

**February 15, 2022**  
**ITEM 14.A.1**

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY**  
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

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TO: Members of the Board of County Commissioners  
DATE: February 02, 2022  
SUBJECT: Discussion to consider local water irrigation ordinance  
FROM: Peter D. O'Bryan, Chairman  
Commissioner, District 4

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**Discussion Item:** I am asking the Board to have discussion on whether Indian River County should adopt a local water irrigation ordinance

**Background:** Indian River County has had a cooperative and successful relationship with the St. John's River Water Management District (SJRWMD) in regards to cost share projects. SJRWMD has been a partner on many of the county's septic to sewer and nutrient removal projects. Recently SJRWMD issued guidance that if a local government entity wanted to be eligible for cost sharing funds, the local government entity would have to have passed a local water irrigation ordinance that has been approved by SJRWMD.

When SJRWMD first issued the Districts' water irrigation guidelines, they asked the local governments to enforce the guidelines, as SJRWMD had no enforcement capability. Previous Boards had rejected the concept of being the local enforcement arm for the District. Given that the cost share program has resulted in millions of dollars of support from SJRWMD on our water quality projects, it may be time for the Board to reconsider a local, water irrigation ordinance.

Commissioner Harold Jenkins of Martin County recently put together a committee of stakeholders to draft a local water irrigation ordinance for Martin County. The Martin County ordinance was approved by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), and this past December, was approved by Martin County.

If the Board determines it is in the best interest of Indian River County to adopt a local water irrigation ordinance, I suggest the Board direct staff to review the Martin County ordinance, make any adjustments deemed necessary, then present to the Board for review.

**Attachment:** Martin County Irrigation Ordinance No. 1173