



**WITHLACOOCHEE  
REGIONAL  
WATER  
SUPPLY  
AUTHORITY**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**WITHLACOOCHEE WATER AUTHORITY APPROVES 2011 BUDGET**

*No transfer is proposed of groundwater from wells in any member county to any other county in the Authority's master plan update.*

OCALA, FL, June 16, 2010 -- Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority representing Citrus, Hernando, Marion and Sumter counties unanimously approved its 2011 budget, including project funding dedicated to water conservation education, outreach and rebate programs. Last month the Authority voted to maintain a per capita assessment of 19 cents. The 2011 budget sets aside \$150,000 for water conservation, representing 52% of the Authority's water supply funding budget. The Authority has been evaluating the most cost-effective means of ensuring potable water supply for the short-term, mid-term and long-term needs of the region's future. **No transfer however, is proposed of groundwater from wells in any member county to any other county, was underscored throughout the well-attended meeting.** Consultants and the water management districts concur that sometime in the distant future, 20 to 30 years from now, expensive alternative water sources will need to be collaboratively developed for affordability. When needed, alternatives to groundwater would likely include a proposed desalination plant at the Crystal River power plant and water safely withdrawn from the Withlacoochee River, as approved and permitted by the water management district and the Department of Environmental Protection. Because alternative water supplies can take as many as 8 years to properly plan for, design, permit and construct, it is prudent for the Authority to begin identifying possible corridors and sites since an interconnecting system with diversified water sources will one day serve this region. In the future, users of the water will pay for the bonding needed to finance the alternative water system, not the general local governments. At the present time however, water conservation programs are the most appropriate way for the Authority to help local governments extend the use of lower cost groundwater supplies.

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