

# *Surface Water Management Element*

# *Goals, Objectives and Policies*

GOAL ONE: SURFACE WATERS SHALL BE MANAGED TO PROVIDE FLOOD PROTECTION FOR THE CITIZENS OF PINELLAS COUNTY, TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE WATER QUALITY OF RECEIVING WATER BODIES, AND FOR THE PURPOSES OF NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION, ENHANCEMENT AND RESTORATION, PLANT AND WILDLIFE DIVERSITY, AND ESTUARINE PRODUCTIVITY.

## **STORMWATER CONTROL AND TREATMENT**

- 1.1. Objective: Stormwater deficiencies that are the responsibility of the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) shall be identified through the watershed planning process and a schedule of actions to correct these deficiencies will be developed by 2010.
  - 1.1.1. Policy: The implementation of projects to correct existing stormwater deficiencies, shall be given primary importance.
  - 1.1.2. Policy: The implementation of stormwater projects required to accommodate future needs shall be of secondary importance.
  - 1.1.3. Policy: By December 2008, a task team will be established to prioritize project needs, to track the status/implementation of stormwater projects, and to recommend improvements to the coordination of stormwater plans and the surface water planning process.
  - 1.1.4. Policy: Following the completion of the project prioritization in 2010, Pinellas County will, in the fall of each year, evaluate the effectiveness of the County's overall surface water management program, and make adjustments as appropriate.
  - 1.1.5. Policy: Through the annual process of reviewing and ranking watersheds and surface water projects, through ongoing field activities, and through the results of the County's surface water monitoring program, the effectiveness of the County's overall surface water management priorities and program shall be evaluated.
  - 1.1.6. Policy: Project scheduling and priorities shall be flexible enough to accommodate emergencies, opportunities for shared project funding, local drainage needs, and new surface water management responsibilities.
  - 1.1.7. Policy: As a need or emergency may arise, stormwater projects required to address localized issues, such as public safety and neighborhood flooding, may take precedence over already planned improvements.

- 1.1.8. Policy: Pinellas County will develop and maintain an inventory of its stormwater assets to provide a better surface water management tool for Pinellas County and to meet the NPDES permit requirements.
- 1.1.9. Policy: Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP) shall be a component of each surface water management project implemented by both the County and private development.
- 1.1.10. Policy: Each stormwater management project design shall include an evaluation of the feasibility of, and give preference to, natural versus designed alternatives, or a combination thereof, where practical.
- 1.1.11. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to work with the municipalities to address changes in surface water management responsibilities as a result of annexation.
- 1.1.12. Policy: All stormwater models developed through the watershed planning process will be evaluated on an annual basis and updated as needed.
- 1.1.13. Policy: Stormwater management projects as well as ongoing operations and maintenance activities shall be carried out consistent with adopted watershed/waterbody management plans.
- 1.2. Objective: The County shall apply its stormwater management concurrency management provisions at the time of site plan review, and utilize the following level-of-service standards to support the goals of the Surface Water Management Element.
  - 1.2.1. Policy: The following level-of-service standards are adopted for major drainage projects to support stormwater management goals:

<b>Pinellas County Level-of-Service Standards for Stormwater Management</b>
All applicable federal, state, and local regulations (as indicated in the Regulatory Framework section of the Surface water Management Element) relating to flood control, stormwater treatment and wetland protection, shall continue to be met in public and private project design.
The twenty-five year storm design standard shall confine the runoff from a 25 year, 24 hour rainfall event within drainage channel banks, or within designated twenty-five year floodplains, in order to protect human life and minimize property damage.
The one-hundred year storm design standard shall protect homes and commercial buildings against flooding by a 100 year, 24 hour rainfall event.
Preference shall be given to stormwater management options which restore floodplains and remove obstructions from floodways.

- 1.2.2. Policy: Private development shall be reviewed for concurrency purposes during the site plan review process in order to make sure that the development does not adversely impact surrounding properties or off-site conveyance and treatment systems.
- 1.2.3. Policy: Pinellas County shall evaluate the ongoing effectiveness of its stormwater design standards and adopted level-of-service standards by 2010, and amend if necessary.
- 1.3. Objective: Where feasible, the Board of County Commissioners shall continue to pursue a system of regional surface water management which is both economically and environmentally sound.
  - 1.3.1. Policy: The applicability and feasibility of regional stormwater facilities, and the design of facilities sized to accommodate several small project sites, shall be considered as a part of watershed plan development and encouraged when technically, environmentally, and economically desirable.
  - 1.3.2. Policy: Pinellas County will evaluate the development of an impact fee or stormwater credit system, in order to support regional stormwater systems in appropriate areas identified by watershed management plans, and to encourage public/private partnerships for more efficient stormwater management.

## **WATER QUALITY AND NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION, ENHANCEMENT, RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT**

- 1.4. Objective: Stormwater deficiencies and flood control improvements will be identified during the development of individual watershed plans.
  - 1.4.1. Policy: As projects are identified, they will be incorporated into the comprehensive list of planned surface water projects and improvements for the respective watershed, to be prioritized and scheduled through the annual capital improvements planning process.
- 1.5. Objective: Pinellas County shall show measurable improvements in the quality of County waters, as a result of management activities, and the development and implementation of watershed management plans.
  - 1.5.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to systematically prepare watershed or waterbody management plans for approval and implementation by the Board of County Commissioners. Such plans shall address water quality, stormwater management, habitat requirements, and biological targets, as well as recommended funding sources.

- 1.5.2. Policy: Comprehensive watershed and water body management plans shall be developed and implemented in a manner that is unique to the character and condition of each watershed or waterbody, and shall address, as appropriate, the need for: (1) stormwater, water quality, water quantity, and habitat-related capital projects, (2) public education and citizen involvement, (3) specific management activities including, if necessary, additional regulation and/or incentive based programs, and (4) the necessary monitoring to evaluate the short and long term successes of the overall management program, (5) the implementation of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements, and (6) opportunities to incorporate recreational opportunities.
- 1.5.3. Policy: Following approval of a specific watershed or waterbody management plan, an implementation schedule shall be developed and individual projects shall be prioritized and scheduled.
- 1.5.4. Policy: In watersheds or waterbodies where a watershed or waterbody management plan has not yet been completed, stormwater management projects shall be designed to be consistent with the policies of the Surface Water Management Element, the Natural Resource Conservation and Management Element, and Coastal Management Element of the Comprehensive Plan.
- 1.5.5. Policy: Any approved development/redevelopment project must be consistent with, and reviewed against, any approved watershed plan in place for the impacted watershed.
- 1.5.6. Policy: By 2010, Pinellas County shall establish a Nutrient Sensitive Watershed designation for the Lake Seminole and Lake Tarpon Watersheds, effectively establishing a special planning and management district for each watershed that would create specific policies and guidelines for development within those watersheds.
- 1.5.7. Policy: By 2012, Pinellas County shall require, through the site plan review process, the retrofitting of pre-1985 stormwater treatment and/or flood attenuation systems located within the Lake Seminole or the Lake Tarpon Watershed Management Area, with systems that meet the most current standards for Outstanding Florida Waters.
- 1.5.8. Policy: By 2015, Pinellas County will evaluate the feasibility of establishing trust funds for those watersheds with completed watershed management plans, including the Lake Seminole and Lake Tarpon Watershed, to be used for the development of regional stormwater facilities and funded by the collection of fees from those parcels that are not able to develop stormwater treatment facilities.
- 1.5.9. Policy: Those stormwater management project designs which retain water within the impacted watershed, by means of wetland attenuation, or

groundwater infiltration, shall be preferred over those which encourage rapid discharge, particularly outside of the watershed.

- 1.5.10. Policy: Through watershed management plan implementation and related activities, Pinellas County shall work to protect and restore aquatic and marine resources, including marine and estuarine habitats, wetlands, and tidal streams within coastal waters by preserving where appropriate, or restoring where possible, a functional balance of plant and wildlife habitats.
- 1.5.11. Policy: Watershed-specific regulations and programs may be identified and applied as a result of an adopted watershed management plan or to meet pollutant loading targets established by the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for Tampa Bay, and/or to meet the purpose and intent of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements.
- 1.5.12. Policy: Where basin or waterbody specific management plans, or a TMDL designation, indicate that stricter, or basin-specific stormwater regulations are essential, regulations shall be developed and the Land Development Code amended accordingly.
- 1.5.13. Policy: In the development of specific watershed/waterbody management plans, Pinellas County shall give priority to those water bodies whose water is known, or suspected, to be impaired, and to those high quality waterbodies whose quality may be in danger of impairment, as identified by the Departments of Public Works and Environmental Management through such means as the watershed ranking process and through the assignment of TMDLs on specific waterbodies.
- 1.5.14. Policy: Consistent with the County's annual capital improvements program, through interlocal agreement, and where multi-jurisdictional benefit is derived, Pinellas County will take the lead in the development of comprehensive watershed plans.
- 1.6. Objective: Stormwater management decisions and permits will require consideration of the most current regulations and technical data, models, and plans available, including any approved watershed management plan, and well as other resource management objectives.
- 1.6.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall enforce County stormwater regulations requiring new construction, or redeveloped sites other than an individual single family parcel to meet the current applicable stormwater management standards (consistent with the Regulatory Framework section of the Surface Water Management Element).
- 1.6.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall require enhanced stormwater treatment for projects that outfall to Outstanding Florida Waters, consistent with

Federal, State, and local standards and adopted watershed management plan directives via the County's land development code.

- 1.6.3. Policy: By 2010, Pinellas County will amend its Land Development Regulations to require that all parcels of land, other than an individual single family parcel, be able to show that the development or redevelopment of a site meets Pinellas County stormwater regulations or results in improved stormwater treatment when compared to its previous state.
- 1.6.4. Policy: As a part of the development review process, individual single-family construction will be reviewed to make sure that onsite construction and regrading do not create an adverse impact on neighboring properties or the County's stormwater system.
- 1.6.5. Policy: Development and redevelopment projects in Pinellas County shall be reviewed using the most current stormwater models available, to evaluate the project's impacts on adjacent properties, and the local stormwater conveyance system to accommodate the flows associated with the project.
- 1.6.6. Policy: Property being served by septic tanks shall be required to hook up to a County sewer system within six months of availability.
- 1.6.7. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to enforce regulations that require natural upland buffers adjacent to estuaries, bays and other surface waters.
- 1.6.8. Policy: In association with the update to the Land Development Code, Pinellas County will evaluate the feasibility of implementing fertilizer sale and use regulations to protect water quality by restricting nitrogen and phosphorus application timing, content, and rates on urban turf and lawns, and will also evaluate applicability to sports turf.
- 1.6.9. Policy: In association with the update to the Land Development Code, Pinellas County will evaluate its Land Development Regulations to consider the feasibility of requiring a buffer zone prohibiting the application of fertilizers on vegetation within fifty (50) feet of the receiving waters of the County; training and certification requirements for landscape professionals using Best Management Practices recommended by the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Science (UF/IFAS) Extension Services; and developing a Model Landscape Maintenance Contract that incorporates Best Management Practices.
- 1.6.10. Policy: In association with the update to the Land Development Code, Pinellas County will consider if additional regulations are necessary

to address impacts of buried construction debris and soil compaction on development sites.

- 1.6.11. Policy: In association with the update to the Land Development Code, Pinellas County will require that site plan applications for redevelopment or new development be accompanied by a Florida-Friendly landscape plan, consistent with the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods program.
- 1.6.12. Policy: In association with the update to the Land Development Code, Pinellas County will develop incentives and requirements for the utilization of Low Impact Development (LID) and other sustainable site development practices, for new development and redevelopment, with emphasis on watersheds that have been designated impaired through the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program.
- 1.6.13. Policy: By 2010, Pinellas County will develop guidelines or criteria for the use, placement and maintenance of cisterns and rain barrels, in order to retain stormwater on-site for reuse in such capacities as landscape irrigation and other appropriate uses.
- 1.6.14. Policy: Pinellas County will implement, and periodically monitor the effectiveness of, educational programs and partnerships targeted at homeowners and other non-commercial users of fertilizer.
- 1.7. Objective: Pinellas County will continue to educate the public about the impact of local actions on the quality of the County's surface waters
  - 1.7.1. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to promote the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) program to educate Pinellas County property owners of the benefits that Florida-friendly landscaping can have on the quality of surface waters in the County, and of the impacts that individual lots can have.
  - 1.7.2. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to promote the storm drain marking program, which serves to educate the public about how their individual actions can affect local surface water quality.
  - 1.7.3. Policy: By 2015, Pinellas County will develop educational material to inform citizens of the impacts that impervious improvements, such as decks and patios, can have on the on the surface water management, and will identify steps that can be taken to compensate for these impacts.
  - 1.7.4. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to educate homeowners' associations and other similar groups and associations on appropriate maintenance practices for private stormwater ponds.

- 1.8. Objective: The surface waters of Pinellas County will be managed to preserve and enhance the water quality of receiving water bodies, and to protect, enhance and restore natural resources, plant and wildlife diversity and estuarine productivity.
- 1.8.1. Policy: Wetlands and floodplains shall continue to be preserved (e.g., by designating them as Preservation on the Future Land Use Map) and will be protected as conveyance systems, as wildlife and vegetative habitat, and as natural storage.
- 1.8.2. Policy: The Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners shall continue to utilize its regulatory authority as the Pinellas County Water and Navigation Control Authority to ensure development is consistent with the objectives and policies of this Element pertaining to the protection, enhancement, and restoration of coastal waters and resources.
- 1.8.3. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to review, upgrade and manage its retention/detention ponds to optimize their efficiency and effectiveness.
- 1.8.4. Policy: By 2010, Pinellas County will promote golf course certification in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, and will encourage new golf courses to receive certification from the Audubon Signature Program and participate in the associated monitoring.
- 1.8.5. Policy: In support of Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) priorities, and because of their importance to the survival of the juvenile white ibis and other wildlife, Pinellas County shall protect remaining freshwater ephemeral ponds where identified and where possible, and shall create new ponds when feasible and appropriate.
- 1.9. Objective Stormwater management projects will complement resource protection and management objectives, with emphasis placed on natural versus structural solutions.
- 1.9.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to require, in both County projects and in private projects, natural upland buffers adjacent to wetlands, permanent and seasonal streams, natural drainage channels, the shorelines of lakes, estuaries and other surface waters.
- 1.9.2. Policy: The County shall continue to enforce erosion control regulations to reduce sedimentation and turbidity in freshwater and coastal waterbodies and habitats (including seagrass beds) resulting from upland development activities.

- 1.9.3. Policy: During development and redevelopment, the site plan process shall be used to ensure that the benefits of natural drainageways and natural storage areas are retained for their stormwater management function or are restored where feasible.
- 1.9.4. Policy: The County shall permit the use of isolated wetlands for stormwater attenuation, when not in conflict with environmental or public use considerations.
- 1.9.5. Policy: The County shall encourage alternatives to the hardening and bulkheading of natural coastal shorelines, natural stream courses, and tidal creeks through application of its Habitat Management and Landscape regulations, Site Development regulations, and the Water and Navigation Control Authority Regulations.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION**

- 1.10. Objective: Pinellas County shall participate with federal, state, regional, and local agencies and governments in gathering and evaluating the data necessary to identify major pollution problems in the County's waters.
- 1.10.1. Policy: The County shall continue to cooperate with federal, regional and state agencies to improve monitoring and compliance enforcement of point and non-point source discharges to the coastal waters of the County and their tributaries.
- 1.10.2. Policy: Pinellas County, in coordination with the municipalities, shall continue its program of surface water monitoring within the waters of the County as a means of evaluating the degree of watershed/water body impairment, the overall effect of management activities, the quality of surface waters and the overall health of dependent living resources.
- 1.10.3. Policy: Pinellas County shall remain an active and ongoing participant in technical and management studies regarding the impacts of atmospheric deposition on surface water quality.
- 1.10.4. Policy: Pinellas County shall remain an active participant in the study of toxic contaminants and their impact on water quality and biological resources, and shall address toxics, as appropriate, in its water resource and air quality monitoring and management activities.
- 1.10.5. Policy: Pinellas County shall be knowledgeable of surface water pollutant hazards, including hazards to coastal waters such as transported fuels, and support measures to avoid or reduce such impacts when and where possible.

- 1.10.6. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to work with the Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP) to coordinate bay-wide monitoring of water and sediment/benthic quality, in conjunction with the Regional Ambient Monitoring Program (RAMP), and other jurisdictions within the region.
- 1.10.7. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to promote the reduction and/or elimination of point source pollutant loadings to surface waters through, at a minimum, enforcement of illicit discharge regulations as well as requirements for alternative reuse and disposal options.
- 1.10.8. Policy: Pinellas County shall consider partnering with the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and/or other agencies, to become a model community for the demonstration of new and innovative stormwater management techniques, such as Low Impact Development, to establish criteria for future projects, and to ensure that such techniques are viable alternatives to current stormwater management practices.
- 1.11. Objective: Pinellas County will continue to coordinate with other federal, state, regional and local agencies in the development of plans and programs that will provide for the protection of natural resources by protecting and improving the quality of the surface waters of the County.
- 1.11.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to cooperate with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the Tampa Bay Estuary Program and other appropriate agencies in protecting, restoring or enhancing natural habitats, estuaries, and natural systems such as tidal flats, tidal streams, mangrove forests, seagrass beds, salt marshes, salt barrens, freshwater wetlands and uplands by participating in revegetation projects, the development and implementation of management plans for Tampa Bay and the Boca Ciega Bay and Pinellas County aquatic preserves, Pollution Recovery Trust Fund environmental enhancement projects, Pinellas-Anclote River Basin Board Cooperative Funding projects, and other appropriate restorative and/or mitigative programs.
- 1.11.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall implement multi-jurisdictional Surface Water Management Program projects, conduct watershed planning, and perform other activities related to comprehensive and coordinated surface water management through the development of interlocal agreements with the appropriate local governments and agencies.
- 1.11.3. Policy: Pinellas County shall work with all appropriate agencies and jurisdictions in developing coordinated and equitable implementation plans and schedules for surface water management projects.

- 1.11.4. Policy: All Surface Water Management Program projects within watersheds or waterbodies of Pinellas County shall be compatible with the Florida plan for that water body or watershed, with relevant components of SWFWMD's Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWM) for the Tampa Bay/Anclote Watershed, and with the Tampa Bay Estuary Program's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) where appropriate.
- 1.11.5. Policy: The County shall cooperate with, and assist as appropriate, the Southwest Florida Water Management District in the development and implementation of Surface Water Improvement and Management Plans for water bodies in Pinellas County.
- 1.11.6. Policy: Pinellas County shall participate with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in the development of the Boca Ciega Bay and Pinellas County Aquatic Preserves Management Plans, as they are scheduled by the State.
- 1.11.7. Policy: The County shall continue to participate in the Tampa Bay Estuary Program and the Agency on Bay Management as a means to provide a multi-jurisdictional/multi-disciplinary forum for managing the resources of Tampa Bay.
- 1.11.8. Policy: Pinellas County Surface Water Management Program projects within the Tampa Bay watershed shall support, and further enhance, the goals of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for Tampa Bay.
- 1.11.9. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to coordinate with other local governments in protecting multi-jurisdictional estuaries by soliciting municipal comments before applications for development are heard by the Pinellas County Water and Navigation Control Authority.
- 1.11.10. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to support the Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP) and its partnership approach to the protection and restoration of Tampa Bay.
- 1.11.11. Policy: In instances where watershed plans are multi-jurisdictional in scope, it shall be the policy of the Board of County Commissioners to enter into interlocal agreements, where necessary and desirable, with other affected government(s) and agencies as a means of ensuring cooperation in plan development and implementation, consistent implementation of agreed-upon management strategies, and shared funding responsibilities.
- 1.12. Objective: The Surface Water Management Element shall continue to be coordinated with all affected jurisdictions and agencies, as well as federal, state and regional goals for surface water control, protection, enhancement, restoration and management.

- 1.12.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall support and cooperate in the development of comprehensive and coordinated management plans for Tampa Bay and the aquatic preserves located in Pinellas County by providing staff resources and technical support in the preparation, review, and implementation of these management plans.
- 1.12.2. Policy: By signature to the implementing agreement for the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for Tampa Bay, the County shall commit to implementation of the respective and applicable Pinellas County action plan components, consistent with provisions of the agreement.
- 1.12.3. Policy: Pinellas County shall practice multi-jurisdictional cooperation and coordination in developing and promoting educational programs related to water resource management and the resolution of water resource issues.
- 1.12.4. Policy: Where Pinellas County is involved, the County shall, through the use of individual interlocal agreements, ensure that the costs of implementing surface water management projects and programs are equitably shared by affected local and regional governments and agencies.
- 1.12.5. Policy: Pinellas County shall support opportunities to coordinate land acquisition activities with other local and regional governments and agencies for the purpose of comprehensive and integrated watershed planning and management, and the connection of functional natural areas.
- 1.12.6. Policy: Pinellas County shall support the need to share scheduling information related to the implementation of surface water management projects between and among local governments where there may be multi-jurisdictional interest or impact.
- 1.12.7. Policy: Pinellas County will coordinate with permitting agencies on regulations that encourage and support innovative and creative strategies for stormwater management, in order to ensure quality redevelopment and comply with permitting regulations.
- 1.12.8. Policy: Pinellas County shall evaluate the benefits in seeking delegation of state environmental programs where adequate staff and financial resources exist to effectively manage the program to a level equal to, or exceeding the level provided by the State and shall where it is in the best interest of the County.
- 1.13. Objective: Pinellas County shall meet the regulatory requirements of the NPDES, TMDL and other Federal, State and local programs, and will continue to collaborate with other stakeholders to protect and enhance the quality of the County's surface waters and to provide flood control.

- 1.13.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall encourage, initiate where appropriate, and participate in multi-jurisdictional cooperation and coordination in watershed planning and management, in meeting National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) municipal stormwater system permit requirements, in the implementation of the CCMP, and in the overall practice of efficient, effective and comprehensive surface water management programs.
- 1.13.2. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to implement the directives required by the County's NPDES permit, in coordination with the 21 co-permittees, including continued water quality monitoring throughout the County, the compilation of data related to stormwater quality and control, the education of residents of the importance of stormwater management, and the development of a Stormwater Management Plan.
- 1.13.3. Policy: The effectiveness of the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) program will be monitored and measured through the NPDES annual reporting process.
- 1.13.4. Policy: Existing water quality impairments, as identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) program, will be incorporated into the Watershed Management Plans, through Basin Management Action Plans (BMAP), and given a high funding priority for implementation, according to the TMDL decree.
- 1.13.5. Policy: As TMDLs are assigned, BMAPs will be developed and implemented through the watershed management plans, and projects will be prioritized according to TMDL requirements and given a high funding priority.
- 1.13.6. Policy: Within two years of the assignment of a TMDL, Pinellas County will develop a Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP), which will consist of actions and strategies, aimed at reducing pollutant loadings to achieve the assigned TMDL.
- 1.13.7. Policy: Pinellas County will take a lead role in the implementation of Basin Management Action Plans, when a TMDL is assigned to a specific watershed within unincorporated Pinellas County. The County shall also continue to work with the municipalities of the County to share the responsibility of the implementation of the BMAP and in the achievement of the assigned TMDL.
- 1.13.8. Policy: Pinellas County will ensure that all TMDL requirements are furthered through capital improvement projects in those watersheds where a waterbody has been defined as impaired by either the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency or the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

- 1.13.9. Policy: Pinellas County may require additional stormwater and surface water treatment methods for all developments in those watersheds that contain a waterbody that has received a TMDL to promote the achievement of reductions in pollutant loads and the improvement of water quality.

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS**

- 1.14. Objective: Pinellas County shall annually, as a part of its capital improvements program, revisit the goals of the Surface Water Management Element and shall prioritize, approve through the adopted budget, and subsequently identify and direct funds towards those projects necessary to the achievement of these goals.
- 1.14.1. Policy: Unless or until a determination is made regarding an alternative funding source, the County will continue to utilize infrastructure sales tax revenue as its principal funding source for stormwater management projects.
- 1.14.2. Policy: Projects from the Surface Water Management Program, including flood and erosion control, water quality, and habitat improvement projects, will be reviewed and prioritized annually, in order to facilitate revisions in the existing schedules and/or to be scheduled for inclusion in the Capital Improvements Program and will be represented in the Capital Improvements Element, as appropriate.
- 1.14.3. Policy: Pinellas County shall implement approved watershed management plans by, at a minimum, revising the Surface Water Management Program and amending the Capital Improvements Element.
- 1.14.4. Policy: As local stormwater management needs are documented, the County shall prioritize and implement improvements in accordance with the capital improvements schedule.
- 1.14.5. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to pursue Federal, State, regional and local matches for grants and public and private partnerships in order to provide additional funding or leverage existing funding, for surface water management activities.