

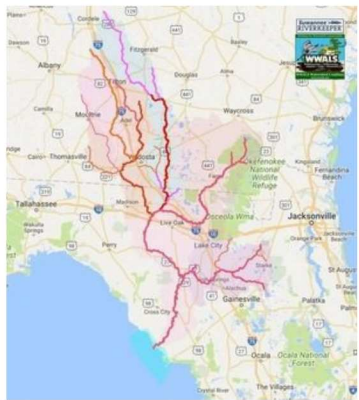
December 9, 2019

To: Hugh Thomas, Executive Director  
Suwannee River Water Management District  
9225 Co Rd 49, Live Oak, FL 32060  
Hugh.Thomas@srwmd.org  
386-362-1001

Cc: Lindsey Garland  
Public Communications  
Coordinator  
SRWMD  
Lindsey.Garland@srwmd.org

Re: Please deny and review Nestlé water withdrawal permits

Director Thomas,



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850-290-2350  
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[www.wwals.net](http://www.wwals.net)

WWALS is an IRS 501(c)(3)  
nonprofit charity est. June 2012.

*Mission: WWALS advocates for conservation and stewardship of the Withlacoochee, Willacoochee, Alapaha, Little, Santa Fe, and Suwannee River watersheds in south Georgia and north Florida through education, awareness, environmental monitoring, and citizen activities.*

Suwannee Riverkeeper for WWALS Watershed Coalition asks the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) to act for the public good by denying the Seven Springs Water Company permit renewal request at Ginnye Springs on the Santa Fe River, and by reviewing the Nestlé permit for Madison Blue Springs on the Withlacoochee River, among others.

### **Please Deny Seven Springs permit renewal, Ginnye Springs, Santa Fe River**

We must agree with the [Gainesville Sun editorial of December 1, 2019](#), which notes that Seven Springs would pay only a one-time \$115 fee for up to 1.152 million gallons of water per day, which is more than four times the historical rate of 270,000 gallons per day. Even at the old rate, that editorial points out that the Santa Fe River and its springs are already well into environmental harm due to excessive groundwater pumping.

Has SWRMD and or the applicant assessed potential impacts of proposed water withdrawals on Spring flow and groundwater levels using simulation models and other tools that may be available? This information is needed for SWRMD to make an informed decision on the permit applications in question. All findings should be shared with the public.

The purpose of that permit renewal is for Seven Springs to sell the water to Nestlé, which would also result in still more plastic bottles being discarded in our springs and rivers for those of us who care to clean up.

Neither the withdrawals nor the plastic bottles are in the public interest.

Many tens of thousands of people have signed [multiple petitions against](#) the Seven Springs permit renewal, and the issue has drawn [national](#) and [international](#) news coverage.

As you know, many local citizens and groups are opposed to the Seven Springs permit. We would especially like to applaud [the great work on this issue by Our Santa Fe River \(OSFR\)](#).

### **Missing SRWMD Board Members**

We also must agree with the Gainesville Sun editorial of September 24, 2019, which noted that [appointees to the vacant SRWMD board slots](#) are key to protecting the environment. It is a travesty that the board posts for where most of the population of the Suwannee River Basin in Florida resides are vacant: for the Upper Suwannee Basin (including the Withlacoochee and Alapaha Rivers), the Santa Fe & Waccassa Basins, and the Aucilla Basin. Only the Governor can fix that by finishing the job of appointing SRWMD board members, including some to represent environmental concerns.

