

CHAPTER 1300. CONCURRENCY, MOBILITY, IMPACT, AND CONNECTION FEES

SECTION 1302. MOBILITY, IMPACT, AND CONNECTION FEES

1302.8. **Water and Wastewater Service Connection Fees**

A. Intent and Purpose

1. To continue uniform water and wastewater service connection fees in the County and to establish procedures for the imposition, calculations, collection, administration, and expenditure of water and/or wastewater service connection fees imposed on new service connections.
2. To facilitate the implementation of the Goals, Objectives, and Policies of the Comprehensive Plan, Policy WAT 2.2.3 and Policy SEW 3.6.4 of the Public Facilities Element relating to utilizing funding directly from new service connections to offset appropriate costs of serving new service connections with public facilities.
3. To ensure that new service connections are reasonably benefited by the provision of the public water and wastewater service facilities provided with the proceeds of water and wastewater service connection fees.
4. To ensure that all applicable legal standards and criteria are properly incorporated in these procedures.

B. Water and Wastewater Connection Fee Study and Modifications

1. The Board of County Commissioners (BCC) has adopted and incorporates by reference the study by Stantec entitled Water/Wastewater Service Rate Study, dated August 2021 and as supplemented pursuant to this section.
2. This section and the Water and Wastewater Service Rate Study may be reviewed by the BCC periodically in accordance with Florida Statutes. The purpose of this review is to demonstrate that the water and wastewater service connection fees do not exceed reasonably anticipated costs associated with growth-necessitated capital improvements. In the event the review demonstrates that anticipated costs have changed, the Study shall be amended in accordance therewith.
3. The County Administrator or designee may be assisted by the Impact Fee Advisory Committee as established by the BCC pursuant to Resolution No. 88-245, as amended, or other advisory committee(s) in the review of the water and wastewater service connection fees. The review shall include all of the following to be compiled into a report:

- a. Recommendations on amendments, if appropriate, to these procedures;
 - b. Proposed changes to the Comprehensive Plan and/or an applicable Capital Improvement Plan, including the identification of water and wastewater service facilities projects anticipated to be funded wholly or partially with water and wastewater service connection fees;
 - c. Proposed changes to the water and wastewater service connection fees schedule;
 - d. Proposed changes to level of service standards;
 - e. Proposed changes in the water and wastewater service connection fees calculation methodology; and
 - f. Other data, analysis, or recommendations as the County Administrator may deem appropriate or as may be requested by the BCC.
4. The County Administrator or designee shall submit the report to the BCC, which shall receive the report and take such actions as it deems appropriate, which may include, but is not limited to, requesting additional data or analyses and holding public workshops and/or public hearings.
 5. The failure to prepare or to submit a report, as provided herein, shall not affect the effectiveness or the administration of this section.

C. Imposition

1. Water and wastewater service connection fees shall be imposed on all new service connections occurring within the County not otherwise exempted in this section or waived by general or special law. It is hereby recognized that water and wastewater service connection fees have been in effect in the County since 1979.
2. All new service connections occurring within the County shall pay the following water and/or wastewater service connection fees according to the water and wastewater service connection fee established by the Board of County Commissioners through a resolution adopted at a public hearing.
3. Notwithstanding the fee schedule established via resolution, the meter equivalents of a nonresidential use shall be the basis for purposes of calculation of the water and wastewater service connection fees for residential uses that utilize a one (1) inch or greater meter size.
4. Nonresidential uses shall pay the single-family (1.00 ERU) fee listed above multiplied by the following meter equivalents:

Meter Size	ERU Equivalents
5/8", 3/4"	1.00
1"	2.50
1.5"	5.00
2"	8.00
3"	15.00
4"	25.00
6"	50.00
8"	80.00

5. If any use does not meet a single defined use or meter equivalent as set forth herein, then the County Administrator or designee shall assign the most analogous use classification or meter size based on the standards of the water and wastewater service connection fee study or the meter sizing standards of the American Water Works Association, which is incorporated herein.

6. Exemptions. An exemption must be claimed by the applicant or it shall be waived. Payment of the water and/or wastewater service connection fees shall not apply to the following situations if the applicant clearly demonstrates with competent substantial evidence to the County Administrator one (1) of the following:
 - a. New service connection for which a completed application for a service connection has been submitted or where a meter has been installed and a customer account was opened within ninety (90) days after April 27, 1999.
 - b. Other Uses. No water and/or wastewater service connection fee shall be imposed on a use, structure, or other building construction activity that cannot result in an increase in the demand for water and wastewater service facilities.
 - c. Service connections in existence prior to ninety (90) days after April 27, 1999, provided that the demand for service and/or meter size or number is not increased.

7. Any new service connection which is determined to be exempt from the payment of water and wastewater service connection fees but, which as a result of a change in circumstances, produces a residential use or nonresidential use or service demand not exempt pursuant to this section, shall pay the water and/or wastewater service connection fees imposed by this Code according to the connection fee schedule in effect at such time as the change in circumstances occurs.

D. Calculation

1. The applicable water and wastewater service connection fee shall be based upon the fee resolution, the above table and criteria as may be amended and in effect at the time of receipt of a complete service connection application, less any credits or service commitment or connection fees that may have been paid pursuant to Chapter 110 of the County Code of Ordinances.
2. An applicant may request, at any time, a nonbinding estimate of water and wastewater service connection fees due for a particular development. However, such estimate is subject to change when a complete application for a service connection is made.
3. Water and wastewater service connection fees shall be calculated based on the water and wastewater service connection fee schedule, pursuant to this section in effect at the time of submittal of a complete service connection application, except where provided for in this section.

E. Payment/Collection

1. The water and/or wastewater service connection fees shall be paid at the time of receipt by the County of a completed service connection application where no credit or partial credit applies.
2. Alternative Form of Payment. Nothing herein precludes the County from studying or adopting an alternative method of payment of the water and wastewater service connection fees; e.g., payment over time through a Capacity Assessment Unit Program.

F. Credits

1. Credits may be allowed by prior Utilities Service Agreement to construct a nonsite-related utility improvement listed in the Capital Improvement Plan identified in the Schedules 2 and 2-3A of the Water and Wastewater Service Connection Fee Study, which is in addition to the required site-related improvements, as determined by the County Administrator or designee, and receive credits on a dollar basis against any water and/or wastewater connection fees due. Application for credits shall be made prior to the commencement of construction. No credits will be granted for construction except under the terms of a BCC-approved agreement.
2. Credits may be allowed for service commitment or connection fees paid pursuant to Article II or Article IV, Chapter 110, County Code of Ordinances. To receive a credit for commitment or connection fees paid by another party, the applicant must present a valid assignment

(original and notarized) from the person who paid the commitment or connection fees.

G. Water and Wastewater Service Connection Fee Funds/Appropriation of Funds

1. The County shall establish two (2) funds: a water service connection fee fund and a wastewater service connection fee fund. Such funds shall be clearly identified as monies collected as water and wastewater service connection fees. All water and wastewater service connection fees collected by the County shall be deposited into the respective water and wastewater service connection funds. The BCC shall establish and implement necessary accounting controls to ensure that all water and wastewater service connection fees are properly deposited, accounted for, and appropriated in accordance with this section and any other applicable legal requirements.
2. Water service connection fee monies shall only be expended for water service facilities, and wastewater service connection fee monies shall only be expended for wastewater service facilities. All interest or investment income earned shall be available for appropriation or expenditure for water and wastewater service facilities.
3. The monies from the water and wastewater service connection fee funds shall be used by the County solely to provide water and wastewater service facilities which are necessitated by new services connections, consistent with and as set forth below, and shall not be used for any expenditure that would be classified as an operating expense, routine maintenance, or repair expense. The County shall use water and wastewater service monies from the connection fee funds for the following components of those projects listed in the Capital Improvement Plan Identified in the Schedules 2 and 2-3A of the Water and Wastewater Service Connection Fee Study:
 - a. Planning (with specific BCC approval), design, permitting, and building construction plan costs for the water and wastewater service facilities;
 - b. Water and wastewater service facilities acquisition costs;
 - c. Building construction costs, including all furnishings and equipment, of water and wastewater service facilities;
 - d. Repayment of monies borrowed from any budgetary fund of the County subsequent to April 27, 1999, where such borrowed monies were used to fund growth necessitated capital improvements to water and wastewater service facilities as provided herein; and
 - e. Payment of principal and interest, necessary reserves, and costs of issuance under any bonds or other indebtedness

issued by the County to fund growth necessitated improvements to the water and wastewater service facilities subsequent to April 27, 1999.