

## POTABLE WATER GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

**GOAL 1:** To develop, operate, and maintain an environmentally sound, economically efficient, potable water treatment, and distribution, system meeting all applicable federal, state, and local water quality standards, meeting the current and future needs of the customers of North Port Utilities using 10-year master planning process, while taking into consideration the needs of the City at ultimate build-out.

**Objective 1:** Potable water facilities shall be provided to meet North Port Utilities Customer's short-term and long-term future water supply needs.

**Policy 1.1.1:** The following level of service (LOS) standards are hereby adopted:

- 1) The LOS for potable water facilities shall be Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Permitted treatment capacity of the facilities respective of the raw water withdrawal limits as permitted by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), whichever is more stringent.
- 2) The potable water supply system shall maintain a minimum fire flow pressure of 20 pounds per square inch (psi).

**Policy 1.1.2:** All improvements for replacement, expansion or increase in capacity of facilities shall be compatible with the utilities master planning process.

**Policy 1.1.3:** The City of North Port shall continue to utilize the development review process of the Unified Land Development Code to require applicants for development permits to enter into an agreement to "tie-in" to existing facilities or construct improvements to the City's potable water system necessitated by the proposed development when adequate facilities, based on the adopted level of service standard, are not available and no fiscally feasible plan to construct or expand said facilities is proposed.

**Policy 1.1.4:** Prior to approval of a building permit, the City of North Port shall consult with North Port Utilities to determine whether adequate potable water supplies to serve the new development will be available no later than the anticipated date of issuance of a certificate of occupancy.

**Policy 1.1.5:** The City of North Port hereby adopts a 10-Year Water Supply Facilities Work Plan as required in Chapter 163 of Florida Statutes (F.S.), by reference to incorporate any alternative water supply projects including conservation and reclaim water that may be identified in the regional water supply plan as necessary to serve existing and new development. The 10-Year Water Supply Facilities Work Plans shall be updated as required by Chapter 163 F.S.

**Objective 1.2.** North Port Utilities shall provide current and future customers a cost effective, equitable and adequate potable water system and, where feasible, correct existing potable water facilities' deficiencies.

**Policy 1.2.2.** In the absence of legal constraints on the use of revenues, North Port Utilities should maintain funding for systems improvements identified in the Capital Improvements Element to alleviate potable water deficiencies consistent with the Capital Projects Prioritization system established by the City of North Port.

**Policy 1.2.3.** Consistent with bonding requirements, North Port Utilities will take no action by which the rights and benefits of its customers might be impaired or diminished.

**Policy 1.2.4.** When evaluating alternatives to new potable water facility construction, or retrofitting existing infrastructure, North Port Utilities shall assess, identify, and evaluate the costs and benefits of adaptation alternatives when implementing policies for the increased efficiency and capacity of existing facilities, while balancing operational, economic and environmental effects, as part of long-term water supply planning.

**Objective 1.3:** To monitor and evaluate existing facilities on an annual basis to insure maximum use and efficiency.

**Policy 1.3.1:** Continue to operate and maintain the City's Reverse Osmosis (RO) and surface water treatment systems at the Myakkahatchee Creek Water Treatment Plant, including the RO wellfield, to meet average day and peak-day demands, established fire flow requirements, and to maintain satisfactory water pressure. Also continue to provide a level of treatment that complies with federal state and local drinking water standards.

**Policy 1.3.2:** Continue to maintain a staff of qualified treatment plant operators, and ensure they receive regularly scheduled training and instruction regarding state-of-the-art operation procedures and the latest federal, state and local guidelines and regulations.

**Policy 1.3.3:** Continue to operate and maintain water storage facilities and booster pump stations to provide adequate capacity for meeting peak-day/hour demands and fire flow requirements.

**Policy 1.3.4:** Continue to operate and maintain existing distribution lines, and upgrade the distribution system where necessary to meet future demands, as well as continue to provide sufficient water pressure to customers.

**Policy 1.3.5:** Make water distribution system improvements to the extent possible to allow the City of North Port to maintain current ISO (Insurance Service Organization) fire ratings.

**Objective 2:** The City will continue to implement procedures to ensure that at the time a development permit is issued, adequate potable water supply, treatment, and distribution capacity is available or will be available concurrent with the impacts of development. Such procedures will be implemented as defined in the Unified Land Development Code.

**Policy 2.1:** The City shall utilize utilities master plans to guide the provision of potable water service to its customers. The Utilities Master Plans for potable water and wastewater, including reclaimed water, shall be updated at least every five (5) years.

**Policy 2.2:** Utilities master plans shall include a field calibrated hydraulic modeling component with static and dynamic (i.e. extended-duration) model runs as appropriate.

**Policy 2.3:** All projects shall be undertaken consistently and complementary with the Utilities master plans.

**Policy 2.4:** The City shall analyze and improve waterline extension policies and revise them as necessary to determine the funding and timing of line extensions to existing platted lot neighborhoods.

**Policy 2.5:** For potable water, sanitary sewer, stormwater, and drainage, the City will require a higher level of review for developments bordering, or encompassing, areas of potential potable water resources, such as the Cocoplum Waterway, the Myakkahatchee Creek, and all drainage canals which feed these water supplies, and ground water, so as to keep potential potable water resources from becoming contaminated.

**Policy 2.6:** When referring to utilities master plans, the City will adhere to the following accepted plans. The City shall amend this Comprehensive Plan when any of these master plans or associated hydraulic models are updated and new master plans or hydraulic model recommendations are developed and accepted by the City Commission.

- 1) 2015 Utilities Master Plan: Adopted by Commission on April 26, 2016.
- 2) Water Reuse Master Plan: Accepted by City Commission on April 28, 2008.
- 3) 2007 Water Utilities Master Plan: Accepted by City Commission on April 28, 2008.
- 4) 2014 Water Demand Analysis: Accepted by City Commission on June 23, 2014.

**Policy 2.7:** The City will consult with the City's supplemental regional water supplier, currently the Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority (PRMRWSA), to ensure that any water which the City cannot supply will be available to serve developments, or no Development Order shall be issued.

**Policy 2.8:** Development Orders shall specify that, at the time of the issuance of a certificate of occupancy, or its functional equivalent, all necessary potable water facilities and services are in place and available to serve the new development.

**Objective 3:** The City shall require that each developer enter into a Utilities Agreement which outlines the needs of the developer, and addresses the availability of adequate potable water, incorporates water conservation, and reclaimed water. In addition, the developer will be required to plan, design, permit, construct, and dedicate all infrastructure improvements necessary for their development, pursuant to the developer agreement.

**Policy 3.1:** The developer will be responsible for evaluating and mitigating impacts system-wide. This will include increasing pumping capacity, replacing motors, and anything else that the impact from the development may require. The developer will also be responsible for all hydraulic modeling to evaluate impacts due to the development.

**Policy 3.2:** By means of developer's agreements, developers of all projects in identified potential water resource areas, including, but not limited to, WVID, Kelce Ranch developments, and the Panacea DRI, will be required to evaluate and provide the water resources needed to support their development.

**Policy 3.3:** For all projects in identified potential water conservation areas, including, but not limited to, WVID, Kelce Ranch, and the Panacea DRI, the City will require the developer to evaluate and develop a water conservation resource protection plan necessary to protect the water resources.

**Policy 3.4:** All developers within areas annexed after 1997 will be responsible for coordinating and expanding existing City potable water services to assure that potable water will be available to serve their developments, including identification of potential water sources to support their development. Developers who develop in areas annexed after 1997 will be required to implement improvements, including, but not limited to, water and sewer lines, lift stations, and treatment facilities, at the time of their development solely at their cost, including reuse facilities.

**Objective 4:** The City will maintain a five-year schedule of capital improvement needs, as identified in the utility master plans, and in the Capital Improvements Element, for potable water supply, treatment and distribution, and will identify responsible parties and agencies, and time frames for completion. The schedule will be updated annually in conformance with the review process for the Capital Improvements Element of this plan, and in accordance with the City's annual budget process.

**Policy 4.1:** Projects for the 2017-2021 planning period will be undertaken in accordance with the schedule provided in the Capital Improvement Element of this plan.

**Policy 4.2:** The utilities master planning process will identify necessary capital improvements and shall indicate projected costs, phasing, and funding sources. The Utilities Master Plan shall be updated at least every five (5) years.

**Policy 4.3:** The City shall amend its Capital Improvements Program annually to indicate utilities projects, project phasing, and to identify funding sources per state statute.

**Policy 4.4:** Proposed capital improvement projects will be evaluated and ranked according to the following priority level guidelines:

- a. whether the project is needed to protect public health and safety.
- b. provide facilities and services to preserve or achieve full use of existing facilities and increase efficiency.
- c. cost-effectiveness to include preventing or reducing future improvement costs.

- d. promotes in-fill, economic development or educational facilities.
- e. provides service to developed areas lacking full service.
- f. improve efficiency and water quality by looping the water system.

**Policy 4.5:** The City shall evaluate the potable water infrastructure, including facility demand and capacity information at least once a year, to maximize its use.

**Policy 4.6:** All Developers within areas annexed after 1997 will be responsible for coordinating and expanding existing City sanitary wastewater services to assure that capacity will be available to serve their developments. Developers who develop in areas annexed after 1997 will be required to implement improvements, including, but not limited to, potable water, wastewater, and reclaimed water lines, lift stations, and treatment facilities, at the time of their development solely at their cost.

**Objective 5:** Existing deficiencies which have been identified in the utilities master plans, or other pertinent document(s) will be addressed by the City.

**Policy 5.1:** The City will work cooperatively to promote and enhance fire safety including the maintenance and placement of fire hydrants. The Utilities Department will maintain a GIS utilities mapping system that includes all the locations of fire hydrants and valves, as well as fire stations.

**Policy 5.2:** No permits shall be issued for a new development which would result in a demand that exceeds the ability of the facility to provide service and must be consistent with the City's Concurrency Management Ordinance of the Unified Land Development Code. The City will consult with the local supplemental potable water supplier, currently the Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority, to ensure that any water which the City cannot supply will be available to serve developments, or no Development Order shall be issued.

**Policy 5.3:** To protect the potable water supply, the City shall continue to evaluate further options to eliminate the potential wastewater contamination of the potable water supply and to continue efforts to acquire lots along the Myakkahatchee Creek. The City shall work with and encourage the County to improve and preserve the water quality and quantity outside of the City which affects City water, including the headwaters of Myakkahatchee Creek. Developments including, but not limited to, Developments of Regional Impact (DRI) shall not be permitted to encroach upon designated public lands.

**Policy 5.4:** The City will continue to implement its formal backflow prevention/cross connection program.

**Policy 5.5:** The City shall enforce mandatory water service hookup, per Section 78-60 of the City's Administrative Code.

**Objective 6:** To accommodate projected demand for ultimate build-out of the City, expansion of supply, treatment, and distribution facilities shall occur through expansion of City facilities,

development of new facilities, creation of new potable water sources-both surface and ground, and coordination and participation in the expansion of regional facilities including, but not limited to, those of the Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority. Distribution facilities shall be programmed and expanded pursuant to the Capital Improvement Program.

**Policy 6.1:** The City will continue to implement conservation programs, as appropriate, to reduce potable water use consistent with the Comprehensive Plan Conservation Element.

**Policy 6.2:** The City will continue to identify and implement management and protection programs and procedures to preserve and enhance the Myakkahatchee Creek as a Class I potable water supply pursuant to Objectives and Policies of the Conservation Element.

**Policy 6.3:** The City shall pursue a voting seat and greater participation on the Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority.

**Policy 6.4:** The City will continue to meet with representatives of regional utilities including, but not limited to, the Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority, Sarasota County, Charlotte County, Desoto County, Englewood, Punta Gorda, Venice, and other adjacent utilities, to evaluate the regionalization of water supply systems, including interconnection opportunities.

**Policy 6.5:** The City will continue, by participating in regional efforts such as the Surface Water Improvement Management Program for Charlotte Harbor, the Myakka River Management Coordinating Council, and the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program, to actively support regulatory activities designed to increase protection of the Myakkahatchee Creek and appropriate upgrade in the classification that preserves and improves the Peace River as a potable water supply.

**Policy 6.6:** The City shall continue to identify and evaluate other sources of potable water supply such as, but not limited to, ground water supplies, surface reservoirs, desalination, cisterns, and water conservation resources. The City shall also coordinate with regional agencies such as, but not limited to, SWFWMD, Peace River, Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority, and the Water Alliance for technical, and other assistance, to identify and develop reliable water sources.

**Policy 6.7:** To increase the water resources available to maintain a viable potable water supply for residents of the City of North Port, the City will enter into a Developer's Agreement with the owners/operators of any properties that will require, as a contribution in aid of construction, well sites that allow testing for the purposes of developing raw water supply in areas determined to be potential water resource areas. The City will also enter into a Developer's Agreement to develop potable water wellfields and/or surface water sources on appropriate properties within any areas annexed after 1997, if determined by local and state officials as suitable for that type of use.

**Policy 6.8:** The City shall amend the Unified Land Development Code to regulate high risk land uses (such as petroleum storage facilities) within all areas which may be used as potable

water sources, both surface and ground water, and within the cones of influence for any potable water well fields.

**Policy 6.9:** Consistent with Policy 6.8 of this element, the City will regulate high risk land uses in any areas identified as potential well fields and wellheads. This Comprehensive Plan will be amended when those areas are determined. The City will not allow high risk land uses such as, but not limited to, petroleum storage facilities, underground fuel storage tanks, landfills, hazardous materials storage, and certain commercial and industrial uses, in these areas when identified. To achieve this, the City shall create a new section in the Unified Land Development Code addressing the subject of wellhead and well field protection. This code shall be consistent with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's rule governing wellhead protection adopted in May 1995. The protection efforts may include requests to the Southwest Florida Water Management District for cooperative funding or technical assistance to identify zones of protection and cones of influence around individual wellheads or well fields.

**Objective 7:** The City shall continue to implement and enforce the provisions of City regulations and will modify restrictions whenever called upon to do so by SWFWMD consistent with SWFWMD's Water Shortage Plan, or any other regulatory agencies, and shall implement the following policies to further conserve potable water use.

**Policy 7.1:** Building codes, utility regulations, landscaping ordinances, and public education programs will be regularly evaluated for implementation of water conservation measures. The City shall encourage "Florida Friendly" plantings, native or other drought resistant species, and other water saving measures, while discouraging the use of rock yards and other water wasting measures in the Unified Land Development Code.

**Policy 7.2:** The City will continue to support and implement SWFWMD and DEP programs which promote conservation of potable water through waste water reuse.

**Policy 7.3:** The Utilities Department shall continue to require the metering of all potable and reuse water to ensure accountability of water use.

**Objective 8:** In an effort to encourage efficiency in the provision of utility services, the City shall seek input, as applicable, from various local, state, regional, and federal authorities, as well as the citizens of the City of North Port.

**Policy 8.1:** The City of North Port Public Utilities Advisory Board, task force, or any other Committee designated by the City Commission, shall make recommendation to the City Commission regarding utility issues as described in Ordinance 2014-06, including Capital Improvement Projects.

**Policy 8.2:** The City, in its discretion, when considering utilities initiatives, shall seek input as appropriate through mechanisms which include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (a.) City advisory boards.
- (b.) Neighborhood meetings.

- (c.) Coordination with regional agencies.
- (d.) Coordination with nearby utility providers, including but not limited to Sarasota County, Charlotte County, Desoto County, Venice, Punta Gorda and the Englewood Water District.
- (e.) Participation and coordination with the Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority, Southwest Florida Water Management District, or any other regional entity.
- (f.) Participation and coordination with special areas within and abutting the City's border, including, but not limited to, the West Villages Improvement District.
- (g.) Participation and coordination with Emergency Management providers.
- (h.) All annexed areas – property owners.

**Policy 8.3:** The City shall encourage efficiency in the provision of services through the regional sharing of ideas and technology.

**Policy 8.4:** To ensure coordination of the City's Comprehensive Plan with the Southwest Florida Water Management District's Regional Water Supply Plan the City shall consider the following SWFWMD Regional Water Supply principles when reviewing potential amendments to the Comprehensive Plan:

1. Resource Constraints (especially Southern Water Use Caution Area ground water limitations),
2. Existing and potential regional partnerships in water supply planning and development,
3. Water sources listed in the Regional Water Supply Plan or document alternative,
4. Reasonable Demand Projections, and
5. Emphasis on water conservation and reclaimed water.

**Objective 9:** The City will maximize the use of existing potable water facilities as development occurs.

**Policy 9.1:** Recognizing the platted lands nature of the City, the City, through utilities master planning, will continue to expand potable water service to the neighborhoods as those neighborhoods satisfy the proposed criteria identified in the master plans, and consistent with the Unified Land Development Code.

**Policy 9.2:** Consistent with the Future Land Use Element, no potable water service will be provided to areas designated as "Agriculture/Estates" on the Urban Service Boundary Map.

**Objective 10:** The City will evaluate the extension of potable water lines for the purposes of Economic Development.

**Policy 10.1:** The City will evaluate extending potable water lines to current and proposed Activity Centers not currently serviced by potable water service for the purpose of Economic Development.



**Goal 2: The City of North Port will take measures to ensure the water quality and quantity of the surficial aquifer will be protected to ensure public health and to conserve the public potable water supply.**

**Objective 11:** The City shall implement programs, as specified in the policies below, to maintain and improve water quality in the surficial aquifer.

**Policy 11.1:** If any additional free-flowing artesian wells contributing mineralized water to the surficial aquifer or surface waters in the Myakkahatchee Creek and Snover Waterway drainage basins are discovered, or capped wells leak, the City will cooperate with the Southwest Florida Management District to remedy the situation.

**Policy 11.2:** The use of septic tanks will be discouraged by measures identified in the Sanitary Wastewater element, other elements, and applicable State requirements.

**Policy 11.3:** The City will continue to require stormwater treatment for all new development and will explore amending the Unified Land Development Code to encourage retrofitting of stormwater treatment facilities to areas already developed.

**Policy 11.4:** The City will continue to pursue the use of the funding from the Pollution Recovery Fund account of the Ecosystem Management Trust Fund for specific projects which directly benefit the City by controlling non-point source pollution and improving water quality.

**Policy 11.5:** By mapping and developing protection plans as required of state and local governments by the Safe Drinking Water Act, the City will continue, in conjunction with the EPA and FDEP, to implement aquifer protection measures.

**Policy 11.6:** The City will amend the land development regulations consistent with F.S. 163-3202(2), to regulate land use and development to protect natural drainage features and natural groundwater recharge areas consistent with the goals, objectives and policies in the Conservation element.

**Objective 12:** The quantity of surficial aquifer waters will continue to be conserved by maintaining the water table as high as practical, recognizing the tradeoffs between the need to control flooding and reduce the amount of fill placed on the natural landscape and the need to maintain storage in the surficial (water table) aquifer.

**Policy 12.1:** Consistent with SWFWMD rules for the regulation of water management systems (40D-4 and 40D-40, F.A.C.), the water table in new surface water management systems will continue to be maintained as near as practical to current levels, recognizing the tradeoffs between the need to control flooding and reduce the amount of fill placed on the natural landscape and the need to maintain storage in the surficial (water table) aquifer.

**Policy 12.2:** The continued use of retention/detention treatment ponds will be required pursuant to City and State requirements to provide greater opportunity for the infiltration of runoff into the surficial aquifer.

**Policy 12.3:** The City will implement, through amendments to the ULDC, appropriate recommendations contained in the Big Slough Study, when completed, in order to prevent excessive drainage of the surficial aquifer.

**Objective 13:** The City of North Port will update the Water Supply Facilities Work Plan into the City's Comprehensive Plan at least once every five years and within eighteen months of the latest updated Water Management Districts' Regional Supply Plan.

**Policy 13.1:** The City will update the Water Supply Facilities Work Plan into all applicable elements of this Comprehensive Plan, including, but not limited to, Potable Water, Sanitary Wastewater, Capital Improvements, and Intergovernmental Coordination, and any other elements which may apply.

**Policy 13.2:** Capital improvements identified in the Water Supply Facilities Work Plan and incorporated into the Potable Water and Sanitary Wastewater sub-elements will be adopted into the Capital Improvements Element.

**Policy 13.3:** The Water Supply Facilities Work Plan is included within the Goals, Objectives, and Policies of the Utilities Element.