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August 29, 2003

Robert Hunter, Executive Director
Hillsborough County City County Planning Commission
601 East Kennedy Blvd., Floor 18
Tampa, Florida 33601

Dear Mr. Hunter:

SUBJECT: PLAN AMENDMENT FOR THE WELLHEAD AND SURFACE WATER RESOURCE PROTECTION UPDATE

The BOCC is submitting this Plan Amendment which is necessary to update the wellhead protection policies in the Comprehensive Plan. The Technical Advisory Committee for the update of the wellhead regulations has been working since 2001 to model and map the groundwater and surface water sources of potable drinking water in Hillsborough County; to update the appropriate policies in the Comprehensive Plan; and to update the definitions and regulations in the Land Development Code and the Development Review Procedures Manual.

The update is required to protect new and existing potable water sources utilized by Tampa Bay Water. Since 1992 when the first Wellhead Protection regulations were established in the County's Land Development Code, Tampa Bay Water has planned and is constructing several new potable drinking water sources in Hillsborough County. These include the Brandon Urban Wellfield and surface water withdrawals from the Hillsborough River, Tampa Bypass Canal, and Alafia River at Bell Shoals. Eight private potable water wells over 100,000 gallons per day serving large subdivisions and mobile home parks are also included in the wellhead protection program. These new wells and surface water withdrawals are not currently covered by the County's Wellhead Protection regulations in the Land Development Code.

This application for a Plan Amendment provides the text changes in Policy 7.6 of the Conservation and Aquifer Recharge Element (CARE) and corresponding Policy A6.9 of the Future Land Use Element (FLUE). In addition, Policy 3.11 has new text to address protection of surface water that will now be part of Tampa Bay Water's Master Water Plan. The adopted wellhead map that is part of the Future Land Use Map (FLUM) series will be replaced with the updated wellhead map. A new map will be added to the series to address Surface Water Resource Protection Areas. In addition, a new map will be added to the series to address protection of potable water wells.

The State has mandated the implementation of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (FDEP) Wellhead Protection Program through local planning requirements of F.A.C. 9J-5.013 Conservation

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Element. The County must protect potable water wellfields with a potable water well protection area of a 500 foot radial setback from a potable water well. Potable water wellfield means the site of one or more water wells which supply potable water for human consumption to a water system which serves at least 15 service connections used by year-round residents or regularly serves at least 25 year-round residents. FDEP Chapter 62-521, F.A.C. protection measures will apply in the potable water wellfield protection area. The potable water wells and the 500 foot radial setback will be shown on the map that will be added to the FLUM series. Section h. has been added to CARE Policy 7.6 to reflect this planning requirement.

The study area of this Plan Amendment comprises more than 5% of the total area of unincorporated Hillsborough County and will therefore not require individual notice to affected property owners.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please contact Daniel M. Blood at 276-8465 for any further information or discussion of this request.

Sincerely,

Bruce McClendon, Director
Planning and Growth Management Department

Attachments:

Revisions and additions to CARE Policy 7.6

New CARE Policy 3.11

Revisions and additions to FLUE Policy A-6.9

Revised map "Adopted Hillsborough County Wellhead Resource Protection Map"

New map "Adopted Hillsborough County Surface Water Resource Protection Map"

New map "Adopted Hillsborough County Potable Water Wellfield Map"