

VI. GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

Goal # 8 - To provide a reliable, efficient and cost-effective water supply system which delivers adequate quantity and quality of water to satisfy domestic, industrial, commercial, and agricultural purposes without compromising the sustainability of the County's water resources, while promoting compact urban growth, and economic development.

Level of Service

Objective 8.1

The County shall assure that adequate Levels of Service are provided by water facilities within their Water Service Area for existing and future populations through the year 2035.

Policy 8.1.1

The Level of Service standards of 150 gallons per capita per day has been established for the County and shall be used in determining the availability of facility capacity and demand created by new development.

Policy 8.1.2

Potable Water Concurrency shall be met at time of development order approval.

Policy 8.1.3

The County shall update facility demand and capacity information with Comprehensive Plan amendment process.

Existing Deficiencies and Future Needs

Objective 8.2

Citrus County will provide potable water facilities to meet existing and projected demands throughout the planning period by maximizing use of existing facilities and discouraging sprawl development. This will be accomplished by supporting the implementation of WRWSA's Wellfield and Water Supply System Development Project and the Water Master Plan for Citrus County Utilities (C & D Engineering, 2000), and by requiring development to hookup to regional potable water systems when available.

Policy 8.2.1

Connection to County potable water facilities shall be conducted to meet private and public needs.

Policy 8.2.2

The provision of potable water facilities in the service territory of other public or private utility systems shall be coordinated with the appropriate utility provider and, via the Interlocal Agreement where applicable. In the absence of an Interlocal Agreement, the County reserves the right to serve these areas.

Policy 8.2.3

No permits shall be issued for new development which would result in an increase in demand in deficient facilities beyond the plants permitted capacity.

Policy 8.2.4

All developments must be served by a regional potable water facility as soon as the service is available.

Policy 8.2.5

Encourage proposed developments to hook up to existing regional potable water facilities, if available, and discourage construction of additional package facilities.

Policy 8.2.6

Citrus County will support water system acquisition, construction, and maintenance through, but not limited to, user fees, construction charges, and grants and not ad valorem taxes.

Policy 8.2.7

Proposed capital improvement projects will be evaluated and ranked according to the following level guidelines:

Level One - whether the project is needed to protect public health and safety, to fulfill the County's legal commitment to provide facilities and service, to preserve or achieve full use of existing facilities, or if permitted capacity has been reached.

Level Two - whether the project increases efficiency of use of existing facilities, prevents or reduces future improvement costs, provides service to developed areas lacking full service or promotes infill development.

Level Three - whether the project represents a logical extension of facilities and services within a designated service area.

Policy 8.2.8

The County with the assistance of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority and the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) will identify future water needs and supplies, conceptually for a 20-year horizon, and will rely on the SWFWMD's District Water Management Plan and appropriate ground water technical studies, and the Regional Water Supply Plan, to identify potable water sources sufficient to meet estimated demand.

Policy 8.2.9

In order to protect aquifer recharge to maintain long term water supplies, the County shall require that post-development recharge volumes shall equal or improve historical pre-development conditions as provided by the standards used by the SWFWMD, FDEP and the rules and regulations adopted or implemented by the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners. All recharge water shall be treated, as needed, to prevent nutrients and other contaminants from entering the aquifer.

10 Year Water Supply Plan

Objective 8.3:

To appropriately plan for the County's Water Facilities to address current and future demands.

Policy 8.3.1

The County shall identify, evaluate, and select the most cost-effective means of ensuring an adequate water supply including surface water supply, reuse of treated wastewater, demand reduction, conservation, and peak saving through system integration.

Policy 8.3.2:

Ensure that the County's Water Facilities are planned in a consistent manner with the County's Comprehensive Plan, especially with the Future Land Use Element and other infrastructure elements.

Policy 8.3.3:

Ensure that the County's Water Facilities are planned with the actions defined within the Regional Water Supply Plan prepared by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD).

Objective 8.4:

To ensure that the Potable Water System has adequate facilities maintenance and capacity to satisfy the existing and projected demand.

Policy 8.4.1:

Continue to provide regular inspection and preventative maintenance for all the water facilities as required.

Policy 8.4.2:

The water treatment facilities within the County shall supply water which meets all applicable federal, state, regional, and local standards.

Policy 8.4.3:

The County shall develop and maintain a rehabilitation and replacement program directed at the older portions of the County's existing utility systems.

Policy 8.4.4:

The County will continue to monitor current and future developments and will determine required improvements to accommodate these developments.

Policy 8.4.5:

Provide treated water to the water distribution system at adequate volume with sufficient pressure to satisfy the demands for potable water.

Objective 8.5:

To expand and improve the efficiency of the County's water conservation and demand reduction programs in order to reduce per capita consumption of potable water.

Policy 8.5.1:

The County shall continue its program to research, develop and promote efficient, economically feasible and environmentally sensitive water use and conservation techniques and promote implementation.

Policy 8.5.2:

The County shall continue to reduce potable water consumption through water conservation rates, operational measures, rebate programs, landscape and irrigation efficiency programs, educational initiatives, research and evaluation, and re-use alternatives.

Policy 8.5.3:

The County shall encourage the use of non-potable water, when potable water is not required, in order to reduce the unnecessary use of potable water.

Objective 8.6:

To maintain equitable and financially sound fees and rate structures to support fiscal and capital programs necessary to sustain and develop adequate potable water system facilities.

Policy 8.6.1:

The potable water fees, rates, and charges shall be based on sound economic and engineering practices.

Policy 8.6.2:

The fees, rates, and charges shall cover system operating costs, programmed projects in the CIP, and estimated funds for emergency repairs.

Policy 8.6.3:

Charges for potable water system usage shall reflect all operation costs consistent with the amount of water demand by each system consumer.

Policy 8.6.4:

Explore local, state and federal grants to help finance water programs.

Policy 8.6.5:

To annually monitor whether the costs of acquiring, interconnecting, and upgrading the facilities to current standards will be offset by the existing and projected rate base of the utility.

Objective 8.7:

To coordinate and cooperate with all federal, state, regional and local agencies to insure a safe and sufficient water supply to be provided at a cost-effective rate.

Policy 8.7.1:

Coordinate with other County departments on planning capital improvements projects in order to reduce costs and promote efficient use of resources.

Policy 8.7.2:

The County shall continue to participate and assist the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency in developing innovative techniques to augment existing water supplies to provide for future demands.

Policy 8.7.3:

The County shall ensure that their 10-year Water Supply Facilities Work Plan is updated within 18 months of the Southwest Florida Water Management District updating their plan.

Saltwater Intrusion

Objective 8.8

Continue a monitoring system in conjunction with the Citrus County Public Health Unit, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Southwest Florida Water Management District to allow the County to evaluate progress toward reducing saltwater intrusion.

Policy 8.8.1

Coordinate with applicable federal, state, regional, and local agencies to establish baseline studies on the saltwater/freshwater interface.

Policy 8.8.2

Establish reporting procedures from the Citrus County Public Health Unit and/or Florida Department of Environmental Protection to the Water Resources Department on water tests that exceed 250 parts per million in chloride concentration.

Policy 8.8.3

Remove to the maximum extent feasible all potable water wells from use in the saltwater interface area.

Policy 8.8.4

Coordinate with private and public utilities to establish water supply facilities in hydrologically safe areas from saltwater intrusion.

Policy 8.8.5

Aquifer recharge areas shall be protected from point sources of sewage effluent, septic tank effluent pollution, and saltwater intrusion.

Resource Protection

Objective 8.9

Citrus County will minimize environmental and community impacts from water withdrawals by keeping water pumpage below levels that would cause significant harm to native communities, spring flow, private well dependence, and/or water quality.

Policy 8.9.1

The County will support the SWFWMD in adopting and implementing a “local sources first” policy.

Policy 8.9.2

The County will support the development of local water sources, first, prior to any import of water from outside the region.

Policy 8.9.3

Monitoring the issuance of water use permits by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and intervening as necessary to ensure that:

Any applicant proposing to import water from Citrus County has assessed all locally available sources, including water conservation, wastewater reuse, and desalination; and the withdrawal and transport of water from Citrus County will cause no unacceptable environmental impacts in the County.

Participating in the development and updating of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority’s Master Water Supply Plan and the SWFWMD’s Regional Water Supply Plan for the Northern Region.

Policy 8.9.4

Transfers of water from the County to locations outside the WRWSA region shall only be considered if the following measures have been undertaken before Development Order approval as provided within Chapter 163, F.S.:

The receiving community has exhausted all available local sources including, but not limited to, alternative sources such as desalinization, reuse of reclaimed water, and aquifer storage and recovery. In addition, all other possible conservation and demand management measures should have been implemented.

A comprehensive study of the source area has demonstrated that the proposed withdrawals will cause no adverse economic, ecological, or environmental impacts.