

**MEMORANDUM**

**Date:** January 25, 2012  
**To:** Governing Board  
**Through:** Hans G. Tanzler III, Executive Director  
or  
David W. Fisk, Assistant Executive Director

Feb 1 2012 9:23 AM

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*Dave Fisk*

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**From:** Harold A. Wilkening III, P.E., Director  
Division of Water Resources

Jan 25 2012 4:46 PM

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*Alfred Canepa*

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**Subject:** Update on St. Johns River Water Supply Impact Study (WSIS)

**RECOMMENDATION**

For information only.

**BACKGROUND**

As fresh groundwater reaches sustainable limits in portions of the District, the District's Regional Water Supply Plan identified many potential alternative water supply sources, including the Ocklawaha and St. Johns Rivers. Subsequently, Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) were developed for several locations on the St. Johns. These MFLs indicated surface water withdrawals of up to 155 million gallons per day (mgd) from the St. Johns would not violate the MFLs and water suppliers began to look at potential regional surface water projects. As a result of concerns about the potential surface water withdrawals, in December 2007 District staff began a comprehensive study to look at the environmental effects of potential withdrawals.

**DISCUSSION**

The WSIS is nearing completion and will be released in February. The study considered potential effects on water quality, aquatic and wetland plants, invertebrates, fish, and wildlife. To ensure the scientific integrity of the study, the District engaged the National Research Council (NRC) to peer review the work. Following six meetings with the NRC peer review committee, the NRC prepared and distributed a final report in December 2011. The 105-page report is a thorough review of the District's WSIS and generally concludes the District did a competent job and that the strategy of the study and the way it was implemented were appropriate and adequate.