

**St. Johns River Water Management District
Comments for Alachua County’s EAR Scoping Meeting – 6/2/08**

Alachua County is within the jurisdictions of the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) and Suwannee River Water Management District. SJRWMD’s review of the evaluation and appraisal report (EAR) and subsequent EAR-based amendment focuses on the following:

1. Water supply planning issues are addressed

a. Indicate how the County is addressing the cumulative legislative changes made in 2002, 2004, and 2005 (SB 360 and SB 444) to Chapter 163, *Florida Statutes* (F.S.), regarding water supply planning requirements in comprehensive plans. Refer to the following Web pages:

- 1) DCA water supply planning Web page
<http://www.dca.state.fl.us/fdcp/DCP/WaterSupplyPlanning/index.cfm>
- 2) SJRWMD comprehensive planning Web page <http://www.sjrwm.com/compplan.html>
- 3) SJRWMD implementation of 2005 Senate Bills 360 and 444 Web page
<http://www.sjrwm.com/SB444/>

b. Water supply concurrency: Indicate when the County updated or will update its concurrency system to address the revised requirements of Section 163.3180(2)(a), F.S., which became effective July 1, 2005. To meet the requirements, the County’s comprehensive plan and land development regulations must ensure that adequate water supplies and facilities are available to serve new development no later than the date on which the County anticipates issuing a certificate of occupancy. Additionally, the County must include consultation with the applicable water supplier during the permit review process and prior to the approval of a building permit, to determine if adequate water supplies will be available to serve the development by the anticipated issuance date of the certificate of occupancy.

Below is an example policy that provides enabling language for the concurrency requirements:

“The County shall issue no development orders or development permits without first consulting with _____ (insert list of water suppliers) to determine whether adequate water supplies to serve the development will be available no later than the anticipated date of issuance by the County of a certificate of occupancy or its functional equivalent. The County will also ensure that adequate water supplies and facilities are available and in place prior to issuing a certificate of occupancy or its functional equivalent.”

c. Future water demands: The County is not required to complete a 10-year water supply facilities work plan because the County is not in SJRWMD’s Priority Water Resource Caution Area. However, the County is required to address other water supply planning requirements. SJRWMD worked with DCA/DEP/WMDs to develop comprehensive plan amendment guidelines, available on the DCA Web site at <http://www.dca.state.fl.us/fdcp/dcp/publications/finalguidelines.pdf>. The County should assess current and projected water needs and sources for at least a 10-year period, considering the applicable consumptive use permit, and identify water supply-related projects necessary to meet projected demands for the 10-year planning horizon. The County should evaluate how the comprehensive plan addresses existing deficiencies. If adequate facilities do not (or will not) exist, address corrective actions, including recommendations for comprehensive plan amendments to ensure construction of the necessary facilities to meet demands. Even though the County is not a potable water supplier, it is important to address the County’s water conservation

practices and the County's role in implementing the provision of reuse to meet non-potable water demands.

- d. Capital Improvements: Indicate whether the County has completed any annual updates to the 5-Year Schedule of Capital Improvements to include its participation in funding water supply-related projects, including reuse facilities and development of any alternative water supply projects, or any privately funded projects that the County intends to rely on to achieve and maintain adopted level-of-service standards when approving new development.
- e. Future land use map (FLUM) amendments: If the comprehensive plan includes criteria for approving FLUM amendments, indicate whether the criteria need to be updated to address the adequacy of planned water supply sources and facilities to support FLUM amendments submitted to DCA for review.
 - 1) SJRWMD worked with DCA/DEP/WMDs to develop future land use map amendment guidelines, which are available on the DCA Web site at <http://www.dca.state.fl.us/fdcp/dcp/WaterSupplyPlanning/WSDA.pdf>
 - 2) SJRWMD developed a Potable Water Availability Worksheet for use by local governments submitting comprehensive plan amendments to determine the availability of potable water resources to serve proposed development. The worksheet is available at: http://www.sjrwmd.com/comprehensiveplanning/potable_water_worksheet.doc

2. Policies and projects to protect water resources are consistent with the SJRWMD's surface water improvement and management program (SWIM) or basin initiatives

Lower St. Johns River Basin (LSJRB): The goal of the LSJRB program is to protect and restore the basin surface waters to Class III (fit for wildlife and recreation) for better water quality and to protect and restore associated natural systems.

Orange Creek Basin (OCB): The goal of the OCB program is to meet or exceed Class III (fit for wildlife and recreation) water quality standards for basin lakes and tributaries and to attain the quality and quantity of surface waters necessary to restore and maintain healthy and productive aquatic and wetland habitats in the basin.

Relative to the above program goals, the County should address the following:

- Stormwater Management: Identify County or cooperatively funded stormwater system upgrades or retrofit projects recently completed or ongoing within the County as specified in any master stormwater plan.
- Implementation of reuse.

3. Policies are consistent with water resource development projects identified in SJRWMD's District Water Supply Plan 2005

- a. Abandoned artesian well plugging program <http://www.sjrwmd.com/abandonedwells/index.html>
- b. Wellhead protection [<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/groundwater/wellhead.htm>], which is a component of the aquifer protection program

- c. Protection of aquifer recharge areas, also a component of the aquifer protection program (The recharge to the Floridan aquifer 2005 data in the natural resources section of SJRWMD's GIS data download table at <http://www.sjrwmd.com/gisdevelopment/docs/themes.html> can be used to map recharge areas).
- d. Technical assistance relative to the projects listed above can be provided by SJRWMD staff as follows:
 - 1) Delineation of wellhead protection areas, contact Doug Munch at dmunch@sjrwmd.com or at (386) 329-4173.
 - 2) Delineation of significant aquifer recharge areas, contact Don Boniol at dboniol@sjrwmd.com or at (386) 329-4188.
 - 3) Development of appropriate comprehensive plan policies and land development regulations, Cathy Foerster at cfoerste@sjrwmd.com or (386) 329-4436

4. Policies promote and encourage the use of low impact development techniques (For example, provide development incentives for water efficient developments, such as those that use the Florida Water StarSM program, a point-based, new home certification program, similar to the federal Energy Star program.)

For additional information about the Water Star program go to <http://www.floridawaterstar.com/>.

5. Policies to protect water resources are not in conflict with the SJRWMD's environmental resource (ERP) and consumptive use permitting rules. SJRWMD's rules and handbooks can be accessed from the E-permitting Web page at <https://permitting.sjrwmd.com/epermitting/jsp/start.jsp>. The County is located within the Sensitive Karst Areas Basin which has additional surface water management basin criteria in Rule 40C-41, *Florida Administrative Code*, in addition to the basic ERP criteria found in other rules.

6. Future Land Use Map designations assigned to SJRWMD's land and easements allow planned management activities.

7. Proposed transportation corridors or facilities do not impact SJRWMD's land or easements.

8. Policies that identify the SJRWMD as a receiver of easements include the statement "subject to SJRWMD's acceptance." SJRWMD will review proposed easements that are not required by SJRWMD-issued permits, but may not accept them.

Other information sources

- a. SJRWMD's District Water Management Plan <http://www.sjrwmd.com/dwmp/index.html>. This version of the Plan has active links to various resources.
- b. GIS resources <http://www.sjrwmd.com/gisdevelopment/docs/themes.html>

SJRWMD personnel resources

- a. Lower St. Johns River Basin Program Manager – Kraig McLane (386) 329-4374
- b. Orange Creek Basin Program Manager – Maurice Sterling (386) 329-4320
- c. SJRWMD Policy Analyst – Cathy Foerster (386) 329-4436

EAR adoption dates for local governments in Alachua County that are within SJRWMD's boundaries

Alachua County	9/1/2009
Gainesville	11/1/2010
Hawthorne	12/1/2010
Micanopy	3/1/2011