

October 31, 2023

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Office of Water Policy and Ecosystems Restoration
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Dear Office of Water Policy and Ecosystems Restoration,

I am writing in response to the draft Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers and Priority Springs (LSFIR) regulatory strategy concerning [private residential irrigation wells](#).

Grundfos is a global pump manufacturer and a major producer of submersible water well pumps and accessories for residential, municipal, and industrial use. Our longstanding core values include a commitment to both environmental sustainability and the people and businesses in the communities we serve. We very much appreciate sensitive and complex nature of a situation such as this, and the importance of long-term planning from both conservation and economic perspectives.

While we strongly support efforts and measures to ensure that the environment is protected, it is also important to consider when policies place an unreasonable burden on small, local companies. We would hope that the FDE further consider strategies that reduce negative impacts to small business and local communities. There are 52 licensed well-water contractors listed for the [Suwanne River District](#), a number we estimate could grow to nearly 100 well-water contractor businesses when considering the full area impacted in the LSFIR proposal. A ban such as the one recommended for new irrigation wells would significantly impact these businesses and their employees.

We request that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection explore strategies such as aquifer recharge programs like [water banking](#), which, in addition to other alternatives including private well withdrawal monitoring (in combination with municipal and industrial reduction measures), could potentially be used to help restore water levels and ensure proper usage.

We hope a solution can be found to both improve and safeguard LSFIR water levels while also ensuring that the local businesses which have served the state water industry for decades can remain viable.

Sincerely,

Ansell Sims
Country President
Grundfos Americas Corporation