

RESOLUTION NO. 2000-190

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, PROMOTING CONSUMER CONNECTION TO THE COUNTY'S WASTEWATER SYSTEM; WAIVING SEWER UNIT CONNECTION FEES WHEN COUNTY WASTEWATER FORCE MAIN COLLECTION INFRASTRUCTURE IS AVAILABLE FOR CONNECTION BY AN EXISTING SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the St. Johns County Utility Department, in collaboration with the St. Johns River Water Management District and the St. Johns County Health Department, commissioned Camp, Dresser & McKee to conduct an Environmental Impact Study in 1999, which identified areas where private septic systems are failing;

WHEREAS, private septic system failures are of great public health, safety, welfare and environmental concern;

WHEREAS, the results of the Environmental Impact Study illustrate the necessity for expansion of or connection to centralized wastewater systems in areas where failing septic systems have been identified

WHEREAS, Section 381.00655(1)(b) of the Florida Statutes provides that the owner of an onsite sewage treatment and disposal system that needs repair or modification to function in a sanitary manner must connect to an available publicly owned sewerage system within 90 days after written notification, and if there is a hardship, an extension for an additional 90 days may be granted;

WHEREAS, Section 6.04.11(c)(1) of the St. Johns County Land Development Code provides that should a septic tank or other onsite Wastewater System require repair or replacement where a Permit is required for the work to be done and there is a gravity Wastewater Line within one hundred (100) feet from the property line or a central Wastewater Force Main System within two hundred (200) feet from the property line, there shall be a mandatory connection required to the central Wastewater System;

WHEREAS, connection to the centralized force main waste collection system adds a substantial financial burden to the homeowner;

WHEREAS, waiving the unit connection fees for effected property owners who must connect to the County central wastewater force main system will encourage timely connection and improve public health, safety, welfare and the environment;

WHEREAS, Section 17 and 23 (B) of St. Johns County Ordinance No. 97-62 gives the Board of County Commissioners the authority to modify all rates, fees and charges at any time by Resolution of the Board.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, that:

Section 1. The above Recitals are incorporated by reference and made a part hereof.

Section 2. St. Johns County Wastewater Unit Connection Fees will be waived for effected property owners for 90 days or for 180 days when an extension is granted, as provided in Section 3, whenever a single family residential septic system fails and must connect to the County central wastewater force main collection system.

Section 3. The Utility Department will notify effected property owners as identified by the St. Johns County Health Department. The notice shall: (1) identify the property as single family and as having a failing septic system; (2) state that the property owner of a failing septic system has 90 days in which to connect to the County wastewater treatment system, or, if an extension for an additional 90 days is requested and granted, 180 days to connect to the County wastewater treatment system, and have the wastewater unit connection fee waived during the applicable 90 or 180 day period of time in which the property owner must connect; (3) state that if not connected within the required time, the property owner will have to pay the required wastewater unit connection fee; and (4) state that Florida Law requires the property owner to abandon his or her onsite septic system and connect to the County system.

Section 4. This resolution shall not relieve any property owner of their responsibility for costs other than timely paid wastewater unit connection fees associated with connection to the County wastewater force main collection system, nor shall the property owner be relieved from the costs of abating any public sanitary nuisance or abandoning their onsite sewage treatment and disposal system as required by the St. Johns County Health Department.

Section 5. This resolution shall take effect upon its passage by the Board of County Commissioners.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, State of Florida, this 12th day of December, 2000.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: Mary F. Kohnke
Mary F. Kohnke, Chair

ATTEST: CHERYL STRICKLAND, CLERK

By: Cheryl Strickland
Deputy Clerk