

Water Conservation Plan 2018

Water Source

The demand for reclaimed water can exceed the available supply for approximately 6 months of each year, possibly longer in dry years. Initially we were able to utilize an unused well on the Power Plant property to supplement our reclaimed water supply. In 2012, SJRWMD granted a modification to the CUP permit 51000 to allow for up to 1MGD of storm water from the Main Relief Canal to be used at times when supply did not meet demand. This was completed in 2013. With a 10 inch pump intake it has been found that this afforded enough make-up water so that it has not been necessary to use the well located on the Power Plant property at all for several years. This well will not be used for this purpose in the future, thereby conserving valuable ground water.

Reclaimed Water Usage

The goals of the City's reclaimed water program have always been:

1. to eliminate discharges from its wastewater treatment plant to the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) and
2. to reduce the demand on its potable water resources.

The first step was to begin operation of the City's reclaimed water system in 1992. This reduced discharge to the IRL from 100% to roughly 10%. The reclaimed water is used primarily for irrigation of residential areas, golf courses, median and ROW, and City owned facilities. Irrigated acreage has increased from 1397 acres initially to 1886 acres by 2003. Acreage has remained static since then do to the limited supply. Irrigation rates have continued to remain low, roughly 0.35 inches/acre /week for FY2017, and 0.33 inches/acre/week for FY2018.

The next step was to implement a deep well to receive excess or substandard reclaimed water. This was completed in 2011. Today approximately 80 to 90 % of our reclaimed water is used, with the remainder being discharged to the deep well. As a result the City of Vero Beach no longer discharges any waste water to the IRL from the WWTP.

John's Island uses approximately

Comparative Rates

Currently the cost for reclaimed water from the City of Vero Beach Waste Water Treatment Plant is 67 cents/1000 gallons. It is the same for all of our customers. Compare this to approximately six dollars/1000 gallons for potable water (water rates vary depending on usage).

Potable Water Usage and Conservation

The customers of the City of Vero Beach have continued to decrease their potable water consumption, in part, due to rate adjustments. The following data illustrate the change in consumption since the year 2000.

year	avg monthly water usage (MG)
2000	185
2001	176
2002	176
2003	172
2004	185
2005	171
2006	179
2007	166
2008	155
2009	160
2010	165
2011	157
2012	145
2013	136
2014	137
2015	143
2016	143
2017	144

