

Abstract:

This application is a renewal of an existing public supply permit with an increase in allocation from 30.0 mgd to 34.6 mgd of groundwater from the Upper Floridan aquifer (UFA). The requested allocation is based on population projections within the applicant's service area. Staff are recommending a 30-year permit duration based on implementation of a new water resource development project (Main Street Water Reclamation Facility Capacity and Renewal Project) using reclaimed water that meets the advanced waste treatment standards for total nitrogen and total phosphorous.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) is a multi-service utility owned by the City of Gainesville. GRU's potable water service area is located in Alachua County and serves areas both within and outside the City of Gainesville's municipal boundary, including the unincorporated area of the County known as the Urban Cluster. Although the service area is contained wholly within Alachua County, there are portions of the service area and wellfields located within both the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) and Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) jurisdictional boundaries. On June 20, 2006, SJRWMD and SRWMD entered into an interagency memorandum of understanding (MOU) that delegates authority for consumptive use permitting review of the GRU permit to SJRWMD. The MOU was revisited and updated in 2013. To date, SRWMD has received all permit application correspondence, has been in regular contact with district staff, and has been engaged in the review of this application.

GRU's requested allocation reflects an increase in demand due to projected population increases over the 30-year requested duration. The University of Florida's Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR) parcel-level estimate population projections were used by GRU for this renewal through the requested permit duration.

GRU's historical 5-year average residential per capita use is 72 gallons per capita day (GPCD). The requested allocation of 34.6 mgd in 2056 is based on the residential per capita of 72 gpcd with a gross per capita of 126 gpcd, which includes a large commercial/industrial base along with potable water supplied to the University of Florida.

GRU's water supply system consists of fifteen existing Upper Floridan aquifer wells located at the Murphree wellfield. The wellfield and water treatment plant are located in northeast Gainesville, just north of NE 53rd Avenue. Fourteen of the fifteen existing wells are located within the SJRWMD, and one existing well and one proposed well are located in the SRWMD. Water from all these wells is utilized in service areas located in both SJRWMD and SRWMD in accordance with 373.2295(4), F.S.