

Water Supply Facilities EAR Statements

Section 163.3191(2)(1), Florida Statutes requires that each local government assess:

The extent to which the local government has been successful in identifying alternative water supply projects and traditional water supply projects, including conservation and reuse, necessary to meet the water needs identified in s.373.0361(2)(a) within the local government's jurisdiction. The report must evaluate the degree to which the local government has implemented the work plan for building public, private, and regional water supply facilities, including development of alternative water supplies, identified in the element as necessary to serve existing and new development.

Section 163.3191(2)(1), F.S., is summarized as follows:

1. Evaluate the extent to which the [city/town] has been successful in identifying water resources sufficient to meet the water needs identified in Section 373.0361(2)(a), F.S., within the [city/town]. These water resources include:
 - a. Alternative water supply projects;
 - b. Traditional water supply projects; and
 - c. Conservation and reuse projects.
2. Evaluate the degree to which the [city/town] has implemented the work plan for building public, private, and regional water supply facilities. This includes the development of alternative water supplies identified in the infrastructure potable water sub-element as necessary to serve existing and new development.

BACKGROUND

Section 163.3177(6)(c), F.S., provides that when amended, each comprehensive plan potable water sub-element will include at least a 10-year planning period. Each element must incorporate the following:

1. Alternative water supply projects that meet projected water demands, and identify:
 - a. Alternative water supply projects;
 - b. Traditional water supply projects; and
 - c. Conservation and reuse projects.
2. A work plan for building “public, private, and regional water supply facilities.”
3. The work plan is to be adopted into comprehensive plan within 18 months following the update to the Regional Water Supply Plan produced by the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

The legislation further provides that:

Local governments, public and private utilities, regional water supply authorities, special districts, and water management districts are encouraged to cooperatively plan for the development of multijurisdictional water supply facilities sufficient to meet projected demands for established planning periods, including the development of alternative water sources to supplement traditional sources of groundwater and surface water supplies.

Pinellas County and its 24 municipalities are part of the Southwest Florida Water Management District. The existing Regional Water Supply Plan that was adopted in 2001 concluded “that there are areas of the planning region that have limited access to alternative water supplies and that a regional approach to meeting future demands for water needs is highly desirable.” (SWFWMD, *Regional Water Supply Plan*, page 74 (page 108 in the PDF document), retrieved from:

<http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/documents/plans/RWSP/Comprehensive%20Version/RegionalWaterSupplyPlan.pdf>, March 3, 2006.

Further underscoring the regional nature of water supplies for this area is the existence of Tampa Bay Water, a regional water supply authority, that provides the wholesale water supply to Pinellas County, the City of Tampa, Pasco County, Hillsborough County, and the City of St. Petersburg. TBW has produced its own *Master Water Plan* and work program to provide water supplies to its customers through the year 2012. TBW is working on a *Master Water Plan* for meeting demands into the future. (Tampa Bay Water at www.tampabaywater.org, March 7, 2006)

The Florida Department of Community Affairs provides the following summary of updates to the regional water supply plans on the 2005 Growth Management web site under “FAQ”:

The state’s water management districts are currently updating their respective regional water supply plans. During development of those plans, local governments and other water suppliers should meet and interact closely with water management district staff. Under the new legislation, local governments subject to a regional water supply plan must identify alternative water supply projects necessary to meet existing and future development needs. By working with the districts during the update of the plans, local governments and water suppliers will have an opportunity to provide input on water supply projects that they want to be included in the plan, as well as learn of other projects under consideration by the district for inclusion in the updated plan.

Local governments should contact their water management district(s) to inquire about upcoming meetings and other opportunities to obtain information from district staff on its progress in updating the regional water supply plan(s) applicable to the

local government. (*DCA, 2005 Growth Management, Frequently Asked Questions: Water Supply Planning. Retrieved from <http://www.dca.state.fl.us/on 3-3-06>*)

I. EAR STATEMENT FOR MUNICIPALITIES THAT DO NOT OWN OR OPERATE POTABLE WATER FACILITIES

If you do not own or operate water supply or treatment facilities or distribution systems, the following paragraphs may be included as the evaluation of your plan:

The [City/Town of _____] does not have any local responsibility for potable water supply or distribution facilities. Both water supply and distribution are provided to the [city/town] by Pinellas County according to the terms of an interlocal agreement. The wholesale water supply is provided to Pinellas County by Tampa Bay Water (TBW), a regional water supply authority, and the Pinellas County Utilities Department owns and maintains the distribution system. The [city/town] is a retail customer of the Pinellas County Utilities Department and has no responsibility regarding the supply of potable water to its citizens.

The [City/Town of _____] through its association with TBW and Pinellas County, has identified alternative water supply resources such as the salt water desalination plant, brackish ground water desalination, and water conservation and reuse techniques. However, on its own, the [city/town] does not have the financial or technical resources or capabilities to design, construct, or implement such far reaching water supply alternatives. Through our membership in the Tampa Bay Regional Water Supply Authority, we are part of the partnership agreement with the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD). This agreement, “entered into by the District, Tampa Bay Water, and its member governments, provides for the development of a safe, sustainable, cost effective water supply through a cooperative approach.” (RWSP, page 112)

Because this community does not own or operate any portion of the water supply, treatment, or distribution system, and are merely a retail customer of the Pinellas County Utilities Department, the requirement to “evaluate the degree to which the [city/town] has implemented the work plan for building public, private, and regional water supply facilities” is not applicable to this municipality. The [City/Town of _____] will continue its cooperative agreement with the Pinellas County Utilities Department and participate in conservation and other potable water initiatives sponsored by that department, TBW, and SWFWMD.

II. FOR MUNICIPALITIES THAT DO OWN OR OPERATE POTABLE WATER FACILITIES

If you do own and operate any part of the water supply, treatment, or distribution system, you will need to assess the success of your water supply alternatives and implementation of your work plan, if any.

III. RECOMMENDED ACTION

Every community, regardless of ownership or responsibility for water treatment or distribution, will be required to amend the potable water sub-element to its comprehensive plan. Therefore, all communities may include a recommended action within their EAR such as the following:

The Infrastructure Element will be amended within 18 months following the update to the Regional Water Supply Plan (RWSP) by the Southwest Florida Water Management District to incorporate the applicable alternative water supply projects needed to meet the [city's/town's] projected water supply needs. This amendment will include a work plan to address the extent to which the [city/town] will participate with Tampa Bay Water and Pinellas County in programs to build public, private, and regional water supply facilities, including development of alternative water supplies.