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RIVER VERSUS RESERVOIR

REPRESENTATIVE HARRISON JOINS CITY'S EFFORT TO HELP MANAGE WATER LEVELS

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[Temple Terrace, Florida 1/29/2018]- Temple Terrace Mayor Mel Jurado, working in conjunction with House Representative Shawn Harrison, is seeking to reclassify the portion of the Hillsborough River that runs through Temple Terrace as a river rather than its current designation as a reservoir. As a reservoir, the middle of the river is exempt from the minimum water level regulations that govern other portions of the Hillsborough River. This lack of oversight has led to extremely low water levels that plague Temple Terrace residents whenever large volumes of water are drawn downstream, most often by the City of Tampa.

Yesterday, Rep. Harrison filed an amendment to House Bill 1303 intended to re-define a reservoir as, "any artificial holding area which contains or will contain water impounded by a dam." This amended language removes natural holding areas, such as the middle section of the Hillsborough River, from the definition. If adopted, the new language sets the foundation for authorities to institute minimum water levels in the portion of the river that winds through Temple Terrace.

Mayor Jurado stated Monday, "We are blessed to have a partner and advocate like Rep. Harrison who understands the importance of protecting the Hillsborough River for future generations."

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