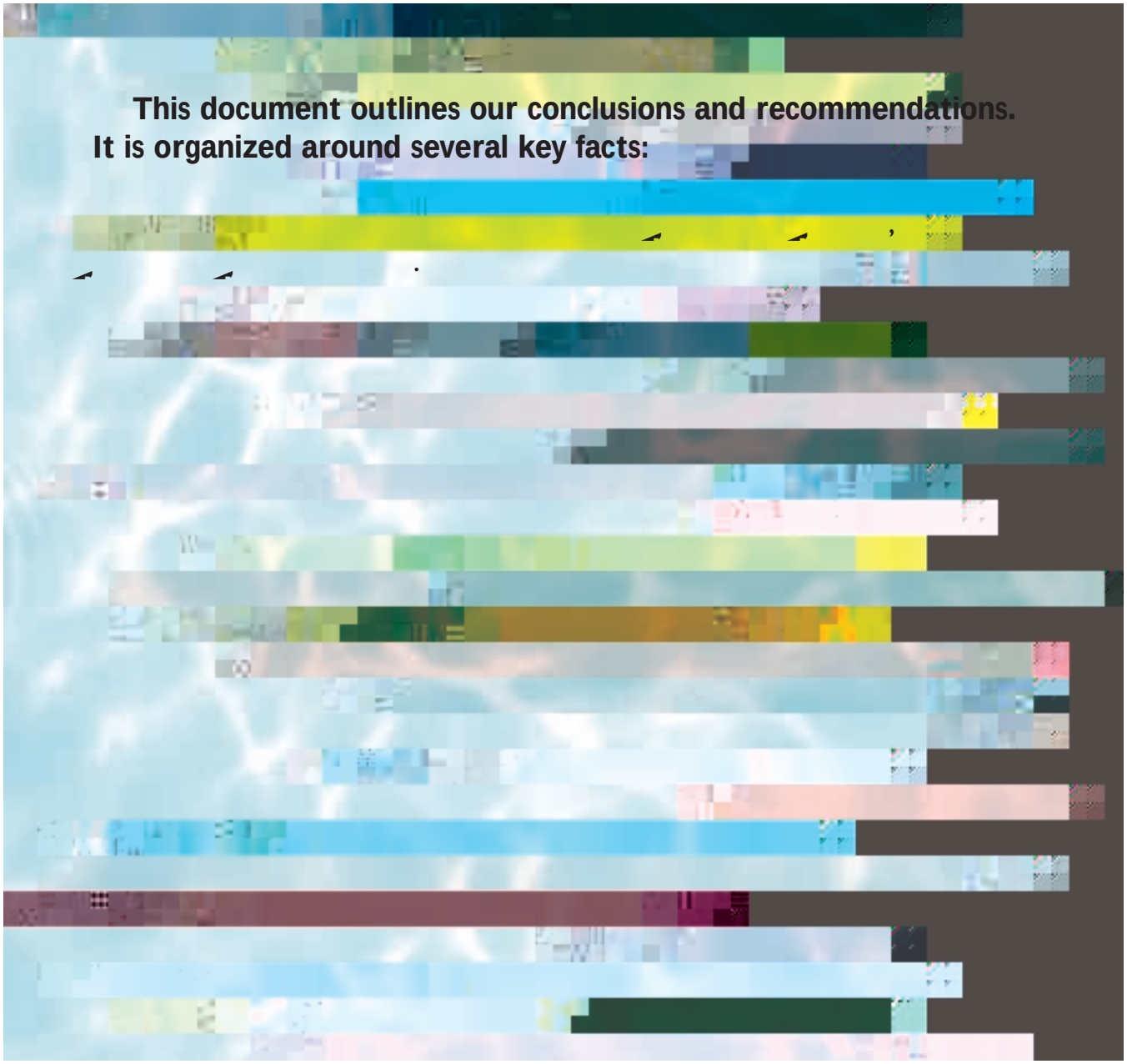
and Texas, and conducted interviews with water experts around the state. We have analyzed the history of water management in Florida since 1972 and visited each of the five water management districts and met with each Executive Director. From this research and analysis, the task force has concluded that Florida needs to refocus its management of water supply efforts to sustain our environment and meet forecasted population growth demands. Ninety-eight percent of our survey respondents think Florida is facing long-term water supply/distribution challenges. ■



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authority and responsibility for the water management districts, whose mission and role have changed dramatically since 1972 (see list of district responsibilities, next page).

Water management districts are responsible for water supply planning and also for the regulation of the consumptive use of water. This dual responsibility creates an inherent conflict in their mission. Local and regional governments are and should remain responsible for water supply development and operation. Local governments have been responsible for providing water supply; however, many of the problems that and oJachaicts and regi renatunts aredifficultsiblelon. theirhoweverday'we

boundaries. The law also stipulates that if water is ever transferred, it must not diminish availability of water for present and future needs of the sending area. The receiving area must have exhausted all "reasonable" local sources and options. Therefore, transfer of water across county boundaries is strongly discouraged by interpretations of the current law.

s discussed in Chapter 2, Florida receives an abundance of rainfall each year—54 inches on average, annually, the second most of any state in the continental United States. As

ships. For example, the Jacksonville Energy Authority (JEA) is exploring the possibility of paying

by the districts as required by the 1997 legislation, it is apparent that the plans define the need, but do not lay out time-phased, specific plans with funding sources. We conclude that the regional water supply plans do not ensure an adequate water supply with *certainty*.

- The decentralized water governance system has not resolved the uncertainty caused by the

private sector, such as storing water or stripping phosphorousReportwater to improvetwater quality.

Northwest Florida Water Management District

The Northwest Florida Water Management District (NWFWMD) stretches from the St. Mark's River Basin in Jefferson County to the Perdido River in Escambia County. The district

Big Cypress Basin and the5larger Okeechobee Basin. The5district has a nine member governing board appointed by the5Governor and confirmed by the5Senate.

South51.971 7 has a distinct wet and dry season, and is the only savannah climate in the continental United States. Within the region, rainfall varies considerably. During the average wet season (May 1 through October 31), rainfall ranges from 46 inches near the southeast coast to 36 inches in the Kissimmee Valley. The average dry season rainfall varies from 17 inches

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III. Glossary of Water Terms

Agriculture Water Use—Includes water used for agricultural irrigation and non-irrigation purposes. Irrigation water use includes the artificial application of water on lands to assist in the growing of crops, plants, and pasture, or to maintain vegetative growth in recreational lands, parks and golf courses. Non-irrigation water use includes water used for livestock, fish, farming and other farm needs.

Aquifer—A water-bearing stratum of permeable rock, sand, or gravel that yield useful quantities of groundwater to wells, springs or surface water.

Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR)—The storage of water in a well during times when it is available, and recovery of the water from the same well when it is needed.

Brackish