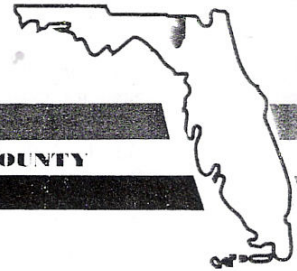


District No. 1 - Ronald Williams  
District No. 2 - Dewey Weaver  
District No. 3 - George Skinner  
District No. 4 - Stephen E. Bailey  
District No. 5 - Elizabeth Porter



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS • COLUMBIA COUNTY**

July 18, 2007

The Honorable Debbie Boyd  
State Representative  
District 11  
P.O. Box 428  
High Springs, Florida 32655-0428

Dear Representative Boyd:

Please be advised that the Columbia County Board of County Commissioners have concerns relating to the issuance of new and renewal permits for the extraction of water for bottling plants from the aquifer underlying the Santa Fe River. The bulk removal of water will prove to be detrimental to this fragile ecosystem and sustainability of Florida's groundwater and springs is essential.

In early 2007, new applications for water withdrawal at July and Santa Fe, LLC Springs in Columbia County and at Lily Springs in Gilchrist County were submitted. This means that five applications for water withdrawal on the Santa Fe River have been applied for or approved by the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD). If these permits are granted, the amount of water approved for extraction from a three-mile area would total over one billion three hundred and fifty million gallons (1,350,000,000) per year. This is in addition to water that is removed for existing residential and agricultural purposes, which would eventually be returned to the aquifer, water removed by bottling plants is not.

Minimum Flows and Levels (MFL) Testing, a scientific study essential to determining the minimum amount of water necessary for the optimal health of the river and springs is slated for the Santa Fe River in 2008. Therefore, we urge you to take the necessary action to preserve our valuable water resources until such time as there is a completed scientific study essential to determining the minimum amount of water necessary for the optimal health of the river and springs. Without establishing this scientific basis for our future water use, Florida's valuable resource, its aquifer, will be permanently depleted.

BOARD MEETS FIRST THURSDAY AT 7:00 P.M.  
AND THIRD THURSDAY AT 7:00 P.M.

P.O. BOX 1529 ▼

LAKE CITY, FLORIDA 32056-1529 ▼

PHONE (386) 755-1100  
FAX (386) 755-1100

The Honorable Debbie Boyd  
State Representative  
District 11  
July 17, 2007  
Page Two

---

Sincerely,

*Elizabeth Porter*

Elizabeth Porter  
Chairperson

*Ronald Williams*

Ronald Williams, Commissioner

*Stephen E. Bailey*

Stephen E. Bailey, Commissioner

*Dewey A. Weaver*

Dewey Weaver, Vice Chairman

George Skinner, Commissioner

*George A. Skinner*