

GREATER ARLINGTON CIVIC COUNCIL, INC.

PO BOX 8283, JACKSONVILLE, FL 32202

WHEREAS, the St. Johns River is our community's greatest natural resource; and

WHEREAS, the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), has concluded in their St. Johns River Water Supply Impact Study (WSIS) that an excess of 150 million gallons of water daily could be safely removed from the St. Johns River between the headwaters and Deland to provide drinking water for Orlando and Central Florida; and

WHEREAS, a group of independent scientists and experts from the National Research Council (NRC) conducted a peer review of the WSIS, and while acknowledging its benefits, identified significant shortcomings and limitations in the study and expressed concerns regarding many of the conclusions; and

WHEREAS, according to the Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) Water Supply Plan, the total proposed withdrawals from the St. Johns could exceed 150 million gallons daily; and

WHEREAS, large-scale water withdrawals may worsen existing pollution problems, increase the frequency of toxic algal blooms, further reduce flow, increase salinity levels farther upstream, and adversely impact the fisheries, wildlife and submerged vegetation in and along the St. Johns and its tributaries; and

WHEREAS, CFWI has not required any mandatory conservation programs for the requesting counties prior to those counties removing water resources from the St. Johns River; and

WHEREAS, no one, including the CFWI, fully understands all of the potential impacts to the River's health and fisheries from the proposed withdrawals; and

WHEREAS, once the removal of the water has begun and the impacts, whatever they may be, propounded, the reversal of such water withdrawal will be difficult if not impossible; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the GREATER ARLINGTON CIVIC COUNCIL, INC. opposes the withdrawal of millions of gallons of water a day from the St. Johns River to meet the irrigation and drinking water needs of Orlando and Central Florida; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CFWI should mandate aggressive water conservation measures to reduce the amount of water being withdrawn from the Floridan Aquifer and pursue more sustainable, long-term solutions to Florida's water problems including the reuse of reclaimed water and stormwater, use of smart growth management practices to prevent unsustainable development and implementation of green building principals.

Dated August 13, 2015

By Lad Hawkins, President

