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**ORIGINAL**

June 21, 2000

Ms. Blanca S. Bayo, Director  
Division of Records and Reporting  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Betty Easley Conference Center, Room 110  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

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RECORDS AND REPORTING

Re: Docket No. 970409-SU

Dear Ms. Bayo:

Enclosed herewith for filing of behalf of Florida Water Services Corporation ("Florida Water") are the original and fifteen copies of Florida Water's Joint Motion for Abatement and Continuance.

Please acknowledge receipt of these documents by stamping the extra copy of this letter "filed" and returning the copy to me.

Sincerely,



Kenneth A. Hoffman

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FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION **ORIGINAL**

In re: Initiation of limited proceeding )  
to restructure wastewater rates for )  
Florida Water Service Corporation's )  
Tropical Isles service area in St. Lucie )  
County. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

Docket No. 970409-SU

Filed: June 21, 2000

**JOINT MOTION FOR ABATEMENT AND CONTINUANCE**

Florida Water Services Corporation ("Florida Water") and the Office of Public Counsel ("OPC"), by and through their respective undersigned counsel, hereby move for an abatement and continuance of this proceeding, and as grounds therefor state as follows:

1. This docket was opened to investigate the possibility of implementing a rate structure other than the flat monthly rate currently charged by Florida Water and to determine whether it was feasible to restructure Florida Water's wastewater rates for the Tropical Isles service area.

2. Pursuant to Proposed Agency Action Order No. PSC-00-0526-PAA-SU ("PAA Order") issued March 13, 2000, the Commission proposed a base facility gallonage charge rate structure and declined to change the revenue requirement for the Tropical Isles customers.

3. Following the issuance of the PAA Order, protests were filed by a Tropical Isles customer protesting the Commission's decision to change from a flat rate to a base facility and gallonage charge rate structure and raising revenue requirements related issues.

4. Subsequently, on June 12, 2000, the Commission issued Order No. PSC-00-2034-PCO-SU ("Order Establishing Procedure") providing controlling dates for the filing of testimony, prehearing statements, the prehearing conference, the final hearing and posthearing briefs. Under the Order Establishing Procedure, Florida Water's prefiled direct testimony and exhibits are due

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August 1, 2000 with OPC's direct testimony and exhibits due September 4, 2000. The final hearing is scheduled for January 10-11, 2001.

5. Representatives of the Tropical Isles customers, together with OPC, have been working with *representatives* of Florida Water over the course of last several months to reach an agreement on the sale of Florida Water's facilities to an exempt entity comprised/of controlled by the Tropical Isles customers. Florida Water and OPC are reasonably confident that the purchase and sale of Florida Water's facilities will be consummated in the near future.

6. For these reasons, Florida Water and OPC maintain that the time and resources of the parties, the Commission staff and the Commission would be appropriately and prudently conserved by an abatement and continuance of this proceeding pending the disposition and closure of the sale of the Tropical Isles facilities. Florida Water and OPC request that all current controlling dates reflected in the Order Establishing Procedure issued June 12, 2000 be cancelled and subject to possible reestablishment following the filing of a Joint Report by Florida Water and OPC on or before July 31, 2000 regarding the status of the sale.

WHEEFORE, for the foregoing reasons, Florida Water and OPC request that the Prehearing Officer enter an Order:

- A. Granting an abatement and continuance of this proceeding;
- B. Cancelling the controlling dates, including the final hearing dates, reflected in the Order Establishing Procedure issued June 12, 2000 (Order No. PSC-00-2034-PCO-SU); and

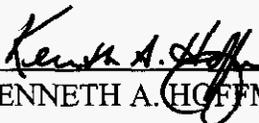
**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing Joint Motion for Abatement and Continuance was furnished by U.S. Mail to the following this 21 day of June, 2000:

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Office of Public Counsel  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
KENNETH A. HOFFMAN, ESQ.

Tropical.abate