

**Polk County Utilities, Florida**

# RECLAIMED WATER POLICY MANUAL

**Utilities Code Reference Manual 6(D)**



Polk County Board of County Commissioners

**RECLAIMED WATER POLICY MANUAL**

**SUMMARY OF CHANGES**

**Authorization #2 - Amendments Effective December 15, 2012**

<b>Section 4.0 Connection and Use</b>	<b>Section Name</b>	<b>Amendment Description</b>
4.1	Availability of Service	Potable water to be active prior to activation of reclaimed water system
4.5	Limitations of Use, F.	No toilet flush permitted using reclaimed

**Authorization #5 - Amendments Effective September 10, 2014**

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>Section Name</b>	<b>Amendment Description</b>
1.0 Introduction	1.1 General, 1.2 Intent, and subsequent sections	Changed written format style of COUNTY to county
1.0 Introduction	1.4 Applicability	Updated construction designated areas are determined by PCU (formerly it was "the Board" designation)
2.0 Definitions	ACTIVE -	Added definition for "ACTIVE" (reclaimed)
2.0 Definitions	AVAILABLE -	Specified Polk County Land Development Code defines "AVAILABLE" reclaimed water service
2.0 Definitions	CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL ASSEMBLY (CCC)	Updated the written format style for the definition of "Rule 62-555. F.A.C."
2.0 Definitions	POTABLE WATER	Changed the written format style of County to COUNTY
2.0 Definitions	REFERENCE MANUAL 6(D) - Reclaimed Water Policy	Changed the written format style of "Manual" to (MANUAL)
3.0 Authority	3.3 Water Management Districts	Changed written format style of COUNTY to county
4.0 Connection and Use	4.1 Availability of Service	Clarified requirements for acquiring reclaimed water service for single family residential lots
4.0 Connection and Use	4.2 Requirement to Install Onsite Distribution and Irrigation Systems	Changed the word development to developer

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**SUMMARY OF CHANGES**

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>Section Name</b>	<b>Amendment Description</b>
4.0 Connection and Use	4.3 Requirements to Connect	Clarified potable water system is unlawful to use for irrigation after reclaimed water becomes <u>active</u> at a particular site; changed the word from available to "active at"; Clarified rules for customers using PCU potable water systems for irrigation; connection to reclaimed water system must take place within 90 calendar days after written notice of activation
4.0 Connection and Use	4.3 - A., - B.	Clarified rules for reclaimed water at the time of construction of the irrigation system
4.0 Connection and Use	4.5. - E., - F. Limitations of Use	Added the source of information for detailed limitations governing the use of Reclaimed Water
6.0 Inspections	General	Added developers to list of those who may have temporary access to reclaimed water supply for installing, flushing, testing and/or irrigation of unoccupied dwellings under construction.
6.0 Inspections	6.0 - D.	Added "developer" to list of responsible parties that may have control of the reclaimed water meter connection

**Authorization #6 - Amendments Effective October 3, 2015**

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>Section Name</b>	<b>Amendment Description</b>
2.0 Definitions	CONCURRENCY AND ENTITLEMENTS DIVISION (CED)	Defined the responsibilities for the Concurrency and Entitlements Division (CED) specifically for requests to reclaimed water system
3.0 Authority	3.3 - Water Management Districts	Added and clarified new Year-Round Water Conservation Measures and Water Shortage Ordinance and provisions for the use of reclaimed water irrigation restrictions
4.0 Connection and Use	4.1 Availability of Service	Removed/replaced division name-Land Development Concurrency and Entitlements
4.0 Connection and Use	4.2 Requirement to Install Onsite Distributions and Irrigation Systems	Removed/replaced division name-Land Development Concurrency and Entitlements

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**SUMMARY OF CHANGES**

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>Section Name</b>	<b>Amendment Description</b>
4.0 Connection and Use	4.3 Requirements to Connect	Removed/replaced division name-Land Development Concurrency and Entitlements as division responsible for coordinating time extensions due to permit expirations with PCU
4.0 Connection and Use	4.5 Limitations of Use - G.	Stipulated ordinance and policies for reclaimed water protection from over-utilization during periods of water shortage
7.0 Ownership and Maintenance and Responsibility	7.2 Customer Responsibilities - D.	Clarified property owner/and or customer responsibility for obtaining and adhering to irrigation restrictions for reclaimed water by and for the county; listed ordinance regulation information

**Authorization #13- Amendments Effective December 21, 2024**

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>Section Name</b>	<b>Amendment Description</b>
5.0 Installation of Irrigation Systems	5.4 Color-Coding and Tagging)	Purple pipe required; not just purple paint applied.

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### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 General

Potable water is a valuable resource which needs to be conserved, and reclaimed water is also a valuable water resource which can be used safely for irrigation and other non-potable purposes, thereby substantially contributing to the conservation of potable water. The COUNTY has determined to establish and construct a reclaimed water system which will make reclaimed water available in certain areas of the county for irrigation and other authorized non-potable uses. This MANUAL establishes certain terms and conditions regarding the use of the reclaimed water system.

#### 1.2 Intent

It shall be the policy of Polk County Utilities (PCU) to make reclaimed water available for irrigation purposes and other authorized non-potable uses in certain areas of the county where it is determined that the construction of a reclaimed water transmission/distribution system is necessary, practical, and beneficial in accordance with the LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE and the COMPREHENSIVE PLAN. The reclaimed water system shall be constructed in sections to provide service to designated areas as determined by PCU pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth herein.

#### 1.3 Purpose

It is the purpose of this MANUAL to promote the public health, safety, and welfare by the establishment of a Reclaimed Water Program, by regulating the construction of reclaimed water transmission/distribution systems determined to be necessary and beneficial, and also by governing the use of reclaimed water.

#### 1.4 Applicability

The provisions of this MANUAL shall apply to certain areas of the COUNTY where it is determined that the construction of a reclaimed water system is practical, necessary, and beneficial in accordance with the LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE and the COMPREHENSIVE PLAN. The reclaimed water distribution system shall be constructed to provide service to designated areas determined by PCU pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth herein.

### 2.0 DEFINITIONS

The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this MANUAL, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning.

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**ACTIVE:** PCU owned line or system charged with reclaimed water.

**AVAILABLE:** the definition of this term as utilized in the Polk County Land Development Code regarding the availability of reclaimed water service.

**BACKFLOW:** the undesirable reversal of water flow or mixtures of water or other liquids, gases, or other substances into the distribution pipes of the potable water system from any source or sources as defined by rule 62-555 F.A.C.

**CONCURRENCY AND ENTITLEMENTS DIVISION (CED)** – Polk County Division that grants exceptions for requests to reclaimed water system.

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:** the Polk County Comprehensive Plan.

**COUNTY:** Polk County Board of County Commissioners, Polk County, Florida and/or its designated representative or the political subdivision of the State of Florida.

**CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL ASSEMBLY (CCC):** an assembly that has been manufactured in full conformance with AWWA standards and meets the laboratory and feed performance specifications of the FCCHR cross connection control assemblies that also comply with the requirement of Rule 62-555, FAC

**CROSS-CONNECTION:** a connection or potential connection between any part of a potable water system and any other environment containing other substances in a manner that, under any circumstances would allow such substances to enter the potable water system. Other substances may be gases, liquids, or solids, such as chemicals, waste products, steam, water from other sources (potable or non-potable), or any matter that may change the color or add odor to the water.

**CUSTOMER OR USER:** any person, firm, or corporation, or governmental entity, using or receiving water from the PCU reclaimed water system. Reclaimed water customers are further classified as follows:

- **Retail:** any individual customer served by a single meter that is 3-inches or less in size, where access to another source of non-potable water for irrigation is unavailable. Includes but is not limited to: residential customers; individual commercial establishments such as small office and retail centers; common areas and greenways of subdivisions (billed to Homeowners Association or Property Owners Association); etc.
- **Bulk-Priority:** any commercial or industrial customer served by one or more meters 3-inches in size or greater, downstream of which there are no retail customers and where storage and/or access to another source of non-potable water for irrigation and other uses is unavailable. May include, but not limited to: certain multi-family residential complexes; commercial tracts

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occupied by more than one tenant; industrial users; parks and playgrounds; schools; cemeteries; etc.

- **Bulk-Interruptible:** any commercial or industrial user served by one or more meters 3-inches in size or greater, downstream of which there are no metered retail customers and where storage and/or access to another source of non-potable water for irrigation and other uses is available. May include, but not limited to: golf courses; certain multi-family residential complexes; industrial users; etc.

The difference between the two classes of Bulk users is the availability of an access to an alternate supply of non-potable water, which determines the degree of interruptibility of the two classes. Because Bulk-interruptible customers have storage capability and/or an alternate supply, they will be the first to be shut down in the event of a reclaimed water shortage. Therefore, they may expect to pay less for the service. Bulk-priority customers are less likely to be shut down in the event of a reclaimed water shortage than Bulk-interruptible customers, but more likely to be interrupted than Retail customers. Therefore, Bulk-priority customers may expect to pay more than Bulk-interruptible customers and less than Retail customers for the service.

Retail customers are the least interruptible class of customers. Therefore, retail customers will be the last customers to be shut down in the event of a reclaimed water shortage and may expect to pay higher rates for the service than the other two classes of customers.

**DIRECTOR:** the person who is responsible for the day to day administration and management of Polk County Utilities.

**DISTRIBUTION MAINS:** conduits used to supply reclaimed water from transmission mains to service lines.

**DISTRICT:** the Water Management District and/or Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) having jurisdiction within the Regional Utility Service Area.

**ENGINEER:** an individual currently licensed to practice engineering in the State of Florida.

**LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE:** the Polk County Land Development Code.

**NON-RESIDENTIAL:** a land development project intended for construction of infrastructure improvements for non-residential unit(s) and/or use. Non-residential units and/or uses include all units/uses that are not individually metered single family dwellings, including, but not limited to: commercial, industrial, institutional,

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short-term rental, and other business enterprises, and all master-metered residential developments, such as duplex, triplex, quadruplex, apartment, condominium, and other multi-family units/complexes, mobile home parts, recreational vehicle parks, etc.

**POLK COUNTY UTILITIES (PCU):** the Polk County entity which has the responsibility of administering, operating, and maintaining the Utility Systems.

**POTABLE WATER:** water from any source which has been approved for human consumption by the COUNTY and appropriate regulatory agencies.

**RECLAIMED WATER:** in the context of this MANUAL, wastewater that has received at least advanced secondary treatment, high-level disinfection, and filtration after treatment and discharge from a domestic wastewater treatment facility as specified in Rule 62-610.460 Florida Administrative Code (FAC), for the purpose of reclaimed water in areas of unrestricted public access. Reclaimed water may also include non-potable water obtained from augmentation wells and other sources.

**REFERENCE MANUAL 6(A):** the Polk County Utilities Administration Manual, adopted by reference herein.

**REFERENCE MANUAL 6(B):** the Polk County Utilities Standards and Specifications Manual, adopted by reference herein.

**REFERENCE MANUAL 6(C):** the Polk County Utilities Cross-Connection Control Policy Manual, adopted by reference herein.

**REFERENCE MANUAL 6(D):** this Manual, the Polk County Utilities Reclaimed Water Policy Manual (MANUAL), adopted by reference herein.

**REFERENCE MANUAL 6(E):** the Polk County Industrial Wastewater Pre-Treatment Policy Manual, adopted by reference herein.

**REFERENCE MANUAL 6(F):** the Polk County Utilities Water Conservation Policy Manual, adopted by reference herein.

**REFERENCE MANUAL 6(G):** the Polk County Utilities Fats, Oils, and Grease Policy Manual, adopted by reference herein.

**REGIONAL UTILITY SERVICE AREA:** those designated portions of Polk County in which PCU maintains the exclusive right to provide public utility systems.

**RESIDENTIAL:** a user which is a single residential dwelling unit served by an individual meter, not including a short-term rental unit.



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**REUSE OR USE:** in the context of reclaimed water, the deliberate application and use of reclaimed water, in compliance with FDEP and Water Management District rules.

**SERVICE CONNECTION:** the point at which the customer's irrigation system is connected to the PCU reclaimed water system. For individual residential customers, the service connection shall be located inside a purple meter box as described in the "Utilities Standards and Specifications Manual". For commercial customers, the service connection shall be located immediately downstream of the reclaimed water meter and isolation valves.

**SERVICE LINE:** that conduit used to supply reclaimed water from the distribution main to the property line.

**SHORT-TERM RENTAL:** a dwelling unit which is made available more than three times a year for periods of fewer than 30 calendar days or one calendar month at a time, whichever is less, for use, occupancy or possession by the public, regardless of the form of ownership of the unit. Dwelling units commonly referred to as "timeshares," "vacation rentals," and "holiday rentals" which possess the above characteristics are included within this definition.

**TRANSMISSION MAINS:** those conduits used to supply reclaimed water from the pumping station or treatment plant to the distribution mains.

### 3.0 AUTHORITY

#### 3.1 Authority to Adopt Rules and Regulations

The COUNTY shall have the authority to establish reasonable rules and regulations concerning the use of reclaimed water, or to amend existing rules and regulations so as to remain in compliance with applicable State and Federal regulations.

#### 3.2 Authority to Adopt Rates, Fees, and Charges

The COUNTY shall have the authority to establish rates, fees, and charges for the reclaimed water system and to provide terms and conditions for the payment and collection of same.

#### 3.3 Water Management Districts

The jurisdiction of the COUNTY includes lands located in both the Southwest Florida Water Management District and the South Florida Water Management District. It would be advantageous, under most hydrologic conditions, for the COUNTY's population to be subject to one consistent set of year-round water conservation measures, and when necessary, one consistent set of temporary water shortage restrictions on a countywide basis. Given that the majority of the population in the

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county and the majority of the public water supplies and domestic wells that serve this population are currently located within the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the most logical set of related rules to follow would be those of the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

The COUNTY shall have the authority to adopt ordinances and policies to protect the water resources of the county from inefficient use at all times and over-utilization during periods of water shortage by assisting the Southwest Florida Water Management District in the implementation of its Year-Round Water Conservation Measures and Water Shortage Plan.

The COUNTY has adopted a Year-Round Water Conservation Measures and Water Shortage Ordinance to establish that the use of reclaimed water shall adhere to the irrigation restrictions established by the Southwest Florida Water Management District for groundwater and other sources regulated by the water management districts. This includes establishing provisions and enforcement policies related to relaxation of these restrictions for reclaimed water when deemed necessary by the County Manager.

### **4.0 CONNECTION AND USE**

#### **4.1 Availability of Service**

Other than Bulk Users, reclaimed water service will not be provided to any customer that does not have an active potable water source in place, except as specified in Section 6.0 of this MANUAL. Single family residential lots shall have active potable water service prior to activation of reclaimed water service. A developer may submit a written request to the Concurrency and Entitlements Division for an exception to the requirement of this Section if the certificate of occupancy has not been issued, structures are unoccupied, and no irrigation well or alternative source of water exists for the establishment of landscaping in the development.

The required distance for a development to construct an off-site reclaimed water main in order to connect to an existing reclaimed water system with available capacity shall be as specified in the LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE and the COMPREHENSIVE PLAN. A developer or other interested person, after contacting the PCU Capacity Engineer, shall refer to the current Master Plan to determine the time frame of reclaimed water service availability within a particular Regional Utilities Service Area.

#### **4.2 Requirement to Install Onsite Distribution and Irrigation Systems**

Where a proposed development or any parcel of land is to be served by a wastewater treatment facility that has available capacity to produce public access quality reclaimed water suitable for reclaimed water in areas of unrestricted public access as stipulated in Chapter 62-610, Part III, FAC, PCU shall require a developer

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or user, in accordance with the provisions of the LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE and the COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, to install, at his cost, the necessary onsite and offsite mains, valves, pumps, meters, common area irrigation systems, signage, storage facilities, and other appropriate appurtenances for the reuse of reclaimed water. Such installation shall be a condition of system acceptance or development approval and shall be completed prior to issuance of certificate of occupancy.

A developer or other user may request to be excused from the requirement of reclaimed water usage only when he can establish to the satisfaction of PCU that reclaimed water is not reasonable for use on his property, such as proven environmental concerns or other considerations. A request for an exception from the requirements of this Section shall be in writing from the developer or property owner and shall set forth the reasons for the desired exception. In the event an exception is granted by PCU, which has been coordinated with the Concurrency and Entitlements Division, the developer or property owner may still be required, at their cost, to extend reclaimed water mains around or across his property and convey the necessary unencumbered Polk County Utilities Easements and/or public rights-of-way to the COUNTY to facilitate the transmission of reclaimed water to adjoining or nearby properties for reclaimed water reuse or disposal.

### **4.3 Requirements to Connect**

It shall be unlawful to use the PCU potable water system for irrigation purposes after reclaimed water becomes active at a particular site. Customers with existing underground irrigation systems using the PCU potable water system shall be required to disconnect said systems from the PCU potable water system and connect to the reclaimed water system within 90 calendar days of written notice of activation.

All new irrigation systems constructed after the initial effective date of March 5, 2003 in areas where PCU plans to make reclaimed water available shall connect to the PCU reclaimed water system upon the earlier of the following two dates:

- A. When reclaimed water has not been activated at the time of construction of the irrigation system, then connection shall be required within 90 days after receipt of written notice from PCU that reclaimed water has been activated.
- B. When reclaimed water is available and active at the time of construction of the irrigation system, then connection shall be required immediately and such connection shall be a condition to connection of the improvements on said property to the PCU potable water system.

Customers may continue to use existing irrigation wells for irrigation purposes after reclaimed water is available if there is an existing valid permit for the well on the subject property. In such case, the customer may request and be granted

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permission in writing from PCU to wait until that permit expires before connecting to the active reclaimed water system. The irrigation well permit shall not be renewed. A copy of the permit shall be provided to PCU along with the request for an exception from the requirements of this Section. PCU will coordinate time extensions due to permit expirations with the Concurrency & Entitlements Division.

Customers with existing irrigation wells who wish to connect to the reclaimed water system must first physically disconnect the irrigation system from the existing irrigation well and provide evidence of an air gap separation between the well and the irrigation system, or otherwise provide, at the customer's own expense, a cross connection control assembly and valving system between the irrigation well and the irrigation system meeting the specifications stipulated by PCU.

### **4.4 Application for Connection**

Customers in designated Regional Utility Service Areas shall connect to the reclaimed water system when service is available and upon submission of a proper application in accordance with the "Utilities Administration Manual" and compliance with all PCU requirements. Compliance with this MANUAL in no way relieves the property owner or user from the responsibility for obtaining and fulfilling the requirements of construction or other permits required by and issued by agencies other than PCU.

Application for connection to the reclaimed water system shall be made to PCU on the form provided for that purpose. Such service charges and inspection fees as established by the Board shall be paid to PCU at the time the application is filed.

In accordance with the "Utilities Standards and Specifications Manual", construction plans and hydraulic calculations for an irrigation system meeting the requirements of these regulations shall be submitted to PCU for approval for reclaimed water distribution systems, where required for new subdivisions and other new developments. The plans and calculations shall be prepared by a professional engineer licensed in the State of Florida and shall comply with the provisions of the "Utilities Standards and Specifications Manual". FDEP construction permits, if applicable under current regulations, will be required for installation of reclaimed water distribution systems.

### **4.5 Limitations of Use**

- A. Use of reclaimed water shall be limited to irrigation of residential lawns, golf courses, cemeteries, parks, greenways, common areas, open spaces, landscaped areas, decorative water features, highway medians, rights-of-ways, and other similar areas which the developer or user plans to irrigate; or other uses specifically approved by PCU and allowed under Chapter 62-610, FAC.

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- B. Reclaimed water shall not be used inside any residential dwelling, or to fill swimming pools, hot tubs, spas, or wading pools or other open waters where human contact or immersion may occur.
- C. Reclaimed water shall not be applied to areas within 100 feet of any public outdoor eating, drinking, or bathing facility, unless aerosol formation is minimized.
- D. Reclaimed water shall not be applied to impervious surfaces that allow drainage to surface waters.
- E. Detailed limitations governing the use of Reclaimed Water are contained in the "Reclaimed Water Use Acknowledgment and Application," that is located in the "Utilities Administration Manual."
- F. Reclaimed water shall not be utilized for toilet flushing or fire suppression except in extreme emergency situations as required by the Fire Marshall and approved by PCU in accordance with Chapter 62-610.476, FAC.
- G. Reclaimed water is considered a valuable water resource and shall be protected from inefficient use at all times and over-utilization during periods of water shortage under the ordinances and policies adopted by the COUNTY.

### **4.6 Discontinuance of Service**

PCU may discontinue reclaimed water service to any customer due to a violation of the provisions of this MANUAL or other COUNTY regulations, for non-payment of bills, for tampering with any service, for plumbing cross-connections with another water source, for acts detrimental to the system, or for the convenience of PCU. PCU has the right to cease service until the condition is corrected and all costs due PCU are paid. These costs may include delinquent billings and payment for any damage caused to the system. Should discontinued service be reconnected without authorization, then PCU shall remove the service and make such additional charges as are established by the COUNTY.

Reconnection of a reclaimed water system to a potable water system shall not be allowed except in extreme cases where PCU has made non-potable water service no longer available and there is a clear and necessary justification for doing so.

## **5.0 INSTALLATION OF IRRIGATION SYSTEMS**

### **5.1 General**

- A. All construction of reclaimed water facilities shall be in conformance with the "Utilities Standards and Specifications Manual".

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- B. Wells connected to existing irrigation systems shall be disconnected prior to connection to the reclaimed water system, except as specified in Section 4.3 of this MANUAL and in the "Reclaimed Water Use Acknowledgment and Application," located in the "Utilities Administration Manual".
- C. Existing irrigation systems shall be disconnected from potable water systems prior to connection to the reclaimed water system.
- D. Irrigation systems for single family residential customers shall be in-ground fully automatic type irrigation systems. Hose bibs or other hand operated irrigation devices shall not be present on irrigation systems connected to the reclaimed water system.
- E. Irrigation systems for multi-family residential customers shall be in-ground irrigation systems. Hose bibs or other hand operated irrigation devices shall not be present on irrigation systems connected to the reclaimed water system.
- F. Reclaimed water meter boxes and valve boxes shall be of the size and design required by PCU and shall meet the labeling specifications in accordance with the "Utilities Standards and Specifications Manual".
- G. Detailed requirements are contained in the "Reclaimed Water Use Acknowledgment and Application," located in the "Utilities Administration Manual".

### **5.2 Public Right-of-Way or Polk County Utilities Easements**

No reclaimed water facilities will be accepted by PCU unless they are installed in a dedicated public right-of-way or approved Polk County Utilities Easement, in accordance with the "Utilities Standards and Specifications Manual". Any new easement shall be adequately sized to accommodate construction and maintenance of any new reclaimed water system component.

### **5.3 Cross Connection Control**

An approved testable cross connection control assembly shall be installed on the potable water supply to a property at the property owner's or customer's expense prior to connection to the reclaimed water system, in accordance with the "Cross-Connection Control Policy Manual".

On new potable water service installations, PCU shall install as part of the service connection the necessary approved cross connection control assembly. In addition, an approved cross connection control assembly shall be installed on the customer's irrigation system immediately downstream of the service connection at the property owner's or customer's expense to prevent the return of reclaimed water to PCU's

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distribution system through backflow or back siphonage. Installation, operation, maintenance, and inspection of cross connection control assembly shall be in accordance with the "Cross Connection Control Policy Manual" and other applicable COUNTY regulations.

### **5.4 Color-Coding and Tagging**

All reclaimed water air release and blow off assemblies shall be appropriately tagged or labeled with the words in English and Spanish: "Do Not Drink," together with the equivalent standard international symbol to warn the public and employees that the water is not intended for drinking. All mains, tubing, valve covers, and meters shall be purple in color and shall be embossed or integrally stamped or marked with the words: "CAUTION: NONPOTABLE WATER— DO NOT DRINK" or the piping shall be installed with a purple identification tape or wrap or otherwise marked, to differentiate reclaimed water from domestic or other water. Irrigation piping shall be purple in color and shall be embossed or integrally stamped or marked with the words: "CAUTION: NONPOTABLE WATER— DO NOT DRINK" or the piping shall be installed with a purple identification tape or wrap. Individual residential service connections shall consist of a lockable curb-stop connection and shall be located in a purple meter box on the opposite property corner from the potable water service connection. The lid of the reclaimed water meter box shall be labeled bearing the words in English and Spanish: "Do Not Drink," together with the equivalent standard international symbol.

Underground pipe which is not manufactured of metallic materials shall be and shall be embossed or integrally stamped or marked with the words: "CAUTION: NONPOTABLE WATER— DO NOT DRINK" or the piping shall be installed with a purple identification tape or wrap. If tape is used to mark the pipe, the tape shall be permanently affixed along the axis of the pipe. Visible, above ground portions of the reclaimed water transmission and distribution system shall be clearly color coded or marked using purple as a prominent color. Materials and installation shall be in accordance with the "Utilities Standards and Specifications Manual".

### **5.5 Advisory Signs**

The public shall be notified of the use of reclaimed water by the customer. This shall be accomplished by the posting of advisory signs designating the nature of the reclaimed water project where reuse is practiced. Advisory signs shall include the following text in English and Spanish: "Do Not Drink," together with the equivalent standard international symbol, and shall use purple as a prominent color as graphically specified within the "Utilities Standards and Specifications Manual". Advisory signs shall be posted at the following locations where reclaimed water is used:

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- A. Adjacent to lakes or ponds used to store reclaimed water not located at the wastewater treatment facility, including golf course irrigation ponds. Advisory signs posted adjacent to ponds shall include the following text in English and Spanish: "Do Not Drink" and "Do Not Swim" together with the equivalent international symbols;
- B. At the 1<sup>st</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> tees of golf courses;
- C. Adjacent to decorative water features using reclaimed water, such as waterfalls or fountains. Advisory signs posted adjacent to decorative water features shall include the following text in English and Spanish: "Do Not Drink" and "Do Not Swim" together with the equivalent international symbols;
- D. At each entrance to residential neighborhoods using reclaimed water;
- E. Along medians and rights-of-way where reclaimed water is used that are located outside residential neighborhoods; and
- F. At each entrance to parks, playgrounds, cemeteries, common areas, and schools using reclaimed water.

### 6.0 INSPECTIONS

Pursuant to Chapter 62-610.469(7)(h), FAC, in order to verify proper connections, monitor proper use of reclaimed water, and minimize the potential for cross-connections, PCU will inspect the customer's irrigation system at the time of connection to the reclaimed water system and periodically thereafter, as specified in the "Cross Connection Control Policy Manual". Exception may be made only for new irrigation systems installed by professional irrigation system installers at unoccupied dwellings under construction as outlined in the paragraph below.

For developers, contractors, and/or builders who wish to have temporary access to the reclaimed water supply for the purpose of installing, flushing and testing of new irrigation systems and/or to irrigate landscaping at unoccupied dwellings under construction, the following procedures and conditions apply:

- A. The builder/contractor will apply for reclaimed water service via the form provided by PCU for that purpose as specified in the "Utilities Administration Manual" at the same time application is made for the potable water meter set.
- B. PCU will set the reclaimed water meter and lock it off using a special lock.
- C. PCU will provide key(s) for the special locks to the construction superintendent on the job who is responsible for construction of the dwelling.



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- D. The construction superintendent or developer shall assume responsibility for the control of the reclaimed water meter connection and shall agree to the following conditions, by means of a signed and dated form entitled "Reclaimed Water Use Acknowledgement and Application," located in the "Utilities Administration Manual".
1. The new irrigation system will be constructed in accordance with applicable rules and regulations including, but not limited to:
    - a. Hose bibs, faucets, or other connections that could permit usage of reclaimed water for any other purpose than to supply in-ground irrigation systems are not allowed.
    - b. Irrigation systems may not be connected to any other source of water, including public or private potable water systems, lakes, streams, ponds, or private wells (potable or non-potable), etc. Interconnections to neighboring irrigation systems are not allowed unless approved specifically in writing by PCU.
    - c. The irrigation system must be maintained in good working condition and must be adjusted properly to minimize spray onto roads, common sidewalks (pivoting sprinkler heads may **NOT** be installed between sidewalks and street curbs), gutters, neighboring property, or impervious surfaces that allow run-off. Over spray into swimming or wading pools is not allowed.
  2. Only PCU, the construction superintendent, and the professional irrigation system installer under the superintendent's supervision shall have access to the reclaimed water meter connection.
  3. Reclaimed water may **only** be used for construction, flushing, and testing of new irrigation systems at unoccupied dwellings under construction until such time as PCU conducts the initial inspection/activation.
  4. The construction superintendent shall lock off the reclaimed water meter, using the same special lock, immediately upon completion of the irrigation system installation and shall call or fax PCU for the initial inspection/activation.
  5. The construction superintendent shall send, on Friday of each calendar week via fax to PCU, a list of street addresses of dwelling construction sites in the PCU reclaimed water service areas where irrigation systems are scheduled for installation during the following week. In the absence of a street address in a new development, the construction superintendent may identify the location by subdivision name, phase, and lot number.
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6. PCU will conduct the initial inspection and activation within one calendar week after notification by the construction superintendent that the irrigation system installation is complete.

### 7.0 OWNERSHIP AND MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITY

#### 7.1 PCU Responsibilities

- A. PCU shall own and maintain all reclaimed water transmission and distribution systems within the public right-of-way and public easements.
- B. PCU will make a reasonable effort to inspect and maintain its reclaimed water system in good repair, but assumes no liability for any damage caused by the system that is beyond the control of normal maintenance.
- C. Production of reclaimed water is a function of wastewater treatment facility operational criteria and is controlled by PCU. PCU reserves the right to limit availability during certain hours, to temporarily shut off the system without notice for repairs, maintenance or operational reasons, and to limit supply quantities.

#### 7.2 Customer Responsibilities

- A. The property owner will be responsible for maintenance of the irrigation system on his property downstream (customer side) from the service connection.
- B. The property owner and/or customer shall be responsible for the operation of his reclaimed water irrigation system to prevent ponding or run-off from the irrigated area.
- C. The property owner and/or customer shall be responsible for the maintenance of all irrigation lines and appurtenances on the property served by PCU. PCU reserves the right to disconnect the service to any property when the irrigation system and appurtenances are not properly maintained. In addition, should the customer require reclaimed water at different pressures, or different quality, or in any way different from that normally supplied by PCU, he shall be responsible for the necessary devices to make these adjustments and for obtaining approval by PCU.
- D. The property owner and/or customer shall be responsible for obtaining and adhering to the irrigation restrictions established for reclaimed water by and for the county. This information is available on the Polk County Board of County Commissioners' website ([www.polk-county.net/utilities.aspx](http://www.polk-county.net/utilities.aspx)).

The Polk County Year-Round Water Conservation Measures and Water

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Shortage Ordinance (04-07) has established that the water conservation measures or water shortage orders adopted by the Southwest Florida Water Management District applicable to Polk County, or any portion thereof, shall be subject to enforcement action. The Ordinance provides that the measures or orders for the use of groundwater or other water resources that are regulated by the water management districts are applicable to the use of reclaimed water, unless specifically relaxed under the provisions of Section 4 of the Ordinance.