

RESOLUTION 95 - 90

A RESOLUTION SETTING FORTH POLICIES OF THE BOARD REGARDING TRANSPORTATION OF WATER RESOURCES ACROSS GROUNDWATER AND SURFACE WATER BASIN BOUNDARIES.

WHEREAS, Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, sets forth the water policy of the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida, recognizes the inherent environmental consequences of the transfer of massive water supplies beyond groundwater and surface water natural basin boundaries; and

WHEREAS, groundwater supplies are necessary for the continued growth and development of Nassau County; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to maintain adequate surface water levels for the benefit of Nassau County's environment, flora, and fauna; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to maintain adequate surficial water table levels to reduce the adverse environmental impacts of improper or excessive withdrawals of water from concentrated areas; and

WHEREAS, it is the position of the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida, that water supplies for municipalities and counties should be obtained locally and without adverse environmental impact; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida, is concerned that other entities may attempt unrestrained incursions upon the water resources of Nassau County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County,

Florida, desires to make clear its position with regard to the transfer of water resources from this area to other outside entities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED this 24th day of April, 1995, by the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida, that it hereby declares that the following principles represent the position of the Board towards the transfer of water resources from Nassau County outside this area:

1. Groundwater and surface water should be used within respective natural water basins and not exported across water basin divides. Transfer of water across basin divides is, in effect, "mining" water.

2. State funds and efforts should be dedicated to assisting local governments in order to maximize their local water resources. The State must take an active role in developing feasible and energy efficient desalination and reverse osmosis processes, now. Accordingly, the State must resolve the debate on brine disposal and high energy consumption during the calendar year 1995. In addition, the State must assist local governments with funding for stormwater and wastewater reuse.

3. Permitted water use from a wellfield should not exceed rainfall recharge to the wellfield.

4. The State should expedite and fund studies to determine the safety, both to the public health and to the environment, of the reuse of wastewater for aquifer rehydration. If found to be safe, then, within natural groundwater basins, water transferred

from one geographic area to another should be reclaimed and reused in the areal of original withdrawal (rehydration) to promote water resources renewal, particularly in periods of extended drought.

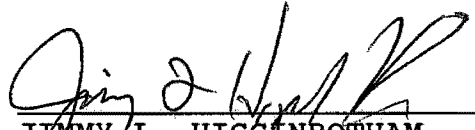
5. Local development must depend solely on local water resources. Comprehensive growth management plans must clearly identify sufficient local water sources to support projected development. Water must not be transported across basin divides to support growth in other areas. Growth planning must not be predicated on, nor dependant on, potential water importation.

6. At such time that all local water resources are considered totally committed, allocated, or in use, and additional local water is deemed not available, a "zero growth" policy must be immediately implemented. Comprehensive growth management plans must project "zero growth" to coincide with "zero increased water consumption". Again, water must not be transported across basin divides to support growth in other areas. Growth planning must not be predicated on, or dependant on, potential water importation.

7. In areas where water is presently being imported from outside the water basin, alternative "new" water sources such as desalination, reverse osmosis, conservation, and stormwater must be developed and used to replace imported water supplies. Once sufficient alternative water sources are developed to the extent that imported water is no longer needed, and no longer being imported, growth can resume within the limits of available local

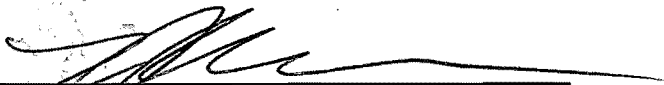
water source(s).

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA



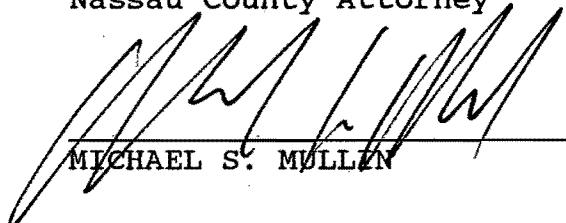
JIMMY L. HIGGINBOTHAM
Its: Chairman

ATTEST:



T. J. GREESON
Its: Ex-Officio Clerk

Approved as to form by the
Nassau County Attorney



MICHAEL S. MULLEN

7/b:water.res