



December 1, 2023

Southwest Florida Water Management District  
Attention: Mr. James J. Golden, AICP, Senior Planner  
2379 Broad Street  
Brooksville, FL 34604-6899

RE: North Port 23-032SR – Comprehensive Plan Amendment CPAL-23-103 Water Supply  
Facilities 10-Year Work Plan Update - Response to Technical Assistance Comments 10/11/23

Mr. Golden:

The City of North Port Utilities Division prepared the following in response to the technical assistance comments provided:

#### Regional Water Supply

1. The Work Plan indicates the City does not currently have an ongoing leak detection program and is pursuing purchase of leak detection equipment. District staff is available to provide technical assistance in this effort. For assistance, please contact Josh Madden at (352) 796-7211 or [josh.madden@watermatters.org](mailto:josh.madden@watermatters.org).

***North Port Utilities appreciates SWFWMD staff offering technical assistance for leak detection.***

2. The Work Plan should quantify the extent to which reuse and conservation could offset demand over the course of the ten-year planning horizon.

***The City's 5-year historical Compliance per Capita (CPC) is 61 gpcd. The CPC is very competitive and places the City of North Port among the best of AWWA reporting utilities that have a 75th percentile of about 87 gpcd. Also, 20 Florida Utilities from SWFWMD's 2021 Estimated Water Use Report were reviewed and had an average per capita consumption of 111 gpcd indicating that the City of North Port's CPC is among the lowest in the district. The CPC is both reflective of the City's legacy demographics and of existing conservation programs. A summary of these existing programs include:***

- ***Public Education: City of North Port has several means and methods to educate their customer (such as, but not limited to, their online Performance Tracking Tool and annual Water Usage Update Report). In fact, the City of North Port is a multiple recipient of the Florida Water Environment Association's Thomas T. Jones Public Education Award for a public education campaign. The award is a recognition for significant accomplishments that foster and support the development of public outreach programs as well as integrate public education as a core element of wastewater/water utility planning and management.***



- **Rate Structure:** Rates are tiered to encourage conservation. The more water that is used, the more that is charged per 1,000 gallons of water used. The first 4,000 gallons are billed under the first tier; the second 4,000 gallons are billed under the second tier, and so on.
- **Water Restrictions:** North Port advertises and enforces current water restrictions enforced by SWFWMD.
- **Reuse:** The 5-year average of domestic reclaimed water supply from the City of North Port Wastewater Treatment Facility was 0.93 mgd which amounted to 40% of the plant's influent. Although City requires developers to connect to the reclaimed system if available, most future developments in this service area are not expected to grow near the existing reclaimed system. Therefore, it is not expected for there to be significant increases in the amount of water use from the City of North Port Wastewater Treatment Facility at this time. From the Southwest Water Reclamation Facility, the 1-year average effluent to reclaimed was 0.46 mgd which amounted to 92% of the plant's influent.
- **Leak Detection and Meter Accuracy:** The City is currently working on developing a leak detection program and has an ongoing meter accuracy program. Although the City has an adequate measure of how much non-revenue water exists annually, the amount of water that can potentially be saved due to leaks or due to meter inaccuracies cannot be fully quantified. The City does not expect for the savings to be very significant given the existing gallons per capita day mentioned.

Although new development with updated amenities, new lawns and landscaping will potentially attract new population demographics associated with higher CPCs, the City has maintained the legacy 61 gpcd in their potable demand projections. This reflects a commitment to increasing conservation to offset future demand increases. The future programs and methods for conservation within the City's strategy for increasing conservation include continuing all programs mentioned above and these additional means and methods:

- **Southwest Water Reclamation Facility and West Villages Improvement District:** The permitted capacity of the slow-rate public access system that serves this plant is 4.82 mgd which is expected to be realized closer to 2040. Based on existing reuse performance of 92%, the Southwest Water Reclamation Facility may contribute about 3.7 mgd of irrigation water. The reuse system is managed by the West Villages Improvement District which is expected to make up the difference between permitted reclaimed capacity and available treated wastewater with non-potable groundwater sources. Serving all new development, this practice will offset some of the increases in demand and in CPC from the new customers.
- **Unauthorized Consumption:** The City is currently investigating increasing existing fines for Unauthorized Consumption to deter its use.
- **Feasibility Study of Direct Potable Reuse (DPR):** The City will invest in a study to identify whether DPR is feasible for their utility. If so, this would help to offset some future demand and maintain existing CPCs.



**Many of the types of existing conservation activities like conservation, rate structures, and leak detection programs cannot easily be quantified for their existing or future impact. Similarly, the future projects identified are not yet fully vetted and lead to uncertainty in quantifying future conservation. Although a total amount of demand that can be offset by reuse and conservation is not reported, the City has demonstrated its commitments to increasing conservation by projecting the legacy CPC of 61 gpcd into the future to offset potential increases of CPC by population.**

Floodplains and Floodprone Areas/Wetlands and Other Surface Waters

1. No comments

***Acknowledged.***

If you have any questions concerning the comprehensive plan amendment, please contact Lori Barnes, Assistant Director, Development Services, at [lbarnes@northportfl.gov](mailto:lbarnes@northportfl.gov), City of North Port, Florida, Development Services, Planning and Zoning Division, 4970 City Hall Boulevard, North Port, Florida 34286, (941) 429-7221.

Sincerely,

*Lori Barnes*

Lori Barnes, AICP, CPM  
Assistant Director, Development Services

c: Barbara Powell, FC  
Lindsay Weaver, DEP  
Bruno Kapacinskas, SWFWMD  
Rob McDaniel, SWFWMD  
Nancy Gallinaro, Utilities Director, City of North Port  
Susan Brasefield, Assistant Utilities Director-Administration and Engineering, City of North Port



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# Southwest Florida Water Management District

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Executive Director

October 11, 2023

Ms. Lori Barnes, AICP, CPM  
Planning & Zoning Division Manager  
City of North Port  
4970 City Hall Boulevard  
North Port, FL 34286

Subject: **North Port 23-2ESR**

Dear Ms. Barnes:

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) has reviewed the proposed amendment package which includes the City's Ten-Year Water Supply Facilities Work Plan (Work Plan) update. We offer the following technical assistance comments for consideration.

Regional Water Supply

1. The Work Plan indicates the City does not currently have an ongoing leak detection program and is pursuing purchase of leak detection equipment. District staff is available to provide technical assistance in this effort. For assistance, please contact Josh Madden at (352) 796-7211 or [josh.madden@watermatters.org](mailto:josh.madden@watermatters.org).
2. The Work Plan should quantify the extent to which reuse and conservation could offset demand over the course of the ten-year planning horizon.

Floodplains and Floodprone Areas/Wetlands and Other Surface Waters

3. No comments

We appreciate this opportunity to participate in the review process. Please provide the District with a copy of the adopted amendment, including any supporting data and analysis. If you have any questions or require further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (352) 269-6937 or [james.golden@watermatters.org](mailto:james.golden@watermatters.org).

Sincerely,

James J. Golden, AICP  
Senior Planner

JG

cc: Barbara Powell, FC  
Lindsay Weaver, DEP  
Bruno Kapacinskis, SWFWMD  
Josh Madden, SWFWMD