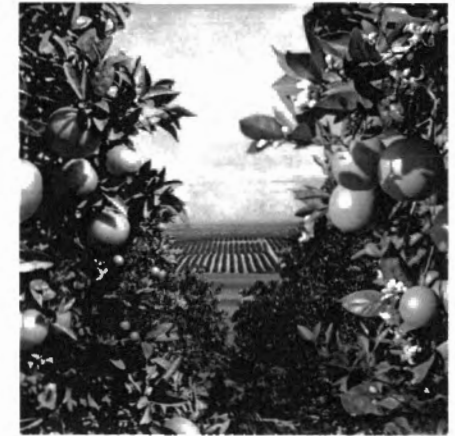




GROWERS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Who We Are



- **33 Central Florida Citrus Growers Representing 2,400+ Acres of Active Citrus**
- **Responsible for 222 Orange County Jobs**
- **\$23.67 Million Economic Impact to Orange County**
- **Large Part of Agricultural Base Remaining in Orange County**
- **Small User of County Services (\$.20 used per \$1 paid of property tax)**
- **The Industry that Partnered With Orange County and City Of Orlando To Remedy their EPA & FDEP Problems, Allowing for Central Florida's Growth since 1982**



BACKGROUND



- Pre-1980 – Orange County was Improperly Disposing of Sewage Water Into Shingle Creek and Other Environmentally Sensitive Waters
- May 24, 1980 – Orange County Notified by Florida Dept of Environmental Regulation (FDER) of a “No-discharge” Requirement to Shingle Creek
- Orange County had Contracts to Uphold & Faced \$\$\$ for More Disposal Sites

Orange County Needed a Solution or Risked Grinding the Economy to a Halt

The Solution – Conserve II

- First in the Nation, Cutting-Edge Project
- Treated Wastewater Would be Used for Irrigation
- The County and City Looked to the Citrus Growers to be First Users



BACKGROUND
(Continued)

- Central Florida Citrus Growers Would Use Wastewater to Irrigate their Groves
- 1982 – Wastewater Viability Unknown

Inducement:

Free Water as Long as they Wanted It and Their Land Remained In Citrus

- 1983 – First Conserv II/Grower Agreements Signed
- Growers Installed Irrigation Systems to Receive the Reclaim Water From Conserv II at a Cost of \$1000/Acre
- Water Flow Started in 1987

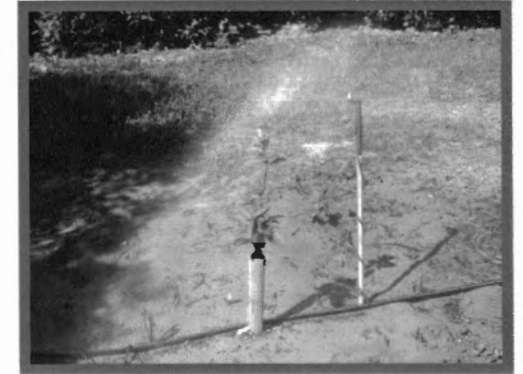


CONSERV II Central Florida Benefits

- **Allowed Orange County and Orlando to apply for and receive \$100+ million from State and Federal Governments to build Conserv II**
- **Award-Winning Partnership between Orange County and City of Orlando**
- **Dissolution of FDER and EPA Consent Order**
 - **194,000 Homes Built from 1980 – 2000 (Taxable Value - \$37+ Billion)**
 - **73 New Hotels and Motels from 1980 – 1995 (56% Increase)**
 - **36,164 New Rooms from 1980 – 1995 (167% Increase)**
 - **1,978 New Restaurants from 1980 – 1995 (408% Increase)**



ADVISED BY
GROWERS 3-1-07



- Free Water as Promised – Not without Dispute
- Freeze Protection
 - 1989 Freeze Proved the Benefit of Reclaim Water
 - Reaffirmed in Subsequent Freezes
- The Ability to Move from Wells to Reclaim Water without Crippling Cost



- Staff and Administrative Changes
- Original Promises were Forgotten and Disregarded
- Executed Contracts did not Reflect the Intent of the Parties that the Growers Would Never be Charged for the Conserv II Reclaim Water for their Groves



Litigation The Rest of the Story ...



- Orange County Sought to Start Charging Growers for Conserv II Water Even Before the Growers had received 20 years of the Water
- The Growers were Forced to Litigate
- The Court Granted Summary Judgment to Orange County on the Growers' Complaint for Declaratory Judgment
- However, She Encouraged the Growers to Refile their Lawsuit to Reform the Contracts
- The Parties' Mediated to a Settlement that, Again, Disregarded the Parties Original Intent and Understanding



Consequences to Charging Growers for Conserv II Reclaim Water

- Incentivize Growers to Abandon Agriculture in favor of Development
- Cause Remaining Growers to Reinstall or Activate Dormant Wells to Avoid Charges, Reducing the Amount of Available Freshwater
- Force Growers to Choose between Cost and Freeze Protection

And Most Importantly ...



ORANGE
COUNTY

Consequences to

Charging Growers for

Conservill Recleim Water

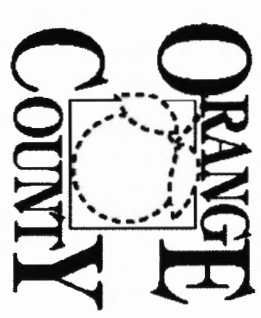
**CAN ORANGE COUNTY BE
COUNTED ON TO
KEEP ITS WORD?**



Requested Action

**Restore the Promise Made to the Growers
When Orange County Needed Them Most and ...**

**Eliminate the Current and Planned Charges to
the Citrus Growers who had Contracts with the
County and the City for Free Reclaim Water from
Conserv II so Long as their Property Remains in
Agricultural Use.**



QUESTIONS?