



**WITHLACOOCHEE
REGIONAL
WATER
SUPPLY
AUTHORITY**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WITHLACOOCHEE WATER AUTHORITY PRESENTS AWARD TO SENATOR CHARLIE DEAN

Water conservation emphasis is Authority's primary goal.

BROOKSVILLE, FL, September 15, 2010 -- Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority representing Citrus, Hernando, Marion and Sumter counties recognized Senator Charlie Dean (R - Inverness) for his outstanding service during the 2010 Legislative Session. Senator Dean protected sections in Florida water law governing "local sources first," during the passage of the "omnibus" water bill, SB 550. Local sources first ensures that a community uses every local option available, including water conservation before seeking groundwater outside its jurisdiction, stated Jack Sullivan, Authority Executive Director. Senator Dean's district has the highest number of first magnitude springs in the state and fully understands stewardship of natural water resources. The Authority also voted unanimously to approve a resolution in opposition to an approach taken by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requiring any discharge to a water body to meet strict numeric limits. No one disagrees that limits on nutrients are important to the health of a water body. However, a lack of scientific basis for implementing EPA's costly numeric standards rather than the state's existing narrative standards will likely result in higher property taxes and water bill increases of up to 100 percent or greater, according to the Authority's governmental affairs consultant, Diane Salz. Additionally, the Authority executed contracts to award \$130,000 in matching grants for a variety of local water conservation programs in Citrus, Hernando and Marion counties. These matching grants will help the region attain its goal of meeting the 150 gallons per day per capita rate of use required by SWFWMD's new rule, Jack Sullivan explained. Consultants and the water management districts agree that sometime in the distant future, 20 to 30 years from now, expensive alternative water sources will need to be collaboratively developed for affordability. 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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The WRWSA is a multi-county special district of the state of Florida charged with planning for and developing cost efficient, high quality water supplies for its member governments. The Authority promotes environmental stewardship through its water conservation programs and in the future will develop alternative water sources to augment groundwater supplies to meet the region's long -term needs.