

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Katelyn Potter, Director, Division of Outreach and Operations

THRU: Hugh Thomas, Executive Director

DATE: March 28, 2025

RE: Resolution 2025-04, Conveyance of District-Owned Newberry Wellfield to City of Newberry

RECOMMENDATION

Approve Resolution 2025-04, conveying the Newberry Wellfield Tract owned by the District the City of Newberry.

BACKGROUND

The District purchased approximately 99.22 +/- acres in Alachua County for the purpose of providing a location for a potable water supply for the City of Newberry, known as the Newberry Wellfield. The purchase was made through the District's Local Government Assistance Program.

In December 2003, a portion of the Newberry Wellfield Tract, 38.56 +/- acres, was conveyed to the City of Newberry with the District retaining a conservation easement. That property is used by the county as part of the Easton Sports Complex.

In 2018, the City of Newberry requested that the District convey the remaining 60.66 +/- acres to assume control of the wellfield and provide additional passive recreation opportunities to their community. On March 09, 2021, the Lands Committee approved the conveyance and authorized staff to establish terms with the City of Newberry on the future use of the property. On April 13, 2021, the Governing Board surplused the property to the needs of the District and approved the conveyance.

The District has finalized the terms of the easement with the City of Newberry, which allows for additional potable wells to supply the City's water supply, continued passive recreation such as archery and laser tag, as well as the addition of four flat fields and lights. The flat fields were included in the City's original proposal to the Lands Committee and Governing Board in 2021. Permanent structures and any utilities not associated with the lights are prohibited.

The conveyance includes a conservation easement and clause that ownership will revert to the District should the land use become inconsistent with the easement terms.

The City has a baseline documentation report as required by the easement. The conveyance is consistent with 373.056, Florida Statutes, which authorizes transfers of District land to other public agencies where it is found to be in the public interest.

A map of the property to be conveyed is attached.

KCP/ao
Attachments