

Union County joins with other local governments and citizens groups who have expressed reservations about the potential efficacy of such treatment on municipal wastewaters, which may be contaminated with much more difficult pollutants to treat than mere surface runoff. At the least, the proposed methods of treatment, and what safeguards will be used to ensure that treatment is successful, should be more thoroughly disclosed and opened to public scientific debate.

It is understandable that a “quick fix” of diverting reclaimed wastewater back to its ultimate source may seem a tempting solution both to the longstanding problem of the lowering aquifer as well as the issue of the need for disposal of such wastewater by heavily-populated municipalities. However, the potential risk to the ultimate source of our drinking water, as well as the lifeblood of our precious springs and waterways, is far too great to be taken so lightly. The potential for disaster to our local citizens health, safety, and welfare urges the upmost caution.

Therefore, the Union County Board of County Commissioners, by unanimous vote in its public meeting of May 18, 2026, joins in full with Resolution 2026-01 of the Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochie River Task Force Opposing the Water First North Florida Aquifer Recharge Project, as well as the numerous resolutions and letters of opposition submitted by our sister counties and local municipalities. Union County strongly urges the District to reconsider all alternatives to this project, and to devote more effort into transparency by informing and educating the affected local governments and citizens of the internal plans and deliberations of the District.

Very Truly Yours,

Channing Dobbs

Chair, Union County Board of County Commissioners

BOARD MEMBERS:

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