

**Utilities Department
Brooker Creek Preserve
Pumping Project**

This pumping project is a conservation program focused on reducing potable water demand. Potable water for Pinellas County citizens comes from water facilities such as wellfields, rivers, reservoirs and desal plants in Hillsborough and Pasco Counties. To reduce environmental impacts in those other counties, Pinellas County Utilities has a long term conservation program to reduce its water withdrawal.

One primary focus area, developed in partnership with the region, has been to decrease potable water use for irrigation. The county has implemented an extensive reclaim water program geared to re-using 100% of the reclaimed water produced at our wastewater treatment facilities. Currently, reclaimed water that could be used by our potable water users during the dry period is contractually committed to the East Lake Woodlands Golf Course.

Proposed Project

The proposed project is to use existing wells from the old East Lake Road wellfield that are located in the preserve to supply non-potable water to Eastlake Woodland's golf courses during the dry period of the year. This would allow Pinellas County to utilize this reclaimed water to meet residential potable water users' irrigation needs on a year long basis.

After the dry season, the wells would be turned off. Reclaimed water would again be provided to the golf courses. Excess reclaim water during the wet periods of the year is sufficient to meet residential water use irrigation and golf course irrigation needs.

The proposal is to withdraw as much as one million gallons on any day during the dry months with a maximum annual average of 294,000 per day. This is a very small amount when considering the hydrological water cycle in the area. No unacceptable environmental impacts from this withdrawal will occur. Also, this withdrawal will contribute to the reduction of environmental impacts in the counties where our potable water supply originates.

Current Status

The county has applied to SWFWMD for a permit for the production of water from the existing wells. Several steps will occur in the permit process:

- SWFWMD will issue a permit to withdraw water only if the county proves the withdrawal will not result in unacceptable impacts as defined in their rules including impacts to lakes and wetlands.
- SWFWMD has asked the county to supply additional information. The additional information is due to SWFWMD on October 20, 2006.
- After receiving the data, SWFWMD has 30 days to review the information and to deem the application complete or ask for more information.
- When it is deemed complete, then SWFWMD will issue a proposed agency action to approve or deny the permit application.