

OUR SANTA FE RIVER, INC. FILES LEGAL CHALLENGE AGAINST SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

August 26, 2020



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Fort White, Florida August 26, 2020

Our Santa Fe River, Inc. (OSFR,) along with President Michael

Roth and board member Merrillee Malwitz-Jipson, filed with the Division of Administrative Hearings as third party petitioners, to challenge the Suwannee River Water Management District (the District) on the Seven Springs Water Company application to renew their water withdrawal permit from Ginnie Springs, on the Santa Fe River.

Though supportive of the District staff's denial recommendation on administrative grounds, OSFR seeks a denial of the permit by the water district because they allege that Seven Springs does not meet, on several counts, the criteria required by Florida Statutes to obtain a Consumptive Use Permit.

"There are issues of damage to the resource and public interest that the staff failed to address" said Mike Roth, President of Our Santa Fe River. "We firmly believe for this permit and for future permits that they should be a part of the record."

Seven Springs currently holds a permit to extract water which they sell to Nestle Waters North America for bottling at their plant located near Ginnie Springs. Even though the permit formally expired in June, 2019, pumping has been allowed to continue while the renewal application is considered.

At this time the Administrative Law Judge has not set a date for the hearing.

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