

# RESOLUTION

*of the*

## ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

*regarding*

### **SUPPORT FOR CONSERVING OUR WATER RESOURCES THROUGH THE USE OF INDUSTRY PROVEN SMART IRRIGATION TECHNOLOGIES; AND TO CONTINUE TO WORK TO ADVANCE THE USE OF PROVEN TECHNOLOGIES**

Resolution No. 2016-M-31

**WHEREAS**, the South Florida Water Management District, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, and the St. Johns River Water Management District (collectively the "Water Management Districts") have determined that traditional groundwater sources will not sustain growth in the Central Florida region; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Florida, the Water Management Districts, and Orange County Utilities continue to work in partnership to educate the general public and provide our residents and businesses incentives to use water in the most efficient manner; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2009 the Florida Legislature amended section 373.62, Florida Statutes, to establish a uniform process to exempt certain users of soil moisture sensors with remote monitoring and adjustment capabilities (a Smart Irrigation Technology) from day-of-the-week irrigation restrictions imposed by the rules of the Water Management Districts; and

**WHEREAS**, this change to the Florida water conservation law only applies to the use of soil moisture sensors as a Smart Irrigation Technology, and requires users of this technology to obtain a variance from the applicable Water Management District to be exempt from the day-of-the-week irrigation restrictions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Water Management Districts provide a mechanism to apply for a variance to the irrigation requirements, they do so inconsistently, at a cost in some cases, and on a case-by-case basis; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2009 the Orange County Board of County Commissioners, recognizing the potential to save significant quantities of water by encouraging residents and business to use Smart Irrigation Technologies, authorized a study to review the use

of two types of smart irrigation devices (soil moisture sensors and ET [evapotranspiration] controllers) in two types of soil environments (Sandy and Flatwoods) representative of soils found in Orange County; and

**WHEREAS**, the study showed significant water savings using both devices in both soil environments with a high degree of customer satisfaction.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ORANGE COUNTY:**

**Section 1. Declaration of Support.** The Orange County Board of County Commissioners hereby declares its strong support of conserving our water resources through the use of industry proven Smart Irrigation Technologies in Orange County.

**Section 2. Work to Advance the Use of Proven Technologies.** Orange County will continue to work with the State of Florida, the Water Management Districts and other local governments to advance the use of proven technologies that can be easily used by customers without technical and/or financial burden.

**Section 3. Effective date.** This Resolution shall take effect upon the date of its adoption.

ADOPTED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF AUG 02 2016, 2016.



ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
By: Board of County Commissioners

By: Teresa Jacobs  
Teresa Jacobs  
Orange County Mayor

ATTEST: Martha O. Haynie, County Comptroller  
As Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

By: Katell Amick  
Deputy Clerk