

**LEGISLATIVE #**

**120191B**

August XX, 2012

Lad Daniels, Chair  
St. Johns River Water Management District  
P.O. Box 1429  
Palatka, FL 32178-1429

Dear Chair Daniels:

On behalf of the City Commission, The City of Gainesville respectfully requests that the St. Johns River Water Management District enter into an interagency agreement with the Suwannee River Water Management District to designate the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) as the agency with the authority to declare and enforce water shortages and water shortage emergencies under section 377.175 and 373.246, F.S. and Chapter 40C-21, F.A.C. within all areas of the City of Gainesville, pursuant to Section 376.046 Florida Statutes. Delegation to the SRWMD will result in uniform implementation of water shortage and water emergency policies, as the City boundary is within two water management districts.

Despite recent rains from Tropical Storm Debby, Alachua County is experiencing low groundwater levels in the Floridan aquifer and reduced long term average flows in the Santa Fe River springs. In Gainesville and throughout most of Alachua County, the Floridan aquifer flow moves from east to the west and northwest towards the springs on the Santa Fe River. Additionally, local lakes, creeks, and wetlands within the City of Gainesville and Alachua County continue to be affected by low water levels.

Sincerely,

Craig Lowe,  
Gainesville Mayor

cc: Gainesville City Commissioners  
Hans Tanzler, SJRWMD Executive Director  
Ann Shortelle, SRWMD Executive Director  
Chris Bird, Environmental Protection Director