

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-09

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA, OPPOSING THE WATER FIRST NORTH FLORIDA AQUIFER RECHARGE PROJECT AND RECOMMENDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ALTERNATIVE WATER DESALINIZATION PROJECT

WHEREAS, Levy County Board of County Commissioners, hereinafter referred to as the Levy County BoCC, whose membership is comprised of the five Levy County Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the water quality of the freshwater springs, rivers and the Floridan Aquifer is critical to the economic vitality of eco-tourism, agriculture and recreation in the north central Florida region; and

WHEREAS, the lowering of the potentiometric surface of the Floridan Aquifer by water users located outside of the north central Florida region has contributed to lower flows and levels in the Lower Santa Fe River Basin and Ichetucknee River Basin; and

WHEREAS, the Levy County BoCC recognizes the importance of achieving minimum flows and levels in the Lower Santa Fe River Basin and Ichetucknee River Basin as necessary to protect north central Florida region natural resources and the County's interest in maintaining a high quality of life for its citizens and enjoyment of the area for residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida local water sources first policy suggests that water users located outside of the north central Florida region should develop alternative water supplies, such as desalinization; and

WHEREAS, the Water First North Florida Aquifer Recharge Project would discharge 40 million gallons per day of treated wastewater from outside the north central Florida region into the Floridan Aquifer in either Baker County, Bradford County, Columbia County, Hamilton County or Union County in the north central Florida region.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing, **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Levy County BoCC that:

1. The Levy County BoCC opposes the Water First North Florida Aquifer Recharge Project.
2. The Levy County BoCC recommends the Florida Legislature, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Suwannee River Water Management District and the St. Johns River Water Management District re-evaluate the alternative local water sources first desalinization project for water users located outside of the north central Florida region as a means to contribute

towards achieving minimum flows and levels in the Lower Santa Fe River Basin and Ichetucknee River Basin.

DULY ADOPTED on April 7, 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY

COMMISSIONERS

LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST

Clerk of the Circuit Court and

Ex-Officio to the Board

Tim Hodge, Chair

Matt Brooks

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency

Gray Robinson, Interim County Attorney