

**RESOLUTION NO. R-03-278**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING IT'S SUPPORT FOR THE CONTINUED INCLUSION OF A LOCAL SOURCES FIRST POLICY IN CHAPTER 373 F.S. AND IT'S OPPOSITION TO ANY AMENDMENT TO FLORIDA'S WATER RESOURCES POLICY WHICH ALLOWS, ENCOURAGES OR PROMOTES WATER TRANSFERS.**

**WHEREAS**, Florida's water resources are a natural resource and not a commodity to be sold or transferred to the highest bidder; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County have been staunch supporters of a State local sources first policy within Florida's Statutes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County believe the continued retention of the local sources first policy is integral to protecting Florida's water resources, advancing long-term sustainable water resource development and supply systems, and preserving the rights and opportunities of local residents to secure and sustain their future prosperity and quality of life through the use and enjoyment of local water resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County unanimously agrees with the Florida Association of Counties' support of the

fundamental principles of Florida water law which requires a showing that a proposed use of water is a reasonable, beneficial use, will not interfere with existing legal use of water, and is consistent with the public interest; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County supports the Florida Association of Counties' opposition to legislation that shifts water supply allocation from a publicly regulated process to a market driven process; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County has recently seen recommendations of the Florida Council of 100 that request repeal or modification to Chapter 373 F.S. to eliminate the local-sources-first language; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County wish to go on record early and unequivocally that such a proposal is ill considered and will put Florida's surface waters and aquifers at risk of irreparable damage for irresponsible short-term gain by limited special interest groups; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County believe that any discussion of regional water transfer is premature until Minimum Flows and Levels have been established for all of Florida's water resources.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, that the Board of County Commissioners actively oppose any modification to Chapter 373 F.S. as it relates to the current local sources first policy and

The Board of County Commissioners encourages all local government and elected officials to voice their opposition to their state elected officials and

1. Resolution shall be signed by the Chairman of the Board, and attested by the Clerk of the Board.
2. The Clerk of the Board is hereby directed to forward copies of the Resolution to: the Manatee County Legislative Delegation; the Speaker of the House; President of the Senate; the Governor of the State of Florida; the County Commission of each of Florida's counties; the Peace River Manasota Water Supply Authority; the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council and each of its members; the Florida League of Cities; and the Florida Association of Counties.

Adopted with a full quorum present and voting this 28<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2003.

ATTEST:

By:   
R.B. CHIPS SHORE, CLERK



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY:

  
JONATHAN R. BRUCE, CHAIRMAN