



SARA LITTLE
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Baker County Board of Commissioners

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RONALD MANN
CHAIRMAN

April 7, 2026

Ms. Virginia Johns, Chair
Suwannee River Water Management District
9225 CR 49
Live Oak, Florida 32060

Re: Opposition to the Water First North Florida Project

Dear Ms. Johns:

The Baker County Board of County Commissioners respectfully writes to formally oppose the proposed Water First North Florida Project. On behalf of our residents, we have significant concerns regarding the potential adverse environmental, public health, and economic impacts associated with this project.

While we recognize the importance of ensuring sustainable water resources for North Florida, the proposed approach raises substantial concerns. The plan to transfer large volumes of treated wastewater into the Floridan Aquifer introduces uncertainty regarding long-term negative impacts. As demonstrated through similar concerns raised by neighboring counties, the scale and methodology of this project differ significantly from prior efforts and have not been sufficiently proven safe for our region.

Additionally, the proposal to transport this water over long distances through extensive pipeline infrastructure introduces further risk. A failure, leak, or rupture at any point along the system could result in the catastrophic uncontrolled release of wastewater into surrounding lands, wetlands, or waterways. Such an event would have immediate and lasting environmental consequences and pose devastating risks to nearby communities. Given the length and complexity of the proposed conveyance system, the potential for mechanical failure or unforeseen incidents cannot be ignored.

Our primary concerns include:

1. Environmental Impact

The springs, rivers, and aquifer systems that support Baker County are already under stress. Introducing treated wastewater at the proposed scale could result in unintended and potentially

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