

Intergovernmental Coordination

STATEMENT OF ISSUE

An evaluation of the objectives and policies of the GMP for their assessment on the coordination between Collier County and the surrounding local governments. Specifically, the assessment of the effectiveness in coordinating the planning and provision of potable water.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The Intergovernmental Coordination Element (ICE) is the portion of the Collier County Growth Management Plan (GMP) that contains the County's Goal, Objectives and Policies with regard to relations between the County and non-County governmental entities (as well as quasi-governmental entities, including utility companies). Coordination between the Collier County; the South Florida Water Management District; and various private utilities in regard to the planning and provision of potable water is of outmost importance in meeting future potable water demands in a sustainable manner.

Collier County is served by four Public Sector Water Systems, including the County, the City of Naples, Everglades City, and the City of Marco Island. The County is further subdivided into the Collier County Water-Sewer District (CCWSD) and the Goodland Water Sub-District.

In addition to the Public Sector Water Systems, Collier County is served by four Non- Public Sector Water Systems including the Immokalee Water and Sewer District (IWSD), the Florida Governmental Utility Authority (Golden Gate) (FGUA), the Orange Tree Utility Company (OTUC), and the Ave Maria Utility Company (AMUC). There are also two Private Sector Water Systems which include the Lee Cypress Water and Sewer Co-Op, Inc. and the Port of the Islands Community Improvement District, along with numerous small capacity water systems that are regulated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

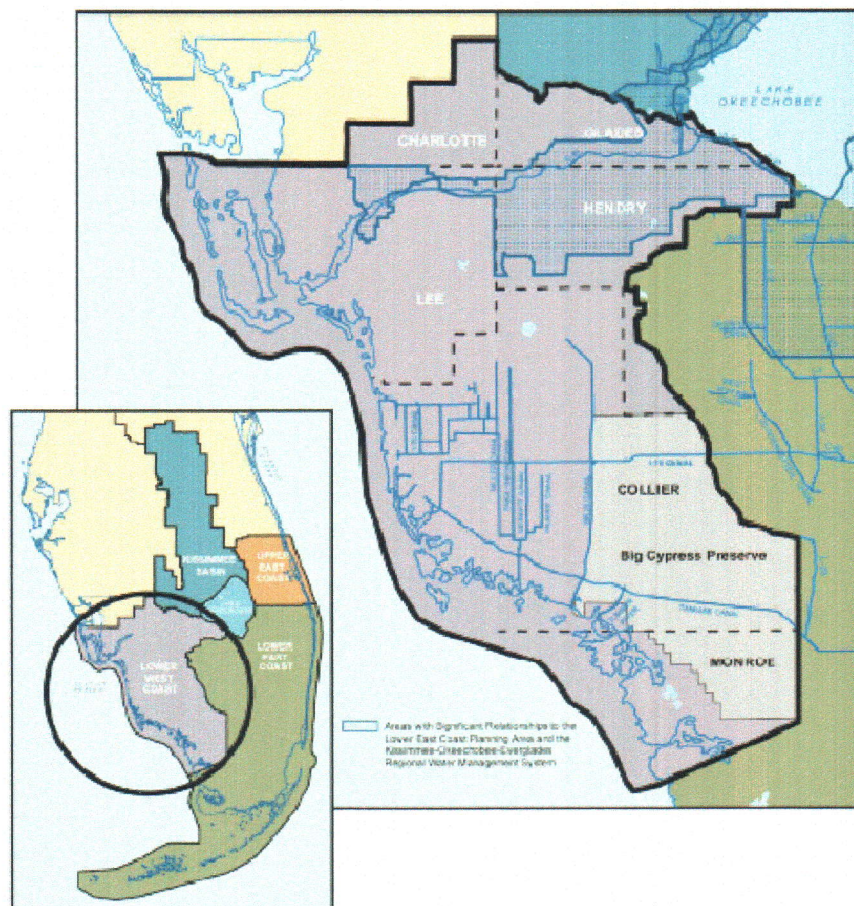
In anticipation of the rapid population growth and increasing water demands facing the State, and the potential threats to both the economy and natural resources, the Legislature amended the Florida Water Resources Act (Chapter 373, F.S.) in 1997. The amendment required the five water management districts to initiate regional water supply planning in all areas of the State where reasonable anticipated sources of water were deemed inadequate to meet year 2020 projected demands.

The purpose of water supply planning is to develop strategies to meet future water demands of urban and agricultural uses, while taking into consideration impacts on natural resources and the environment. This process identifies areas where historically used sources of water potentially will not be adequate to meet future demands, and evaluates several water source options to meet the potential shortfall. As mandated by Florida water law, each regional water supply plan is based on at least a 20-year future planning horizon, and a complete update of each plan is required every five years.

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) has developed a long-term comprehensive regional water supply plan update for its planning area. Collier County is within the Lower West Coast Water Supply Plan. Previous water supply plans for the Lower West

Coast were completed in February 1994 (planning horizon 2010) and April 2000 (planning horizon 2020), which the County utilized to develop its 2002 Water Master Plan Update. The most recent water supply plan update is the 2005-2006 Lower West Coast Plan Update that has a planning horizon of 2025.

In 2002 the Legislature expanded the local government comprehensive plan requirements, known as Chapter 163 of the Florida Statutes, to strengthen coordination of water supply planning and local land use planning. One of the most significant requirements was a Ten-Year Water Supply Facilities Work Plan in order to project the local government's needs for at least a 10-year period, identify and prioritize the water supply facilities and sources of water that will be needed to meet those needs, and include in the local government's Five-Year Schedule of Capital Improvements the capital improvements identified as needed for the first five years. Until the adoption of the County's 10-Year Water Supply Facilities Work Plan, the County's Water Master Plan was considered the County's official plan for water capital improvements and the basis for the 5-year Capital Improvement Schedule contained in the Capital Improvement Element.



Lower West Coast Planning Area Map

On February 25, 2003 the Board of County Commissioners adopted an update to the County's 2001 Water Master Plan, to provide an integrated approach for meeting the projected water system demands up to the year 2022. The "2002 Water Master Plan Update" provided for comprehensive overview of the entire water system, including emergency systems, water demand projections and demands and proposed conservation and reclaimed water projects, and provided a plan for future water supply and infrastructure needs to meet the requirements of growth, infrastructure renewal, replacement and enhancement over a course of five years. This plan utilized population projections prepared by the Collier County Comprehensive Planning Department that were approved at that time by the Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and accepted by the SFWMD. Water demands were provided at five-year increments to be consistent with the 2000 Lower West Coast Regional Water Supply Plan. The 2002 Water Master Plan Update formed the foundation for the proposed County's Ten-Year Water Supplies Facilities Work Plan.

During the State of Florida's 2005 legislative session, lawmakers revised state water law to include a new statutory provision. Local governments within the Lower West Coast Planning Area are required to prepare a Ten-Year Water Supply Facilities Work Plan that identifies water supply projects, and adopt revisions to comprehensive plans within 18 months following the approval of the 2005-2006 Lower West Coast Water Supply Plan Update.

On January 25, 2007, as part of the 2004 EAR-based amendments, and in preparation of the anticipated Ten-Year Water Supply Facilities Work Plan, Collier County adopted language to coordinate water supply planning with SFWMD. Modifications of various Goals, Objectives and Policies (GOPs), as required by these legislative actions, were addressed through the GMP amendment to the Potable Water Sub-Element, Conservation and Coastal Management Element and the Intergovernmental Coordination Element. The amendments referenced the 2002 Water Master Plan Update and any subsequent updates as the appropriate document for the County's water supply planning. The SFWMD's Governing Board approved the 2005-2006 Lower West Coast Water Supply Plan Update on July 12, 2006. Therefore, Collier County had to adopt GMP text amendments that references a Ten-Year Water Supply Facilities Work Plan by January 12, 2008 (or 18 months after the District Governing Board approved each regional water supply plan) [s. 163.3177(6)(c), F.S.].

Collier County adopted its 10-Year Water Supply Facilities Work Plan on February 24, 2009, by Ordinance No. 09-04 (DCA 09-RWSP). The adopted plan, and any subsequent updates, has become the County's appropriate document for water supply planning. The County's 10-Year Water Supply Facilities Work Plan contains strategies in regard to the use of alternative water supply sources and lists all the alternative water supply projects that the Collier County will continue to develop within the 10-Year plan.

Collier County strives to use alternative water sources whenever feasible, and is proud to be one of the leading County public utilities that have adopted alternative water supplies as a way of life and is considered a leader in alternative water supplies in the State of Florida.

Comprehensive Plan Implementation

The Collier County Growth Management Plan contains policies that require the coordination between the Collier County; the South Florida Water Management District; and all private held or investor owned utilities, as well as the need of a water supply plan that specifies strategies to

meet future water demands of urban and agricultural uses, while taking into consideration impacts on natural resources and the environment. In addition the GMP contains policies that require all pertaining utilities to be consistent with the level of service standards (LOSS) that are identified in the County's CIE.