

*To the good people of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection,*

This note is in reference to: Comment on Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers (LSFIR) and Priority Springs Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs)

I would like to start by introducing myself. My name is Steven Kent Doggett. I am a licensed driller/pump installer in the state of Florida. License #7341. I have lived all over the US and always been in the water management and supply business. I now live out of state but keep my Florida license up as the critical people that not only provide but also manage water are the heartbeat of the world. Today I am Chief Global Business Development Manager for Groundwater with Grundfos. We take huge pride and spend millions of dollars a year helping people solving water crisis problems globally. We are privately owned by a foundation that is built on helping people solve water problems. Just a quick summary 😊

I personally give you credit for wanting to be proactive as that is how we will make sure there is water in the future. In that same sense I personally have seen many proven fact-based solutions to reduce water consumption which would be great to put in place before considering stopping the use for residential irrigation wells. Making and enforcing rules for not only modern but proper irrigation types based on soil types, rainfall, storm surges, climate change and etc are a huge benefit. Having the most efficient irrigation types to date and water only on days based on the items we just discussed is a huge step to conserving water for the future while still having trees, shrubs and grasses that we need. Another common inexpensive item is to require the use low flow fixtures. Many places use the push button faucets which turn off quickly. Aquifer monitoring and limiting the flow based on requirement of the soil, drawdown of water and etc is another real big step. In my history of traveling the world and seeing issues I can say that nothing beats historical data from remote management where you can see the live changes in water over years.

Proven long term solutions based on historical factual data are your answer if you want to be the leader in modeling for water conservation. Plus knowing that climate change is real as you see the last hurricanes and what they do to surface water which in turn effects your ground water. This is why years of data running 24/7 is the only way to model the changing water cycles. An option may be to start requiring the monitoring of the residential, municipal and agriculture aquifers along with surface water in key areas to build long term models. Then adjust water use regulations based on the findings. Moving the water source from small wells spread out over hundreds of miles that cause very little drawdown to big wells that now pull more water from towns and cities is not a long term solution as larger wells pumping more from one area in turn cause a larger cone of depression vs small wells.

To close I would like to stress the enormous negative economic impact and dwindle down effect on people of the communities that will happen when business start closing. I would love to propose that the good people at DEP with good intentions look at proven solutions that really do conserve water for years to come vs cutting off private irrigation wells. Those same licensed well drillers and pump installers are the true water management experts and know more about what goes on with water in their own areas than most people ever will.

*“When Covid came and engulfed the world and people were not allowed to go to work or in some areas were not allowed to even leave their homes, there were some businesses that were deemed critical in order for everyone around the world to survive. These same people that may be having to close their businesses or at the least lay people off and taking away family’s incomes are the same exact people that were deemed globally as critical & Essential workers. The entire supply chains ran, factories ran, shipping ran, and etc all to keep these Essential workers working to keep all of our water running globally while we went through this terrible pandemic”.*

*Thank you for your time,*

*Steven Kent Doggett (Florida License #7341)*

*Cell: 512-348-0976*

*Chief Global Business Development Manager Groundwater*