

Reclaimed Water Amendment Narrative

Water is a valuable resource for which there is a finite supply. For a rapidly growing community such as Polk County, there are increasing demands on the County's water supplies. To meet that demand with the limited quantities of water available efforts must be made to reduce individual usage to slow the increase in demand for resource. Polk County Utilities has been making concerted efforts to reduce the average consumption through recycling wastewater for use in irrigation.

One of the largest applications of individual water usage is in lawn irrigation. As more homes with lawns are developed, using a separate source of water for irrigation is an efficient way to lower the average consumption of water from the groundwater aquifer. However, it requires an average of three wastewater customers to equal the irrigation demand of one wastewater reuse customer. Therefore, there is not always enough reclaimed water available for every development within the service area. This proposed amendment will allow for a waiver to reclaimed water connection but not enable the use of potable water for lawn irrigation.

This proposed amendment allows a development to utilize three alternative water sources to provide irrigation services within a development. These are: surface water; an existing groundwater well, or wet stormwater ponds, cisterns, or other apparatus that enables the collection and storage of rainwater.