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August 28, 2001

Ms. Blanca S. Bayo, Director
Division of Records and Reporting
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Betty Easley Conference Center, Room 110
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COMMISSION
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Re: Docket No. 970409-SU

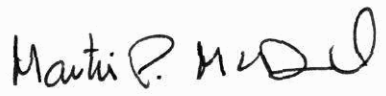
Dear Ms. Bayo:

Enclosed herewith for filing in the above-referenced docket on behalf of Florida Water Services, Inc. ("Florida Water") and the Office of Public Counsel ("OPC") are the original and fifteen copies of Florida Water's and OPC's Third 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.

Thank you for your assistance with this filing.

Sincerely,



Martin P. McDonnell

- APP _____
 - CAF _____
 - CMP _____
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 - OPC _____
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BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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: August 28, 2001

THIRD 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 wastewater rate structure other than the flat monthly rate historically 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. 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. The Order Establishing Procedure was amended on July 3, 2000 in Order No. PSC-00-1197-PCO-SU and again on November 8, 2000 in Order No. PSC-00-2135-PCO-SU wherein the Commission granted Joint Motions for Abatement and Continuance as the parties anticipated that Florida Water would soon sell the Tropical Isles wastewater facilities to the Tropical Isles customers who would form an entity exempt from Commission jurisdiction under Section 367.022, Florida Statutes. Pursuant to the current Case Assignment and Scheduling Record ("CASR"), Florida Water's prefiled direct

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testimony and exhibits are due on September 3, 2001 with the Office of Public Counsel's ("OPC") prefiled testimony and exhibits due October 1, 2001. The final hearing is scheduled for January 16, 2002.

3. On July 16, 2001, Florida Water closed on the sale of the Tropical Isles wastewater facilities, subject to Commission approval, to an exempt entity comprised of and controlled by the Tropical Isles customers.

4. Florida Water has commenced preparation of its application to the Commission for the sale, assignment or transfer of the facilities and for a deletion of the attendant wastewater certificate, and is working diligently toward the filing of the application with the Commission.

5. For these reasons, Florida Water and OPC maintain that the time and resources of the parties, the Commission staff and the Commission will be appropriately and prudently conserved by an abatement and continuance of this proceeding pending the Commission's approval of the purchase and sale of the Tropical Isles wastewater system. Florida Water and OPC request that all controlling dates reflected in the current CASR be cancelled and held in abatement subject to the Commission's approval of Florida Water's anticipated application concerning the sale of the Tropical Isles land and wastewater facilities and cancellation of Florida Water's certificate for the Tropical Isles service area in St. Lucie County.

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

1. Granting an abatement and continuance of this proceeding;
2. Cancelling the controlling dates including the final hearing dates, reflected in the current CASR and that such controlling dates be held in abeyance subject to the Commission's

approval of Florida Water's anticipated application for approval of the sale of the Tropical Isles land and facilities and cancellation of Florida Water's wastewater certificate for the Tropical Isles service area in St. Lucie County.

Respectfully submitted,



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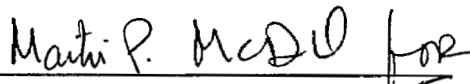
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing Joint Motion for Abatement and Continuance was furnished by hand delivery and U.S. Mail(*) to the following this 28th day of August, 2001:

Robert Vandiver, Esq. (by hand delivery)
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Office of Public Counsel
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Clarke Schaaf, Vice President (by U. S. Mail)
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