit, special district of the state of Florida, Tampa Bay Water has no taxing authority. We are funded through the sale of wholesale water to the local governments we serve. We remain operationally prudent to meet our members' supply needs in an efficient and fiscally sound manner.

Tampa Bay Water's **2022 budget** included a slight increase in the wholesale water rate to help address the need for new water supplies and related infrastructure for our growing region. The wholesale rate charged to Tampa Bay Water's members increased by 0.17 percent and remains a value in our region.

Our financials are audited annually by an independent financial auditing firm. Our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for fiscal year 2022 will be available in late February 2023.

In 2022, Tampa Bay Water received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Award for the agency's fiscal year 2020 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, the Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award for the agency's fiscal year 2020 Popular Annual Financial Report and the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the agency's fiscal year 2023 Operating Budget, from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). The GFOA awards program recognizes governments' efforts to make information available and accessible to the public.



**\$2.5634 per 1,000 gallons (about a quarter of a penny per gallon!)**

2022 wholesale uniform rate



**Unmodified opinion on fiscal year 2021 financial statements**

from Maudlin & Jenkins LLC



**High bond ratings**

from Fitch, Standard & Poor's and Moody's

Fitch  
**AA**

Standard & Poor's  
**AA+**

Moody's  
**Aa1**

**2022  
Fiscal Year  
Highlights**



# because quality

Water is vital in our daily lives, so the purity and safety of the drinking water Tampa Bay Water provides is paramount. We consider it a tremendous responsibility, and honor, to provide our region with high-quality drinking water 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Water is vital not only to our health and wellbeing but to our economy and way of life. We are pleased to report that in 2022 the water we provided to our member governments met or was better than all state and federal drinking water health standards. Public health and safety are top priorities and Tampa Bay Water is committed to providing a clean and reliable drinking water supply.

We collected nearly 5,000 samples and conducted nearly 45,000 water quality tests in our state-certified laboratory to ensure we meet more than 100 state and federal drinking water parameters, and 17 additional, stringent parameters established by our member governments.

Our high-quality supply is also a great value. We withdraw, treat, disinfect and supply our member utilities with high-quality water for about a quarter of a penny per gallon. The next time you reach for a glass of water, you can feel confident in its quality as well as its cost.

[Read the 2021  
Water Quality Report](#)

Nearly  
**5,000**  
samples  
collected

Nearly  
**45,000**  
water quality  
tests

**100+**  
state &  
federal  
parameters

**17**  
additional  
parameters



We are expanding capabilities of our laboratory with new instruments to increase the types of analyses we can perform. The lab was recently granted Florida Department of Health certifications for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), trace metals, metals, minerals, odor and automated microbiological testing using a newer method called TECTA, making it one of a few labs in Florida and in the United States that can conduct these tests.

Additionally, we have been working with our consultant on a regional water quality study at our member governments' requests to test treatment technologies that would reduce total organic carbon and other water quality parameters in the regional transmission system. While the region's water quality is already high-quality, lowering total organic carbon will allow our member governments greater operational control. We have completed the draft study and are working with our member utilities to finalize the report and recommend water quality projects to our board of directors.





# because reliability

Over the past 25 years, Tampa Bay Water has invested more than \$2 billion in the region's water supply infrastructure. Proactive maintenance and upgrades are vital to ensuring you have water when you turn on your tap. In 2022, we updated our [Capital Improvements Program](#) (CIP), a 10-year plan that includes 89 projects in various phases.

In 2022, Tampa Bay Water completed six projects for a total cost of \$7.1 million, 33 percent under budget. Throughout the year, several projects were under construction.

## Completed Projects

- **C.W. Bill Young Regional Reservoir solar energy system** installed a 2.2-acre solar array on the reservoir property that offsets approximately 60 percent of the reservoir's existing power needs.
- **Cypress Creek Water Treatment Plant and High Service Pump Station diesel piping improvements** automated filling the diesel tanks to prevent spills and protect the environment.
- **SCADA field communications security** provides secure communications that are authenticated and encrypted through a central management tool.
- **SCADA historian** improves the efficiency of using historical information to benefit future decisions and increase knowledge transfer.
- **Tampa Bay Seawater Desalination Plant intake connection improvements phase 1** added a seawater intake location to address TECO's changes at the Big Bend Power Plant, where the desalination plant is co-located.
- **Tampa Bay Seawater Desalination Plant finished water line repair** included repairs to return the facility online.

6 projects

total cost \$7.1 million

33% under budget

*Tampa Bay Water's system includes 11 water treatment plants, 12 wellfields, 14 pump stations, a 15.5-billion-gallon reservoir and 200 miles of large diameter pipe.*



## Projects in Construction

- **Brandon Booster Station** will serve Hillsborough County's growing water needs by sending a total of 5-7 mgd of additional water to Hillsborough County's Lithia Water Treatment Plant when complete in 2023.
- **Cypress Bridge Wellfield improvements** replaces pumps, motors, fans, louvers and electrical equipment at all 10 wells and replaces diesel generators at three wells, improving reliability and safety at the wellfield.
- **Eldridge-Wilde Wellfield improvements** replaces pumps, motors, wellhouses and metering devices and repairs access roads for the wellfield. New power lines will be installed, some underground, making the facility more resilient against storms.
- **Lake Bridge chemical piping replacement** replaces piping, pumps and tanks inside the Lake Bridge Water Treatment plant to improve reliability and maintain water quality.
- **Regional Facility Pump Station** expansion increases the pumping capacity at the High Service Pump Station, which assists in boosting pressure to southern Hillsborough County.
- **Repump station raw water line valve repair** replaces a leaking valve to ensure surface water from the Alafia River and the regional reservoir can be transferred to the surface water treatment plant.
- **SCADA wireless units upgrade** will improve communications within the utility's control systems with new cellular devices.
- **South Pasco water treatment caustic feed system** installs a pH adjustment chemical feed system to stabilize disinfectant residual and improve water quality.
- **Tampa Bypass Canal gates automation** automates nine manual gates at three flood control structures at the Tampa Bypass Canal.

This year, we worked with a project management consulting services firm to develop a new project management methodology to support our CIP. The new methodology includes project management guidelines, processes and procedures to support both capital and non-capital projects throughout project life cycles.



# because community

Our communities can help in educating and instilling sound water use and source water protection practices across the region. That's why Tampa Bay Water funds community programs and builds partnerships aimed at educating families and students on where their water comes from and how to conserve and protect it.

## Tampa Bay Water Wise

**Tampa Bay Water Wise** is a regional water conservation program designed to save up to 11 mgd by 2030 and offset building new water supplies by providing rebates for residential and non-residential customers who purchase or implement new water saving devices or measures. Co-funded by the District, the program has issued 2,475 rebates, saving a total of 151,390 gallons per day since it launched in March 2020.

*In fiscal year 2022, Tampa Bay Water Wise saved 105,126 gallons per day.*



## Toilet Recycling Pilot Program

As residents and businesses replace old toilets with water-efficient versions, old toilets end up in landfills, but Tampa Bay Water and Tampa Bay Watch have partnered on a **pilot program** to bring new life to old toilets and create a positive impact on the environment. Tampa Bay Watch's Community Oyster Reef Enhancement (CORE) program creates and installs oyster reef balls along the shores of Tampa Bay to stabilize shorelines and prevent erosion. The balls are typically made from marine-friendly concrete mixed with small rocks. The pilot project involved using crushed porcelain from the old toilets in the concrete mix for oyster reef balls, which were deployed in June 2022. If it succeeds, the program could provide an environmentally sustainable solution for reducing porcelain waste in landfills and create a large-scale toilet recycling program.



## Florida-Friendly Landscaping Program™

One of the most effective ways to conserve water is to use native plants in your landscape. In fact, up to 50 percent of a home's water use can be from outdoor watering. This year, Tampa Bay Water funded more than \$500,000 to support the **Florida-Friendly Landscaping Program™** for Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas counties.



## Tampa Bay Community Water Wise Awards

The Tampa Bay Community Water Wise Awards program recognizes individuals and businesses committed to conserving our water resources and protecting the environment by using Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles as well as irrigation systems or techniques that minimize water waste. The program is a partnership between Tampa Bay Water, the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Science (IFAS) Extension, and the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program.





## Glazer Children’s Museum

Our continued partnership with the Glazer Children’s Museum (GCM) supports water-focused learning opportunities for children. We helped celebrate the museum’s 12 years of playing with a purpose during the GCM Birthday Bash event at Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park. Tampa Bay Water provided an educational game on source water protection, county-specific information on proper waste disposal and sponsored a water bottle filling station. We also updated one of our sponsored exhibits, Water’s Journey, and General Manager Chuck Carden visited to discuss with families the importance of water and to [read aloud the book](#) “Why Water’s Worth It.”



## Museum of Science & Industry

This year, we sponsored Tampa Bay Water Days at the Museum of Science & Industry (MOSI) in March. Through our sponsorship, 500 Title I students from regional elementary schools and 1,000 residents were able to attend the event for free. Activities included building an aquifer to learn how to protect groundwater sources, learning how water samples are assessed under a microscope and building a model water tower for emerging engineers to learn how structures hold water.



## Keep Pinellas Beautiful

Programs to teach about and protect our source waters are an important part of our community outreach. In 2022, Tampa Bay Water funded the environmental educational programs for [Keep Pinellas Beautiful](#). These range from educational presentations and videos to online workshops and games to in-person ecological tours and cleanup activities.



## Source Water Protection Mini-grant Program

Since 2008, Tampa Bay Water has awarded mini-grants to local non-profit groups, schools, teachers, universities and community organizations to fund projects that help protect our region’s drinking water sources. For the 2022 funding cycle, [Tampa Bay Water awarded more than \\$30,000 in mini-grants](#) among the Coffee Pot Bayou Watershed Alliance, Ecosphere Restoration Institute, The Florida Aquarium, Keep Pasco Beautiful and Tampa Bay Reforestation and Environmental Effort.



## Alafia River Watershed Restoration

This year, Tampa Bay Water [joined forces](#) with the Tampa Bay Estuary Program on a water quality and habitat restoration plan for the historically mined lands in the Alafia River watershed. The Tampa Bay Environmental Restoration Fund awarded \$100,000 in funding, and Tampa Bay Water is contributing \$182,776 toward the project during fiscal years 2022-2023.



# TAMPA BAY WATER

Supplying Water To The Region

[tampabaywater.org](http://tampabaywater.org)

2575 Enterprise Road  
Clearwater, FL 33763  
Phone: (727) 796-2355 or (813) 996-7009



Hillsborough  
County Florida

