

RESOLUTION NO. 95- 173

A RESOLUTION BY THE NASSAU COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REQUESTING THAT THE ST. JOHNS RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT FOREGO PURCHASES AND OTHER ACQUISITIONS OF REAL PROPERTY AND/OR SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS IN NASSAU COUNTY

WHEREAS, it is the stated goal of the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners as outlined in Section 6, Policies 6.01.01 through 6.09.01 of the Nassau County Comprehensive Plan to conserve, utilize, and protect the natural resources of the area; and

WHEREAS, the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners have sought in the past to work cooperatively with the St. Johns River Water Management District on a number of issues and have requested assistance during recent natural exigency; and

WHEREAS, the St. Johns River Water Management District levies ad valorem taxes in the amount of 0.482 mils on the residents of Nassau County.

WHEREAS, the St. Johns River Water Management District acquired approximately 3,630 acres of riverain bottomland hardwoods, low pinelands, steep slope hardwood forests, herb bogs, and longleaf pine sandhill communities which border the St. Marys River for nearly 6.7 miles; and

WHEREAS, the St. Johns River Water Management District's land acquisition program has expanded to own at present nearly 330,000 acres of simple title lands within its nineteen (19) county jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the District's land acquisition plan indicates an aggressive acquisition program which will, when complete, yield a total ownership of lands and property easements of nearly 1,000,000 acres or almost twelve percent of its present jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the District's land acquisition plan indicates an intent to own or control 40,000 acres of land in the St. Marys River Basin, and an unspecified amount of land in the Nassau River Basin; and

WHEREAS, there has been little input from the Nassau County residents regarding said acquisitions; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Florida in response to these and like concerns over the expansive growth both in terms of authority and purview of the Water Management Districts created the Water Management District Review Commission which will make its

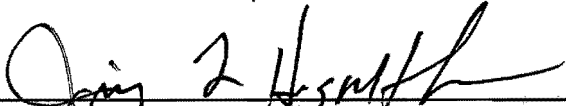
recommendations known during the 1996 General Assembly of said body; and

WHEREAS, the recommendations may change both in substance and form the composition of Florida's Water Management Districts to the point that they will no longer acquire lands beyond the purview of their originally stated goals of flood control and water quality.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED this 13th day of November, 1995 by the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners that:


1. The Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, as governing body of the county, do hereby request that the St. Johns River Water Management District forego any and all purchases of real property in Nassau County until such time as the Legislature have addressed their substantive re-organization.

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. MULLIN