

## **13 SANITARY SEWER SUB-ELEMENT**

### **GOAL 1.0 SANITARY SEWER**

Provide for the Adequate Disposition of Wastewater and By-Products in a Cost Effective Manner Balancing the Needs of Growth, Environment and Public Health, Safety and Welfare.

#### **OBJECTIVE 1.1 PROVISION OF CENTRAL SEWER FACILITIES**

Lake County shall guide the orderly growth and development of the County by coordinating service delivery with the municipalities, private enterprise and individuals. The coordination of service delivery shall be in a manner that provides maximum use of existing facilities.

##### **Policy 1.1.1 Coordination of Services with the Municipalities**

Lake County shall execute Interlocal Agreements with the municipal utility suppliers within Lake County for establishing service areas so as not to duplicate services and to provide for conditions for the establishment of and the operation within the service areas. Municipal service areas shall be based upon the available capacity reported, and the future service areas delineated in the Comprehensive Plans of each municipality which provides sanitary sewer service. Prior to the execution of Interlocal Agreements, the County shall allow municipalities to provide service in the unincorporated part of Lake County in accordance with the area set forth in the adopted Comprehensive Plans of each municipality that provides sanitary sewer service, and with the criteria set forth in the Lake County Comprehensive Plan. Expansion of sanitary sewer service by the municipalities should be consistent with their Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), [Capital Improvement Element \(CIE\)](#) and the Joint Planning Agreement (JPA).

##### **Policy 1.1.2 Regional Wastewater Service Criteria**

Lake County shall prepare and adopt temporary wastewater service criteria for developments which are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and approved by the Board of County Commissioners. Developments within the urban land use series with a capacity of 100,000 Gallons per Day (GPD) or a density greater than one (1) unit per net acre must be connected to a regional sewer system, defined as a central sewer system with a capacity of 500,000 Gallons per Day or greater. Any new development outside the urban land use series where development occurs at one unit per acre and wastewater discharge of the development is equal to or greater than 100,000 per day shall be required to connect to a regional sewer system. However, a central sewer system having a capacity of at least 100,000 GPD or more may be permitted on a temporary basis until such time as a regional system becomes available. The temporary system shall be staffed by a Florida licensed waste water treatment plant operator in accordance with State regulation and code. These temporary facilities shall be planned, designed, and constructed so they either serve as the nucleus of a future regional system, or can act with minimal modification as a lift station when connected to a regional system, or can be abandoned when merged into a regional sewer system constructed at another location.

### **Policy 1.1.3 Mandatory Connection Ordinance**

Lake County shall review and revise, as appropriate, its existing Mandatory Connection Ordinance, which at a minimum, shall require the following within the Urban Land Use Series:

New development that exceeds 1,500 GPD, or new homes or developments with usage less than 1,500 GPD and located within 300 feet of public sanitary sewers, shall be required to connect to public sanitary sewer. Existing homes and development shall be required to connect to public sanitary sewer within five (5) years of meeting these criteria or within five (5) years of the effective date of this ordinance. Within the Urban Land Use Series, an existing home on a five (5) acre or larger tract shall not be required to connect to a public sanitary sewer system unless the property is developed at a higher density.

### **Policy 1.1.4 Connection of Onsite Disposal and Privately Owned Collection/Treatment Systems Where Necessary**

Lake County shall require the connection of onsite disposal systems and collection/treatment systems to centralized utility services when there is endangerment to the environment, public health, safety and welfare. Financial assistance, to partially offset the cost of connecting to centralized utility services for individuals and non-profit utility service providers may be provided by Lake County through application for federal and state grants/loans or through the establishment of a construction fund funded by user charges and/or special benefit assessments.

### **Policy 1.1.5 Coordination of Services with Private Enterprises**

Lake County shall identify and exempt from mandatory connection, those privately owned facilities where centralized wastewater services are available or planned, which have the ability to meet regulations and individual permit criteria and where mandatory connection would not be required for the economic viability of a centralized system or necessary to protect public health, safety and/or welfare. Those privately owned facilities not meeting the above criteria shall be required to connect to the centralized system when available. Lake County shall identify those areas where centralized utilities are needed and cannot be provided by a public utility.

### **Policy 1.1.6 Provision of Central Sewer Services Inside of Designated Urban Areas**

The County shall require that property within the Urban Land use series connect to central sewer services consistent with the mandatory connection policy. Independent utility providers or public-private partnerships may be considered to provide regional central sewer services within the Urban Land Use Series where connection to a municipal system is not feasible, and if such services are both cost efficient and environmentally sound.

### **Policy 1.1.7 Provision of Central Sewer Services Outside of Designated Urban Areas**

The County may allow for the provision of central sewer services outside of the Urban Land Use series on a case specific basis if compelling information exists to demonstrate that the lack of central sewer services poses a significant health or environmental problem for which there is no other feasible solution. The County shall encourage property within the Rural Transitional Future Land Use category adjacent to designated urban areas to connect to central sewer services if economically feasible.

## **OBJECTIVE 1.2 LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS**

The County hereby adopts the following level of service standards, and shall adopt land development regulations that ensure that existing and projected needs are met that development orders are not issued which degrade the level of service standards. These levels of service standards shall be used unless the applicant can demonstrate that the proposed use utilizes less capacity through historic records or studies of similar uses.

### **Policy 1.2.1 Detailed Methodologies**

The Land Development Regulations shall contain detailed methodologies for determining available capacity and the impact upon capacity of any proposed development.

### **Policy 1.2.2 Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems**

All septic systems installed on or after 2005 shall meet best industry standards for the reduction of nutrients and other potential groundwater contaminants or shall meet Federal or State standards and guidance for maximum continuation level discharge, whichever is more stringent

### **Policy 1.2.3 Industrial and Hazardous Waste**

Central Sewer Systems shall be required for land uses proposing the generation or processing of industrial and/or hazardous waste (based upon DOH and FDEP rules). The installation of such facilities should only be permitted by the County subject to the receipt of all applicable DOH and FDEP permits.

### **Policy 1.2.4 Changes from Residential to Nonresidential Use**

Any change from a residential use to a nonresidential use shall require an evaluation and may require upgrade or enhancement to the existing system or connection to a central system if it is determined necessary to protect public health and the environment.

### **Policy 1.2.5 Septic System Inspection Program**

The County will establish a septic system inspection program that requires each existing system to be inspected and certified as properly functioning, and pumped out whenever a property is sold, system is modified, or at least every five (5) years.

## **OBJECTIVE 1.3 WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL WITHIN ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS**

Lake County shall coordinate with the Federal and State agencies regarding wastewater treatment and disposal within environmentally sensitive areas.

### **Policy 1.3.1 Advanced Wastewater Treatment**

### **Policy 1.3.2 Coordination of Wastewater Treatment within the Wekiva Study Area**

The County shall coordinate with agencies and providers of central sewer services and onsite wastewater treatment systems to jointly address ground and surface water nutrient loading from wastewater within the Wekiva Study Area. Such efforts should aim to leverage limited

resources and take advantage of economies of scale. The County shall cooperate with the Department of Health regarding compliance with rules requiring onsite performance based treatment systems to minimize ground and surface water contamination.

### **Policy 1.3.3 Replacement of High Density Septic Systems**

Areas with existing high septic tank density inside the Wekiva Springshed or other environmentally-sensitive areas more vulnerable to surface or groundwater contamination shall receive priority for central sewer.

### **Policy 1.3.4 Advanced and Enhanced Onsite Wastewater Treatment**

The County will coordinate with federal and state agencies including the Department of Health to minimize the impact of onsite wastewater disposal systems within springsheds, areas of aquifer vulnerability and surface waters and wetlands. The County shall require new development outside of wastewater utility service areas, not on central sewer, to comply with onsite performance based treatment systems within environmentally sensitive areas, including but not limited to the Wekiva Study Area (WSA), consistent with the state requirements. The Florida Department of Health rule making will establish the treatment standards for onsite performance based treatment systems. The County will work with agencies to evaluate various onsite wastewater treatment and disposal systems to maximize nutrient removal and provide appropriate, cost effective solutions for new and retrofitted onsite systems. As appropriate, the County shall adopt Land Development Regulations that require advanced or enhanced onsite wastewater treatment and disposal systems within the WSA and other environmentally-sensitive areas to achieve discharge limits established by DOH. The County shall consider incentives to encourage the use of more efficient nutrient-removing technologies for onsite systems as they become available.

### **Policy 1.3.5 Onsite Sewage Disposal Maintenance.**

At the time an existing onsite wastewater disposal system fails or requires repair based on a determination by the Department of Health (DOH) that a permit or permit modification is required, it shall be replaced with a performance based system pursuant to DOH rules provided that central sewer facilities are not available. The County shall seek to enter into an Interlocal Agreement with the DOH to establish and implement an inspection, maintenance, and pump-out program for onsite individual wastewater disposal systems within areas vulnerable to surface water or groundwater contamination, including but not limited to the WSA and Green Swamp.

### **Policy 1.3.6 Wastewater Sludge and Septage**

Lake County shall prohibit the surface spreading or depositing of wastewater sludge or septage within environmentally sensitive areas, including but not limited to the Wekiva River Protection Area, Wekiva Study Area and Green Swamp Area of Critical State Concern.

## **OBJECTIVE 1.4 COORDINATION AND URBAN SPRAWL**

The County shall coordinate the extension of service or increase of facility capacity with adjacent municipal and private facilities to discourage urban sprawl.

#### **Policy 1.4.1 Extension of Service to New Development**

In the Urban Land Use Series the County shall require new development to connect and to fund the connection of their wastewater facilities to municipal or private utility systems where possible.

#### **Policy 1.4.2 Prohibit Provision of Sanitary Sewer as Sole Justification for Land Use Amendments**

Lake County shall prohibit the provision of sanitary sewer as sole justification for amendments to the Future Land Use Element where new or expanded development will adversely impact resource/ conservation areas or neighborhoods or will otherwise promote urban sprawl.

#### **Policy 1.4.3 Coordination of Sanitary Sewer with Land Use**

Lake County shall maximize the use of existing facilities and discourage urban sprawl by eliminating the use of septic tanks and package plants within existing and planned service areas where possible, and prohibit the extension of sanitary sewer facilities outside of existing and planned service areas depicted on the Future Land Use Map.