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INTRODUCTION

The Florida Natural Areas Inventory has prioritized several conservation areas partially or wholly within Lake County, including, but not limited to: the Green Swamp Area of Critical State Concern, and the Wekiva/Ocala Greenway. Select ecosystems of Lake County are thus fragile and closely linked with the ecological sustainability of communities within and beyond the county's boundaries. Issues of plant and animal biodiversity and water supply are among the most important environmental considerations for the County.

The county is faced with the challenge of balancing development pressures with the preservation of the natural environment. To this end, Lake County will comply with all legislation (Federal, State, Regional and Local) as it pertains to Lake County's environmental sensitive areas.

DEFINITIONS

GOAL POT 1

Coordinate for the adequate production, treatment and distribution of potable water in a cost effective manner balancing the needs of growth, environment and public health, safety and welfare.

OBJECTIVE 1.0 COORDINATE THE PROVISION OF POTABLE WATER SERVICE TO MEET THE ANTICIPATED DEMAND AND ESTABLISH REQUIRED LEVELS OF SERVICE

Lake County shall coordinate with central water providers under the Joint Planning Areas (JPAs) and with private utilities to meet the anticipated demand and to establish the required levels of service for the provision of potable water. Design and construction standards for potable water systems will be updated to standards consistent with the providers.

1.1 Level of Service Standards

Lake County shall require, at a minimum, all potable water to be produced, treated, stored and distributed in accordance with all Federal, State and County requirements.

1.2 Design and Construction Standards

Lake County shall update the current design and construction standards for the production of raw water supplies, treatment, storage and distribution.

1.3 Promote Innovative Methods

Lake County, through the Land Development Regulations, will allow innovative methods, such as dual water systems that demonstrate reduction and conservation of potable water.

1.4 Monitor the Impact of Reclaimed Water.

Lake County shall monitor the impact of reclaimed water on potable water demand. Development containing irrigated open space shall be required to accept reclaimed water for irrigation when such reclaimed water is available.

1.5 Monitor Impacts to Private Individual Potable Water Supply

Lake County shall monitor Consumptive Use Permit allocations and capacities to coordinate with the state in the preservation of sufficient potable water supply capacity and to protect private self-supply wells.

1.6 Water Efficient Landscaping

Lake County will promote and as appropriate require water efficient landscaping techniques, water wise landscaping, and stormwater reuse to reduce the irrigation demand for potable water in developments and agriculture.

1.7 Water Shortages

Lake County shall, upon request, assist the Water Management Districts in the enforcement of Water Management District guidelines during declared water shortages to the extent possible.

1.8 Encouragement of Public-Private Partnerships

The County shall encourage the development of public-private partnerships in the provision of regional potable water services where such partnerships will result in the timely provision of services in a manner that is both cost-efficient and environmentally sound and is consistent with the Lake County Comprehensive Plan, Water Master Plan and County Codes.

1.9 Well Field Protection

The County will cooperate with the State and water management districts in protecting well fields in accordance with all State and water management district requirements.

OBJECTIVE 2.0 PROVISION OF CENTRAL WATER FACILITIES.

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

2.1 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 area. 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 potable water 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 which provides potable water service, and the criteria set forth in the Lake County Comprehensive Plan. Expansion of services, both water and sewer by the municipalities, should be consistent with their Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), Capital Improvement Element (CIE) and the Joint Planning Agreement (JPA).

2.2 Potable Water Service Criteria

At a minimum, all systems must meet the regulatory criteria of a Public Water Supply System (PWS) for the provision to the public of water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances, where such system has at least fifteen service connections or regularly serves an average of at least twenty-five individuals daily at least 60 days out of the year or otherwise as applicable to FDEP regulation and those systems that service less than 15 connections or a density greater than 1 dwelling unit per acre must connect to a regional system.

2.3 Mandatory Connection Ordinance

Lake County shall prepare and adopt as appropriate a mandatory connection ordinance which. at a minimum shall require the following within the Urban Land Use Series: New development that exceeds 1500 GPD and is located within 1000 feet of a public potable water system, or new homes or developments with usage less than 1500 GPD and located within 300 feet of public potable water, shall be requested to connect to public potable water. Existing homes and development shall be required to connect to public potable water within 5 years of meeting this criteria or within 5 years of the effective date of this ordinance.

Upon connection to public water supply, private wells completed in and or otherwise withdrawing water from the Floridan Aquifer must be abandoned in accordance with Water Management District rules. Where reuse water is not available, private wells screened in the Surficial Aquifer may be used for irrigation if retrofit with the appropriate control devices. Where reuse water is available for irrigation, private wells completed in the Surficial Aquifer must be abandoned in accordance with Water Management District Rules.

2.4 Connection of Community and Non-Community Systems

Lake County shall require the connection of community and non-community 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.

2.5 Coordination of Services with Private Enterprises

Lake County shall identify, and exempt from mandatory connection, those privately owned facilities located within those portions of Lake County, where centralized water 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 within the County where centralized utilities are needed and can be better served by a privately owned utility, through an agreement with Lake County, for the provision of the service.

2.6 Provision of Potable Water Services Inside of Designated Urban Areas

The county shall require that property within the Urban Land Use Series connect to potable water services consistent with mandatory connection policy POT 1.2-3. Independent utility providers or public-private partnerships may be considered to provide regional potable water 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.

2.7 Provision of Potable Water Services Outside of Designated Urban Areas

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

OBJECTIVE 3.0 COORDINATION AND URBAN SPRAWL

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

3.1 Extension of Service to New Development

Within the Urban Land Use Series, the County shall require new development to connect to and fund the connection of their potable water facilities to municipal or private utilities systems where possible.

3.2 Prohibit the Provision of Potable Water as Sole Justification for Land Use Amendments

Lake County shall prohibit the provision of potable water 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.

3.3 Coordination of Potable Water with Land Use

Lake County shall maximize the use of existing facilities and discourage urban sprawl by encouraging the provision of central potable water services within existing and planned service areas where possible and prohibiting the extension of potable water facilities outside of existing and planned service areas as depicted on the Future Land Use Map.