

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-01

RESOLUTION OF THE PALM BEACH COUNTY WATER RESOURCES TASK FORCE ON LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION

WHEREAS, the Palm Beach County Water Resources Task Force (Task Force) was created to identify and evaluate opportunities and impediments to providing future water supply, conservation, wastewater treatment, and reuse or reclaimed water opportunities that are most efficient and cost effective; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Task Force is to work collaboratively to identify and evaluate potential regional and sub-regional water supply strategies and solutions of appropriate water quality to meet countywide future water resources needs and water conservation goals; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, Palm Beach County adopted Ordinance Number 85-11 (as amended in 2001 by Ordinance Number 2001-008), providing for local implementation of the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Water Shortage Plan and to protect the water resources of Palm Beach County from the harmful effects of overutilization during periods of water shortage; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, Palm Beach County adopted Ordinance Number 91-52, known as the Palm Beach County Water and Irrigation Conservation Ordinance (which was thereafter repealed and replaced in its entirety in 1993 by Ordinance Number 93-3), a countywide ordinance imposing permanent restrictions on landscape irrigation and establishing a regulatory framework and guidance document to help ensure consistent water and landscape irrigation conservation throughout Palm Beach County; and

WHEREAS, the SFWMD authorizes the consumptive use of water for landscape irrigation by rule and through individual and public water supply permits; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 50 percent or more of potable water used is for landscape irrigation and considerable water savings can be achieved by implementing water conservation ordinances and educating residents through consistent public outreach; and

WHEREAS, the SFWMD has committed to assist Palm Beach County and other municipalities in adopting and implementing mandatory year-round landscape irrigation conservation measures, as well as partnering with local governments to implement water conservation public education and outreach; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the SFWMD adopted a Mandatory Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Conservation Measures Rule (Chapter 40E-24, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.); Landscape Irrigation Rule) which calls for year-round mandatory landscape irrigation restrictions, separate and independent from water shortage declarations, in accordance with Chapter 40E-21, F.A.C., and is intended to ensure the long-term sustainability of the water resources of the region, increase water use efficiency, and prevent and curtail wasteful water use practices through landscape irrigation restrictions by all users; and

WHEREAS, the SFWMD Landscape Irrigation Rule: 1) applies to all water users in Palm Beach County, unless otherwise specified, 2) prohibits landscape irrigation daily between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., 3) authorizes landscape irrigation two days or three days per week, 4) allows local governments to enact ordinances establishing alternative landscape irrigation conservation measures, 5) allows local governments the ability to grant variances and waivers, 6) temporarily allows irrigation up to six days per week for newly installed landscaping, 7) provides special provisions to operate irrigation systems for cleaning, maintenance, and repair purposes, and 8) requires local governments to respond to address-specific or location-specific violations of the Landscape Irrigation Rule at the SFWMD's request; and

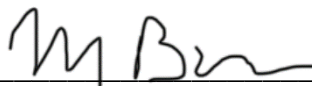
WHEREAS, the SFWMD Landscape Irrigation Rule encourages each local government to adopt an ordinance in accordance with 40E-24.201 and 40E-24.301, F.A.C. that achieves water conservation consistent with the SFWMD Landscape Irrigation Rule, including variance and enforcement procedures; and

WHEREAS, local governments in Palm Beach County currently have diverse irrigation ordinances in place, many adopted prior to the SFWMD Landscape Irrigation Rule, or none at all; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force encourages residents and local governments to do their part to promote water conservation through the implementation of efficient landscape irrigation practices.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PALM BEACH COUNTY WATER RESOURCES TASK FORCE, that the Task Force hereby encourages Palm Beach County, and all municipalities within the County, to promote water conservation through the adoption of local ordinances in accordance with the SFWMD Landscape Irrigation Rule.

Duly passed and adopted this 28th Day of January 2021



Milton (Chip) Block, Chair
Palm Beach County Water Resources Task Force