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Southwest Florida Water Management District

2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899

(352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only)

WaterMatters.org

Bartow Office

170 Century Boulevard
Bartow, Florida 33830-7700
(863) 534-1448 or
1-800-492-7862 (FL only)

Sarasota Office

78 Sarasota Center Boulevard
Sarasota, Florida 34240-9770
(941) 377-3722 or
1-800-320-3503 (FL only)

Tampa Office

7601 U.S. 301 North
Tampa, Florida 33637-6759
(813) 985-7481 or
1-800-836-0797 (FL only)

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Brian J. Armstrong, P.G.

Executive Director

October 2, 2025

Commissioner Brian Hawkins, Chair
Hernando County Board of County Commissioners
20 N Main Street #460
Brooksville, Florida 34601

Subject: Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

Dear Chair Hawkins:

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) is writing to express strong support for Hernando County's (County) continued participation in the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA).

To illustrate the importance of water supply authorities you only need to look to your south where Tampa Bay Water and the Peace River Manasota Water Supply Authority boast diverse, sustainable water supplies, including traditional and alternative water supply sources. These regional success stories were achieved by the local governments working together through the water supply authorities with technical and financial support from the District.

Developing water supplies can be extremely expensive and, in some cases, could be cost-prohibitive for an individual government on its own. By pooling resources in a water supply authority, local governments wield significantly more bargaining power when seeking funding and can achieve economies of scale when developing large projects that can meet the needs of all members. The County has been forward thinking and established a framework for the future. Conservation has been prioritized so far, but this framework will also serve the County well for the eventual need for alternative water supplies.

Current population projections from 2020 to 2045 demonstrate that the County's growth is expected to be approximately 25.4%, with water demand also growing near the same rate at 24.5%. The County's investment in a regional approach helps better identify current and future demands, potential sources and costs, and processes for selecting the best approach to maximize the benefits for the region.

The District has long embraced regionalism as the solution to the long-term sustainability of public water supplies, and therefore, the District recommends the County maintain its interlocal agreement with the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Armstrong, P.G.
Executive Director
Southwest Florida Water Management District

Commissioner Brian Hawkins, Chair
Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
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cc: Commissioner Jerry Campbell, Vice Chair
Commissioner Ryan Amsler
Commissioner John Allocco
Commissioner Steve Champion
Jeff Rogers, County Administrator
Gordon Onderdonk, Director of Utilities