

#### IV. GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

The Goals, Objectives and Policies for the Potable Water Element were developed through the Background Report analysis, following a review of state statutes and plans, Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) Needs and Sources Plan, the Tampa Bay Water Resource Development Plan, the Regional Planning Council's policies, [Water Supply Facilities Plan](#), and Hillsborough County Potable Water Long-Range [Master Plan](#). This was done so that the Goals, Objectives and Policies would be consistent with the various agencies' goals, plans and guidelines. Further refinement was made as a result of input from the Hillsborough County Citizen's Advisory Committee, Hillsborough County Planning Commissioners, the potable water systems consultant and professional planning staffs of the County and the Planning Commission.

All Goals, Objectives and Policies of this chapter shall be the responsibility of the County to carry out unless specifically stated otherwise.

**GOAL: Assure the availability of an adequate supply of potable water to meet total demand in unincorporated Hillsborough County Service Areas.**

**ISSUE:** In the mid-1980s, the rapid growth in Hillsborough County had outstripped the County's ability to provide water service to all new development within its urbanized service area. This led to the proliferation of individual well systems and the resultant lack of overall control and flexibility in dealing with localized problems. The County completed a major capital improvements program to provide water facilities capable of serving existing and future demands. In order to avoid the same problems in the future, the procedures used to assess and provide for the needs of the community have been strengthened.

**OBJECTIVE 1:** Maintain a water supply facilities planning program necessary to correct current deficiencies and meet projected potable water demands by maintaining and implementing the 10 Year Water Supply Facilities Work Plan.

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**Policy 1.1:**

Program for water facilities capable of providing adopted level of service (LOS) a minimum of five years in advance of system requirements through the yearly evaluation of disaggregated Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission population projections as a part of the [Public Utilities Potable Water Long-Range Plan published each June 30](#). [Water Resource Services Potable Water Master Plan.](#)

*(Administrative)*

**Policy 1.2:**

Continue the yearly evaluation of the potable water system using the County's computerized hydraulic model. Utilize the model to monitor the projected water demand of current users and new development proposals in relation to the County ~~raw~~ water supply from Tampa Bay Water. Assure that the impact of additional development does not exceed the ~~deliverable~~ water supply ~~which that~~ Tampa Bay Water ~~is required to develop in adequate and dependable quantities without resulting in adverse environmental effects, pursuant to Chapter 373.1963 F.S. can deliver.~~

*(Administrative)*

**Policy 1.3:**

Hillsborough County recognizes that water is a regional resource requiring the formulation and implementation of regional water resource management strategies and the proper role of County government is primarily the planning and implementation of water supply distribution facilities and the conservation and reuse of water resources. (Chapter 373.0831 F.S.)

**Policy 1.4:**

Continue to implement a preventative maintenance program through asset management.

*(Administrative)*

**Policy 1.5:**

Evaluate the Capital Improvement Program on a yearly basis as a part of the annual update of the Potable Water ~~Long Range~~ Master Plan, secure funding, and construct the identified projects taking into account the Water Supply Facilities Work Plan, Tampa Bay Water's supply and infrastructure improvement plans, and the Southwest Florida Water Management District's Regional Water Supply Plan.

*(Administrative)*

**Policy 1.6:**

Priorities for project implementation shall be as established in Policy 1.E of the Capital Improvements Element.

**Policy 1.7:**

The LOS to be maintained by all facilities shall be as stated in the Capital Improvements Element.

**ISSUE:** The County has removed the dispersed well system from service, however, a number of locations within the urbanized area of Hillsborough County depend completely on isolated wells for their water supply. Should those wells become contaminated or experience a major failure, the individuals and businesses served by that well would be severely impacted.

Tampa Bay Water is in the process of regionalizing the water system for their area of responsibility. A major component of this effort is the expansion of the regional supply system by Tampa Bay Water that includes a "loop" of redundant transmission facilities to ensure delivery of supply under emergency conditions and allow the rotation of wellfield withdrawals. This will add flexibility to the system and allow for the movement of water from the best source to the most need in spite of adverse local conditions. [The County is required under the Interlocal Agreement to offer to TBW for purchase production facilities that it acquires.](#) As part of this effort and to insure good control of supply and protection of the environment, raw water sources should be consolidated and managed by Tampa Bay Water.

**OBJECTIVE 2:** Existing and currently programmed facilities will be utilized before service area extension is undertaken.

**Policy 2.1:**

The timing and staging of utilities is addressed by the Urban Service Area policies in the Future Land Use Element.

**OBJECTIVE 3:** Complete the regionalization of raw water supply.

**Policy 3.1:**

Monitor the raw-water supply deliverability from Tampa Bay Water. Support appropriate initiatives for a regional expansion of water supply that are consistent with the Hillsborough County Comprehensive Plan, the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for Tampa Bay and sound resource conservation and environmental protection policies [that provide adequate and dependable quantities of water without resulting in adverse environmental effects, pursuant to Chapter 373.1963 F.S.](#)

*(Administrative)*

**Policy 3.2:**

Where operationally and technically feasible, remove isolated County operated wells from the raw water supply and connect those served by the wells to the County potable water system.

**Policy 3.3:**

Construct County capital improvements which will provide adequate intra-system pumping, storage and transmission of potable water, through the five-year capital improvements program.

**Policy 3.4:**

Where operationally and financially sound, convert as many individual wells and individual private water systems as practical to the County potable water system to improve reliability.

**Policy 3.5:**

Support the joint planning efforts of Tampa Bay Water and the Southwest Florida Water Management District on their Water Supply Plans and implement pertinent recommendations of the Plan within one year of its adoption.

**Policy 3.6:**

Any area in the unincorporated County which by interlocal agreement is part of the area for which a city has the responsibility for providing water service, but, in which the city does not provide that service to retail customers ~~by January 1, 2000~~, shall be periodically reviewed by County staff for recommendation to the BOCC regarding the most cost-effective and efficient provision of ~~direct~~ water service ~~through the County's water system~~.

(Administrative)

**ISSUE:** Although new alternative water supply sources have been developed and continue to be planned, The majority of water used within the County comes from the Floridan Aquifer. As the population of the County and the state increases has grown, the demand for that water haswill continuously increased and could in some areas has reached a level where replenishment of the supply can not keep pace with demand. Alternatively, In southern coastal Hillsborough County, the potentiometric surface of the water in the aquifer could be has been historically drawn down to the point where infiltration of undesirable substances (i.e. saltwater intrusion) into the supply and Floridan Aquifer is occurring. In parts of northwest Hillsborough County adverse environmental impacts could have occur. The Southwest Florida Water Management District has identified these affected area as the Northern Tampa Bay Water Use Caution Area and the Southern Water Use Caution Area, respectively, and promulgated specific rules to address actions necessary for

long term recovery of the water resources. (Cross-reference the Conservation and Aquifer Recharge Element GOPs, Policies 6.8, 6.2, 6.3, 6.7, 6.9, 6.11 and Coastal Management Element as required).

Efforts to ensure that high quality water is neither wasted nor used for purposes that do not need that quality of water must be continued. Alternative sources of intermediate quality water must be investigated and used where appropriate. At the same time the County must ensure that its citizens are aware of the need to conserve our water resources.

**OBJECTIVE 4:** Maintain the "adjusted gross" per capita demand as defined by the SWFWMD below 110 gallons per capita per day (gpcd), and continue to implement the County water conservation program to further reduce per capita demand.

**Policy 4.1:**

Continue to implement the Reclaimed Water Reuse Program for unincorporated Hillsborough County in an effort to maximize the conservation of potable water.

**Policy 4.2:**

Continue to enforce and improve building codes that ensure the efficient use of potable water, including funding of low-volume plumbing fixtures for retrofitting of inefficient equipment installed under older building codes.

**Policy 4.3:**

Provide public education programs encouraging the conservation of potable water and the reuse of reclaimed water, and continue to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of proposed conservation projects for inclusion in the County's overall program.

*(Administrative)*

**Policy 4.4:**

Continue to implement and evaluate the effectiveness of the water conservation inclined user fee rates which are designed to encourage conservation of and discourage non-essential uses of potable water.

*(Administrative)*

**Policy 4.5:**

Explore the increased use of stormwater or other appropriate water source to protect and expand the potable water supply whether by pursuing increased retention within wellfield protection areas or by Aquifer Storage and Recovery or aquifer recharge.

**ISSUE:** The adopted LOS for potable water includes hydraulic performance and water quality standards that address public health and safety. The potable water system must deliver the per capita LOS for existing and future development while maintaining a minimum distribution pressure of 20 pounds per square inch (psi) for all demand conditions, including fireflow protection and other system emergencies. These public safety considerations tend to result in higher capacity and redundancy in storage, treatment and distribution facilities. At the same time, public health concerns require that potable water systems meet the water quality standards of the United States Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The SDWA establishes primary and secondary standards for maximum contaminant levels, monitoring and reporting. Recently, new, more stringent Rules have been promulgated, including the Lead and Copper Rule for corrosion control, the Disinfectants-Disinfection By-Products Rule, and the Information Collection Rule. The formation and levels of contaminants are generally increased by increased retention time within the distribution system. Retention time increases as system capacities and redundancy are increased to satisfy public safety requirements associated with emergencies and fireflow protection. Thus, potable water system design must consider the compromise between public health and safety.

**OBJECTIVE 5:** The potable water system will meet, or exceed, all water quality standards of the United States Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Act while meeting public safety requirements.

**Policy 5.1:**

Develop and implement potable water quality management strategies that meet the regulatory standards of the United States Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Act without compromising public safety LOS requirements. Of particular concern are corrosion control as identified in the Lead and Copper Rule, lower maximum contaminant levels per the Disinfectants- Disinfection By-Products Rule, and data collection and reporting as required by the Information Collection Rule.

**Policy 5.2:**

Continue to implement the Strategic Fire Protection Program in conjunction with the Hillsborough County Fire Marshall. This program assesses and prioritizes the need for fire hydrant retrofitting in the potable water system.

## **V. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING**

Implementing a plan means to carry the plan to action. Implementation occurs when the programs, activities, incentives and regulations stated in the goals, objectives, and policies are established and carried out. The goals, objectives, and policies in the Potable Water Element suggest a number of programs, and activities, and regulations to be developed for the purpose of addressing the potable water problems and needs for the users of the Hillsborough County Potable Water Systems.

The County is responsible for the implementation of the programs and activities listed in the goals, objectives, and policies. Further clarification of the responsible department or agency is provided in a majority of the goals, objectives, and policies. Where no specific responsibility is assigned, the Office of the County Administrator will ensure that the County is addressing implementation of the program or activity listed in the goals, objectives, or policy.

A monitoring and evaluation process is being developed in-house to be followed in the preparation of the required five-year evaluation and appraisal reports that will be consistent for all Elements of the Comprehensive Plan. The monitoring and evaluation procedure will address:

- a. Citizen participation in the process;
- b. Updating appropriate baseline data and measurable objectives to be accomplished in the first five-year period of the plan, and for the long-term period;
- c. Accomplishments in the first five-year period, describing the degree to which the goals, objectives and policies have been successfully reached;
- d. Obstacles or problems which resulted in under-achievement of goals, objectives or policies;
- e. New or modified goals, objectives or policies needed to correct discovered problems; and
- f. A means of ensuring continuous monitoring and evaluation of the Plan during the five-year period.

The resultant monitoring and evaluation process will serve as a reporting mechanism to keep the County apprised on a regular basis as to how the Plan is being implemented and updated.

## VI. DEFINITIONS

**COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEM** - a public water system which serves at least 15 service connections used by year-round residents or regularly serves at least 25 year-round residents.

**CONE OF INFLUENCE** - an area around one or more major waterwells, the boundary of which is determined by the government agency having specific statutory authority to make such a determination based on groundwater travel or drawdown depth.

**CONSERVATION USES** - activities within land areas designated for the purpose of conserving or protecting natural resources or environmental quality and includes areas designated for such purposes as flood control, protection of quality or quantity of groundwater or surface water, floodplain management, fisheries management, or protection of vegetative communities or wildlife habitats.

**GPCD** - Gallons Per Capita Per Day.

**MG** - Million Gallons

**MGD** - Millions of Gallons Per Day

**NON-COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEM** - a public water system for provision to the public of piped water for human consumption, which serves at least 25 individuals at least 60 days out of the year, but which is not a community water system; except that a water system for a wilderness educational camp is a non-community water system.

**NWHRWF** - Northwest Hillsborough Regional Wellfield

**POTABLE WATER** - water satisfactory for drinking, culinary, and domestic purposes.

**POTABLE WATER FACILITIES** - a system of structures designed to collect, treat, or distribute potable water, and includes water wells, treatment plants, reservoirs, and distribution mains.

**PSI** - Pounds per Square Inch, a measure of pressure

**SCHRWF** - South Central Hillsborough Regional Wellfield.

**TAMPA BAY WATER** - The six member government regional water authority created in 1998 to replace the West Coast Regional Water Supply Authority.

This is authorized under, and Tampa Bay Water is held responsible to, Chapter 373.1963 Florida Statutes.

**WATER RECHARGE AREAS** - land or water areas through which groundwater is replenished.

**WATER WELLS** - wells excavated, drilled, dug, or driven for the supply of industrial, agricultural or potable water for general public consumption.

**WATER USE PERMIT (WUP)** - A water use permit must be obtained from the Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District before withdrawal of water shall be commenced for quantities set forth in Rule 40D-2.031.

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<sup>1</sup> CPA 04-06 – 2002 legislation requires that local governments having responsibility for water supply facilities and are located within an area for which a Regional Water Supply Plan (RWSP) has been prepared by the water management district adopt a 10 year water supply facilities work plan. The goal of the work plan is to meet projected water demands. The local work plan also projects future water supply needs for 20 years and identifies the methods and assumptions used in projecting future demand.