

## VIII.GOAL, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

**Goal #7 -** Needed public wastewater collection and treatment facilities shall be provided in a manner, which protects investments in existing facilities and promotes orderly, compact urban growth.

### Level of Service

Objective 7.1 The County shall ensure that at the time a development permit is issued, adequate facility capacity is available or will be available when needed to service the proposed development.

Policy 7.1.1 The level of service standards of 75 gallons per capita per day (average flow) and 125 gallons per capita per day (peak flow) shall be used as the basis for determining the availability of facility capacity and the demand generated by a development. The level of service standard for commercial and industrial development shall be 0.16 gallons per square foot of building per day (average flow) and 0.30 gallons per square foot of building per day (peak flow).

Policy 7.1.2 The County shall update facility demand and capacity information in conjunction with the Comprehensive Plan amendment process.

### Capital Improvements

Objective 7.2 The County will maintain a five-year schedule of capital improvement needs for public sanitary sewer facilities to be updated annually in conformance with the review process for the Plan's Capital Improvement Element.

Policy 7.2.1 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 services, 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 in-fill development.

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

Policy 7.2.2            The County shall pursue various revenue sources and funding mechanisms to acquire, construct, and maintain needed wastewater collection and treatment facilities such as, but not limited to, state and federally subsidized grants and loans, dedications, millage charge in Sub-County Municipal Service Taxing Unit, and amended rate structures.

**Existing Deficiencies and Future Needs**

Objective 7.3            Citrus County will provide sanitary sewer facilities to meet existing and projected demand throughout the planning period by maximizing use of existing facilities and discouraging sprawl development. This shall be accomplished by the creation of two regional wastewater treatment facilities - Homosassa/Homosassa Springs and Hernando - in the planning period.

Policy 7.3.1            Existing deficiencies will be corrected and projected demands met by undertaking the following projects:

Establishment of a wastewater collection and treatment facility and a regional wastewater treatment and disposal facility to serve the Homosassa/Homosassa Springs Area.

Policy 7.3.2            The provision of sanitary sewer facilities in the Lakes and River Area shall be coordinated with the City of Inverness, via the Interlocal Agreement where applicable. In the absence of an Interlocal Agreement, the County reserves the right to serve these areas.

Policy 7.3.3            Project shall be undertaken in accordance with the schedule provided in the Capital Improvements Element.

Policy 7.3.4            No permits shall be issued for new development which would result in an increase in demand in deficient facilities prior to completion of improvements needed to bring the facility up to standard.

Policy 7.3.5            All development must be served by a regional wastewater treatment facility as soon as the service is available.

Policy 7.3.6            Require proposed development to hook up to existing regional wastewater treatment facilities, when available, and discourage construction of additional package wastewater treatment facilities.

- Policy 7.3.7 Use of on-site wastewater treatment systems shall be limited to the following:
- Septic system should be located only on parcels that contain sufficient land area to properly develop the required drain fields or contain soils that are suitable for proper percolation and effluent treatment; and
- Existing septic system and package treatment plants may remain in service until such time as centralized service is made available.
- Policy 7.3.8 The County shall accept dedicated wastewater collection and treatment facilities constructed in accordance with County Ordinance or its successor.
- Policy 7.3.9 The use of gray water disposal systems shall be encouraged when feasible. New subdivisions and planned developments within the PSA shall install water lines for reused water in order to ensure the availability of lines for future service.
- Policy 7.3.10 Domestic septage should be treated by a regional treatment facility, or other acceptable method, prior to land application.
- Policy 7.3.11 The County shall analyze and strengthen, if applicable, regulations for the application of domestic septage on lands to protect surface and groundwater quality.
- Policy 7.3.12 The County shall eliminate and prevent the future discharge of inadequately treated wastewater into water and wetlands of the state by encouraging the use of spray irrigation and percolation ponds and by decreasing the number of illegal outfalls through Code Enforcement proceedings and/or capital facilities. The application of gray and treated wastewaters for use in irrigation is encouraged in upland areas and should be interpreted as a direct discharge.
- Policy 7.3.13 The County shall consider acquisition of the wastewater facilities owned and operated by the Florida Governmental Utilities Authority, of which it is a member, and integrate them into the Citrus County Utilities Division's system. The County will evaluate options to expand the number of customers provided services by the system, especially in the Chassahowitzka/Sugarmill Woods area in the southwest part of the County and the Citrus Springs area in the central portion of the County, in order to reduce the number of septic tanks countywide.

- Policy 7.3.14 All development shall connect to systems designed to achieve Type I or II wastewater treatment standards when available. The standards for Type I and Type II facilities are:
- a. Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWT) levels (3 Milligrams/Liter (mg/L) for nitrogen) for all Type I (design capacity of 500,000 gallons per day to 12.5 million gallons per day) and Type II (100,000 to 500,000 gallons per day) central wastewater treatment facilities using Rapid Infiltration Basins.
  - b. A treatment standard above secondary treatment of 10 mg/L for nitrogen for all Type I and II wastewater treatment facilities that include the reuse of water. A treatment standard above secondary treatment of 10 mg/L for nitrogen for Type III (less than 100,000 gallons per day).

Policy 7.3.15 All existing central wastewater treatment systems shall be designed to achieve AWT treatment standards upon expansion and include reuse capabilities.

Policy 7.3.16 All new central wastewater treatment systems shall be designed to achieve AWT treatment standards and include reuse capabilities.

Policy 7.3.17 Reserved

### **Wastewater Reuse**

Objective 7.4 By the year 2010, the County will reclaim and reuse as much of the wastewater collected through the County's centralized system as weather and other conditions allow, in order to maximize the amount of wastewater recycled for reuse to help reduce the demand for limited high quality groundwater resources for non-potable uses. (Measure: Percentage of total wastewater flows reused.)

Policy 7.4.1 The County shall establish reclaimed wastewater service areas.

Policy 7.4.2 All County owned or operated wastewater treatment facilities shall be constructed to reclaim wastewater and to distribute it through a reuse distribution system.

- Policy 7.4.3 The County shall establish and enforce design standards for all new utility construction within the County that has the potential to become a part of the County's central systems in the future and shall require all new, private, regional wastewater facilities to reclaim and recycle as much of their wastewater flows as feasible. Existing private regional wastewater facilities are strongly encouraged to upgrade to advanced treatment and reuse systems and to reclaim and reuse as much wastewater as feasible.
- Policy 7.4.4 The County shall seek long term agreements with large users of groundwater to provide reclaimed water for irrigation of horticultural or agricultural uses, golf courses, recreation and open space areas, and commercial and residential projects.
- Policy 7.4.5 All new development projects and subdivisions within the reclaimed wastewater service area shall construct on-site distribution system for the transmission of reclaimed water or other alternative sources. Such on-site systems shall provide for conveyance of reclaimed water from the project's boundaries to the lot lines of each parcel within the project to facilitate landscape irrigation with reclaimed water in lieu of potable water, when implemented by the end user of the lot. This requirement may be waived where it can be shown that long term contractual commitments, limited supplies of reclaimed water, or other factors preclude the availability of reclaimed water to the project.
- Policy 7.5.6 Reclaimed water irrigation systems shall be designed and installed to prevent overspray or irrigation of any wetlands, water bodies, sinkholes, or stormwater systems except for reclaimed water storage ponds. Buffers and Best Management Practices (BMPs) shall be required to prevent reclaimed water runoff from entering sinks, wetlands, and water bodies.
- Policy 7.4.7 The County shall pursue a regional approach, whenever feasible, to the use of reclaimed water through development of interlocal or contractual agreements with other local governments and surrounding jurisdictions, as well as, private suppliers of wastewater collection and treatment facilities.

#### **REFERENCES**

- 1996 Annual Reuse Report*, Southwest Florida Water Management District, Brooksville, Florida
- Wastewater Facilities Plan for Citrus County Utilities*, C & D Engineering, Inc., Lutz, Florida, December 2000
- Reuse Master Plan for Citrus County Utilities*, C & D, Inc., Lutz, Florida, December 2000
- Florida Statutes, <http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Welcome/index.cfm>