

GRU operates two wastewater reclamation facilities (WRF). The Main Street Water Reclamation Facility (MSWRF) is located on the south side of the City of Gainesville. This facility discharges high-quality secondary treated water into Sweetwater Branch, which flows through the Sweetwater Wetlands park and then to Paynes Prairie before ultimately discharging to Alachua Sink, where recharge of the Floridan aquifer occurs. The MSWRF is undergoing a \$170 million Capacity and Renewal Upgrade (CRU) project that will increase the facility's treatment capacity by 2.5 mgd. As part of this effort, GRU will commit an additional 2.35 mgd of reclaimed water from the MSWRF to Sweetwater Wetlands Park by 2046. This increased flow will continue downstream to Alachua Sink, providing enhanced recharge to the Floridan aquifer. The CRU project is expected to be operational in 2030 and qualifies as a new water resource development project utilizing reclaimed water that meets advanced waste treatment standards for total nitrogen and total phosphorus for the requested 30-year permit duration in accordance with Section 373.250 Florida Statutes.

GRU's other WRF, the Kanapaha Water Reclamation Facility (KWRF), is located on the southwest side of the City of Gainesville. The KWRF supplies public access reclaimed water to residences, commercial sites, and golf courses within the service area KWRF also supplies reclaimed water to water features and recharge wetlands that provide environmental enhancement and groundwater recharge. Reclaimed water is also used to recharge the Lower Floridan aquifer via four recharge wells. Finally, reclaimed water will be routed to the Southwest Nature Park (SWNP), once it is operational in 2029. The SWNP is a collaborative project involving Alachua County, SRWMD and FDEP and is expected to provide up to 3 mgd via treatment wetlands and, ultimately recharging the Upper Floridan aquifer.

GRU's current permit is valid through 2034. Pursuant to rule 40C-2.361, F.A.C., a permittee "may apply to the District for renewal of a permit no earlier than one year prior to the termination of the permit unless the permittee shows good cause for earlier consideration." In this case, GRU has demonstrated good cause for an early renewal. GRU is a participant in the District's Black Creek Water Resource Development (Black Creek) project which addresses GRU's share of impact to the Keystone Heights MFLs (Lakes Brooklyn and Geneva) by recharging the UFA in northeast Florida. The Project Participation Agreement entered into between GRU and the District provides that GRU may submit the Agreement as evidence of "good cause" to support an early permit renewal pursuant rule 40C-2.361(1), F.A.C.

PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW:

Section 373.223, *Florida Statutes* (F.S.), and Rule 40C-2.301, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), require an applicant to establish that the proposed use of water:

- (a) is a reasonable-beneficial use;
- (b) will not interfere with any presently existing legal use of water; and,