

Yet the SRWMD Board has managed to vote with only 6 of 9 board members since [September 18, 2019, when half of those six were on the telephone](#). And SRWMD already has statutory authority to deal with water withdrawal issues; see below.

### **Potential new legislation**

As you no doubt know, perhaps from the [December 3, 2019 article by Cindy Swirko in the Gainesville Sun](#):

*Sen. Annette Taddeo, a Democrat from District 40 in Miami-Dade County, on Tuesday filed [Senate Bill 1112](#) to tax bottlers 12.5 cents per gallon they withdraw from state waters such as the aquifer and springs. The money would go into a trust fund for wastewater treatment and stormwater management....*

*“They should pay no differently than the other bottlers like Coke and Pepsi. That’s where I got the 12.5 cents — I just want parity with other bottlers,” Taddeo said. “Obviously, (soft drink bottlers) are getting water from municipalities, but they are paying for it.”*

*Taddeo added that money for wastewater treatment and stormwater management programs would be eligible for federal matching funds....*

Nestlé in that article claimed “It’s a sustainable resource.” How can that be, when Nestlé is asking for still more water, and spring and river levels are decreasing?

See also the [December 3, 2019, article by Scott Powers in FloridaPolitics.com](#):

*A water use battle in Gilchrist County has Democratic state [Sen. Janet Cruz](#) proposing legislation to require more oversight and fees on spring water usage and Democratic state Rep. Anna Eskamani calling for opposition to the proposed major new Nestlé Waters North America bottling plant in north-central Florida.*

*Cruz, of Tampa, [filed SB 1096](#) to require the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to monitor consumptive use permits filed by water bottling companies to ensure they are in compliance with state law.*

*And Cruz [filed SB 1098](#) to assess a surcharge of 5 cents per gallon of water extracted to bottle. Proceeds from that fee would be put into the state’s Water Protection and Sustainability Program Trust Fund, which has been unfunded since 2009.*

*Eskamani, of Orlando, sent a letter Monday to members of the [Suwannee River Water Management District](#) urging them to vote down a permit renewal request for the Seven Springs Water Co., which would allow it to pump more than 1 million gallons a day for bottling by Nestlé Waters North America....*

We prefer the 12.5 cent per gallon idea, since it has precedent in soft drink bottler fees.

However, SRWMD does not need any new statutory authority to vote down the Seven Springs permit renewal.

### **Statutory Authority**

As I am sure you are aware, [F.S. 373.243\(3\)](#) says:

*For violation of any provision of this chapter, the governing board or the department may revoke the permit, in whole or in part, for a period not to exceed 1*