

## **"LOCAL SOURCES FIRST" - WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO AVERAGE PEOPLE?**

By L. C. Alexander

Simple. It means everybody, no matter where they reside, should live by a good neighbor policy. A good neighbor does not destroy other residents' property and life quality to feed their own voracity, whether it's next door or miles away.

There is just so much potable water in the entire world. The human race, for no matter what the reasons, lives everywhere in that same world, from its driest to its wettest places. In the mix, some people must get along with a whole lot less water than others. Fact of life no amount of screaming is going to change. That's Point 1.

In Florida, a great many people live along its coastlines. You've got to assume either that is due to their own proclivities, or they have been lured there via the many commercial reasons all of us know are legion. No matter, for adults it was a conscious, individual decision. Even though we now live in a world where all sorts of reasons are used to deny responsibility, in this case you'd have to be unbelievably dense to argue otherwise. That's Point 2.

Coastal Florida owns the least potable water resources compared to any others, yet they are presently using a lion's share of further supplies from inland. And, due to their superior voter numbers, state law currently says that they have a right to demand even more - no matter whether their demand destroys the surroundings where they secure it. Lakes, rivers, wetlands, underground aquifer, you name it.

This is already happening around every major inland well-field feeding the coast, far worse in some than in others. Billions of dollars in environmental and economic damages are the results. Average people, just like you and me, are being ruined by the thousands. Still, greedy coastal development forces push ever harder toward their Almighty Buck in coastal areas whose quality of life proclaims they're already far overbuilt, to Hell with anyone's environment.

The scary part is that even with a reduction in well-field pumping brought on by lawsuits, the damage is increasing with time, not decreasing as was planned. Have we already pushed nature over the environmental brink predicted by some authorities, already on our way to total collapse of the only drinking water source we have? Are we so stupid that we'll continue beyond the point of no return? That's Point 3.

Local Sources First is probably the only answer to that question. One of its provisions is that coastal areas must develop potable supplies from the almost inexhaustible supply they border, saltwater. Why do supposedly intelligent

officials there refuse to adopt such a course? The few cents more per gallon involved in the changeover, they claim it can't be afforded.

That must be answered by a far more important question. Can all Florida afford its alternative, coastal business as usual? Point 4 answers itself --NO,no!

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