



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 17, 2016

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Pasco County begins huge environmental recovery project

~~Multi-million dollar project is largest in County history~~

PASCO COUNTY, FL ---- Pasco County Utilities, the Pasco Board of County Commissioners (BCC) and Southwest Florida Water Management District are cooperatively funding and working on the largest environmental recovery project in the County's history.

The [Central Pasco County Beneficial Water Reuse Project](#) aims to construct 237 acres of wetlands and to deliver up to 5 million gallons of highly-treated reclaimed water daily to 15 uniquely-designed wetland basins located in an area where there has been significant environmental degradation due to groundwater withdrawals.

Water pumped from wellfields in Pasco County is delivered to customers in Hillsborough, Pinellas, and Pasco Counties. That water production has caused deterioration in lakes and wetlands in the vicinity of those wellfields. The BCC approved the 14 million dollar contract earlier this year. This cooperation further demonstrates the Board's commitment to protecting and preserving the County's natural resources and reinforcing the sustainability of the Tampa Bay region's drinking water.

"We've established a team of ecologists and engineers that designed this innovative approach to ecosystem recovery and enhancement," said Jeff Harris, Pasco County Staff Biologist and Project Manager. "When complete, the facility will enhance the natural aquatic features that have experienced deterioration and recover their lost ecological function. We expect this project will serve as a national model for watershed and natural resource management. Coupled with the 500 million gallon Boyette Reclaimed Water Reservoir – the largest reclaimed water reservoir in the Country – the Pasco County Master Reuse System can be considered the most dynamic reclaimed water system in the country."

[Pasco County Utilities](#) entered into agreements with the [Southwest Florida Water Management District](#) and William T. Phillips, owner of 4G Ranch, which has experienced the detrimental impacts of water withdrawals. The public-private partnership provides a strategic alliance among the County, the District, and Mr. Phillips and allows for a more efficient and cost-effective project delivery. This will support the recovery of lakes, wetlands, and the Upper Floridian Aquifer – the principal source of the region's potable water.

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