



St. Johns County Civic Roundtable

October 26, 2020

Dear St. Johns River Water Management District Board Members,

The St. Johns County Civic Roundtable adopted the following resolution on October 12, 2020 in opposition to permit #10002-12.

The St. Johns County Civic Roundtable strongly urges the St. Johns River Water Management District to deny environmental permit application #10002-12 which would cause undue water pollution from an Express Car Wash to the Matanzas River, one of the last remaining healthy river basins in Florida.

The Civic Roundtable is a board network of committed citizens, civic, neighborhood, community and homeowners associations who want to preserve and improve the quality of life in St. Johns County.

This permit application before the St. Johns River Water Management District is not a typical application for the following reasons:

- The easement for stormwater drainage runs through state owned land which was purchased to preserve its rich environmental, archeological and historic significance to the State of Florida.
- Car wash contaminants from run-offs or leaks are some of the most hazardous to water and marine life.
- The pristine Matanzas River is one of the last healthy river systems left in all of Florida to risk it with dangerous pollutants.
- Fishing, calm farming and ecotourism are just some of the economic success stories generated by the clean Matanzas River — not a 26-bay express car wash.
- Before the state's newest conservation park has even been open to citizens, you are being asked to permit a totally incompatible car wash at the park's sole entrance.

- Constructing a large drainage pipeline for a large car wash on sensitive conservation lands will harm trees, wildlife and unknown archaeological remains, not to mention the disruption or even closure of the park to the general public.
- A grassroots effort by thousands of St. Johns County residents saved Fish Island from development and the state purchased the property for \$6.5 million with taxpayer funds last year.
- Over 4000 citizens have signed a petition in opposition to the proposed Gate Express Car Wash adjacent to the Fish Island Reserve and the Matanzas River.
- Fish Island is no ordinary piece of property. It has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1972 and in 2019 listed by the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation as one of the Florida's eleven most threatened historic properties.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim McLane
President

Roundtable Officers

President - Jim McLane
Vice-President/Treasurer - Lisa McGlynn
Secretary - Maureen Long
Member at Large - Robert Olson