

EXPLANATION OF TEMPORARY MODIFICATION IN PERMITTING FOR CONSTRUCTION OF WATER MAIN EXTENSIONS

On May 3, 2022, The Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Lee County Department of Health asked the City of Fort Myers to only process applications for a Specific Permit to Construct Public Water System Components and Extensions instead of processing General Permit Applications for Construction of Water Main Extensions for the City's Public Water System on a temporary basis until the city's raw water source can be expanded by constructing additional wells.

By certifying General Permit applications for developers or contractors to construct water main extensions to serve new developments, the city or public water system is making a commitment to supply the water necessary to meet the design water demands of the project and that the water treatment plant to which the project will be connected has the capacity necessary to meet the design water demands for the project. The Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Health are concerned that with the growth in the city and the number of development projects permitted in recent years that the city may not be able to meet the water demand generated by these projects without additional wells.

The City of Fort Myers will continue to certify applications for Specific Permits to Construct Public Water System Components. Unlike the General Permit application, the Specific Permit certifies that the city will supply the water necessary to meet the demands for the project, but it does not guarantee when the capacity will be available. By signing or certifying a Specific Permit application, the city is not committing that the capacity would be available at the time of signing. Depending on the applicant's project timeline, the needed capacity may be available when the project is completed. Temporary water needed for construction and fire suppression purposes may be arranged with the city should a developer decide to proceed with construction under a Specific Permit.

This is a temporary modification in the City of Fort Myers water main extension permitting procedures. The city is working diligently to develop the raw water capacity necessary to return to certifying applications for General Permits. The city is also planning for a 3 MGD water treatment plant expansion. The engineering design contract for the water treatment plant expansion has been awarded and preliminary design work has started.

In the meantime, the City will continue to conduct Pre-Application Meetings with developers and contractors and provide updated information on the city's efforts to increase raw water capacity. Current water production information and projected completion dates for new well construction will be provided to developers so they can make decisions regarding whether to submit an application for a construction permit based on the city's capacity expansion timelines and their specific project timeline.

In September 2022, the City entered into a consent order with the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Health to outline and formalize the schedule of improvements to be made to the city's water system. Please review the attached executed document.

The City is making significant progress in expanding the capacity of its water system. The Mayor and City Council, city management, utilities managers and staff, consultants and contractors are committed to the timely resolution to the of this temporary permitting modification. The project schedule below has been updated to reflect the current estimated timelines for the various components of the planned improvements. Supply chain issues for many of the materials and equipment needed to complete these projects continues to impact the schedule.

The schedule is provided to help developers and project planners make decisions on their respective development projects, but it is the city’s goal to complete these projects as soon as possible regardless of the posted schedule.

The following projects are either under construction, engineering design or in the site selection phase. The dates provided are the actual or projected dates that the wells will be placed into service. In some cases, the well operational date shown is impacted by the construction schedule of a raw water transmission main that will need to be constructed to transport raw water from the well to the treatment plant.

PROJECT	STATUS	IN SERVICE DATE
1. New Well P-21 (350 to 500 GPM)	In Service	May 9, 2022
2. New Well P-22 (350 to 500 GPM)	In Service	May 10, 2022
3. New Well P1S (350 to 500 GPM)	In Service	January 4, 2023
4. New Well P2S (350 to 500 GPM)	In Service	November 10, 2022
5. New Well P3S (350 to 500 GPM)	Engineering Design	June 2024
6. New Well P4S (350 to 500 GPM)	Engineering Design	June 2024
7. New Well P5S (350 to 500 GPM)	Under Construction	December 2023
8. New Well P-28 (350 to 500 GPM)	Under Construction	November 2023
9. New Well P-27 (350 to 500 GPM)	Under Construction	August 2023
10. New Well P-23 (350 to 500 GPM)	Engineering Design	May 2024
11. New Well P-26 (350 to 500 GPM)	Engineering Design	May 2024
12. New Well P-29 (350 to 500 GPM)	Site Acquisition	May 2024
13. 3MGD Water Plant Expansion	Preliminary Design Started	February 2025