



Board of County Commissioners

224 Pine Avenue, 2nd Floor, Live Oak, Florida 32064
Franklin White, Chairman

March 17, 2025

Hugh Thomas
Executive Director
Suwannee River Water Management District
9225 CR 49
Live Oak, Florida 32060

Re: Suwannee County's Objection to Water First North Florida Project

Dear Mr. Thomas,

As a unanimous board we are writing to you – individually, as County Commissioners and on behalf of all the citizens of Suwannee County - to voice our strong objection to proceeding with the Water First North Florida Project.

We agree that the Floridan Aquifer needs to be able to provide adequate water for our citizens, farmers and tourists. We all recognize that the aquifer sustains the people and economy of North Florida and beyond.

Water First North Florida proposes to transfer 40 million gallons of “treated” wastewater from Jacksonville into the aquifer. You assert that this method has been “proven” at the Sweetwater Wetlands Project and Black Creek Water Resource Development. That is simply not true as both of those projects use wetlands to cleanse run off – not chemically “treated” water. To be blunt, those projects are not receiving sewer water like you are planning to use for the Water First North Florida Project. Even if they were similar projects, the difference in scale compared to Water First North Florida negates any reasonable comparison.

When your representative was asked questions about the safety of the “treated” water, he kept saying he was not a scientist so he could not answer any questions, but we should simply trust that the water will be safe. That is not a risk North Florida can afford to take.

Once the spigot is turned on, it is impossible to predict the consequences which will impact literally every person in the area. Our citizens should not suffer the consequences of such hubris.

Sincerely,

Don Hale
District 1

Clyde Flemming
District 2

Travis Land
District 3

Leo Mobley
District 4

Franklin White
District 5