

March 5, 2026

Suwannee River Water Management District
9225 CR 49
Live Oak, Florida 32060

Subject: Opposition to the Water First North Florida Project

To Whom It May Concern,

The Columbia County Board of County Commissioners formally opposes the proposed Water First North Florida project. We believe the project poses unacceptable risks to the long-term welfare of our county and region. Our key concerns are as follows:

1. **Environmental Impact**

Our springs and rivers are already under stress. Additional withdrawals or impacts could cause irreversible damage. We need clarity on which contaminants are monitored and what treatment wetlands cannot remove.

2. **Public Health and Water Security**

Residents have expressed uncertainty about the safety of purified reclaimed drinking water. Protecting the reliability of local wells and public water systems remains essential.

3. **Economic Consequences**

Our economy depends on healthy natural resources, including eco-tourism, agriculture, and recreation. Any harm to spring systems could impose significant financial costs. We request clear evaluation of these risks.

4. **Lack of Local Benefit**

Current documentation shows limited benefit to our community while placing disproportionate risk on Columbia County. We cannot support a project that may compromise local resources without clear, direct value to our residents.

For these reasons, the Columbia County Board of County Commissioners opposes the Water First North Florida project in its current form. We urge reviewing agencies and decision-makers to pursue sustainable alternatives that protect the long-term health of our water resources.

Sincerely,

Tim Murphy, Chair

On behalf of the Columbia County Board of County Commissioners