



EPC Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Date of EPC Meeting: Special Meeting during the BOCC meeting on September 7, 2006

Subject: Tampa Bay Water's Environmental Resource Permit for the Lake Bridge Water Treatment Plant

Consent Agenda _____ **Regular Agenda** **X** **Public Hearing** _____

Division: Environmental Resource Management

Recommendation: Direct staff not to arbitrate Tampa Bay Water's proposed Environmental Resource Permit application for expansion at the Lake Bridge Water Treatment Plant.

Brief Summary: TBW's Lake Bridge Water Treatment Plant serves as a Pasco County Point of Connection to TBW's regional water supply system and is located in north central Hillsborough County. Infrastructure modifications at this facility are required to increase the available pumping capacity to meet growth demands in the area. The ERP (the State's wetland and stormwater permit) will address construction activities associated with a new paved access roadway and parking, a pump building, yard piping, a generator pad, a fuel tank, and a stormwater pond.

Background: In accordance with the provisions of Tampa Bay Water's (TBW) Interlocal Agreement and Commissioner policy, the Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County (EPC) must decide whether or not to request arbitration on any TBW Primary Environmental Permit applications within 30 days of TBW approving submittal of the application to the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD). An Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) is defined in the Interlocal as a Primary Environmental Permit.

On August 21, 2006, the TBW Board approved the submittal to the SWFWMD of a Standard General Environmental Resource Permit application for the expansion of the Lake Bridge Water Treatment Plant. This action initiated a 30-day time period in which the host Member Government may file for arbitration.

The Lake Bridge facility serves as a Pasco County Point of Connection (POC) to TBW's regional water supply system and is located in north central Hillsborough County, just south of County Line Road. Infrastructure modifications at this facility are required to increase the available pumping capacity to meet growth demands in the area. The ERP will address construction activities (e.g. – wetland impacts and stormwater runoff) associated with a new paved access roadway and parking, a pump building, yard piping, a generator pad, a fuel tank, and a stormwater pond.

Should the EPC or the BOCC direct staff to arbitrate this item, arbitration costs could exceed \$50,000. The BOCC Water Resource Team's revised FY 06 budget does not include funding for arbitration, but includes \$342,582 in funding for the routine evaluation of TBW water supply projects.

The EPC and County staff have reviewed the ERP application and have determined that there are no significant issues. A few minor issues are being addressed with TBW staff via our EPC Water Resource Team staff and via the EPC's Wetland permitting section, as TBW must get a wetland permit from the EPC also. Therefore, it is recommended that the EPC not arbitrate this TBW Primary Environmental Permit.

List of Attachments: None