

1 **GOAL 1:** The County shall develop sustainable water supply sources and systems to serve new
2 and existing development within its service area, protect ground and surface water supplies, and
3 develop and implement water conservation techniques to maximize use of existing facilities in
4 order to discourage urban sprawl and provide a safe and environmentally sound potable water
5 system, and to make centralized water treatment service available for all new and existing
6 development within the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) and other Urban Areas as deemed
7 appropriate.

8 **OBJECTIVE 1.1:** The County will provide level of service (LOS) standards for potable water supply
9 provision and protection, and consider provisions set forth in the following series of plans,
10 reports, associated reports, and related documents, including any amendments thereto:

- 11 a. Marion County Water and Wastewater Utility Master Plan;
- 12 b. Marion County Water Resource Assessment and Management Study (WRAMS);
- 13 c. Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority Water Supply Plan, as amended; and
- 14 d. Marion County Water Supply Plan.

15 These plans may be updated from time to time as deemed necessary by the Board of County
16 Commissioners, and shall be consistent with the interlocal agreements with municipalities or
17 other equivalent providers in Marion County concerning water and wastewater service.

18 **Policy 1.1.1:** The LOS standard of 150 gallons per person per day (average daily consumption) is adopted
19 as the basis for future facility design, determination of available facility capacity, and determination of
20 demand created by new development with regard to domestic flow requirements, and the non-residential
21 LOS standard shall be 2,750 gallons per acre per day. Fire flow standards shall comply with accepted
22 standards of Marion County and the Florida Building Code (FBC). DRIs and FQDs that demonstrate the
23 suitability of differing LOS standards may be allowed to adhere to the differing standards. The LOS
24 standard shall be reviewed by the Board of County Commissioners periodically to determine if changes to
25 the LOS standard are warranted.

26 **Policy 1.1.2:** Priorities for the development of water supply systems shall be reflected for the current
27 planning period in the Capital Improvements Element Schedule of Capital Improvements (CIE Schedule)
28 and in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) prepared as part of the County's annual budget.

29 **Policy 1.1.3:** Development of financing plans for water supply systems shall promote the use of exactions
30 and user charges to provide for the capital and operating costs of service in order to ensure that the costs
31 of systems are paid for by the persons benefitting from the services provided. Such exactions and user
32 charges shall be based on the proportionate fair share of costs attributable to demand created by users.

33 **Policy 1.1.4:** The County shall implement and maintain a LDC to require all new and expansion of existing
34 wells and/or wellfields that supply water for qualified Community Water Systems (CWS), as specified in
35 Future Land Use Element (FLUE) Objective 7.6, to obtain a Special Use Permit (SUP) and other approvals
36 as further defined in the LDC. This provision functions as a means to reflect and provide public notice
37 regarding the establishment of the well/wellfield and its concurring Well/Wellfield Protection Area and is
38 not intended to, and shall not, be implemented in a manner that conflicts with the exclusive jurisdiction

1 of the water management districts to regulate the consumptive use of water under Chapter 373, FS. Upon
2 satisfactory conclusion to the SUP consideration, the well and/or wellfield shall be added to FLUM Series
3 Map #2, *Well & Wellhead Protection Areas*, with the next available administrative Comprehensive Plan
4 Amendment Cycle.

5 **Policy 1.1.5:** The Marion County Water and Wastewater Utility Master Plan and Water Supply Plan shall
6 be reflected in the County's Comprehensive Plan and LDCs, and the County shall address the provision of
7 potable water facilities consistent with the Comprehensive Plan's current planning time frame.

8 **Policy 1.1.6:** The Water and Wastewater Utility Master Plan, WRAMS, and Water Supply Plan shall
9 incorporate and implement conservation, reuse/reclaimed water, and other alternatives practices and
10 measures that will assist in insuring that an adequate quantity and quality of water is available to maintain
11 the current population and allow for continued responsible growth within the County.

12 **Policy 1.1.7:** The County shall review special district plans, including but not limited to, those of the St.
13 John's River Water Management District (SJRWMD), Southwest Florida Water Management District
14 (SWFWMD), and Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSPA), and identify and resolve
15 any conflicts with the County's Comprehensive Plan.

16 **Policy 1.1.8:** The County shall implement and maintain a Water Supply Plan, as amended for the Priority
17 Water Resource Cautionary Area (PWRCA) in the SJRWMD for the southern portion of Marion County,
18 east of I-75, as further identified on the Marion County Water Supply Plan Area map. The Water Supply
19 Plan will ensure that adequate water resources are available for future development in the PWRCA that
20 addresses all public and private water providers and water from Domestic Self Supply (DSS) (individual
21 wells, both residential and non-residential). The Water Supply Plan shall be updated at a minimum of
22 every five years, or within 18 months of the SJRWMD or SWFWMD Regional or District Water Supply Plan,
23 as amended, based on the latest adoption date between the two Water Management Districts, as allowed
24 by FS 163.3177(6)(c), as amended. The County shall also coordinate with other organizations that are
25 involved with water supply planning, such as the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
26 (WRWSA), cities, private providers, and all other parties that are relevant or interested in water supply
27 planning for Marion County and the region, in addition to SJRWMD and SWFWMD.

28 **OBJECTIVE 1.2:** The County shall consider the Water and Wastewater Utility Master Plan and
29 Water Supply Plan in addressing capacities and deficiencies of existing potable water systems.
30 The County shall also require as part of the development application process a letter of
31 availability from the utility provider or a developers agreement with the utility provider
32 committing to provide capacity as well as a certification of adequate potable water capacity for
33 a given development prior to final approval for said development.

34 **Policy 1.2.1:** Potable water system regulations, standards and specifications in the LDC shall address, at
35 a minimum the following: retrofitting existing water systems; evaluation of the feasibility of existing
36 utilities to continue their operations; evaluation of the extension of these facilities; and establishment of
37 minimum criteria for future county ownership.

38 **Policy 1.2.2:** The County's LDC will maintain guidelines for requiring existing water treatment plants to
39 connect/interconnect to centralized systems when such systems are available and connection is
40 economically feasible.

- 1 **Policy 1.2.3:** Interim or "package" potable water systems that meet current standards established by the
2 County may be approved, but they shall be required to set in place a plan for connection/interconnection
3 to a central system when such a system becomes available.
- 4 **OBJECTIVE 1.3:** The County, through its Water and Wastewater Utility Master Plan, shall
5 continue to identify regulations and priorities to coordinate the extension of, or increase the
6 capacity of, designated potable water systems within each service area consistent with the
7 Comprehensive Plan and the annual update of the CIE Schedule.
- 8 **Policy 1.3.1:** With the exception of municipally operated and/or managed systems and systems
9 certificated by the Florida Public Service Commission (FPSC), the County, through the LDC, shall regulate
10 construction standards for all existing potable water system expansions and future potable water systems,
11 in addition to regulating dedication standards for possible future county owned water systems.
- 12 **OBJECTIVE 1.4:** The County may enter into interlocal agreements with municipalities,
13 development/special districts, and/or franchise agreements with publicly owned and privately
14 owned public water systems, where appropriate, to ensure the availability of water.
- 15 **Policy 1.4.1:** For unincorporated areas in the County that are served or proposed to be served by
16 municipal facilities, the County shall coordinate with the appropriate municipalities to ensure consistency
17 between the land use regulations and the existing potable water facility capacity and expansion plans.
- 18 **Policy 1.4.2:** Interlocal agreements will be sought and, when possible, maintained with the Cities of Ocala,
19 Belleview, and Dunnellon. Such interlocal agreements, will include, but not be limited to, the delineation
20 of specific future service area boundaries, facility development, and mechanisms for the coordination of
21 development review and approval to ensure that adequate infrastructure capacity will be available to
22 serve development in the service areas.
- 23 **Policy 1.4.3:** Franchise agreements with publicly owned and privately owned public water systems shall
24 include, among other things: provisions to coordinate with PSC for specific future service area boundaries,
25 schedules for facility development, and mechanisms to ensure that adequate capacity will be available to
26 serve development in the service areas.
- 27 **Policy 1.4.4:** The minimum design capacity, installation, operation and regulation of individual private
28 wells, publicly owned and privately owned public water systems, and the expansion of such water
29 systems, shall be coordinated with FDOH, FDEP, PSC, the County and other municipal water systems.
- 30 **Policy 1.4.5:** Priority to hook up to centralized facilities, shall be given, first to water systems which have
31 immediate or imminent potential for causing public health or pollution problems, second to failing water
32 systems, third to water systems which are functioning near their capacity, and fourth to new
33 development; however this prioritization shall not preclude or prevent a 'lower priority' from connection
34 due to any failure to connect a 'higher priority'.
- 35 **OBJECTIVE 1.5:** The County, through its Water and Wastewater Utility Master Plan, shall analyze
36 and evaluate all existing potable water system capacities and shall establish a program to
37 maximize the utilization of such facilities to discourage urban sprawl.

- 1 **Policy 1.5.1:** The County, in accord with the Water and Wastewater Utility Master Plan, may create
2 incentives to utilize existing potable water systems including use of a fair and stringent conservation
3 pricing system. The expansion of these water systems will provide capacity for future development hook
4 up.
- 5 **OBJECTIVE 1.6:** The County shall regulate land use through the Comprehensive Plan and LDC to
6 achieve a development pattern that discourages sprawl and provides a clear separation of urban
7 and rural areas in terms of densities and intensities of use and provision of infrastructure.
8 Centralized water facilities will be available to existing and new development in order to achieve
9 a development pattern consistent with the provision of publicly owned and privately owned
10 water systems and ensure that there is an adequate water supply for the current population and
11 allows for future growth in the County.
- 12 **Policy 1.6.1:** The County shall require all new and/or expansion of existing publicly owned and privately
13 owned water systems developed within the identified service areas to comply with the established fire
14 flow, design, construction, maintenance and operations standards, in addition to the level of service
15 standards indicated in Policy 1.1.1 above and shall be connected to centralized systems according to the
16 Water and Wastewater Utility Master Plan, WRAMS, and the County's Water Supply Plan.
- 17 **Policy 1.6.2:** To ensure the continued viability of expansions, the Marion County Utility Department
18 (MCUD) and other providers, shall ensure that new water facilities are designed and constructed so that
19 future expansions can be easily accommodated.
- 20 **Policy 1.6.3:** The LDC shall specify development densities and conditions under which water supply
21 systems shall be required, considering factors such as anticipated demand, location of the development
22 with respect to existing or future water supply availability, financial feasibility, and protection and
23 conservation of potable water supplies.
- 24 **Policy 1.6.4:** Adequate potable water supplies and facilities which meet the adopted LOS standards shall
25 be available concurrent with the impacts or development.
- 26 **Policy 1.6.5:** Potable water facilities to be provided by the developer shall be guaranteed in an
27 enforceable development agreement.
- 28 **Policy 1.6.6:** The County shall maintain guidelines and LDC provisions to address possible future
29 connections/interconnections to all existing potable systems consistent with the Water and Wastewater
30 Utility Master Plan.
- 31 **OBJECTIVE 1.7:** The County shall require new development and redevelopment to be designed
32 with respect to enhancement of the natural environment and designed in such a way as to
33 promote water reuse and conservation.
- 34 **Policy 1.7.1:** The County shall maintain LDCs related to design and water conservation techniques that
35 shall include but not be limited to the following, especially in the SPZ:
- 36 a. Use of clustered developments, attached dwelling units, and other innovative land use techniques
37 to decrease outdoor water use;

- 1 b. Preservation of the existing native vegetation;
- 2 c. Establishment of construction limitations within the 100-year floodplain, environmentally
- 3 sensitive areas, poor soils, high recharge areas, and Karst Sensitive Areas;
- 4 d. Limitation of the amount of impervious surfaces (such as parking areas) within high recharge
- 5 areas;
- 6 e. Installation and use of a reclaimed water distribution system and lines by the developer to serve
- 7 the individual lots, landscaped areas, open space, and recreational areas for irrigation purposes;
- 8 f. Reduction of the average per person use of water through conservation pricing and other
- 9 methods; and
- 10 g. Connection to a centralized water system for development utilizing wells and abandoning of the
- 11 wells utilized for potable water and/or irrigation purposes.

12 **Policy 1.7.2:** Water conservation techniques, such as, but not limited to, the use of Marion-friendly
13 vegetation, efficient/focused irrigation systems, retrofitting existing structures, leak repair, and metering
14 shall be included in the LDCs; and the County shall adhere to the prevailing edition of the FBC regarding
15 plumbing and irrigation issues. In addition, public education about water conservation techniques shall
16 be promoted and impacts of development to the County's water supply.

17 **Policy 1.7.3:** Incentives and/or requirements for the reuse of water will be maintained as part of the LDC.

18 **Policy 1.7.4:** The County may utilize available information from the water management districts to
19 develop and adopt regulations for water use restrictions during shortages and to implement water
20 conservation procedures that further the water conservation plans and programs of the SWFWMD and
21 SJRWMD.

22 **Policy 1.7.5:** The County shall maintain LDC provisions, using the SJRWMD model ordinance as a guide,
23 that establish irrigation standards that include, at a minimum, permitting, limitations on overhead spray
24 irrigation, and design and construction standards, consistent with the FBC.

25 **Policy 1.7.6:** The County shall maintain the Water Supply Plan and continue to search for water supply
26 alternatives, promote reuse, implement conservation pricing and encourage conservation in coordination
27 with private providers and surrounding jurisdictions.

28 **Policy 1.7.7:** The County shall implement water conservation practices and encourage other public and
29 private providers and Domestic Self Supply (DSS) water users to do so in order to reduce the demand for
30 potable water, increase awareness of water supply issues, and allow for continued responsible growth in
31 the County. The County shall continue to develop, encourage, and maintain water conservation practices
32 that may include, but are not limited to:

- 33 a. Water conservation awareness programs;
- 34 b. Employee and customer education program;
- 35 c. Targeting of high water users and charging for high usage through conservation pricing;
- 36 d. Usage of low-flow plumbing fixtures in new construction;
- 37 e. Distribution of plumbing retrofit kits;
- 38 f. Meter maintenance and replacement program;
- 39 g. Maintain the position of Water Conservation Coordinator to communicate and advance water
- 40 conservation initiatives;
- 41 h. Water conserving/tiered rate structure that encourages conservation of water;

- 1 i. Adopt a landscape and lawn irrigation ordinance;
- 2 j. Adopt a landscape ordinance;
- 3 k. Adopt a fertilizer ordinance;
- 4 l. Require well withdrawal points to install and maintain flow meters;
- 5 m. Use native vegetation that requires little or no supplemental irrigation for landscaping;
- 6 n. Metering all service connections;
- 7 o. Participate in and coordinate with various organizations to address water supply issues;
- 8 p. Design standards for irrigation systems and retrofitting;
- 9 q. Implement benchmarking for water supply and conservation;
- 10 r. Create various incentives to replace exotic vegetation and inefficient landscapes, plumbing
- 11 devices, appliances and inefficient water systems;
- 12 s. Use of low impact development techniques (i.e., Florida Water StarSM program);
- 13 t. Limit authorization and the ability to use irrigation wells, particularly when health and safety are
- 14 determined to be at risk; and
- 15 u. Short and long-term plans to connect existing domestic self-supply and septic systems to
- 16 centralized utilities.

17 **Policy 1.7.8:** The County shall implement reuse/reclaimed water practices and encourage other public
18 and private providers and Domestic Self Supply water users to do so in order to reduce the demand for
19 groundwater withdrawals and potable water, increase awareness of water supply issues, and allow for
20 continued responsible growth in the County. The County shall continue to develop and maintain water
21 conservation practices that may include, but are not limited to:

- 22 a. Treated effluent must be used as irrigation water when it becomes available, economically
- 23 feasible, and permissible;
- 24 b. The lowest quality water source, such as reclaimed water and surface/storm water must be used
- 25 as landscape irrigation when deemed feasible;
- 26 c. Treat wastewater effluent to public access reuse standards;
- 27 d. Connection of new development or substantial redevelopment to a reuse system;
- 28 e. Installation of meters for individual connections to the reuse system;
- 29 f. Installation of dual water distribution lines that will initially use the existing water source until the
- 30 reclaimed water source is available;
- 31 g. Use of reclaimed water for irrigation and other non-potable needs in public areas owned by the
- 32 local government;
- 33 h. Partnerships with wastewater utilities to retrofit existing development with connections to a
- 34 reuse system;
- 35 i. Encourage the use of stormwater for irrigation purposes for residential and non-residential
- 36 development; and
- 37 j. Encourage use of performance based septic systems that includes reuse for irrigation of lawns
- 38 and/or landscaped areas for residential and non-residential development.

39 **Policy 1.7.9:** The County shall implement and maintain Alternative Water Supplies (AWS), as appropriate,
40 consistent with the Marion County Water Supply Plan, other regional or district water supply plans,
41 projects, and programs that reduce dependence on groundwater, to meet the future water supply needs
42 for the County. The following potential (AWS projects, but not limited to, may be utilized, as may be
43 further specified by the Marion County Water Supply Plan, as amended:

- 1 a. Reuse/reclaimed water for irrigation purposes;
- 2 b. Stormwater as reuse/reclaimed water for irrigation purposes;
- 3 c. Develop Lower Floridan Aquifer water supplies as a non-traditional source;
- 4 d. Pumping of surface water for potable water use (not intended for irrigation), including the
- 5 development of reservoir systems;
- 6 e. Desalinization projects, in conjunction with other regional entities; and
- 7 f. Other methods not currently being utilized that may reduce Upper Floridan Aquifer groundwater
- 8 withdrawals.

9 **OBJECTIVE 1.8:** Implement through interlocal agreements and policies which recognize that the
10 hydrogeological characteristics of potable water resources do not observe political boundaries
11 so that the water policies of adjacent jurisdictions may have profound impacts upon the County's
12 resources and its ability to plan for its growth and development.

13 **Policy 1.8.1:** Implement a potable water strategy which guides growth and development commensurate
14 with an area's carrying capacity.

15 **Policy 1.8.2:** Areas both within and adjacent to the County which have exceeded, depleted, or otherwise
16 possess insufficient potable water carrying capacity should limit their growth and development to a
17 degree commensurate with their internal capacity to support such growth and development without risk
18 of depleting the capacity of other areas.

19 **Policy 1.8.3:** Local water supplies in other counties should receive first consideration for utilizations,
20 including conservation, reclamation, stringent water use fees, desalination, reverse osmosis and other
21 alternative technologies, before water exportation from the County is considered under applicable state
22 and local regulatory systems.