

AI Summary:

Water First North Florida: The \$1.1 Billion Project That No One Likes, Except Insiders, Is on the Ropes

The article reports that the **Water First North Florida** project - a proposed **\$1.1 billion plan** to pipe **40 million gallons per day of mostly treated Jacksonville wastewater** into the Suwannee River Basin/aquifer - is "on the ropes" after strong public and political opposition.

State Senator **Corey Simon** announced that the project was being "**canceled in its current form**" and sent back to the drawing board. Around the same time, Representative **Chuck Brannan** said the project had no money in the House budget and that the Senate removed its proposed **\$20 million seed funding**, leaving the project with **zero state funding** for now.

The Suwannee and St. Johns water management districts, along with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, advanced the project quietly and without public and seemingly legislative awareness. The story describes meetings where the project was discussed despite not being clearly listed on agendas, and says public opposition grew after environmental advocates and local residents learned about the plan.

Local governments across North Central Florida passed resolutions opposing the project. A March 2026 community meeting drew strong public concern, especially over the idea of using the region as a destination for Jacksonville-area wastewater.

Although state funding has been removed, the article warns the project is not fully dead because other funding commitments still exist from JEA and the water management districts.