



Comprehensive Plan 2045



2.7 POTABLE WATER

Goal: Provide environmentally safe, efficient and cost effective potable water systems.

Objective 1 *Correct projected facility deficiencies by implementing recommendations of the current approved Water Resources Facilities Plan for the County-owned potable water system.*

Policy 1.1 The County shall implement the water system supply alternative adopted in the Okaloosa County Water Supply Plan 2008 Update that consists of the construction of a series of inland wells, along with the associated transport pipelines, that will supply the potable water needs for unincorporated South County through the year 2020.

Policy 1.2 Future water demand for non-potable water uses shall be met through the use of water of the lowest acceptable quality for the purpose intended. To this end, developers requiring large amounts of water for use other than drinking water shall be required in the Water Resource Caution Area to implement water-efficient landscaping and utilize reclaimed water from stormwater systems and treated wastewater unless objective evidence demonstrates that such use is economically, environmentally, or technically infeasible.

Objective 2 *Maximize use of existing facilities and discourage urban sprawl through adoption of land development regulations that restrict installation of private wells for potable water where central facilities are available, coordination of density and intensity of development on the Future Land Use Map with availability of facilities or areas planned for facility expansion, requirement of mandatory hookup where central facilities are available and that unused capacity is committed prior to approval of new facilities.*

Policy 2.1 All costs for potable water facilities will be funded by user fees or special assessments, or as otherwise specified in the current approved Water and Sewer Ordinance.

Policy 2.2 The level of service standard for all public and private potable water systems serving unincorporated Okaloosa County shall be a minimum of 100 gallons per capita per day peak demand.

Policy 2.3 All improvements or expansions made by any entities providing potable water services in unincorporated Okaloosa County shall be consistent with level of service standards and service areas as delineated on the Water and Sewer Service Area Map. Modifications to the service areas must be approved by the BCC, unless such alteration is pursuant to a currently existing or subsequently entered into written agreement between the County, a municipality, or some other water service provider, which governs such boundary change.

Policy 2.4 The County will continue to coordinate with Eglin Air Force Base in the development of water supply alternatives.

Policy 2.5 The County will continue to participate in the Regional Utility Authority when considering water supply planning and financing alternatives in accordance with the Resource Management Plan.

Policy 2.6 Okaloosa County shall encourage and facilitate the combination of smaller water systems into larger systems so as to achieve benefits associated with economies of scale and water resource management. In addition, the County will continue with its acquisition of smaller systems whenever the opportunity for such acquisition exists.

Policy 2.7 Consideration of land use amendments shall include the relationship of the amendment to the water and sewer service areas, and shall ensure that the land use category is appropriately based on the land use category definition, density or intensity, and location of the site of the proposed amendment within or outside water and sewer service areas. The boundaries of various water and sewer service areas, as depicted on the Water and Sewer Service Area Map shall not be changed as a result of annexation or a land use map amendment, but shall only be changed through a specific boundary change approved by the BCC, unless such alteration is pursuant to a currently existing or subsequently entered into written agreement, entered into between the County, a municipality, or some other water service provider, which governs such boundary change.

Objective 3 *Conserve potable water resources by reducing demand, improving condition of operational and non-operational water facilities, and where feasible reclamation of wastewater for non-potable reuse.*

Policy 3.1 The County will continue to cooperate with the Northwest Florida Water Management District in the District's efforts to complete its abandoned well plugging program. The cooperation of the County will include County assistance in obtaining necessary funding to support the program, technical assistance and identification of any lands, parcels or properties which are known or thought to have abandoned wells

located thereon and by providing information to the WMD that becomes available to the County regarding any abandoned well.

Policy 3.2 The County will contain regulations to protect new public wells through setbacks and regulation of adjacent land uses.

Policy 3.3 A Water Resource Caution Area (WRCA) has been established by the Northwest Florida Water Management District to protect the water resources of southern Okaloosa County from depletion, salt water intrusion or man induced contamination, or from any other activity that may substantially affect the quality or quantity of the water resources. Within such area, the NFWMD has established lower permit thresholds, management (maximum) and minimum levels, and stipulates limiting conditions as necessary to monitor, manage, and control the use of water. Okaloosa County shall cooperate with the NFWMD in its enforcement of regulations regarding the WRCA within the County and shall regulate land use and development.

Policy 3.4 The County shall implement recommendations for Okaloosa County water conservation programs as adopted in the 1998 Water Resources Facilities Plan and shall continue to require compliance with the Water Conservation Act of 1982, as required by Section 553.14, FS.

Policy 3.5 The County shall include requirements for installation of water saving devices in all new construction.

Policy 3.6 The County shall include requirements for the use of water efficient landscaping in redevelopment and new development projects in the WCRA.