

**Section B: Wastewater Sub-Element**

**Goal:** The Board of County Commissioners (the "Board") has the general authority to provide for and regulate waste and sewage collection and disposal (Section 125.01, Florida Statutes). The goals of the Board relative to wastewater collection and treatment in the Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility (AWT) are to: segregate the sewage flow from contributing entities to provide the most cost-effective option for accommodating growth; and have the County operate only the master pump stations associated with flow segregation and the treatment facilities. The goals of the Board for retail collection and treatment are: to expand the County's retail base as necessary and when financially feasible; correct existing facilities deficiencies; coordinate the extension of or increase in capacity of, facilities to meet future needs; minimize the installation of private package plants; minimize the installation of on-site sewage facilities; protect county-wide service area; maximize use of County facilities to encourage the most efficient use of land, and; promote and further the laws of the State relative to public health and safety resulting from wastewater treatment and disposal.

**Vision:** We will develop efficient and effective infrastructure that promotes economic development and enhances the environment, quality of life, and aesthetics.

**General Strategy**

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The general strategy for this sub-element is to:

- Use the Master Plan for Wastewater System as a guide;
- Upgrade the County's wastewater treatment facilities so as to improve the environment, protect water quality and public health while accommodating future growth;
- Fix responsibilities for operation and maintenance of the Wastewater system;
- Correct existing problems and deficiencies;
- Strategically place sub-regional County facilities to help protect surface and ground water, eliminate private package plants, and reduce the number of on-site sewage systems;
- Use densities and intensities of land use on the Future Land Use Map to guide growth in areas where sewer service will be provided in the future.
- Establish level of service standards for concurrency purposes, and;
- Obtain external financial assistance, where possible, for funding wastewater improvement projects.

**Objective 5B.1:** Use the Master Plan for Wastewater System and the Comprehensive Plan as a guide for maintaining and improving the County's wastewater collection and treatment system.

**Policy 5B.1.1:** The Master Plan for Wastewater System shall serve as the principle guide for maintenance and improvement of the County's wastewater collection and treatment systems.

**Objective 5B.2:** Implement the newly defined management approach so that a single entity is responsible for managing the Military Point Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant (MPAWTF) and its associated 5 master lift stations

**Policy 5B.2.1:** The Board will use an interlocal agreement with system users as the means to define management responsibilities for the wastewater system.

**Objective 5B.3:** Segregate flows and loadings from each of the system owners within the MPAWTF with each owner being responsible for its own collection system, up to the Master Lift Station.

**Policy 5B.3.1:** The County will only be responsible for maintenance and operation of master lift stations and treatment facilities. Other system users will be responsible for their own collection systems.

**Objective 5B.4:** The County will use the projects described in the Master Plan for Wastewater System to correct system deficiencies, and update that Plan as deemed necessary by the Utility Director.

**Policy 5B.4.1:** The Utility Master Plan will be updated as deemed necessary by the Board of County Commissioners.

**Objective 5B.5:** Strategically place sub-regional County Wastewater facilities to help protect surface and ground water, eliminate private package plants, and reduce the number of on-site sewage systems

**Policy 5B.5.1:** The County will revise service connection standards in areas where central service is available, anticipated, or needed to protect the public health and the environment of County citizens and/or water quality.

**Policy 5B.5.2:** Ensure coordination with Section C: Potable Water Sub-Element; more specifically Objectives 5C.7 and 5C.8.

**Policy 5B.5.3:** Ensure compliance with the Bay County dry-line standards.

**Objective 5B.6:** Establish sewer and water service districts within the Urban and Suburban Service Areas.

**Policy 5B.6.1:** The County will use the map attached to the Military Point Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility (MPAWTF) Interlocal Agreement as guidance for granting exclusive sewer and or water service or franchise areas within the MPAWTF service area served by Bay County's two (2) master lift stations and two (2) lift stations owned by Mexico Beach and Tyndall Air Force Base (TAFB).

**Policy 5B.6.2:** The County will use Map 5.1 titled *Utility Services Area Map*, prepared by the Bay County Utility Services Department and located at the conclusion of this Chapter, for all other areas incorporated or unincorporated.

**Objective 5B.7:** Use the land use categories and attendant densities/intensities of use found in the Future Land Use Element to control development in rural areas that are not targeted for sewer service during the planning timeframe.

**Policy 5B.7.1:** Availability of sewer and potential sewer service areas will be used as criteria to establish land use densities in the Future Land Use Element.

**Policy 5B.7.2:** Subdivisions created in the "Suburban" Service Area where septic tank regulations require 1/2 acre lots may be platted into "future lot subdivisions". This concept involves a plat showing 1/4 or 1/3 acre lots that are sold in 1/2 acre parcels that may be further subdivided into building lots as water and sewer service becomes available. Houses must be located on these parcels so as to accommodate future building lots. These types of subdivisions will be reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis.

**Objective 5B.8:** Establish wastewater level of service standards for purposes of estimating future needs and issuing development orders.

**Policy 5B.8.1:** The County will use level-of-service (LOS) standards for purposes of concurrency evaluation and estimating potential sewage flows. The LOS standards for sewer are:

- (1) For areas with central sewer service provided by the County the LOS is 90% of flow allocated to the County by interlocal agreement. For the MPAWTF or 90% of permitted capacity of other County Facilities or 90% of reserve capacity purchased by the County in facilities owned by other. This LOS will be used for concurrency evaluations and issuance of development orders.
- (2) For areas where central sewer service is not available concurrency requirements may be met by the issuance of an "On-Site Sewage Disposal" (septic tank) permit pursuant to Chapter 10D-6, FAC.
- (3) For purposes of estimating potential sewage flows the LOS will be 250 gallons per household per day or Equivalent Residential Units (ERU).

**Objective 5B.9:** Obtain financial assistance from federal, state, or regional sources, where possible, to augment County funds.

**Policy 5B.9.1:** The County will use federal, state, and/or regional grants, loans, appropriations or any other means of funding for sanitary sewer projects when considered appropriate.

**Objective 5B.10:** Make certain that developers install sewage collection facilities in accordance with County standards to accommodate new development.

**Policy 5B.10.1:** Developers will be required to install sewage facilities such as collection lines, lift stations, manholes, etc. at their own expense to current Utility Standards as part of any new development project. Said facilities will be dedicated to the County when complete and any land conveyed directly to Bay County.

**Policy 5B.10.2:** Developers will be required to pay all cost associated with any off-site upgrade of County sewage facilities that may be required to serve their development.

**Policy 5B.10.3:** Developers will be required to install sewage and/or reclaimed water facilities in areas where sewer service is not immediately available ("dry lines") when:

- (1) A proposed development is located in an area in which water lines are under construction, or construction is imminent as evidenced by pending bids for construction or contracts for construction; or,
- (2) A proposed development is located in an area in which the availability of sewer service is imminent as evidenced by final approval of construction financing instruments such as loans, bonds, or other similar instruments, and;
- (3) Preliminary or final engineering has been undertaken in sufficient detail so as to allow the developer to reasonably design and install sewage collection facilities.
- (4) All Development in the Deer Point protection zone