

## **INFRASTRUCTURE - GROUNDWATER AND AQUIFER RECHARGE (AQR) GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES**

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Groundwater and Aquifer Recharge section of the Infrastructure element is to provide for necessary public facilities and services correlated to future land use projections. All residences and businesses not served by public or community water systems are dependent upon subsurface wells for water, and this water is supplied by the various aquifers. The provision of adequate potable water will be accomplished by protecting and conserving Charlotte County's natural groundwater and aquifer recharge to ensure water quality for the future. While aquifer recharge is a relatively minor consideration in this plan, since only a small portion of the County lies within a prime aquifer recharge area, for those who rely on wells for potable water aquifer recharge can be of high importance.

All references to any ordinances, statutes or regulations contained herein shall, unless otherwise noted, be deemed to be those in effect as of the date of adoption of this element and thereafter as amended, renumbered or otherwise revised.

### **GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES**

#### **AQR GOAL 1: GROUNDWATER AND AQUIFER RECHARGE**

**Maintain the long-term quality of groundwater through the management of land development.**

##### **AQR Objective 1.1: Natural Groundwater Recharge Protection**

To protect the function of natural recharge areas and natural drainage features at a level consistent with the long-term public good and the preservation of the environment.

##### **AQR Policy 1.1.1: Prime Aquifer Recharge Protection**

The County shall limit impervious surface area within areas of prime aquifer recharge (FLUM Series Map #6) to ten percent, thereby allowing for the greatest amount of water to infiltrate the ground. Allowable uses include rural residential development and agricultural and resource conservation activities. Commercial Excavations are prohibited.

##### **AQR Policy 1.1.2: Prime Aquifer Density and Intensity Limitations**

The County shall protect groundwater resources by maintaining maximum density at the levels allowed at the time of adoption of this comprehensive plan in areas of prime aquifer recharge. Increases in intensity and density are prohibited. Increases in intensity do not apply to changes in agricultural uses.

**AQR Policy 1.1.3: Aquifer Protection Modifications**

Uses prohibited by AQR Policy 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 may be allowed on a case by case basis by the Board of County Commissioners if it can be demonstrated through a science-based analysis, approved in writing by the appropriate Water Management District (WMD), that the proposed use will have no negative impact on the quantity or quality of water entering the aquifer.

**AQR Policy 1.1.4: Maintenance of Natural Flow**

The County shall require that natural hydroperiods, flows, and water quality will be maintained or improved when development activity occurs upon a site anywhere in the County.

**AQR Policy 1.1.5: Altered Drainage Features**

The County shall protect altered drainage features from further overall degradation by requiring new development to maintain the original and beneficial use of altered drainage systems or create new drainage works that, on balance, mitigate the adverse effects of previous works.

**AQR Policy 1.1.6: Natural Drainage Features**

The County shall consider and evaluate, on a case-by-case basis, the proposed use of relatively unaltered natural drainage features to be utilized for development purposes and the mitigation of impacts. The development shall provide an analysis showing that no negative impacts will be created to the natural flow of the feature.

**AQR Objective 1.2: Groundwater Quality**

To maintain or improve the quality of groundwater resources and to protect them from direct or indirect degradation by human influences, and to maintain that quality at or greater than Federal or State standards.

**AQR Policy 1.2.1: Groundwater Monitoring**

The County shall annually request copies of groundwater monitoring data and reports from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the WMDs for projects within their jurisdiction that require permitting and monitoring by these agencies in order to be apprised of any potential adverse impacts to groundwater quality.

**AQR Policy 1.2.2: Canal Construction**

The County shall prohibit the construction of all new canals that may result in increased saltwater intrusion.

**AQR Policy 1.2.3: Well Plugging**

The County shall cooperate with the WMDs to plug free-flowing artesian wells following the Quality Water Improvement Program (QWIP) or by methods approved by the appropriate WMD and the County.

**AQR Policy 1.2.4: Landfill Monitoring**

The County shall cooperate with State and Federal regulatory agencies in the monitoring of all closed or abandoned landfills in the County to determine if these sites pose a threat to the quality of groundwater resources.

**AQR Policy 1.2.5: Connection to Public Utilities**

The County shall require mandatory connection to sewer and water service when such service is provided, as established in WSW Objective 3.1.

**AQR Policy 1.2.6: Water Conservation**

The County shall comply with, and enforce, emergency water conservation measures as required by the WMDs.