

DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION 2026-_____

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 BULK WATER RATE CALCULATION STUDY PREPARED BY STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES, INC.; AUTHORIZING USE OF THE STUDY IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEVELOPMENT AND FUTURE ADOPTION OF BULK WATER RATES AND RELATED BULK UTILITY SUPPLY AGREEMENTS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, DeSoto County (the "County") owns and operates a water supply system and wastewater utility system for the benefit of its residents and customers; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 12, Article II of the DeSoto County Code of Ordinances, the Board of County Commissioners (the "Board") is authorized to establish, revise, and adopt utility rates and charges by resolution, including bulk utility rates for wholesale utility service provided to qualifying bulk customers; and

WHEREAS, Section 12-19(l) of the County Code of Ordinances authorizes the Board, from time to time, to determine that it is in the public interest to provide a bulk rate for utility service to a franchisee, utility regulated by the State Public Service Commission, or other governmental entity, provided that any such bulk rate shall not be below the County's cost to produce or obtain the utility service being requested; and

WHEREAS, on or about March 31, 2025, the County authorized Task Order No. 7 under Purchase Order No. 25-87115 with Stantec Consulting Services Inc. for the purpose of developing a cost model to determine the County's cost of providing wholesale/bulk water service and to develop a bulk water rate analysis for DeSoto County Utilities; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with said Task Order, Stantec Consulting Services Inc. completed and submitted its Fiscal Year 2026 Bulk Water Rate Calculation Study, dated March 24, 2026 (the "Study"), for purposes of establishing a cost-based bulk water rate; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed the Study and finds that acceptance of the Study is necessary and appropriate to establish a factual and financial basis for future adoption and implementation of bulk water rates under the County's Code and any future bulk utility supply agreements; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that acceptance of the Study is in the best interests of the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of DeSoto County and supports the fiscal integrity and long-term planning of the County's utility system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. That the foregoing "WHEREAS" clauses are ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby incorporated by reference as part of this resolution.

Section 2. The Board of County Commissioners hereby accepts the Fiscal Year 2026 Bulk Water Rate Calculation Study prepared by Stantec Consulting Services Inc., dated March 24, 2026, and authorizes County staff to utilize the findings and methodologies contained therein as the basis for the development, and future adoption by resolution of bulk water rates and related bulk utility supply agreements, as may be determined by the Board in accordance with Chapter 12 of the DeSoto County Code of Ordinances.

Section 3. That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 12th day of May 2026.

ATTEST:

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: _____
Mandy Hines
County Administrator

By: _____
Steve Hickox
Chairman

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:

By: _____
Valerie Vicente,
County Attorney