Resolution 2015-340

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, OPPOSING EXTREME WELL STIMULATION, HYDRAULIC FRACTURING, ACID FRACTURING, AND ANY FORM OF EXTREME WELL STIMULATION FOR PURPOSES OF RESOURCE EXTRACTION IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA; URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF SUCH MEASURES; PROVIDING FOR THE TRANSMISSION OF THE RESOLUTION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Broward County has demonstrated a decades-long commitment to protection of the environment with a strong focus on local and regional water resources; and

WHEREAS, clean water is fundamental to the health of Florida's environment and economy; and

WHEREAS, public and private water utilities across Broward County rely entirely upon groundwater sources, including the Biscayne and Floridan Aquifers, for potable water supplies; and

WHEREAS, extreme well stimulation such as hydraulic and acid fracturing (also known as "fracking") is the process of pumping a complex mix of fluids and chemicals, including large volumes of water, under very high pressure into or below the surface of the ground to create fractures in oil- or gas-bearing geologic formations for the purpose of producing or recovering oil or gas; and

WHEREAS, many of the chemical constituents injected during fracturing have documented adverse effects on human health and the environment; and

WHEREAS, there have been more than one thousand (1,000) documented cases of water contamination near fracking sites; and
WHEREAS, the oil and gas industry is not required by federal or state law to publicly disclose chemical formulas of well stimulation and fracturing fluids; and
WHEREAS, use of these well stimulation fracturing mixes exposes adjacent land and surface waters to the risk of contamination through open pit storage, truck transport on roadways, and activities during well development; and
WHEREAS, much of Florida's water supply comes from aquifers in highly-permeable limestone formations which are vulnerable to contamination from hydraulic rock-fracturing activities designed to extract hydrocarbons; and
WHEREAS, Florida's oil and gas regulations, Chapter 377, Florida Statutes, and Rules 62C-25 through 62C-30, Florida Administrative Code, make no reference to hydraulic fracturing or other well stimulation techniques; and
WHEREAS, in January 2014, an oil drilling company in Collier County was discovered to be using high-pressure injections of acid and water to blast open bedrock to gain access to oil reserves near underground aquifers; and
WHEREAS, in July 2014, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection revoked the drilling permits of the oil drilling company and fined the company Twenty-five Thousand Dollars ($25,000); and
WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing poses potential risks for contaminating the Floridan Aquifer, the source of drinking water for nearly ten million (10,000,000) Floridians and an essential water supply in Broward County; and
WHEREAS, Florida's water supplies and resources are better protected through the prevention of contamination and environmental degradation, rather than the cleanup of contamination and restoration of degraded environments after the fact; and
WHEREAS, Broward County's federal legislative program presently includes opposition to hydraulic fracturing in Florida; and

WHEREAS, during the 2015 regular session of the Florida Legislature, the Florida House of Representatives approved a bill to specifically authorize the use of extreme well stimulation in Florida and to preempt local government regulation of hydraulic fracturing, and the Florida Senate most likely would have voted on the bill had the session not ended prematurely, NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

Section 1. Broward County opposes the use of hydraulic fracturing, acid fracturing, and any form of extreme well stimulation for purposes of resource extraction in the State of Florida.

Section 2. Broward County urges the Florida Legislature to enact legislation prohibiting the use of hydraulic fracturing, acid fracturing, and any form of extreme well stimulation for purposes of resource extraction in the State of Florida.

Section 3. A copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the Governor of Florida, the Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, the President of the Florida Senate, and the Broward County Legislative Delegation.
Section 4. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED this 23\textsuperscript{rd} day \textit{June}, 2015. #103

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:
Joni Armstrong Coffey, County Attorney

By /s/ Michael C. Owens 6/17/15
Michael C. Owens (date)
Senior Assistant County Attorney