

## **Southeastern Yearly Meeting**

Quakers in Florida, southeast Georgia, and coastal South Carolina

P. O. Box 1062

St. Petersburg, FL 33731-1062

January 18, 2020

Mr. Warren Zwanka, Director  
Resource Management Division  
Suwannee River Water Management District  
9225 CR 49  
Live Oak, FL 32060

Re: Seven Springs Water Company  
Permit Application Number 218202-3

Dear Mr. Zwanka,

Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met on January 18, 2020. Our membership has expressed concerns and objections about this project. Our Earthcare Committee members have reviewed the District file for this application and found both environmental concerns with the project as well as encouragement with the steps that Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) has taken to protect a valuable resource.

Friends unite in objection to the issuance of this permit application that will increase actual water use from wells adjacent to Ginnie Springs. We specifically object to the potential for reduction of spring flows and impacts to local wetlands and the animal species dependent on local water levels and flows. We also object to the expanded manufacture of single use plastic bottles, which depending on the format selected, may approach 8 million single use plastic bottles being produced daily at this one plant. We understand that the manufacture of single use plastic bottles is not a matter regulated by the State's Water Management Districts and will address this concern with our legislators.

Our objection stated, we were encouraged by the SRWMD letter of November 25, 2019 in which the agency requests more complete hydrologic testing and modeling, as well as an expanded ecological study of the spring system and potential impacts to its flora and fauna. We have now reviewed the applicant's response as received by SRWMD on January 14, 2020. We are discouraged by this response and find it to include virtually no new data and to be merely a more elaborate restatement of the professional conjecture offered to your agency in their November 1, 2019 report.

In that all the questions of your November 25 letter have been addressed, though largely by providing little if any new information, it seems appropriate to deem this application complete and to determine that it contains insufficient information to demonstrate that the proposed withdrawal meets the criteria for permit issuance. We understand that the applicant's invocation of section 120.60(1) F.S. leaves SRWMD no alternative but to act on this application in some manner. We therefore request that you place this permit application on a timely Governing Board agenda for denial.

Thank you for your efforts to protect Florida's water resources,



William Carlie, clerk

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