

INFRASTRUCTURE ELEMENT

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Stormwater Management Sub-Element

Goal:
 Ensure that stormwater management systems are adequately provided to reduce the risk of public endangerment and property damage from long term flooding and protect surface and ground water quality.

Objective 1 Stormwater and Floodplain Protection

Review and update the Land Development Regulation annually to assure that stormwater and floodplain management standards are consistent with local, state and federal management regulations.

Policy 1.1 Land Development Regulations shall implement development standards for floodprone and wetland areas. New development shall be required to provide on-site water retention and/or detention areas adequate to accommodate any increased stormwater run-off unless exemption is permitted under the applicable Water Management District regulation.

Stormwater Management Level of Service

Policy 1.2 Stormwater management facilities shall meet the following level of service standards and guidelines:

Quantity

- a. Standard: The design of stormwater management facilities shall comply with the applicable Water Management District standards for stormwater quantity. (i.e., F.A.C. Rule 40B and 40B-40 for SRWMD and F.A.C. Rules 40D-4, 40D-40 and 40D-400 for SWWMD).

- b. Guideline: On-site post development stormwater management and runoff conditions shall not exceed the rate and volume of pre-development conditions.

Quality

- a. Standard: Water discharge treatment shall be consistent with F.A.C. Rule 62-25.
- b. Guideline: Discharge equal to ambient conditions, with treatment of the first one (1) inch.

Policy 1.3 All developments shall comply with the provisions of the Land Development Code regulating stormwater and floodplain management.

Natural Drainage/ Water Quality

Policy 1.4 Stormwater quality will be analyzed and treated to remove and eliminate pollutants prior to discharge into sinkholes or other natural drainage areas (i.e., wetlands, marshes, waterbodies etc.). New developments shall ensure that stormwater discharge into natural drains meet water quality standards in Chapter 62-25, F.A.C.

Policy 1.5 The adopted level of service for floodplain protection is the 100 year flood elevation and/or consistent with National Flood Insurance Program requirements.

Aquifer Recharge Sub-Element

Goal:

Protect the quality and supply of ground water through the proper management of development activities in aquifer recharge/discharge and floodprone areas.

Objective 1 Natural Groundwater Recharge Areas, Discharge Features and Wetland Preservation

Protect the natural functions of groundwater recharge and discharge areas by identify the sensitive features of the land and providing Land Development Regulations standards to ensure the adequate provision of stormwater facilities and floodplain management.

Policy 1.1 Proposed land uses and development will be reviewed to identify natural groundwater recharge/discharge (i.e., wetlands, floodplains) areas and karst characteristics of the land using the best available data including, but not limited to, topographic maps delineating the 100- year and 10-year flood elevations and FEMA maps.

Policy 1.2 Development that impairs the function of the aquifer recharge and discharge areas, to the maximum extent possible, will be directed away from the most sensitive portion of the land.

Wetland Preservation

Policy 1.3 Wetlands shall be protected and preserved. New development shall preserve the total area

of wetlands on site and protect the natural drainage features of associated wetland systems. All water courses shall be preserved in a natural state to protect the natural drainage features of the land. However, development necessary for essential public uses may be allowed in such areas consistent with Conservation Element Policy 3.1.

Objective 2 Water Conservation

Conserve water and water resources to protect springs.

Policy 2.1 The use of landscaping best management practices as described in Guidelines for Model Ordinance Language for Protection of Water Quality and Quantity Using Florida Friendly Lawns and Landscapes. (Florida Department of Environmental Protection, September 2, 2003) is required.

Policy 2.2 Levy County will establish guidelines for managing existing and future lawns and landscapes at all Levy County facilities using the educational guidelines contained in the University of Florida Extension’s Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Program, Environmental Landscape Management (ELM) principles and Best Management Practices. Such guidelines shall include practices that are designed to reduce nitrate infiltration into ground and surface water.

Policy 2.3 All golf course siting, design, construction and management shall implement the prevention, management and monitoring practices, detailed in the golf course siting, design and management chapter of the Protecting Florida’s Springs Manual Land Use Planning Strategies and Best Management Practices (November 2002). These practices are derived from the Audubon International Signature Program.

Solid Waste Sub-Element

Goal:

Protect the environmental and economic quality of the County through the proper management and disposal of solid and hazardous waste to meet the current and future demands of the County.

Objective 1 Solid Waste Management and Services

Ensure adequate solid waste facilities and disposal services to accommodate future needs and prevent and/or remedy deficiencies.

Policy 1.1 The County will continue to investigate and develop feasible methods to improve disposal services and prevent deficiencies. These methods will include, but are not limited to:

- a. Coordinating the extension of services by pursuing interlocal agreements to provide collection services within the Municipal Service Districts;
- b. Monitoring the capacity and projected demand on existing facilities;
- c. Increase the landfill capacity by reducing waste volume. Methods include implementing recycling, chipping and composting programs.

- d. Consider a licensing and/or franchising program for solid waste providers in the County.

Policy 1.2 The County shall identify appropriate locations for the development or use of transfer stations as warranted due to development proposals and/or population density increases, and when economics indicate support for such facilities. The County shall consider development agreements for the provision of solid waste transfer facilities when determined to be appropriate by the Board of County Commissioners.

Policy 1.3 Site criteria for waste management transfer facilities shall be specified in the land development regulations and shall address, at a minimum, provisions for the following:

- a. ensuring compatibility of a subject waste management facility within the given area;
- b. access by collection vehicles, automobiles, and, where applicable, transfer vehicles;
- c. safeguards against water and ground pollution originating from the disposal of wastes;
- d. security, such as fencing, gated entrances, lighting, and/or manned facilities, and;
- e. buffering from adjacent uses.

Policy 1.4 The County shall encourage the use of best management practices for livestock and equine waste and will partner with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and other agencies that promote best management practices in order to protect the quality of surface and groundwater resources and minimize hazards to health, welfare and safety.

Landfill Timeframe and Management

Policy 1.5 The Levy County Landfill is designed to handle all future solid waste disposal needs to the year 2020.

Policy 1.6 The County will monitor and adjust solid and hazardous waste management operations to:

- a. Accommodate changes in disposal technologies;
- b. Meet State and Federal regulatory standards;
- c. Efficiently handle changes in composition and quantity, including hazardous waste; Protect the environmental quality of the County;
- d. Prevent deficiencies.

Policy 1.7 Alternative disposal methods will be evaluated on a periodic basis, with recommendations from the County Engineer.

Solid Waste Level of Service

Policy 1.8 The Level of Service Standard for solid waste is 2.8 pounds of waste generation per person, per day or an equivalent residential unit (ERU) for non-residential development. This standard will be used in determining the available facility capacity and the demand generated by proposed development.

Policy 1.9 The generation of waste shall be calculated for new development using the adopted level of service standard. The projected impact shall be used as the basis for determining the capacity and improvement needs to maintain adequate solid waste disposal service.

Potable Water Quantity and Quality Sub-Element

Goal:

Protect, maintain and conserve the source, quality and supply of potable water to serve existing and future development and population needs.

Objective 1 Water Source Protection

Coordinate with the Water Management Districts to develop water supply and quality protection standards, monitoring systems, and other measures to enhance the quality and supply of potable water.

Policy 1.1 The County will coordinate with the Water Management Districts to develop water plan policies to ensure that the projected increase of water use for agricultural, residential and commercial uses are met and to address potential demands for water transfers to other counties.

Water Transfers

Policy 1.2 The Board of Levy County Commissioners is opposed to inter-basin transfers of water.

Monitoring Groundwater Resource

Policy 1.3 The County will ensure that an adequate water supply will be available for current and future demands. The County will support studies by the Water Management Districts to inventory groundwater resource availability and identify safe water consumption and/or withdrawal quantity thresholds.

Policy 1.4 The County will use Water Management District study recommendations to prepare and consider for adoption, Land Development Regulations standards for water withdrawal standards, including safeguards and guidelines.

Objective 2 Estuary and Living Marine Resources

Protect and preserve estuarine water quality and recreational and commercially important fish or shellfish areas by maintaining existing flows and levels of surface water resources and limiting the adverse impact of development.

Policy 2.1 Utilize the Waccasassa Basin data available from the Suwannee River Management District to determine stormwater management needs, costs and improvements to protect water quality.

Policy 2.2 The County will request the Suwannee River Water Management District to conduct a County drainage basin study using District funds.

The priority areas upon which the drainage basin study should focus are:

- a. The Bronson Municipal Service District, as shown on the Future Land Use Map.
- b. The Wekiva Springs watershed area.
- c. The Gulf Hammock/U.S. 19 areas.
- d. Commercial marinas, campgrounds and County boat ramp facilities.

Policy 2.3 Shoreline development and land uses in environmentally sensitive areas shall be consistent with policies and guidelines described in the Conservation and Coastal Management Element.

Objective 3 Discourage Urban Sprawl

Encourage compact urban development patterns and provide for the efficient use of existing public services and facilities in Municipal Service Districts.

Policy 3.1 The County will maximize the use of existing centralized potable water facilities and discourage urban sprawl by limiting urban services to Municipal Service Districts, special districts, and urbanized and commercial areas shown on the Future Land Use map.

Policy 3.2 The County will provide for higher density and intensity land uses within Municipal Service Districts and areas with existing public facilities, including special districts. Land

Development Regulations shall establish standards and requirements for the provision and use of centralized water supply systems.

Provision of Service in Municipal Service Districts/ Guidelines

Policy 3.3 The County will maximize the use of existing facilities using the following land development guidelines and standards in Municipal Service Districts:

- a. Land use densities and intensities shall be increased in relation to available capacity of infrastructure.
- b. New subdivisions shall:
 - 1. Provide central water facilities (community wells) for densities exceeding 1 unit per acre.
 - 2. Provide central water and sewer facilities for densities exceeding 3 units per acre.
- c. New subdivisions shall provide central water and sewer facilities, consistent with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). Private wells and septic tanks shall be provided consistent with the Florida Department of Health (DOH) requirements.

Private Potable Water Facilities/Countywide

Policy 3.4 Residential development requiring a central “package” water system shall be limited to Municipal Service Districts. Development approval shall be contingent on documented confirmation that services will be provided concurrent with development. “Package” water systems may be allowed as an interim measure and designed for future hook-up to a municipal or sub-regional facility. If approved, at a minimum, a plan for connection to the applicable municipal system shall be required. If compelling information exists to demonstrate that the lack of a central package water system outside of a Municipal Service District poses a significant health or environmental problem for which there is no other feasible solution, the County may allow private package treatment plants on a case by case basis for residential development. A permitting process shall be established in the Land Development Code which requires, at a minimum, that the applicant demonstrate the following:

- a. that alternative systems of wastewater disposal are not feasible;
- b. that there will be no adverse impacts on water quality; and
- c. adequate protection of County or public financial or other resources in the event of the need for subsequent County or public operation of such plant.

Policy 3.5 Non-residential development requiring package water systems may be permitted in compliance with Levy County Health Department regulations and Department of Environmental Protection.

Policy 3.6 Proposed residential developments requiring a centralized water system shall provide written confirmation that there is available capacity to meet the Level of Service standard and services are located or will be extended to serve the project concurrent with development.

Objective 4 Potable Water Facility LOS, Operations and Deficiencies

Coordinate with the developers, appropriate municipalities, regulatory agencies to identify and correct system deficiencies and provide adequate potable water facility operations.

Potable Water Level of Service

Policy 4.1 The Level of Service standard for potable water supplies in unincorporated areas is 150 gallons per capita per day or an Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) for non-residential development. If appropriate, a higher level of service as adopted by the municipal jurisdiction which commits to provide the service may be required.

Policy 4.2 Proposed development will be reviewed to ensure that the projected impacts do not lower the level of service. New residential development consisting of more than six (6) residential units in a Municipal Service District and located at the nearest property boundary within 300 feet of centralized public potable water facilities, shall be required to connect to the centralized public potable water facility. If centralized potable water services are not available, the applicant shall provide written verification from the municipality that service or capacity is not available. Lot sizes of three (3) acres or greater shall not be required to connect to public potable water until such time as they develop at a higher density.

Interlocal Coordination

Policy 4.3 The County will pursue inter-local agreements with appropriate municipalities, to ensure that potable water systems standards are consistent with existing potable water facility capacity and development regulations do not conflict with planned expansions into Municipal Service Districts.

Policy 4.4 Although the provision of public centralized potable water system is generally under the jurisdiction of municipalities and other public facility providers, the County shall coordinate with the municipalities and other public facility providers to ensure that extensions are made in the areas of greatest growth and in areas with poor soils and/or other environmental conditions least capable of supporting private water wells. This coordination shall include, but not be limited to: initiatives made by the County to share land use information with the municipalities; review of soils data in areas adjacent to municipalities; and interlocal agreements providing for water line extensions by the municipalities into adjacent unincorporated areas in conjunction with grants and other similar activities mutually agreed upon by the municipalities and the County. Interlocal agreements may be sought with municipalities to include delineation of specific service area boundaries, and schedules for facility provision.

Facility Operation and Maintenance

Policy 4.4 The County will coordinate with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), and any other applicable state or federal agency, to assure that public and private potable water facilities are maintained and operated in compliance with applicable state rules.

Capital Improvement Priorities

Policy 4.5 Replacement and/or correction of any future facility deficiencies shall be consistent with standards set forth in the Capital Improvements and Coastal Management Element and prioritized as follows:

- Priority # 1: The replacement of a facility which poses an imminent threat to the public health or safety.
- Priority # 2: The replacement of essential public services; i.e. water services to County offices and departments, and County utility operations.
- Priority # 3: All others.

Objective 5 Water Conservation

Promote water conservation measures, with the long-term goal of reducing per capita consumptive use.

Policy 5.1 The building codes will require new construction to incorporate water conservation features.

Policy 5.2 The beneficial use of reclaimed water shall be encouraged within the groundwater basin from which it was withdrawn. The County will coordinate with the appropriate Water Management District on the provision of reuse facilities.

Natural Resource Protection

Policy 5.3 The County will encourage the use of water conservation techniques in the design of new developments. Land Development Regulations shall:

- a. Regulate and minimize development impacts to environmentally sensitive lands as set forth in the Conservation and Coastal Elements of the Plan.
- b. Provide for innovative land use design techniques, including but not limited to, incentives for clustered development and the preservation of open space and existing vegetation. Land Development Regulations will include standards to allow for cluster subdivisions.

Water Supply Protection

Policy 5.4 The County will cooperate with the Water Management Districts in instituting water

conservation measures to address drought conditions.

Sanitary Sewer Sub-Element

Goal:

Ensure that sanitary sewer services and treatment facilities are adequately provided to support orderly, compact urban growth in a manner that protects surface and ground water quality.

Objective 1 Discouraging Urban Sprawl

Encourage compact urban development patterns and provide for the efficient use of existing public facilities in Municipal Service Districts.

Policy 1.1 The County will maximize the use of existing centralized sanitary sewer facilities and discourage urban sprawl by limiting urban services to Municipal Service Districts, special districts urbanized areas and commercial areas shown on the Future Land Use map.

Policy 1.2 Local ordinances dealing with wastewater treatment and disposal will be prepared and considered for adoption. These ordinances may include, but are not limited to, types and locations of sewage lines and treatment plants, hook-ups to existing public sewer systems, the location, timing and intensity of development in relation to the availability of sewer service, and the installation during construction of sewer stubs to provide future hook-ups to central sewers when they become available.

Policy 1.3 The County will investigate the feasibility of allowing cluster decentralized sewage systems in rural areas to achieve water quality goals. The County will analyze costs, benefits, potential profits and the need for responsible management entities.

Sanitary Sewer Level of Service

Policy 1.4 The County will utilize a level of service standard for sanitary sewer services to ensure the availability of services in the Municipal Service District and develop future facility design requirements.

Policy 1.5 All central sewer systems shall be designed and constructed to provide a minimum average daily flow of one hundred [100] gallons per capita per day, or an Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) for non-residential development, or if appropriate, a higher level of service as adopted by the municipal jurisdiction which commits to provide the service.

Policy 1.6 Residential population densities in any PUD served by a wastewater treatment plant may not exceed the gross density that would have been allowed for a conventional development, as established by the Future Land Use Map.

Policy 1.7 New residential development consisting of more than six (6) residential units in a Municipal Service District and located at the nearest property boundary within 300 feet of public sanitary sewer facilities, shall be required to connect to public sanitary sewer. If public sanitary sewer services are not available, the applicant shall provide written verification from the municipality that service or capacity is not available. Lot sizes of three (3) acres or greater shall not be required to connect to public sanitary sewer until such time as they develop at a higher density.

Wastewater Treatment Systems Guidelines

Policy 1.8 To ensure the availability of services, private package plants and centralized sanitary sewer systems may be permitted in Municipal Service Districts consistent with the guidelines and standards of this element.

It is the intent that wastewater treatment plants, centralized treatment plants and package treatment plants shall ultimately be under public ownership. Allowable private package plants shall be permitted as an interim measure and designed to provide for future hook-up to a municipal or sub-regional facility. The applicant shall be required to commit to a transfer ownership of the system to the municipal entity.

Policy 1.9 As defined by this Comprehensive Plan:

- a. Wastewater treatment plant - a facility designed to collect, transmit, treat or dispose of wastewater, excluding onsite sewage treatment and aerobic treatment systems covered by Rule 64E-6, F.A.C.
- b. Centralized treatment plant - a wastewater system having a permitted capacity of 100,000 gallons per day or greater.
- c. Package treatment plant - a wastewater treatment system having a permitted capacity of less than 100,000 gallons per day.

Centralized Wastewater Treatment Systems Guidelines

Policy 1.10 Centralized wastewater treatment systems will be limited in location to: Municipal Service Districts (MSD's); Developments of Regional Impacts (DRI's); Florida Quality Developments (FQD's); unincorporated communities recognized by the County and identified on the Future Land Use Map; and special sewer districts created by the County in accordance with State law.

Private Package Treatment Plants/Owner Occupied

Policy 1.11 The County continues to prohibit the use of private package treatment plants to serve owner-occupied residential development, including mobile home subdivisions. However, if compelling information exists to demonstrate that the lack of a wastewater treatment plant poses a significant health or environmental problem for which there is no other feasible solution, the County may allow private package treatment plants to serve owner-occupied residential development on a case by case basis. A permitting process shall be established in the Land Development Code which requires, at a minimum, that the applicant demonstrate the following:

- a. consistency with Policy 1.13 (b - g).
- b. that alternative systems of wastewater disposal are not feasible;
- c. that there will be no adverse impacts on water quality; and
- d. adequate protection of County or public financial or other resources in the event of the need

for subsequent County or public operation of such plant.

Package Treatment Plants/Non-Owner Occupied

Policy 1.12 Private package plants for non-owner occupied rental housing, travel trailer parks, mobile home parks, congregate living facilities and other non-owner residential development may be permitted consistent with Policy 1.13.

Outside Municipal Service District/Private Package Treatment Plant

Policy 1.13 Non-owner occupied package treatment plants are permitted outside the Municipal Service Districts provided that they must meet or exceed the following standards:

a. Locations:

1. **Recognized unincorporated Communities and Commercial Areas** - Permitted in each of the named unincorporated communities and areas designated Commercial on the future land use map.
2. **Rural Commercial Nodes-**
On Florida Intrastate System (FIHS) - Permitted at each rural commercial node on the Florida Intrastate System.

On Non- FIHS roadway- Must meet or exceed one of the following thresholds:
 - a. 200 platted lots, (or homes constructed) within a one-mile radius of the proposed location.
 - b. 1,000 vehicles per day, average daily traffic on an abutting road.
 - c. The distance to any other developed rural commercial node is two (2) miles or greater.
3. **For the purpose of Retrofitting** - Permitted in instances where "retrofitting" of an existing on-site system is necessary to correct a health hazard or to meet state environmental standards.
4. **Water Dependent Uses** - Permitted for water-dependent uses, which for the purposes of this plan are defined as activities which can be carried out only on, in adjacent to, or connected to bodies of water (lakes, rivers, the Gulf, etc.) because the use requires access to the water body for: waterborne transportation, including ports or marinas; recreation; public utilities (electric generation, water supply, etc.); aquacultural; or other uses that are dependent upon large quantities of water or water bodies.
5. **Industrial Areas** - Permitted for industrial areas shown on the Future Land

Use Map.

6. **Specialized Uses-** Institutional, tourist/entertainment, and resource-based recreation.

b. Densities of Development:

In no instance may gross densities be increased above those levels shown for the area on the Future Land Use Map. As used here, gross density is the number of dwelling units divided by the acres in the total development. Subdivisions which were recorded and met all then-current regulations and which predate the comprehensive plan (prior to 1990) are vested and may develop at the platted density, provided they meet all other applicable regulations.

**c. Design:
General**

1. For each wastewater treatment plant to be installed, the applicant based on sound engineering principle, shall demonstrate that the particular design or unit proposed has a history of satisfactory treatment and operation when operated under conditions similar to those anticipated for the subject project.

Capacity

2. Wastewater treatment plant design shall address variable influent flow conditions, including provisions for treatment of all anticipated wastewater conditions and flows.
3. Wastewater treatment plants may be restricted to allow operation at no greater than 75% of the design capacity.

Pretreatment

4. Pre-treatment shall be required for industrial and other waste not classified as domestic wastewater.

Future Expansion

5. A suitable unobstructed area adjacent to the plant site and not less than twice the area of the plant site shall be reserved for future plant facility needs. This area shall provide for all setbacks, buffers, and other regulatory requirements.
6. A suitable unobstructed area not less than twice the area required for effluent

disposal shall be reserved for future effluent disposal needs. This area shall provide for all setbacks, buffers, and other regulatory requirements.

Emergency back-up

- 7. Each wastewater treatment plant must be provided with an emergency back-up power supply capable of providing full plant operations. The back-up power supply shall be tested and operated for not less than one-hour each week. This weekly operation shall be documented in the facility log.

Waivers

- 8. Should specific project conditions warrant, the County may waive certain requirements or impose more stringent and additional design standards. The County will consider waiving requirements only when the applicant can demonstrate that:
 - a. Alternate standards promote flexibility, economy and are equal to or exceed minimum state requirements for wastewater treatment systems so as to provide reasonable environmental safeguards; and
 - b. The proposed alternate standards are appropriate for the particular application.

d. Facility Monitoring:

Each wastewater treatment plant must be supervised and managed by a licensed sewer plant operator. A log of the supervisory and maintenance activities shall be maintained onsite for inspection by Levy County. An individual in responsible charge of the wastewater treatment plant shall be available on a daily basis, including weekends and holidays.

e. Operations/Maintenance:

A firm or individual specializing in the operation, repair and maintenance of wastewater treatment plants must be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the facility at all times. This may be the same firm that conducts monitoring as required by d. above.

f. Financial Responsibility:

The owner of a wastewater treatment plant shall demonstrate proof of financial

assurance to the satisfaction of the Board. This is intended to provide assurance that the facility will be properly operated and maintained. Such proof will also provide that, in the event of abandonment or other event that necessitates County or public operation of the plant, County and other public financial resources will be protected.

The Board reserves the right and authority to deny any project which it considers not to be financially responsible. Financial responsibility may be reviewed on an annual basis.

g. Shutdown Order:

If any wastewater treatment plant is not operated in a manner which meets or exceeds regulatory standards or is operated in an unsatisfactory manner as determined by the Board, the Board may order the termination of the Certificate of Occupancy (or Occupational License) for those structures served by the system accompanied by a shut down of the facility.

Objective 2 Treatment Plant Failures

Coordinate with Health Department (FDOH), the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the appropriate Water Management District and the land-owner to expedite the repair or elimination of failed septic tanks and sewage treatment plants deficiencies.

Policy 2.1 The Levy County Development Department shall coordinate the review of deficient sanitary sewer systems with the appropriate agency within 30 days of notice of deficiency.

Policy 2.2 Existing systems will be repaired, reconstructed or replaced, or a hookup provided to a municipal system. The County will take over, or construct and generate, a sewer system only if no reasonable alternative exists.

Policy 2.3 The County will consider the fiscal costs and implementation alternatives associated with establishing On-Site Wastewater Management Districts [O.S.W.M.D.].

Monitoring Program

Policy 2.4 The County shall develop a monitoring program for wastewater treatment plants. This program is intended to be funded, at least in part, by annual assessments to wastewater treatment plant owners. The minimum frequency of compliance inspections would be monthly. The wastewater treatment plant owner shall be charged a reasonable fee for reinspections resulting from unsatisfactory regular inspections.

Interlocal Coordination

Policy 2.5 Although the provision of public centralized wastewater treatment systems is generally

under the jurisdiction of municipalities and other public facility providers, the County shall coordinate with the municipalities and other public facility providers to ensure that extensions are made in the areas of greatest growth and in areas with poor soils and/or other environmental conditions least capable of supporting septic tanks. This coordination shall include, but not be limited to: initiatives made by the County to share land use information with the municipalities; review of soils data in areas adjacent to municipalities; and interlocal agreements providing for sewer line extensions by the municipalities into adjacent unincorporated areas in conjunction with grants and other similar activities mutually agreed upon by the municipalities and the County.

Utilities Sub-Element

Goal:

Ensure that electric utilities are adequately and efficiently provided through coordination with private and state entities.

Objective 1 Utility Guidelines

Permit utility companies the maximum amount of flexibility in providing essential public services while protecting the environmental and aesthetic quality of the County.

Policy 1.1 Encourage utility facilities to locate in areas that efficiently serve designated growth areas, and minimize adverse impacts to the appearance and character of neighborhoods and community.

Policy 1.2 Encourage the utilization of common corridors for utility distribution systems.

Policy 1.3 Encourage the use of underground transmission lines where feasible.

Policy 1.4 Essential public utilities shall be permitted in all of the land use classifications and consistent with standards and guidelines in the Capital Improvement, Conservation and Coastal Elements.

Policy 1.5 Subdivision regulations shall specify location criteria and ensure there are adequate provisions of public facilities and services by new developments. Adequate utilities and services will be confirmed by the Levy County Development Department prior to the issuance of a development order.

Policy 1.6 The County will maintain close contact with public utilities that provide essential services to the County through direct contact and the development of guidelines to assure continuity and availability of service.