

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 16, 2003

TO: Hassan Halabi, Community Planner II, The Planning Commission

FROM: Peter Owens, M.E., P.E., Professional Engineer, EPC Wetlands Division

SUBJECT: EPC General Agency Comments on Comprehensive Plan Amendment Request CPA 04-07 Wellhead and Surface Water Protection

1. In paragraph 2 of the 8/29/03 cover letter from PGMD to Robert Hunter it outlines the potable water sources to be protected. This includes 8 private potable wells over 100,000 gpd that serve large subdivisions and mobile home parks. In paragraph 4 of the letter is the definition of potable water wellfield; serves 15 connections or 25 year-round residents. It is not discernible that the 8 mentioned private potable wells capture all potable wells covered by the definition. In the comp plan document "Wellhead Policy Revisions" in section 7.6 the same clarification could be made for section "b" (Public potable water supply wells included in the County's program) and section "h" (potable water wells the county shall protect). In short, it may be possible to combine these two paragraphs into one so that there is no confusion as to which potable wellheads/wellfields are protected, and the definition of Potable Water Wellfield.
2. Under the Surface Water component, the County does not have to limit vehicular USTs to only 500 feet from surface water supplies; it could have a more prohibitive (greater than 500 feet) setback if it so chose. The DEP's Wellhead Rule (62-521) and similar UST rule (62-761) are meant to protect wellheads, and are silent as to surface water protection. Thus arguably you don't have to limit the setback to 500 feet. However, it may be hard to argue that a greater vehicular UST setback than 500 feet from surface waters is not considered more stringent than the analogous wellhead/UST DEP rules for wells, thus if deemed more stringent, it must be approved by the DEP before County enactment.

DATE: October 23, 2003

TO: Peter Owens, EPC Wetlands Division

FROM: Dan Blood, Planning and Growth Management

SUBJECT:EPC Agency Comments on Comprehensive Plan Amendment
Request CPA 04-07 Wellhead and Surface Water Protection

Thank you for your review and comments on the Plan Amendment to update the wellhead protection policies in the Comprehensive Plan.

In response to your first concern, the updated policies protect three separate sources of potable water: public potable water supply wells, potable water wellfields and surface water.

The public potable water supply wells are the large wells that withdraw an average daily amount of 100,000 gallons per day or greater of groundwater. These include the potable water sources utilized by Tampa Bay Water and also include the private potable water wells over 100,000 gallons per day serving large subdivisions and mobile home parks. After updating the modeling for the public potable water supply wells, there currently are nine private potable water wells. The public potable water supply wells are shown on the Wellhead Resource Protection Area map.

The potable water wellfields are the wells required to be protected through FDEP Chapter 62-521 F.A.C. These are generally much smaller wells that serve at least 15 service connections used by year-round residents or regularly serves at least 25 year-round residents. There are approximately 900 of these wells in Hillsborough County and they are shown on the Potable Water Wellfield Protection Area map.

The surface water protection zones are shown on the Surface Water Resource Protection Area map.

In response to your second concern about the setback of vehicular USTs from surface water supplies, it should be noted that the Technical Advisory Committee for the update of the Wellhead Protection Ordinance intended to restrict all underground storage tanks only within the Surface Water Resource Protection Areas. The intent was never to have an additional buffer from the Surface Water Resource Protection Area. The Conservation and Aquifer Recharge Element Policy 3.11 d has been changed to reflect this. The Surface Water Resource Protection Area includes the zones around lands located adjacent to or near surface water bodies that are upstream of potable water supply systems. The protection zone on the primary reach of the Hillsborough River and the Alafia River have a zone based on the 100 year floodplain plus a 200 foot buffer. Tributaries to the Alafia and Hillsborough Rivers have a zone based on the 100 year floodplain. The protection zone along the Tampa Bypass Canal and Harney Canal extends 1,000 feet from the outside edge of the top of the bank on both sides of the canal.