

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE STRENGTHENING
of Chapter 373 Florida Statutes,
THE FLORIDA WATER RESOURCES ACT.**

WHEREAS, The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. (FFGC) since organizing in 1924, has recognized the environmental, economic, and individual need to preserve and protect Florida's natural resources that are a State asset belonging to all of Florida's citizens;

WHEREAS, For many years the Federation has supported land acquisition programs for state parks, forests, reserves and preserves for the protection of water recharge areas;

WHEREAS, The FFGC has consistently supported reduction of reliance on traditional groundwater and surface waters by increasing our use of alternative sources of water including desalinization and reclaimed water;

WHEREAS, The FFGC has consistently supported Florida Friendly Landscaping and efficient use of natural resources by individuals and communities for the purposes of landscaping and maintenance of the natural landscape;

WHEREAS, Many communities across the state have already experienced environmental problems created by the taking of excessive amounts of water from our rivers, aquifers and surface waters;

WHEREAS, Education about indoor water conservation has led to technological innovations and has changed the public's behavior resulting in a decrease of indoor water use;

WHEREAS, State-wide outdoor water use has continuously shown a significant increase;

WHEREAS, The Florida Legislature enacted section 373.227, F.S. in 2004 to direct the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to develop a comprehensive statewide water conservation program for public water supply; and

WHEREAS, A full implementation of water conservation measures should include mechanisms for benchmarking water conservation practices among utility companies, reform of water permitting to strengthen requirements for water conservation as a requisite criteria, incentives maximizing collaborative relationships to enhance the effectiveness of water conservation goals, and proactive implementation of water conservation practices for areas that are not now in water cautionary status; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Delegates representing 15,000 members of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., meeting in regular session, April 2-3, 2008 in Pensacola, Florida, strongly urges the 2008 Florida Legislature and the people of Florida to support a full implementation of water conservation measures;

RESOLVED, That this Resolution be sent to Governor Charlie Crist, Secretary Michael Sole, Florida Department of Environmental Protection , Secretary Tom Pelham, Department of Community Affairs;

RESOLVED, That this Resolution be sent to Ken Pruitt, President of the Senate, and Senator Burt L. Saunders, Chairman Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee;

RESOLVED, That this Resolution be sent to Representative Marco Rubio, Speaker of the House, and Representative Stan Mayfield, Chairman House Environment & Natural Resources Council;

RESOLVED, That this Resolution be sent to the Water Management District Governing Board Chairmen; George Roberts, North West Florida , David G. Graham, St. Johns River, Louis C. Shiver, Suwannee River, Judy C. Whitehead, Southwest Florida and Eric Buermann, South Florida;

RESOLVED, That this Resolution be sent to Water Management District Executive Directors: Douglas E. Barr, North West Florida; Kirby Green, St. Johns River; David Still, Suwannee River; David Moore, South West Florida, and Carol Ann Wehle, South Florida.

Jo Ann T. Guise
FFGC Resolutions Chairman

Margaret O'Donnell
FFGC President

Janice Hamlin
FFGC Recording Secretary

Marion Hilliard
FFGC Government Agency Liaison

Pat Carver
FFGC Water and Wetlands Chairman

Date Signed