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## **INFRASTRUCTURE - POTABLE WATER AND SANITARY SEWER (WSW) GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES**

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Potable Water and Sanitary Sewer section of the Infrastructure element is to ensure that potable water supplies and sanitary sewer disposal service are available to support development through the planning horizons established within the Comprehensive Plan. The provision of potable water and sanitary sewer and the specific parameters for this particular element are based on Florida Statute, which requires that sewer and water services be provided in accordance with future land use projections and also identifies a basic framework for developing a series of goals, objectives, and policies which are formulated to accomplish the desired purpose based on an analysis of available data.

The availability of sewer and water will influence the timing, location, and intensity of development. Planning for the extension of these services should therefore be considered an integral part of Charlotte County's development strategy. In order for the County to effectively utilize infrastructure expansion as a legitimate growth-management tool, this section incorporates a prioritization for providing facilities to areas targeted for new growth based upon Smart Growth principles established in the Future Land Use element. This will ensure that centralized potable water and sanitary sewer facilities are provided concurrently with future development, that utility infrastructure is directed towards those areas of the County where it is most appropriate, and that adequate facility capacity will be available to maintain adopted level of service standards.

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**

#### **WSW GOAL 1: LEVELS OF SERVICE**

**Maintain adequate Levels of Service (LOS) for potable water and sanitary sewer service to serve current and future needs and ensure that LOS standards are met.**

##### **WSW Objective 1.1: LOS Standards**

To maintain potable water distribution and sanitary sewage collection systems to meet or exceed adopted LOS standards.

##### **WSW Policy 1.1.1: LOS Applicability**

The County shall require all utilities serving the unincorporated areas of Charlotte County, public or private, to meet the adopted LOS standards.

**WSW Policy 1.1.2: Potable Water LOS**

The County shall require all potable water utilities to provide for the treatment and distribution of 225 gallons of potable water per day per Equivalent Residential Connection (ERC).

**WSW Policy 1.1.3: Sanitary Sewer LOS**

The County shall require all sanitary sewer utilities to provide for the collection and treatment of 190 gallons of sanitary sewage per day per ERC.

**WSW Policy 1.1.4: Effect of System Improvements on LOS**

The County shall require all improvements for replacement, expansion, or increase in capacity of facilities to meet the adopted LOS standards.

**WSW Policy 1.1.5: LOS Evaluation**

The County shall periodically review water usage data from all public and certificated potable water supply utilities, and shall make any appropriate changes to the LOS standards.

**WSW Objective 1.2: Concurrency**

To maintain, operate, and monitor capacity sufficient to satisfy adopted Levels of Service through the long-range planning horizon of 2030 and to project possible capacity needs through the vision horizon of 2050.

**WSW Policy 1.2.1: Reporting**

The County shall require all utility providers to provide the Charlotte County Community Development Department, or its successor agency, with monthly Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) reports of total capacity and facility demand to ensure that the adopted LOS standards are maintained and the Concurrency Management System is up to date.

**WSW Policy 1.2.2: Development Approval**

The County shall not issue any development orders or permits unless the necessary facilities and services are in place and available to serve the new development or the necessary facilities and services are guaranteed to be in place and available to serve new development under an enforceable development agreement or development order.

**WSW Policy 1.2.3: Consultation with Service Providers**

The County shall require all municipalities within the County to consult with the appropriate potable water and sanitary sewer utilities to determine whether there is adequate capacity to serve any proposed development before issuing any development order or permit.

**WSW GOAL 2: SMART GROWTH FRAMEWORK**

**Provide potable water and sanitary sewer services to new and existing development through the use of Smart Growth Principles as outlined in FLU Goal 1.**

**WSW Objective 2.1: Direction of Infrastructure Investment**

To direct investment in potable water and sanitary sewer utility systems to those areas of the County where those investments will achieve the greatest benefit to the largest number of residents and businesses.

**WSW Policy 2.1.1: Appropriate Future Land Use Policies**

The County shall require all utility facility plans and programs to be designed and coordinated in a manner consistent with the following Future Land Use element policies:

1. FLU Policy 1.2.3: Service Area Delineation
2. FLU Policy 1.2.4: Urban Service Area
3. FLU Policy 3.2.4: Limitation on the Extension of Urban Infrastructure
4. FLU Policy 4.1.8: Priority for the Provision of Urban Services

**WSW Policy 2.1.2: Growth Management Techniques**

The County shall employ various growth management techniques as identified in the Future Land Use element to direct new development into areas served by central potable water and sanitary sewer service.

**WSW Policy 2.1.3: Neighborhood Framework**

The County shall encourage the extension of central potable water and sanitary sewer services in a manner consistent with **FLU Goal 4: Planning Concept Plan Implementation – Neighborhood Protection and Enhancement.**

**WSW Policy 2.1.4: Utility Extensions through the Rural Service Area**

The County shall only allow transmission lines for potable water or sanitary sewer service to be extended through the Rural Service Area if it is to provide service to lands located within the Urban Service Area. The County shall not allow water distribution or wastewater collection lines to expand from a transmission line located in the Rural Service Area except to address situations where the public health, safety, and welfare are in danger. This policy shall not be applicable to utilities that are regulated by the Florida Public Service Commission.

**WSW Objective 2.2: Land Use Decisions**

To use the location and availability of central potable water and sanitary sewer service when making land use decisions.

**WSW Policy 2.2.1: Use of Utility Availability in Land Use Decisions**

The County shall not permit the availability of centralized potable water and sanitary sewer service to be used as the primary justification for development approval.

**WSW GOAL 3: PROVISION OF UTILITY SERVICES**

**Encourage utilities to provide well-designed and economically efficient systems of potable water and sanitary sewer service that maximizes the use of existing facilities to meet the needs of a growing population, while protecting the natural environment.**

**WSW Objective 3.1: Connection to Utility Services**

To connect developed properties to central potable water and sanitary sewer service when such centralized utility services are made available.

**WSW Policy 3.1.1: Concurrent Utility Line Extensions**

The County shall require all utilities that provide both centralized potable water and sanitary sewer service to extend potable water and sanitary sewer lines concurrently. Lines may be extended separately only if the service area is primarily composed of one type of service line and it is determined by the utility that concurrent extensions are not feasible. This policy shall not be applicable to utilities that are regulated by the Florida Public Service Commission.

**WSW Policy 3.1.2: Connection of Developed Property**

In the Urban Service Area, whenever centralized potable water or sanitary sewer service is made available to any developed property, the constructing utility shall require the landowner to connect to the utility upon written notification by the utility provider that service is available for the property. "Available" means that the utility has adequate permitted capacity to serve the development and that a utility line is within the distance from the property as specified by County ordinance or State Statute.

**WSW Policy 3.1.3: Connection of Property under Development**

The County shall require that whenever central potable water or sanitary sewer service is made available, as established in WSW Policy 3.1.2, to any property with a new structure under construction, the landowner shall connect the structure to the utility system prior to receiving a certificate of occupancy or its functional equivalent.

**WSW Policy 3.1.4: Connection and Decommissioning of Community Systems**

The County shall require that whenever a centralized sanitary sewer system is made available, as established in WSW Policy 3.1.2, package treatment plants shall be decommissioned and connected to the centralized

system. Decommissioning shall be completed at the expense of the owners of the community system.

**WSW Policy 3.1.5: Use of On-Site Wells upon Connection to Centralized Systems**

Upon connection to a centralized potable water system, the County shall allow any on-site potable water sources to be converted to irrigation or other non-potable uses consistent with State law and the rules of the appropriate Water Management District.

**WSW Policy 3.1.6: Abandonment of On-Site Septic Systems upon Connection to Centralized Systems**

Upon connection to a centralized sanitary sewer system, the County shall require any on-site septic system, or necessary parts thereof, be made inoperable consistent with State law. Such work shall be done at the system owner’s expense.

**WSW Policy 3.1.7: Joint Sanitary Sewer Systems**

The County shall encourage:

1. Sanitary sewer disposal agreements whereby package treatment plants may be interconnected and replaced by treatment facilities with better economies of scale in order to achieve greater operating efficiencies.
2. The installation of on-site treatment and disposal systems that treat effluent to advanced sanitary sewer treatment standards.

**WSW Objective 3.2: Certificated Utility Service Areas**

To manage the certificated utility areas within the boundaries of Charlotte County.

**WSW Policy 3.2.1: County Review of and Action on Certificated Areas**

The County shall review all proposed new certificated utility areas, or the proposed expansion of an existing certificated utility area, to ensure that any such new or expanded certificated area is consistent with and advances the Goals, Objectives, and Policies of this Plan.

**WSW Policy 3.2.2: Responsibilities of Certification**

The County shall require all utilities with an approved certification to provide service to their approved areas in accordance with that certification.

**WSW Policy 3.2.3: Concurrent Expansion of Certificated Areas**

The County shall require that all certificated utilities that provide both central potable water and sanitary sewer service shall not expand the Certificated Service Area for one service without concurrently expanding the Certificated Service Area for the other service.

**WSW Policy 3.2.4: Certificated Utility Companies and the Urban Service Area**

The County shall discourage expansion of the service areas of utility companies regulated by the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) to any areas outside of the Urban Service Area, in accordance with **FLU Policy 3.2.5: Support Economic Viability of Agricultural Lands** and Special Provision 1(b) of the Rural Settlement Overlay District contained in FLU Appendix I.

**WSW Objective 3.3: Non-Centralized Utility Systems**

To provide for non-centralized potable water supply and sanitary sewage disposal in those areas not served by a certificated utility.

**WSW Policy 3.3.1: New Platted Lots and On-Site Septic Systems**

The County shall require that new lots platted and intended to be served by an on-site septic system shall have a minimum lot area consistent with the requirements of Chapter 64E-6, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) or local ordinance, whichever standard is more restrictive.

**WSW Policy 3.3.2: Community Utility Systems**

The County may permit pre-manufactured treatment facilities designed and used to treat potable water and sanitary sewage at flows of 0.002 million gallons per day to 0.500 million gallons per day in small communities (package treatment plants) provided they are built to the standards specified by FDEP or the County, whichever standard is more restrictive.

**WSW Policy 3.3.3: Community Utility System Reporting**

The County shall coordinate with local community utility system operators to begin monitoring and data collection to be used in evaluating community system potable water supply and sanitary sewer collection needs. This data will be incorporated into the analysis of the next the Water Supply Facilities Work Plan.

**WSW GOAL 4: POTABLE WATER**

**Provide adequate potable water supplies, treatment, and distribution throughout the County.**

**WSW Objective 4.1: Potable Water Supplies**

To protect existing and future potable water supplies, including the Peace River, its tributaries, and wellhead and wellfield locations.

**WSW Policy 4.1.1: Wellhead and Wellfield Protection**

The County shall protect wellheads and wellfields as established in **FLU Policy 2.3.5: Public Water System Wellhead Protection**.

**WSW Policy 4.1.2: Hazardous Materials and Potable Water Supplies**

The County shall not permit land uses in which hazardous materials including, but not limited to, petroleum products or chemical or biological wastes are produced or stored, or land uses which may have an adverse impact on central potable water supplies for public consumption, in areas where their presence would adversely impact groundwater resources, recharge areas, or watersheds that drain into surface water supplies.

**WSW Policy 4.1.3: Sewage Sludge Disposal**

The County shall not permit the disposal of sludge in areas where it would adversely impact groundwater resources, recharge areas, or watersheds that drain into surface water supplies, unless such disposal is consistent with regulations established by FDEP.

**WSW Objective 4.2: Potable Water Usage**

To maintain residential per capita water use rates consistent with water use methodologies established by the Water Management Districts (WMDs).

**WSW Policy 4.2.1: Wastewater Recycling and Reuse**

The County shall encourage utilities to develop facilities and programs for recycling treated wastewater and to promote water reuse through methods such as irrigation.

**WSW Policy 4.2.2: Water Restriction Programs**

The County shall participate in water restriction programs established by the appropriate WMD. This participation shall include, but not be limited to, public notice and educational programs.

**WSW Policy 4.2.3: Assistance to WMDs**

The County shall assist the WMDs in such acts as notices to citizens and public awareness education programs, particularly during times of emergency water shortages and droughts, pursuant to 40D-21.231, Declaring a Water Shortage, and 373.609, F.S.

**WSW Policy 4.2.4: Florida-friendly Landscaping**

The County shall encourage Florida-friendly landscaping techniques through its public education program in order to reduce water usage for irrigation.

**WSW Policy 4.2.5: Public Building Landscaping**

The County shall utilize Florida-friendly landscaping techniques and recycled water, if available, for the landscaping of publicly-owned facilities.

**WSW Policy 4.2.6: Public Education**

The County shall support public education programs encouraging water conservation.

**WSW Policy 4.2.7: Water-Conserving Plumbing Fixtures**

The County shall require water-conserving plumbing fixtures and devices to be used for all new development and shall encourage the use of these fixtures and devices for renovations and remodeling.

**WSW Policy 4.2.8: Tiered Conservation Rates**

The County shall require all potable water providers to adopt a tiered conservation rate structure for users.

**WSW Policy 4.2.9: Reclaimed Water Systems**

The County shall require all new large developments to connect to reclaimed water supply systems for non-potable uses, when such systems are made available. “Made available” means that the reclaimed water utility has adequate capacity to serve the development and a functioning reclaimed water distribution main is located within 500 feet of the property or that it is cost effective for the utility to extend a reclaimed water distribution main to within 500 feet of the property. Individual single-family, duplex, or triplex buildings shall not be required to connect.

**WSW Policy 4.2.10: Appropriate Water Quality for Use**

The County shall require that non-potable water uses shall be met by reclaimed water supplies whenever possible. If reclaimed water sources are not available, non-potable water uses shall be met by groundwater sources.

**WSW Objective 4.3: Water Supply Facilities Work Plan**

To maintain the Water Supply Facilities Work Plan.

**WSW Policy 4.3.1: Adoption of Water Supply Facilities Work Plan**

The County hereby adopts the Water Supply Facilities Work Plan, comprised of the specific Goals, Objectives, and Policies listed below and dated December 10, 2019, for a period of not less than ten years. The data and analysis that constitutes the Water Facilities Supply Work Plan is the Infrastructure Data and Analysis, Potable Water and Sanitary Sewer Water Supply Facilities Work Plan document. The Water Supply Facilities Work Plan addresses issues that pertain to water supply facilities and requirements needed to serve current and future development within the County’s water service areas.

Infrastructure element

WSW Goal 1: Levels of Service

WSW Objective 1.1: LOS Standards

- WSW Policy 1.1.1: LOS Applicability
- WSW Policy 1.1.2: Potable Water LOS
- WSW Policy 1.1.4: Effect of System Improvements on LOS
- WSW Objective 1.2: Concurrency
  - WSW Policy 1.2.1: Reporting
  - WSW Policy 1.2.2: Development Approval
  - WSW Policy 1.2.3: Consultation with Service Providers
- WSW Goal 4: Potable Water
  - WSW Objective 4.1: Potable Water Supplies
    - WSW Policy 4.1.1: Wellhead and Wellfield Protection
    - WSW Policy 4.1.2: Hazardous Materials and Potable Water Supplies
    - WSW Policy 4.1.3: Sewage Sludge Disposal
  - WSW Objective 4.3: Water Supply Facilities Work Plan
    - WSW Policy 4.3.1: Adoption of Water Supply Facilities Work Plan
    - WSW Policy 4.3.2: Plan Update Schedule
    - WSW Policy 4.3.3: Plan Coordination
    - WSW Policy 4.3.4: Inclusion of Capital Improvements

Capital Improvements element

- CIE Goal 1: Timely Development of Infrastructure
  - CIE Objective 1.1: Making Necessary Improvements
    - CIE Policy 1.1.6: Concurrency Management System
    - CIE Policy 1.1.7: Capital Improvements Program
    - CIE Policy 1.1.8: Financially Feasible CIE Schedule
    - CIE Policy 1.1.9: Agency and Plan Coordination

Intergovernmental Coordination element

- ICE Goal 1: Intergovernmental Coordination
  - ICE Objective 1.1: Implementation Coordination
    - ICE Policy 1.1.10: Utility Coordination
    - ICE Policy 1.1.12: Coordination with Water Management Districts
  - ICE Objective 1.2: Level of Service (LOS)
    - ICE Policy 1.2.3: Water Management

**WSW Policy 4.3.2: Plan Update Schedule**

The County shall update the Water Supply Facilities Work Plan at least once every five years and within eighteen months of the latest updated local WMD Regional Supply Plan.

**WSW Policy 4.3.3: Plan Coordination**

The County shall coordinate revisions to the Water Supply Facilities Work Plan with the South Florida Water Management District, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, and the potable water suppliers serving residents of the County.

**WSW Policy 4.3.4: Inclusion of Capital Improvements**

The County shall incorporate capital improvements identified by any potable water supply utility into the Water Supply Facilities Work Plan and the Capital Improvements element.

**WSW GOAL 5: SANITARY SEWER**

**Provide adequate sanitary sewage collection and treatment throughout the County.**

**WSW Objective 5.1: On-Site Septic Systems**

To implement a septic system management program serving the entire County.

**WSW Policy 5.1.1: Septic System Maintenance Schedule**

The County shall assist the Charlotte County Health Department (CCHD) Environmental Health Unit (EHU) in developing a schedule of septic system maintenance. The EHU will ensure that septic systems throughout the County receive periodic operational inspections and maintenance according to the Onsite Treatment and Disposal Systems (OSTDS) Ordinance.

**WSW Policy 5.1.2: Program Participation**

The County shall require all permitted on-site septic disposal systems to be part of the managed program in order to safeguard the public health, safety, and welfare.

**WSW Policy 5.1.3: On-Site Septic System Standards**

The County shall require that all on-site septic systems, whether new or replacement, will meet or exceed the treatment standard for onsite disposal systems within Chapter 64E-6, Florida Administrative Code, or local ordinance, whichever standard is higher.

**WSW Policy 5.1.4: New Development and On-Site Septic Systems**

The County shall attempt to reduce the percentage of septic systems serving new development.

**WSW Objective 5.2: Environmental Quality**

To establish and operate an ambient water quality monitoring program to determine the impacts of pollution resulting from the use of sanitary sewer treatment systems (e.g., septic systems, package treatment plants, and central sanitary sewer systems).

**WSW Policy 5.2.1: Sampling**

The County shall assist CCHD in collecting water and soil samples from various locations within the County to be analyzed for pollutant loadings.

**WSW Policy 5.2.2: Funding**

The County may seek funding, in cooperation with CCHD, from various sources in order to implement an ambient water quality monitoring program. Sources may include the State of Florida, local governments, regional and Federal agencies, and the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program.

**WSW Policy 5.2.3: Adverse Environmental Impacts and System Repairs**

The County shall, when analysis indicates that a sanitary sewer treatment system is adversely impacting the environment according to State water quality standards (Chapter 62-302, F.A.C., for surface water, Chapter 62-520, F.A.C., for ground water, and Chapter 64E-9, F.A.C., for bathing places) and that public health standards are endangered, cause those sanitary sewer treatment systems to be repaired or replaced.

**WSW GOAL 6: CHARLOTTE COUNTY UTILITIES**

**Operate CCU in an efficient and business-like manner to the benefit of the public.**

**WSW Objective 6.1: Public Benefits**

To ensure that CCU operations fulfill public health standards and meet the adopted LOS.

**WSW Policy 6.1.1: Project Prioritization**

The County shall give high priority to CCU capital projects that are needed to rectify existing deficiencies in the utility systems.

**WSW Policy 6.1.2: Sewer Expansion Program**

CCU shall develop a cost-effective sewer expansion program consistent with the Goals, Objectives, and Policies of this Plan with the intent of reducing the impact of pollutants on the natural environment and preserving groundwater quality.

**WSW Policy 6.1.3: System Extension MSBUs**

CCU may continue to finance the extension of its centralized potable water and sanitary sewer facilities through MSBUs or other funding mechanisms.

**WSW Policy 6.1.4: Burnt Store Area Plan**

The County shall encourage construction of potable water and sanitary sewer mains along Burnt Store Road, Zemel Road, and the proposed East-West Connector to U.S. 41 (Tuckers Grade Extension). All such mains shall be owned by CCU, but the cost of construction shall be borne by those who benefit from the

improvements. Rebate agreements may be used to facilitate the construction of potable water or sanitary sewer facilities that would serve area-wide needs rather than the needs of a single development.

**WSW Objective 6.2: System Efficiencies**

To ensure that CCU operations are efficient in the expenditure of public funds.

**WSW Policy 6.2.1: Facility Rehabilitation and Reuse**

CCU shall evaluate the rehabilitation and reuse of existing facilities and structures as an alternative to new construction.

**WSW Policy 6.2.2: Funding Options**

CCU shall actively seek Federal and State assistance for the funding of its central potable water and sanitary sewer infrastructure.