Water and Sewer Line Extension Policy Revisions

December 17, 2010



Background and Purpose

- Policy has been in place since 1997 with periodic updates
- Policy addresses developers responsibilities to design and construction W/S infrastructure to UCPW standards and transfer these assets to UC to serve the new customers in the proposed development
- In consideration of contribution of assets we agree to provide capacity to meet the service needs, and to provide the ongoing W/S service to the development
- Policy assume all projects are treated with the same degree of priority (no restrictions on the amount of capacity we have)



Current Policy is disjointed in its approach

- Approval of the projects is through NCDENR permit issuance
- Water and sewer capacity fees are treated different
- Capacity allocation is tracked outside this process
- No clear process for acceptance of ownership of the infrastructure
- Policy is "cluttered" with extraneous issues
 - Leak credit policy
 - Hydrant use
- No defined policy for dealing with "off-site" improvements



Features of the Proposed Policy

- Union County approves the project not NCDENR
- Capacity is defined in the review process and allocated though a "Standard Agreement" incorporated in this policy
- Provides for defined coordination with appropriate Planning Jurisdictions
- Water and Sewer capacity fees and capacity allocation are treated the same
- Policy specifically addresses oversizing and offsite improvements



New Policy Drivers

- Discourages Developers from tying up capacity
 - Shifts capacity fee payment up front
 - Put more constraints and conditions on partial acceptance of line extensions
 - Idle projects will forfeit their capacity allocation
- Levels the playing field
 - Off-site Improvements and Oversizing responsibilities defined
 - Review and approval processes are clarified
- Implies that we will keep pace with capacity needs





First Step is still Sketch Plan Submittal



- Purpose is to get an understanding of the project and its impact on the Utility system
- Acceptable Plan is NOT an approval
- No commitment by either party at this time





This is the stage when commitments are made and moneys change hands



Plan Review and Approval is when Off-Site Improvement are resolved

- Developer pays for design and construction of any off-site improvements needed to serve his development
- Options for oversizing
 - In 5 YR CIP or Not??
 - Developer Pays Cost and is reimbursed as other developments connects
 - Count reimburses on a schedule based on CIP



UCPW Development Review & Approval Flow Chart

Tuesday, December 07, 2010



Policy assume you will build the entire project in one phase



We recognize there will be cases that require a partial acceptance of the Project

- Maintenance Bond will be required for the partial acceptance
- Additional works may be required to assure water quality (portion of the project must on its own meet UCPW be met for partial acceptance





UCPW Development Review & Approval Flow Chart

Tuesday, December 07, 2010



Final Step is Transfer of Ownership





Next Steps

- UCPW receives comments from affected Stakeholders
 - Developers
 - Homebuilders
 - Planning agencies
- Revise Draft Policy/Ordinance
- Draft Companion Policies
- Workshop with Board of County Commissioners

