

**Permit Expiration:** 5-year permit duration, consistent with the Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee River MFL regulatory strategy.

**USE STATUS:** This is a renewal with a change to recreational type use.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

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

To meet the recovery strategy for the Lower Santa Fe River Basin, the permittee provided an impact offset for the proposed increase in allocation at the golf course. The permittee entered into an agreement with the permittee of Water Use Permit 219542, Waco of Alabama, to voluntarily retire 0.2 million gallons per day (mgd) of allocation at the Waco of Alabama site, located approximately two miles southwest of the proposed golf course. Based on the net allocation offset the permit meets conditions for issuance. As the potential impact of the total requested allocation is not fully offset, the permit duration shall be five years.

The permittee will monitor water use from the supply wells and irrigation pump using totalizing flow meters and will report monthly water use online biennially using District form EN-50.

**WATER USE CALCULATIONS:**

The project soils will be freshly disturbed and the native soil properties altered due to construction and grading of the new course and landscape. Therefore, conservative soil properties were used in the GIS-Based Water Resources and Agricultural Permitting and Planning System (GWRAPPS) model to determine a higher-than-average demand of 45.18 in/yr of supplemental irrigation for golf turf, and 31.85 in/yr for landscape turf. Staff recommends the golf course irrigation system be audited and the irrigation rate be reassessed after the planted turf has established and post-development site characteristics are better known.

**PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW:**

Staff have determined this application meets the conditions for issuance set forth in section 373.223, Florida Statutes and rule 40B-2.301, Florida Administrative Code. A summary of the staff review is provided below:

Project withdrawals were modeled and showed a simulated Upper Floridan aquifer drawdown of less than 0.5 feet at the project boundary; therefore, groundwater withdrawals at this project are not expected to interfere with any presently existing legal uses of water. Staff evaluated NRCS soils data in the area, wetland inventories, and aerial imagery compared with the simulated groundwater drawdown. Staff does not expect this continued use of groundwater to cause harm to crops and other types of vegetation, including wetlands and other surface waters, or cause damage to the habitat of endangered or threatened species at the site or adjacent properties for the duration of the permit.

Water use consistent with the aforementioned supplemental irrigation models and industry standards is economic and efficient. The permittee implements the following water conservation measures for the recreational use: checking daily for irrigation leaks and repairing them as needed, eliminating over-seeding on the fairways, hand-watering heavy use areas, and receiving recommendations from an irrigation consultant.