

DRAFT LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION
SUPPORTING PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION
TO DETERMINE THE STATE OF FLORIDA WATER INFRASTRUCTURE
FUNDING NEEDS AND POTENTIAL SOURCES OF REVENUE
TO ADDRESS THE SAME.

WHEREAS, water is Florida's most important resource, responsible for the natural environments that define our state identity and sustain our quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the state's water infrastructure systems are significant assets that protect public health and the state's water resources and are integral to the economic vitality and growth of the state; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, as a result of visionary leadership in the Florida Legislature and concerted efforts of allied groups, the Legislature passed, and the Governor signed, SB 444, which provided a dedicated revenue source for water protection and sustainability; and

WHEREAS, despite the significant funding called for in this landmark piece of legislation, due to unforeseen economic downturn in 2007 and 2008 the funding for this program was largely eliminated, and

WHEREAS, as the State's economic recovery has resulted in the State budget increasing by over \$25.55 billion dollars over the past 15 years; and

WHEREAS, over the same 15 years the average state investment, as a percentage of the total state budget for water infrastructure including: urban, natural and agricultural water supply, wastewater management, flood control, water quality protection and natural system restoration had averaged 0.63%; and

WHEREAS, over the same period of time the average state investment, as a percentage of the total state budget, for transportation infrastructure has averaged 11%; and

WHEREAS, the unprecedented events of 2018 and 2019 led Governor Desantis to take bold first step towards addressing state's water resource protection and development needs; and

WHEREAS, the protection and restoration of our aquifers and other natural water bodies is a shared priority of federal, state, regional and local governments; and

WHEREAS, municipal and county utilities face anticipated expenditures to repair and replace aging infrastructure, comply with new Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water Act mandates, as well as new responsibilities and costs relating to water security, source water protection or additional needs for re-use of treated effluent; and

WHEREAS, municipal and county resources dedicated to water infrastructure are being increasingly directed to compliance with new and ever more complex mandates such as numeric nutrient criteria and additional testing requirements, and therefore are unavailable for critical maintenance, repair, and rehabilitation needs without substantial increases in local water, wastewater, and sewer fees; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a new state water infrastructure funding program would not only help to protect and restore our springs, wetlands and other natural waterways but also provide much-needed assistance to local governments, and significantly stimulate a sector of the state economy which supports and provides jobs and services associated with the financing, design and construction of water infrastructure projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT (insert local government name) **URGES THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ENACT LEGISLATION WHICH REQUIRES:**

1. The assessment of, and reports on, the state of Florida's water resources infrastructure;
2. The identification the funds necessary to: protect and enhance Florida's water resources, address water resource and water supply development, provide adequate flood protection, address wastewater management, and provide water quality protection and development, including the treatment of impaired waters and the restoration of natural water bodies; and
3. The identification and evaluation of funding alternatives currently available to the State, as well as, other financing mechanisms or models being used by other states and foreign governments to address short and long-term water infrastructure needs.

DULY ADOPTED by _____ this ____ of ____
2019.