

Yankee Lake **NEWS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On Monday, April 13, the Governing Board of the St. Johns River Water Management District granted the Yankee Lake project permit to Seminole County. This affirmed both the staff recommendation and the recommendation of an independent hearing officer that evaluated challenges brought by the City of Jacksonville, St. Johns County and the Riverkeeper.

“While this has been an opportunity for the Riverkeeper to build a war chest, it’s also been an opportunity to present the facts about Seminole County’s excellent conservation program and their plan for the future,” said Ed de la Parte, water counsel for Seminole County. “For years we’ve demonstrated that this permit will not cause environmental damage and that this project is in the public interest.”

“We’re hopeful that we can put this behind us and move forward together with Jacksonville and St. Johns County,” said Joe Forte, Assistant County Manager. “We’re asking them to work with us to protect the river while the District finalizes a study on the safe maximum yield—the total amount of water the river can provide—for communities in Central Florida and downstream.”

It is possible that any of the challengers could appeal the Governing Board’s decision.