

Appendix B

*Pinellas County Utilities
Customer Commitment Letter*

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

- Ronnie E. Duncan - Chairman
- Robert B. Stewart - Vice Chairman
- Calvin D. Harris
- Susan Latvala
- John Morroni
- Karen Williams Seel
- Kenneth T. Welch



Individual letter sent to each municipality referencing wholesale or retail water obligations

June 13, 2007

Donna Carlen, Town Clerk
 Town of Belleair
 901 Ponce de Leon Boulevard
 Belleair, FL 33756-1096

Same second/signatory page for each letter

Subject: 10 Year Water Supply Facilities Work Plan

Dear Ms. Carlen:

The Town of Belleair is included within the Pinellas County Water Demand Planning Area (PCWDPA) as a wholesale customer of Pinellas County Utilities. By this letter, Pinellas County is providing the Town with continued assurance that Pinellas County Utilities continues to plan for, and provides, the facilities necessary to transmit and distribute potable water within the Pinellas County Water Demand Planning Area. For the Town's purpose, this means that Pinellas County Utilities actively plans for, and can provide the facilities, to meet its wholesale water obligations to the Town.

144.1.1

Pinellas County Utilities receives its potable water supply from Tampa Bay Water, Inc., the regional water supply utility. Tampa Bay Water is under agreement with its member governments to supply potable water to meet all member government water demands. Attached to this letter is correspondence from Tampa Bay Water evidencing this commitment as well as evidencing coordination of their Master Water Plan with the Regional Water Supply Plan prepared by the Southwest Florida Water Management District. As you know, Section 163.3177, F.S., requires assurance that water suppliers coordinate their water supply planning with Regional Water Supply Plans, where appropriate. Pinellas County's primary means of relating to the Regional Water Supply Plan is through our reclaimed water and conservation programs, which are reflected in the updated 10 Year Water Supply Facilities Work Plan.

Also attached to this letter is the recently updated 10 Year Water Supply Facilities Work Plan prepared by Pinellas County Utilities which reflects the long term funding commitment to the facilities required to support the potable water needs of Pinellas County Utilities' retail and wholesale customers.

In addition to its capital planning program, Pinellas County conducts its conservation program throughout its entire Water Demand Planning Area. This program includes such things as eligibility for incentive programs (e.g., Alternative Water Sources Rebate Program, Water

Sample

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 600 Cleveland Street
 Suite 750
 Clearwater, Florida 33755
 Phone: (727) 464-8200
 Fax: (727) 464-8201
 Website: www.pinellascounty.org



Saving Kits, Indoor Plumbing Retrofit kits, etc.) as well as education programs and materials in the schools, at special events, at hotels and motels, as well as general conservation materials for distribution at municipal buildings and events. The commitment and resultant success of Pinellas County Utilities' conservation programs is reflected in the fact that Pinellas County Utilities' customers continue to have one of the lowest per capita water consumption rates in the State. Included in this mailing is an "Overview of Pinellas County Utilities Water Supply Programs, Challenges and Long-Range Facility Planning," which is an excerpt of some of the information that will be included in the data and analysis portion of Pinellas County's the updated Potable Water Element.

Please contact Liz Freeman or Robert Feigel of my staff, at 464-8200, if you need additional information, or have any questions. We will also be posting information related to water supply planning, as well as draft updates to the Water and Sewer Elements of the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan on our website shortly at www.pinellascounty.org/Plan.

Sincerely,



Brian K. Smith, Director of Planning
Pinellas County Planning Department

cc: Pete Yauch, Assistant County Administrator
Pick Talley, Director of Utilities
Roy Mazur, SWFWMD
Paula Dye, Tampa Bay Water

Attachments:

Correspondence from Tampa Bay Water
10 Year Water Supply Facilities Work Plan
Overview of Pinellas County Utilities Water Supply Programs, Challenges and Long-Range Facility Planning

Overview of Pinellas County Utilities Water Supply Programs, Challenges and Long-Range Facility Planning

Pinellas County is a member of Tampa Bay Water, through interlocal agreement, and Tampa Bay Water is required to meet all its member governments' water supply needs. Pinellas County is relying upon Tampa Bay Water to meet this projected demand by implementing its Master Water Plan for developing new sources, and continued water production from existing potable water sources. As a mature water and wastewater utility system, Pinellas County Utilities (PCU) distributes water to both retail and wholesale customers. PCU provides service to most of the unincorporated areas and several municipalities. As Pinellas County is essentially built-out, there is little anticipated growth in Pinellas County Utilities Water Demand Planning Area. A very small percentage of the County remains on private wells or septic systems.

Because Pinellas County Utilities relies upon Tampa Bay Water to meet the projected water demand, Pinellas County is focusing primarily on offsetting potable water use through conservation efforts and the use of reclaimed water.

Conservation: PCU is also committed to several other conservation programs which are focused on structurally changing water demand through public education and instilling efficient water use habits in PCU customers, both wholesale and retail. Some of the structural programs used so far include the distribution of water conserving fixtures such as low flow shower heads, outdoor hose nozzles and rain gauges.

To reduce the demand for outdoor use of potable water for irrigation, PCU has instituted an alternative water source incentive program where customers can be partially reimbursed for developing an alternative source of water for irrigation such as shallow or deep wells, or surface water withdrawal. This is only available in areas where reclaimed water is not to be provided, and to those connected to our wholesale customers' systems.

PCU continues to enforce watering restrictions as a means to educate customers, limiting water use for irrigation to appropriate days and times. This has had the effect of controlling growth in the demand for outdoor irrigation and educating customers about excessive use of irrigation water. For example, PCU's Healthy Lawns program is aimed at changing water demand by changing habits and educating citizens on native plant species and xeriscaping concepts that can reduce demand, and assuring an understanding of the benefits to lawns when appropriate watering techniques are employed.

Reclaimed Water: Pinellas County produces safe reclaimed water that meets all the state requirements for utilization of reclaimed water for irrigation of public access areas (parks, playgrounds, school sites, golf courses, etc.), and irrigation of residential lawns and landscapes. Pinellas County owns and operates two advanced wastewater treatment facilities. The William E. Dunn (WED) Water Reclamation Facility provides reclaimed water service to residents and businesses in the unincorporated areas north of Curlew Road. The South Cross Bayou (SCB) Water Reclamation Facility provides reclaimed water service to residents and businesses in central and southern unincorporated areas, and to the Gulf beach communities from Sand Key to Tierra Verde.

The management of water in Florida is especially important. How we use, conserve and manage our water supply will greatly affect our quality of life now, and, even more so in the future. In Pinellas County, Florida's most densely populated county, residents and government work together to conserve water to make efficient use of all water resources. With the highest residential distribution of reclaimed water in Florida, Pinellas County is a leading example in the use and benefits of reclaimed water. Reclaimed water helps to offset the use of potable water sources, helping to "get more mileage" out of available water resources.

Capital Improvements and the 10 Year Water Supply Facilities Work Plan: PCU's capital program for the water system is driven primarily by repair and replacement of existing facilities. This is due to the lack of growth being experienced in the service area and the age of the system. Other considerations in the capital program include actions necessary to address varying water qualities received from Tampa Bay Water. To address the softer water being received from Tampa Bay Water, an accelerated pipe replacement program was initiated. To address issues associated with Tampa Bay Water's water being received from multiple sources (and therefore multiple qualities), PCU is considering the development of infrastructure to allow blending and retention as a way to assure that a stable, more consistent quality product is delivered to PCU customers via the distribution system. Clearly, the rising cost of water from Tampa Bay Water, combined with the cost of the capital programs above, impact rates to customers.

Consistent with Chapter 163 of the Florida Statutes, a 10 Year Water Supply Facilities Work Plan has been prepared by PCU. It does not address costs associated with water supply, as that is the responsibility of Tampa Bay Water. It does address things like distribution, transmission, treatment, and associated facilities, for the entire Pinellas County Water Demand Planning Area, consistent with individual wholesale agreements.