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### **SRWMD assists Lake City with reclaimed water system**

LIVE OAK, FL, March 17, 2010 – The Suwannee River Water Management District (District) is working with the City of Lake City to develop a reclaimed water program that will offset groundwater use by making reuse water available for irrigation to crop sites, residential subdivisions and other large users.

The District recently contributed \$400,000 to help fund the second phase of the project, which includes the purchase and installation of a filter and the construction of a 1.5 million gallon storage tank. A flow diversion tower, transmission piping and pump station were completed in Phase 1 of the project.

The first customer scheduled to receive service is Mike Tice of Tice Farms. By using reuse water to irrigate his farm, Tice will offset 100 percent of his groundwater use.

“Reducing groundwater pumpage is a step in the right direction in preserving our aquifer and preparing for future water supply,” said Jon Dinges, District director of water supply and resource management. “We commend the City of Lake City for implementing this project.”

Alternative water supplies, such as the use of reclaimed water, is one tool the District has identified to meet water demands over the next 20 years.

The project will also improve water quality in the Ichetucknee Springshed. An advanced wastewater treatment system will be constructed in the future to provide nutrient removal.

“This means there will be less nutrients going into the ground that reach the Ichetucknee,” Dinges said.

Dave Clanton, executive director of utilities for the City of Lake City, said the project is scheduled for completion in September. The first customer should receive the water a few months later.

Amelia Highpoint Landing, a subdivision near the farm, will be the first residential user. The system will also be available to other users in the future.

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