

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Christina Carr, Chief Environmental Scientist, Office of Environmental Compliance

THRU: Steve Minnis, Deputy Executive Director, Business and Community Services

DATE: October 30, 2020

RE: Water Use Permit 2-041-217981-10, Alliance Dairies LLP, Levy and Gilchrist Counties

**RECOMMENDATION**

Approve Water Use Permit 2-041-217981-10 with seventeen standard conditions and eleven special limiting conditions to Alliance Dairies LLP, in Levy and Gilchrist counties.

**BACKGROUND**

The permit is a modification of an existing agricultural use to add 140 irrigated acres, modify the crop type of one existing 120-acre field, add a proposed 6-inch well and a proposed 10-inch well, and combine with Water Use Permit (WUP) 2-075-217580-2. The applicant is requesting to combine WUP 2-075-217580-2, Gail Asbel Farm, consisting of 105 irrigated acres located in Levy County with the Alliance Dairies LLP water use permit consisting of 1,473 irrigated acres in Levy and Gilchrist counties. Also, the existing Alliance Dairies LLP water use permit will be modified to add an additional 140 irrigated acres that were not previously in production. The modified project consists of 2,856 controlled acres of which 1,718 are irrigated acres, located 0.5 miles southwest of Trenton in Gilchrist and Levy counties.

Groundwater will be used from 21 existing wells and two proposed wells to irrigate row crops through 17 existing center pivots and two proposed center pivots, and groundwater will be used from eight existing wells and one proposed well for livestock watering. The increase in allocation is due to a change in crop type, a revision of crop demands using updated irrigation models, and the addition of 245 irrigated acres. Supplemental irrigation models and industry standards were used to determine the 4.1149 mgd 1-in-10-year drought allocation, a 0.6514 mgd increase from the previous sequence.

All wells larger than 8-inch diameter (19) will be monitored though electrical consumption. There have been no reports of interference or observed harm to water resources associated with previous withdrawals at this project; and no lower quality water sources are available for use. The project is located in the Eastern Water Supply Planning Area.

In 2011, the Alliance Dairies LLP water use permit was modified to reflect the application of wastewater to irrigated acres. The permit currently includes an alternative water supply project offset of 0.6946 mgd from the onsite wastewater treatment facility in lieu of groundwater withdrawals. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection issued permit number FLA116521 allowing the land application of wastewater.