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Meeting time

10:15 a.m.

COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA April 5, 2023

Location

BOCC Boardroom
County Center, 2nd Floor
601 E. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa

CALL TO ORDER

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

1. Consider Tampa Bay Water's proposed application to the Southwest Florida Water Management District for a Water Use Permit in Southern Hillsborough County and receive public comment regarding this agenda item.

ADJOURN

Any person who might wish to appeal any decision made by the EPC regarding any matter considered at the forthcoming public hearing or meeting is hereby advised that they will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made which will include the testimony and evidence upon which such appeal is to be based.

Anyone who wishes to speak either virtually or in-person during the meeting may do so by completing the online Public Comment Form found at: www.epchc.org/pubcomment. The form is open 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting for both virtual and in-person appearances. Virtual speakers must submit the online public comment form by 8:30 a.m. the day of the meeting. In-person speakers will be able to sign up using the same online form 48 hours prior to arrival or can sign up on-site via our kiosk up until the start of the meeting. Visit the EPC webpage for more details on [agendas and public comment](#). Seating inside the Boardroom may be limited. This meeting will also be available LIVE as follows: Spectrum - Channel 637, Frontier - Channel 22, Comcast - Channel 22, PC: <http://www.hcflgov.net/HTVlive>, and iOS: <http://65.49.32.149/iosvideo/ios.htm>.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Agenda Item #1

Date of EPC Meeting: April 5, 2023

Subject: Tampa Bay Water's application for a Water Use Permit for the South Hillsborough Production Well

Agenda Section: Regular Agenda

Division: Legal Department

Recommendation: Direct staff not to arbitrate Tampa Bay Water's application for a Water Use Permit for the South Hillsborough Production Well.

Brief Summary: Tampa Bay Water voted on March 20, 2023, to submit an application to SWFWMD for a permit to pump the South Hillsborough County Production Well in the Balm area to provide additional water supply to southern Hillsborough County. Pursuant to the Interlocal Agreement, Tampa Bay Water must wait 30 days to file the application unless the County and EPC vote not to arbitrate. Tampa Bay Water has requested the EPC vote not to arbitrate the application, so it can be submitted to SWFWMD sooner.

Financial Impact: No Financial Impact

List of Attachments: None

Background: In accordance with the provisions of Tampa Bay Water's (TBW) Interlocal Agreement, the Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County (EPC) must decide whether or not to request arbitration on any TBW Primary Environmental Permit application within 30 days of TBW Board's approving submittal of the application to the Southwest Florida Water Management (SWFWMD). A Water Use Permit (WUP) that allows one to withdraw groundwater is defined as Primary Environmental Permit in the Interlocal Agreement. Pursuant to the Interlocal Agreement, TBW must hold the application for 30 days before submittal to SWFWMD, unless the host member governments (e.g. – Hillsborough County and EPC) vote not to arbitrate, thus reducing the 30-day wait period. As described below, the TBW staff asked EPC to schedule a vote as soon as possible.

TBW proposes to convert an existing successful test well in the Balm area into a production well. It is referred to as the South Hillsborough County Production Well and it will provide additional water to meet the growing demand in southern Hillsborough County until the new regional pipeline is completed. The production well is being jointly coordinated with Hillsborough County's South Hillsborough Aquifer Recharge Project (SHARP). The Board of Tampa Bay Water voted on March 20, 2023, to approve submittal of a WUP application to SWFWMD. The proposed WUP application requests an annual average quantity of 2.3 million gallons per day. TBW staff explained to the Board that potential impacts were

evaluated to demonstrate that the project meets the WUP permitting regulations, including but not limited to Section 40D-2.301, Florida Administrative Code.

Tampa Bay Water staff asked the EPC to conduct a special meeting on April 5 during the regular BOCC meeting to help expedite TBW's application filing process. EPC and County staff have reviewed the application and met with TBW and SWFWMD staff. EPC staff recommend that the EPC Commission vote not to arbitrate TBW's application for the proposed Water Use Permit, thus allowing TBW to submit the application sooner.