

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Leroy Marshall, Director, Division of Resource Management

THRU: Tim Alexander, Deputy Executive Director, Business and Community Services

DATE: March 28, 2025

RE: Water Use Permit 2-001-218914-3, Tomoka Hills Golf, Alachua County

RECOMMENDATION

Approve renewal of Water Use Permit number 2-001-218914-3 with eighteen standard conditions and nine special limiting conditions to Tomoka Hills Farms, Inc. in Alachua County.

BACKGROUND

This Water Use Permit (WUP) was an existing agricultural water use that is transitioning to a proposed golf course. The project is located southwest of the US Highway 441-Interstate-75 intersection in the western portion of the City of Alachua, in Alachua County; and consists of 329 controlled and 94 acres of irrigated golf turf. Groundwater from two proposed wells (Station IDs 157272 and 157273) will be used to supplement an irrigation holding pond from which a surface water pump (Station ID 157275) will irrigate golf turf through multiple sprinklers. Potable water supplied from the City of Alachua Utilities is used to provide the water needs of the clubhouse, employees, and cart washing.

Due to the re-working of onsite soils, drier soil properties were simulated when using the GIS-Based Water Resources and Agricultural Permitting and Planning System model to determine the 45.18 inches/year of supplemental irrigation for golf turf and 31.85 inches/year for supplemental irrigation for landscape turf. Staff recommends the golf course irrigation system be audited and the irrigation rate be reassessed after turf establishment.

Pursuant to the Lower Santa Fe/ Ichetucknee Rivers minimum flows and levels regulatory strategy, the permittee provided an impact offset for the proposed allocation increase. The offset includes an agreement with the permittee of WUP 219542, Waco of Alabama, to voluntarily retire 0.2 million gallons per day of allocation at their project located approximately two miles southwest of the proposed golf course. This allocation retirement partially offsets the potential impact of the golf course's total requested allocation; therefore, the permit duration shall be limited to a five-year duration. The permittee will monitor surface and groundwater use using totalizing flow meters and report monthly water use online biennially. The application is complete and meets the conditions for issuance in Chapter 40B-2, F.A.C.

DK/tm
Attachments