

REGULATORY TEAM REVIEW OF SOLUTIONS PLANNING TEAM PROJECTS

Project name and description:

St. Johns River Near Yankee Lake Project

This project will develop a surface water source and would supply water from a nontraditional source. (Note: SJRWMD considers all sources other than fresh groundwater to be nontraditional.) It will also involve the addition of new storage capacity for surface water and will utilize surface water captured from the St. Johns River, a brackish water source. Project benefits would include new potable water that could be used for public supply type use, and possibly for aquifer replenishment.

Planning Level Review for Permittability

The project appears to be reasonably permissible from a planning-level perspective. The fact that there has been a planning-level determination should not be interpreted as the determination or application of the SJRWMD's consumptive use permitting criteria. Before such a determination can be made, all details of the project's design and operation must be prepared by a permit applicant and submitted to SJRWMD in a permit application. The application must then be reviewed for consistency with all of the SJRWMD's consumptive use permitting criteria applicable to the project, including established MFLs and other environmental protection criteria. The proposed project would be further refined during the final design and the permit application review process to address all permitting criteria. Examples of such refinements may include setting specific criteria and schedule for when water can be withdrawn, the ongoing operation of the river intake structure, the addition of off-line storage facilities, and, if appropriate, mitigation. The St. Johns River Water Supply Impact Study, completed by the St. Johns River Water Management District in 2012, provides state-of-the-art models and methodologies that are available to assist in completing a project design to address environmental permitting criteria.

As noted above, one of the key criteria in the permit application review will be whether the proposed consumptive use is "in accordance with any minimum flow or level and implementation strategy established pursuant to Sections 373.042 and 373.0421, F.S." See Rule 40C-2.301(2)(i), F.A.C. Minimum flows and levels have been established for the St. Johns River at Lake Monroe [Rule 40C-8.031(1)(i), F.A.C.] and the St. Johns River at SR 44 [Rule 40C-8.031(1)(f), F.A.C.]. These minimum flows and levels would apply if a consumptive use permit were to be sought for this project.

Because this is a regional project that would provide water for use across county boundaries, the Governing Board will also consider the factors in Section 373.223(3), F.S., as part of the completed permit application for a specific project, in making a determination of whether the project is consistent with the public interest pursuant to Section 373.223(5), F.S. As required by

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Section 373.223(3), F.S., SJRWMD will use the information in its applicable regional water supply plan as the basis for its consideration of the special public interest criteria (“local sources first”) during its review of the permit application.

Identification of consumptive use permit program inconsistencies between the water management districts which may impact the project:

None identified.

Identification of Chapter 373, F.S., impediments, if any, associated with project:

None identified.

Identification of unusual, non-Chapter 373, F.S., considerations:

None identified.