

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 93-18

A RESOLUTION BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT OPPOSING CONSTRUCTION OF EXPLORATORY OIL WELLS IN, ADJACENT TO, OR UNDER ANY EVERGLADES WATER CONSERVATION AREAS.

WHEREAS, Over the past few months the issue of oil exploration in and around the water conservation areas has been discussed and the SFWMD has presented formal written comments to the Bureau of Land Management on this issue; and

WHEREAS, The Governing Board is against the use of the District's property for any access or transportation facilities that may be required for this use; and

WHEREAS, The exploratory well and any subsequent production wells will pierce aquifers in the region which include the surficial aquifer system (consisting of the water table and lower tamiami aquifers which contain fresh and brackish quality water used for drinking and irrigation purposes); at greater depths, the well will penetrate the producing zones of the upper and middle Floridan aquifer system (these zones contain brackish water used for reverse osmosis and ASR production purposes); the well, if constructed will pierce the lower Floridan which is used extensively for disposal of waste waters in south Florida; and

WHEREAS, The Governing Board is concerned about the protection against oil-related contamination of South Florida's water resources; and

WHEREAS, The Governing Board is concerned for the protection of fish, wildlife, and their habitat; and

WHEREAS, The Governing Board is concerned about the potential interruption of sheetflow to the Everglades National Park if contamination occurs; and

WHEREAS, The Governing Board is concerned that this use will be in conflict with the Everglades restoration efforts and the significant public and private investments toward Everglades Restoration; and

WHEREAS, The Governing Board is concerned that an improperly abandoned exploratory well could impact the water resources through vertical contamination between aquifers; and

WHEREAS, The Governing Board has an overall concern for the environmental and public health threats posed by oil wells existing in this unique and vitally important area of Florida.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Board of the SFWMD:

Opposes construction of exploratory oil wells in, adjacent to and/or under any of the water conservation areas because of the Board's concern for protection of the Everglades ecosystem, the aquifers, water supply sources, and the environment, and the Board's commitment to prevent secondary impacts associated with any production wells.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 13th day of May, A.D., 1993.



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT BY ITS GOVERNING BOARD

By: [Signature]
Chairman

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

By: [Signature]
Secretary

[Signature]
Office of Counsel