

LET'S HAVE AN HONEST DISCUSSION ABOUT WATER SUPPLIES

What is REALLY going on? Tampa Bay Water has built 2 major water supply facilities to the tune of hundred of millions of our tax dollars in the last 6 years, and neither project is working according to its design. Folks, we have two lemons on our hands!

- Never mind that the desal plant was built in the wrong place.
- Never mind the \$110 million desal plant will actually cost us at least at \$150 million (and trust me more is coming). The question is why are we paying another \$40 million to “fix” the plant so it can produce the 25 million gallons per day (mgd) when TBW is trying to lower that requirement to 15 mgd through new legal action against Southwest Florida Water Management District?
- Never mind the surface water treatment plant costs \$100's million and it doesn't work either.
- Never mind that Tampa Bay Water is also spending millions of dollars to fix the surface water treatment plant. It's supposed to produce 66 mgd, but is only able to produce 50 mgd.

The bottom line is that we do mind that promises were made by Tampa Bay Water and we trusted them. Based on those promises, we supplied the taxes to build the alternative water supplies. Now we are hearing nothing but back-pedaling. Our future relies on an honest discussion about these alternative water supplies. Growth in this region is at a break-neck speed, and water is a critical component of survival. If TBW can't produce what they have promised, we need to have that discussion so we can adequately prepare. Otherwise, our recourse will be back to increasing groundwater pumping.

This is about being honest with the public and elected officials that trusted Tampa Bay Water to provide these alternative water sources *at the levels the taxpayers were promised*. This is about two “lemons” that will not be able to deliver the water promised by Tampa Bay Water. This is about public trust.

Let's call a spade a spade and begin talking about what we are going to do about this – not dissecting the Partnership Agreement and eroding the public trust any further. It is time we had an HONEST discussion on this issue – not the smoke and mirrors we are being presented.

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