

Chapter 4 Wastewater, Solid Waste, Stormwater Potable Water, and Aquifer Recharge Element

Wastewater

Goal 4.1 • The provision of an environmentally safe and efficient wastewater collection, treatment and disposal system.

Objective 4.1.A • To integrate the County’s long range land use planning program with the provision of centralized wastewater within the County.

Policy 4.1.A.1 • The County shall continue to provide information, such as GIS based data and growth analysis, to the private sewer providers operating within the County to aid in the establishment of priorities for the replacement of facilities, the correction of existing facility deficiencies and for future facility needs planning.

Policy 4.1.A.2 • Santa Rosa County shall cooperate with entities having operational and maintenance responsibilities for sewage facilities in the unincorporated areas of the County so that coordination occurs in establishing level of service standards throughout the County.

Policy 4.1.A.3 • The County Development Services Department shall continue to prepare the annual Utility Operational Status Report as required by Ordinance No. 2001-03. The purpose of this report is to provide the Board of County Commissioners with an opportunity to annually monitor the capacities of the utility systems operating within the County. According to the Ordinance, each utility is to survey present operations and determine its capacity to meet present needs and projected future needs for a period of not less than ten years.

Objective 4.1.B • Ensure, to the maximum extent possible, that extensions of sanitary sewer collection lines and increases in capacity of sewage treatment facilities (if any) will occur in a manner that will meet future development needs. .

Policy 4.1.B.1 • The County shall include LOS standards within its LDC and shall ensure the maintenance of LOS standards through implementation of the Concurrency Management System (reference Chapter 4 of this ordinance). The level of service standards for sanitary sewer within the County shall be ninety (90) gallons per capita per day.

Policy 4.1.B.2 • The County shall monitor development to ensure that the level of service standards are maintained concurrent with development (Utility Operational Status Report).

Policy 4.1.B.3 • Extension of collection system lines made necessary by new development shall be the responsibility of the development.

Policy 4.1.B.4 • The maintenance and operation of sewer facilities shall be funded, predominantly, by user fees or special assessments.

Policy 4.1.B.5 • The County shall continue to cooperate with other governmental agencies and the utilities, as appropriate, in order to provide for additional property and techniques such as reuse and rapid infiltration basins for the disposal of wastewater treatment plan effluent.

Policy 4.1. B.6 • Where central sanitary sewer facilities are not available in unincorporated areas of the County, building permits will not be issued until the applicant has obtained a septic tank permit from the Florida Department of Health "Available" shall be defined in Section 381.0065, F.S., except as follows:

Where a sewer utility system exists or will exist upon completion of a platted subdivision within one half mile of the subdivision, a central collection system to serve the development shall be installed by the developer for connection to the sewer utility system;

South of East River, and on Garcon Point, all subdivisions to be platted, AND commercial and multi-family developments generating at least a wastewater flow equal to or greater than 750 gallons per day are required to connect to central sanitary sewer facilities, except in cases of extreme hardship as defined within the Land Development Code.

Policy 4.1.B.7 • To the extent possible, the County shall encourage growth management practices that promote contiguous, compact development through the availability of wastewater utility services.

Solid Waste

Goal 4.2 • The provision of an environmentally safe and efficient solid waste collection and disposal system.

Objective 4.2.A • To coordinate solid waste facilities capacity with current and future needs.

Policy 4.2.A.1 • The County will continue to cooperate with the Regional Utility Authority for solid waste disposal alternatives.

Policy 4.2.A.2 • The County shall continuously monitor growth and development to ensure that the level of service standard is maintained concurrent with development. The level of service standard for solid waste disposal shall be 6 lbs. per capita per day for all county residents.

Policy 4.2.A.3 • The County shall endeavor to expand residential recycling programs to include commercial and industrial businesses.

Policy 4.2.A.4 • The construction, maintenance and operation of solid waste facilities shall be funded by user fees.

Policy 4.2.A.5 • The County shall continue to cooperate with the municipalities to establish priorities for replacement, correcting existing facility deficiencies and providing for future facility needs.

Objective 4.2.B • To ensure that the design and implementation of a solid waste collection and disposal system has a limited impact on the natural environment.

Policy 4.2.B.1 • Waste streams shall be monitored at landfill sites to prevent illegal dumping of hazardous waste.

Policy 4.2.B.2 • The County shall continue to operate a service that allows residents to dispose of household hazardous waste at the landfill or at designated drop off locations.

Policy 4.2.B.3 • Solid waste management facilities developed and operated by the County shall:

- (a) Comply with all Federal, State and local environmental regulations;
- (b) Minimize adverse human and natural environmental impacts;
- (c) Minimize development and operation and maintenance costs;
- (d) Minimize environmental and economic risk; and
- (e) Meet all applicable health and safety standards.

Stormwater

Goal 4.3 • The provision of an environmentally safe and efficient storm water management system that protects from flood damage and protects surface and ground water quality.

Objective 4.3.A • To coordinate the increase in capacity of storm water facilities with meeting future needs and environmental protection measures such as those related to water quality.

Policy 4.3.A.1 • Installation of storm water management facilities made necessary by new development shall be the responsibility of the developer.

Policy 4.3.A.2 • The County shall continue to enforce regulations in the LDC containing LOS standards for drainage, storm water management and water quality. The County shall require that storm water management facilities meet or exceed the adopted LOS, and that capacity is available concurrent with the impacts of the development. The LOS standards for drainage and water quality shall be:

- (a) Retain the first inch of run-off; and
- (b) Post development run-off shall not exceed the pre-development run-off rate for all storm events, up to and including an event with a 24-hour duration, 100 year return frequency.
- (c) Post development run-off in constrained basins shall not exceed the pre-development run-off rate for a 10-year storm event during all storm events, up to and including an event with a 24-hour duration, 100 year return frequency.

(d) Post development run-off in closed basins shall be retained on-site for all storm events, up to and including the 24 hour duration, 100 year return frequency storm event.

Policy 4.3.A.3 • There shall be no reduction in the flood storage capacity or the other natural functions and values of the floodplain in Santa Rosa County in areas designated as regulatory floodway by FEMA Flood Insurance studies in Santa Rosa County. Encroachments shall be prohibited within designated regulatory floodway including, but not limited to, fill and new construction and development improvements that would result in any increase in flood levels.

Policy 4.3.A.4 • The County shall regulate development within the flood prone areas to minimize flood storage capacity reduction so that post development equals pre-development standards, which will afford protection to life and property within the floodplain.

Policy 4.3.A.5 • Where soil conditions and land use permit, the County may require the use of swale drainage on all new roadways or drainage easements.

Policy 4.3.A.6 • Site specific development plans will be required to protect natural drainage features and incorporate such features into the site planning and development process.

Policy 4.3.A.7 • The County shall continue its practice of correcting localized drainage problems so that LOS standards are maintained.

Policy 4.3.A.8 • The County shall continue its periodic inspection program of storm water control structures to ensure the proper functioning of such structures.

Potable Water

Goal 4.4 • Provide an environmentally safe and efficient system for the provision of potable water.

Objective 4.4.A • To provide potable water facilities concurrent with future demand.

Policy 4.4.A.1 • The County shall cooperate with the various water systems within the County, in any appropriate manner, in order to provide for the timely and efficient provision of potable water facilities or to correct facility deficiencies.

Policy 4.4.A.2 • The County shall continue to provide information, such as GIS based data and growth analysis, to the private water providers operating within the County to aid in the establishment of priorities for the replacement of facilities, the correction of existing facility deficiencies and for future facility needs planning.

Policy 4.4.A.3 • The County Development Services Department shall continue to prepare the annual Utility Operational Status Report as required by Ordinance No. 2001-03. The purpose of this report is to provide the Board of County Commissioners with an opportunity to annually

monitor the capacities of the utility systems operating within the County. According to the Ordinance, each utility is to survey present operations and determine its capacity to meet

Policy 4.4.A.4 • All costs for potable water facilities shall be funded predominately by user fees, developer contributions, or special assessments.

Policy 4.4.A.5 • The cost of water line extensions made necessary by new development shall be the responsibility of the development, unless otherwise specified by the utility.

Policy 4.4.A.6 • The County shall maintain the LOS standards through the day-to-day activities of the Development Services Department and coordination with the entities providing water service in the unincorporated areas of Santa Rosa County. The LOS standard for potable water within Santa Rosa County shall be one hundred (100) gallons per capita per day (average).

Policy 4.4.A.7 • At the discretion of the utility provider, public and private water systems shall be constructed and expanded in an orderly manner with costs shared as appropriate by those benefiting from the service.

Policy 4.4.A.8 • The County shall assess projected water needs and sources for at least a ten year planning period as part of creating and maintaining a Water Supply Facilities Work Plan (Work Plan). The County hereby incorporates by reference the Santa Rosa County Water Supply Facilities Work Plan and capital projects planned during the first five years of the Work Plan shall also be shown in the Capital Improvements element.

Objective 4.4.B • Protect the quality and quantity of Santa Rosa County's potable water supplies and systems.

Policy 4.4.B.1 • The County shall continue to cooperate with the Northwest Florida Water Management District to obtain state funding for an abandoned well plugging program. Among other things, the County shall continue to request the legislature to fund the well plugging program of the NFWMD. Further, Santa Rosa County and its officials shall notify the NFWMD anytime information becomes available to the County regarding the location, or possible location, of an abandoned well. County officials shall immediately communicate the location of any abandoned well to the NFWMD so that the district may initiate appropriate actions.

Policy 4.4.B.2 • The County adopts wellhead protection zones of 500 foot radius for Floridan Aquifer and Sand and Gravel Aquifer public supply water wells, measured from the center of the wellhead. Within the wellhead protection zones, groundwater is protected by prohibiting those commercial and industrial uses with significant known potential to contaminate the groundwater. Specific prohibited uses are identified in the Land Development Code.

Policy 4.4.B.3 • Water Resource Caution Areas have been established by the Northwest Florida Water Management District to protect the area's water resources from depletion, salt water intrusion or man induced contamination, or from any other activity which may substantially

affect the quality or quantity of the area's water resources. Within such area, the NFWWMD has established lower permit thresholds, management (maximum) and minimum levels, and stipulates any limiting conditions as necessary to monitor, manage, and control the use of water. Santa Rosa County shall cooperate with the NFWWMD in its enforcement of regulations regarding the Water Resource Caution Areas within the County.

Policy 4.4.B.4 • Reserved

Policy 4.4.B.5 • Reserved

Policy 4.4.B.6 • The County shall maximize the use of alternative water supplies and conservation measures before considering the interbasin transfer of water.

Policy 4.4.B.7 • The County shall enforce the Building Construction Standards, along with all other relevant building criteria (i.e., plumbing fixtures, retrofitting and ultra-low water use fixtures) to require the use of water saving devices in new construction and specified reconstruction, found within the Florida Uniform Building Code.

Policy 4.4.B.8 • The County shall take steps to promote and educate, both the public and private sectors, concerning the use of native and drought resistant vegetation for landscaping in an effort to reduce outside irrigation.

Policy 4.4.B.9 • The County shall coordinate with the NFWWMD in an effort to protect and conserve future potable water supplies. The County and the NFWWMD shall mutually agree upon policies which ensure that water quality and supplies meet existing and projected future demands.

Policy 4.4.B.10 • The County, in cooperation with the Santa Rosa County Cooperative Extension Service, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry, the Natural Resource Conservation Service and the NFWWMD, shall provide technical assistance to agriculture operations and other irrigation water users in the design of low-volume irrigation systems.

Policy 4.4.B.11 • The East Milton Area Wellfield Protection Overlay District is established to protect the Sand and Gravel Aquifer from contamination. The overlay district allows a wide range of land uses but establishes development design standards for commercial and industrial uses that preclude contact between contaminants and groundwater. Examples of such design standards include secondary containment, prohibition of discharges of contaminants to soil or groundwater, and prevention of contact between contaminants and stormwater.

Policy 4.4.B.12 • The County shall continue to discourage the use of injection wells for the disposal of wastewater.

Policy 4.4.B.13 • The County shall encourage low water use landscape for both domestic and commercial development.

Policy 4.4.B.14 • The County shall encourage the use of reclaimed water in new developments.

Policy 4.4.B.15 • The County in cooperation with the Santa Rosa County Cooperative Extension Service, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the University of Florida (Milton Campus) and the NFWFMD shall provide technical assistance to agriculture operations and other irrigation water users in the design of low-volume irrigation systems.

Objective 4.4.C • The County shall coordinate land use planning with the management of water source and supply planning through the Comprehensive Plan, local water supply initiatives and the Northwest Florida Water Management District’s Regional Water Supply Plan.

Policy 4.4.C.1 • Reserved

Policy 4.4.C.2 • The County’s 10-year Water Supply Facilities Work Plan shall be updated within 18-months following an update to the District Regional Water Supply Plan for Water Supply Planning Region II.

Policy 4.4.C.3 • The County shall coordinate with the Northwest Florida Water Management District’s most recent water supply plan when proposing or amending the 10-year Water Supply Facilities Work Plan. Where appropriate and feasible, the Work Plan shall include collaborative approaches with other local governments and private water providers for water supply source use and development, and water resource development.

Natural Aquifer Groundwater Recharge

Objective 4.5.D • Provide for the protection and recharge of the sand and gravel aquifer from rainfall as well as the functions of natural groundwater recharge areas and natural drainage features. Note: The Floridan Aquifer is not recharged by rainfall within Santa Rosa County.

Policy 4.5.D.1 • The County shall require a minimum of 10% pervious surface area for all new development so that rainfall may reach the aquifer through percolation.

Policy 4.5.D.2 • The County shall ensure that storm water management structures are designed to function as aquifer recharge areas in appropriate locations.