



**Southeast Advanced Water Reclamation Facility (SEAWRF)
Written Comments & Responses from Public Meeting #1
Tuesday, January 31, 2023**

(Official comment period ended February 14, 2023)

Comment: I wish the treated water would not all be wasted by injecting into deep wells. I think the water should be used for irrigation area. Wetlands reclamation like they do in North Florida.

Response: Lee County Utilities is researching beneficial uses for the proposed advanced treated water.

Comment: We would like the water tank height lower than 40'-0" above finished grade. Additional tanks would provide the cubic footage you need. Smells from the site are also a concern. No storage of debris on site. No future waste management, and open land to go into conservatory. Thank you.

Response: The diameter/height of tanks along with the value of land and the number of tanks needs to be optimized to maximize benefits. Odors from a wastewater treatment plant are most intense at the headworks of the plant. The SEAWRF will include a treatment system to minimize odor. No debris is planned to be stored on the site. No future solid waste management facilities are planned. The eastern slough will be preserved as wetlands.

Comment: The proposed area should be moved further East to accommodate "Kingston" area to be built. This should have been in the development approval process in exchange for building 10,000+ homes. We ask to build a very tall berm and landscaping on top. In addition, can the tanks be shorter.

Response: The site location is best suited for the needs of the Lee County community. The landscape buffer is intended to be hide the facility. An elevated berm will be considered in screening the project. The diameter/height of tanks along with the value of land and the number of tanks needs to be optimized to maximize benefits.

Comment: I am not in favor of this project. I think it was a dirty deal done in back rooms to swap this property with the property near The Place. I don't understand how putting this between the well sites is good. All the current development is well to the east of this site. Why put it here? I want to be informed throughout all this process!

Response: Previous regional hydraulic modeling supports this site area as being the best available location for the new plant. The site location is best suited for the needs of the Lee County community. Please visit the project website at www.LCUSEwater.com to sign up for project updates.

Comment: I am a Lee County resident and I am writing to express my opposition to building a new waste water plant in an area that is designated conservation land. I understand that there is a need to build a plant on Lee County but it should not violate the fact that the land chosen is a type 1 priority. We love the area because of all of the wildlife but there is absolutely too much development on the Corkscrew Road corridor and the wildlife we love are losing their habitat quickly. Thank you.

Response: The proposed advanced water reclamation facility is necessary to support the growth in this area of Lee County. The project will require an Environmental Resource Permit which details protection of any wildlife and their habitat. This project facilitated acquisition of the eastern slough which Lee County will preserve and helps with conservation goals by joining multiple areas together. Additionally, the Lee County Department of Transportation is proposing a wildlife crossing at the western slough as part of the Alico Road Extension Project.

Comment: **I'm just concerned for wildlife and overcrowding.**

Response: The Lee County Department of Transportation is proposing a wildlife crossing at the western slough as part of the Alico Road Extension Project.

Comment: **I am also interested in county commissioners work on water quality of Caloosahatchee and what is specifically being done.**

Response: Water quality is a top priority of the Lee Board of County Commissioners and water-quality projects are underway year-round. To learn more about Lee County's Water Quality Initiative, please visit Our Water Story at www.leegov.com/water. Here you will find information about how we got to where we are, what we're doing to fix it and how you can help shape the future of our waterways. Additionally, the site features a story map to take visitors on a tour of the watershed, discussing the challenges and causes as well as the steps Lee County and partner agencies have taken to help improve local water quality.

Lee County's Division of Natural Resources actively works to improve the water quality of our area. To learn more about their projects, visit their website at <https://www.leegov.com/naturalresources/WaterQuality>.

Comment: **I own a piece of property @ 14500 Alico Rd. I was wondering if I will get city or county water instead of having to get well water?**

Response: Offsite properties will not be affected by this project related to service connections to Lee County Utilities. Currently, Lee County Utilities has a 30" transmission water main that runs along Alico Road; however, individual property services are not connected to transmission mains. Visit the Lee County Utilities website at <https://www.leegov.com/utilities/new-development> to find out more information about utility service.

Comment: **Where is all this reclaimed water going to go?**

Response: The goal of the SEAWRF project is to implement beneficial reuse and it is still under evaluation. The treated effluent could be pumped down a deep injection well, used for landscape irrigation, or to recharge a natural wetland system, or a combination of these options.

Comment: **Who is the current Project Manager for this project? What is the current status and schedule of the project?**

Response: Mike Avoglia is the current Lee County Utilities project manager. The project is beginning to develop 30% plans as of February 2023. The SEAWRF construction is expected to begin in 2025 with completion in 2028. Please visit the project website at www.LCUSEwater.com to sign up for project updates.