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 ________________, 2016.

ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
By: Board of County Commissioners

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

By: ________________
Deputy Clerk

By: ________________
Teresa Jacobs
Orange County Mayor