

1 **GOAL 1: The County shall protect the function of the natural groundwater aquifer recharge**  
2 **areas of the County to ensure the availability of an adequate supply of quality groundwater**  
3 **and water supply through the proper management of surface water, groundwater, and land**  
4 **uses.**

5 **OBJECTIVE 1.1:** The County shall maintain LDC provisions related to surface and groundwater  
6 quality and, when deemed necessary, establish additional criteria for natural drainage features  
7 and areas related to natural groundwater recharge such as, but not limited to, aquifer  
8 vulnerability, karst sensitivity, and springs protection.

9 **Policy 1.1.1:** The County shall maintain LDC provisions regarding stormwater quality consistent with the  
10 water management districts' design criteria for stormwater management areas such as retention or  
11 detention basins, as specified by the water management districts' handbooks and applicable regulations.

12 **Policy 1.1.2:** The County LDCs shall require the identification of natural drainage features, consistent with  
13 §163, FS, within appropriate development review processes, and may require, as determined  
14 appropriate, the identification and/or protection of additional physical or environmental features or  
15 characteristics requiring additional or specialized protection such as, but not limited to, the following:

- 16 a) Extent of Karst Sensitive Areas (KSA), as defined by the County's jurisdictional water  
17 management agencies;
- 18 b) Extent of High and Prime Aquifer Recharge Areas (HPARA) as defined by the County's  
19 jurisdictional water management agencies;
- 20 c) Level of aquifer vulnerability, as determined by the Marion County Aquifer Vulnerability  
21 Assessment (MCAVA), as amended;
- 22 d) Location within Environmentally Sensitive Overlay Zone (ESOZ), as defined within the  
23 adopted Marion County Comprehensive Plan and regulated by the County's LDCs;
- 24 e) Type of Springs Protection Zone (SPZ), as defined by the adopted Comprehensive Plan.

25 **Policy 1.1.3:** The County shall maintain additional LDC provisions for stormwater management, consistent  
26 with accepted engineering practices, as identified below:

- 27 a) Stormwater retention or detention basin depth shall be consistent with the water  
28 management districts' stormwater requirements for KSAs so that sufficient filtration of  
29 bacteria and other pollutants shall occur. Avoidance of basin collapse due to excessive  
30 hydrostatic pressure in KSAs shall be given special consideration.
- 31 b) Require that treatment shall occur prior to discharge to ESOZ water bodies, including  
32 wetlands, and consider pretreatment for all development.
- 33 c) Require treatment equivalent to the Outstanding Florida Waterbody Criteria for the  
34 corresponding water management district for KSAs and the ESOZ.
- 35 d) Additional requirements for new development shall include stormwater practices and  
36 techniques that maximize nutrient removal in relation to KSAs and SPZs.
- 37 e) The LDC provisions shall contain criteria for the use of low impact development such as  
38 shallow swales and drainage easements, and other innovative development standards in  
39 relation to KSA, HPARA, MCAVA, SPZ types, and other areas where deemed suitable.

40 **OBJECTIVE 1.2:** The County shall assist other state and local agencies, as appropriate, in  
41 monitoring surface water and groundwater characteristics.

42 **Policy 1.2.1:** The County shall encourage and provide input to state and regional agencies in implementing  
43 an area-wide surface water and groundwater monitoring station network to study and establish the

- 1 hydrogeologic relationship between rainfall, groundwater levels, surface water levels, and the  
2 recharge/discharge characteristics of lakes, wetlands, and springs, particularly in Marion County.
- 3 **Policy 1.2.2:** The County shall maintain land use and development information through its development  
4 review processes to provide data for use in determining potential correlations between development  
5 trends and surface water and groundwater quality effects.
- 6 **Policy 1.2.3:** The County shall assist state and regional agencies as appropriate to address water quality  
7 issues within the County on an ongoing and consistent level.
- 8 **OBJECTIVE 1.3:** The County shall develop and maintain Watershed Management Plans (WMPs)  
9 encompassing all of the basins within the County and basins or portions of basins that are outside  
10 the County, but which affect stormwater management within the County.
- 11 **Policy 1.3.1:** The WMPs shall be consistent with the provisions of Stormwater Element Objective 1.4.
- 12 **Policy 1.3.2:** The County shall consider integrating the findings of any Basin Management Action Plan(s)  
13 (BMAP) (e.g., Silver Springs, Rainbow Springs, etc.) into the WMPs as they are periodically  
14 amended/updated.
- 15 **OBJECTIVE 1.4:** The County shall assist the Marion County Health Department (MCHD), a division  
16 of the Florida Department of Health, to ensure that existing and new On-Site Treatment and  
17 Disposal System (OSTDS) are properly maintained and functioning, and that potential threats to  
18 human health and groundwater degradation are minimized, and address the findings of  
19 applicable BMAP(s) and their identified implementation actions.
- 20 **Policy 1.4.1:** The County shall coordinate activities with the MCHD to prepare and distribute information  
21 regarding recommended and required inspection and maintenance practices for septic tank systems.
- 22 **Policy 1.4.2:** The County shall coordinate with the MCHD should it establish an OSTDS monitoring,  
23 inspection, and maintenance work program to ensure that existing and new OSTDS are properly  
24 functioning and that potential threats to human health and groundwater degradation are minimized. The  
25 County may elect to partner with the MCHD for such a program if the Board of County Commissioners  
26 determines the program is feasible, practical, and appropriate for the County.
- 27 **Policy 1.4.3:** The MCHD shall report periodically on the incidence of septic tank failures, including the  
28 size, location, and age/time of service for each OSTDS, and other data agreed to by the County and MCHD,  
29 to the County, particularly when requested by the Marion County Utilities Department.
- 30 **Policy 1.4.4:** The County shall study the OSTDS data provided by MCHD, and where feasible, coordinate  
31 with MCHD to evaluate potential opportunities to assist and/or coordinate efforts to correct, retrofit,  
32 replace, or discontinue inadequate or failing OSTDS with efforts such as, but not limited to, grant  
33 opportunities, municipal service benefit/tax units, the provision of alternative technologies, County repair  
34 with billing of the property owner, and when and where feasible, central sewer service.
- 35 **OBJECTIVE 1.5:** The County shall coordinate with the appropriate regional and state agencies  
36 responsible for underground storage tank regulation and enforcement.
- 37 **Policy 1.5.1:** The County shall comply with applicable state regulations, Chapters 62-761 and 62-770,  
38 FAC., as amended, for the installation of new and replacement storage tank facilities at County facilities,  
39 such as road substations, fire stations, etc., for fuel supplies for vehicles and/or emergency power  
40 generation.

1 **Policy 1.5.2:** The County shall coordinate with the appropriate regional and state agencies to maintain a  
2 Storage Tank Inventory (STI) for both underground and above-ground tanks, using the best available data,  
3 providing information, such as, but not limited to, geographic location, capacity, and fuel type for public  
4 safety awareness with appropriate public agencies, such as, but not limited to, fire, sheriff, and utilities.

5 **OBJECTIVE 1.6:** The County LDC shall incorporate land use and development siting requirements  
6 which are consistent with the long term protection of natural groundwater aquifer recharge and  
7 protection of existing and proposed groundwater and other water supplies, consistent with the  
8 Water Supply Plan, as amended.

9 **Policy 1.6.1:** The County shall maintain LDC provisions which allow groundwater recharge quantity and  
10 quality criteria, geology, soil characteristics, soil limitations, and uses as a consideration in determining  
11 land use.

12 **Policy 1.6.2:** Siting requirements for new development shall establish criteria for property located within  
13 the high recharge area with groundwater and other water supply pollution potential, and with unsuitable  
14 soil to determine septic tank densities and locations.

15 **Policy 1.6.3:** The County shall consider the STI in making land use and development decisions to avoid  
16 incompatible development in areas with high groundwater pollution potential.

17 **Policy 1.6.4:** Siting requirements for potential pollution sources, including but not limited to, landfills,  
18 effluent and sludge disposal sites; hazardous material production, use, and storage sites; shall direct such  
19 activities away from areas of the highest ground water pollution potential, such as sites that are within  
20 the highest MCAVA category, Primary SPZ, areas with severe soil limitations for these uses, HPARA, and  
21 KSAs. The LDC shall provide for design, monitoring, and mitigation requirements to ensure reasonable  
22 protection of groundwater and other water supply quality.

23 **Policy 1.6.5:** The County shall maintain LDC provisions aimed at minimizing need for fertilizer use and  
24 irrigation and maximizing natural areas and open space. The LDC shall include provisions for clustering,  
25 open space, drought tolerant landscaping, water conservation/reuse, and irrigation systems. In addition,  
26 these regulations shall provide for innovative approaches such as model covenants for homeowners  
27 associations, conservation easements, developers agreements and other strategies that may be needed  
28 to facilitate implementation of these and other special development regulations and incentives, as  
29 applicable in the SPZ and KSAs.

30 **OBJECTIVE 1.7:** The County shall maintain LDC provisions regarding the establishment,  
31 maintenance, operation, and protection of potable water supplies focusing on qualified  
32 Community Water Systems (CWS), as specified in Future Land Use Element (FLUE) Objective 7.6,  
33 general purpose wells, and including focus on the County's Water Supply Plan, as amended.

34 **Policy 1.7.1:** The County shall coordinate with the appropriate local, regional, and state agencies to  
35 maintain a CWS potable water well inventory, using the best available data, providing information  
36 including, at a minimum, geographic location, capacity, service type, and owner, as well as other  
37 information deemed appropriate by the County.

38 **Policy 1.7.2:** The County shall maintain LDC provisions regarding land use and development which  
39 require the identification and designation of WHPAs for qualified CWS through development review  
40 processes, consistent with FLUE Objective 7.6.

41 **Policy 1.7.3:** The County shall maintain LDCs which require the identification and designation of all  
42 existing wells on-site, including the size, depth, and permitted status of the well(s) through development

1 review processes. Existing wells, particularly those not currently permitted or properly abandoned, shall  
2 be addressed through the development review process and subsequent development activity, prior to the  
3 issuance of any development or demolition permit, as appropriate. Development regulations requiring  
4 the provision of similar information regarding existing wells within proximity of a development site may  
5 be established, depending on uses proposed, planned stormwater facility operations, and the availability  
6 of information sources, such as but not limited to, MCHD, WMD, and aerial photographs, as determined  
7 appropriate through development review processes.

8 **Policy 1.7.4:** The County shall implement and maintain a Water Supply Plan that shall assist in reducing  
9 the adverse impacts on the quantity and quality of groundwater by balancing groundwater protection and  
10 development needs of the County.

11 **Policy 1.7.5:** The County shall implement and maintain a Water Supply Plan as provided in Potable Water  
12 Element Policy 1.1.8.