

INFRASTRUCTURE - the framework of the Gateway Area

POTABLE WATER SUPPLY

Potable water is supplied to customers in the Gateway Area by Pinellas County Utilities and the City of St. Petersburg. The County is a wholesale water provider to the City of Pinellas Park, while the City of Largo is served by the County's retail water system. Tampa Bay Water, as the regional water authority, provides water to both the County and the City of St Petersburg from the regional water system. Tampa Bay Water is also planning the installation of brackish water wells and a treatment facility in the vicinity of Pinellas Park to augment the available regional water supply, although concerns over the location of the brackish water treatment facility and wellfield must first be adequately addressed, as pumping may affect groundwater conditions and the required inward gradient at the slurry wall surrounding Solid Waste Operations. The County and Tampa Bay Water are working together to evaluate ways for these two public facilities to co-exist without negatively impacting each other. Available water supply capacity exists to support redevelopment in the Gateway Area.

WASTEWATER COLLECTION AND TREATMENT

Wastewater collection and treatment within the Gateway Area is provided by the County, the City of St. Petersburg, the City of Largo, and the City of Pinellas Park (collection only). The County's South Cross Bayou Treatment Plant, which serves a large part of south County, has undergone recent upgrades and is expected to accommodate existing and planned future flows without further upgrades. The City of Largo has an aging wastewater collection system, prone to effluent overflows that impact area water quality. The City of Largo, however, has recently committed to collection system improvements designed to address this critical and persistent problem.

SOLID WASTE OPERATIONS

The County's solid waste operations are self-contained within approximately 703 acres in the Gateway Area. Most of the solid waste in the County comes to this facility for disposal. The facility today is an example of innovation, housing a waste-to-energy facility that combusts waste and generates enough electricity to power 40,000 homes. This electricity is sold to Progress Energy to generate income, which helps to keep solid waste management costs low. In addition, day-to-day solid waste activities include metals recovery and landfill operations, as well as waste diversion programs like electronics and chemical waste collection, recycling and the artificial reef construction. The Bridgeway Acres landfill property also houses the St. Petersburg College shooting range, and the soon-to-be constructed Sheriff's K9 facility. On adjacent Utilities' properties not yet in active use for solid waste operations there are several different active leases for co-located uses including a laser testing range, the Bay area bomb disposal site, a BMX track, and the Utilities' fat, oil and grease treatment facility. Overall, Solid Waste Operations provides a low cost, long-term disposal method, which is attractive to businesses locating in Pinellas County.