RESOLUTION NO. 2026-03-25

A RESOLUTION OF THE MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IN MADISON, FLORIDA, OPPOSING THE WATER FIRST NORTH FLORIDA (WFNF) PIPELINE PROJECT AS CURRENTLY PROPOSED; REQUESTING AN IMMEDIATE MORATORIUM PENDING INDEPENDENT STUDY; AND DIRECTING TRANSMITTAL TO STATE OFFICIALS

WHEREAS, the St. Johns River Water Management District and the Suwannee River Water Management District approved elements of the Water First North Florida (WFNF) project in November 2025, which includes a proposed approximately 90-mile pipeline to transport highly treated reclaimed water from facilities in the Jacksonville metropolitan area to wetlands within the Suwannee River Basin for purposes of aquifer recharge; and

WHEREAS, the project is estimated to cost between $1.0 and $1.1 billion, including approximately $400 million in funding from JEA, and proposes to recharge the Floridan Aquifer with more than 40 million gallons per day; and

WHEREAS, the Floridan Aquifer supplies drinking water, agricultural irrigation, and ecological baseflow to springs and rivers throughout the Suwannee River Basin; and

WHEREAS, Madison County has not been provided with comprehensive, independent environmental, hydrogeologic, public health, or economic impact studies evaluating long-term effects of the proposed discharge on groundwater quality, spring systems, wetlands, private wells, property values, tourism, or agricultural production; and

WHEREAS, Madison County has not been provided with comprehensive evidence that water piped or injected into the aquifer will meet the 0.35 mg/L numeric nutrient criterion; and

WHEREAS, concerns have been raised by residents, landowners, and regional stakeholders, including the WWALS Watershed Coalition and the Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force, regarding potential accumulation of nutrients, emerging contaminants such as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), pharmaceuticals, and other constituents of concern in recharge areas; and