

# **City of Safety Harbor**

## **Wholesale Water Use Permit**

### **Water Conservation Plan**



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**Prepared by:**  
**City of Safety Harbor**  
**Water Division**  
**1200 Railroad Avenue**  
**Safety Harbor, Florida 34695**  
**Tel: (727) 724-1550**

The City of Safety Harbor's Water Division promotes the conservation of water year-round. The City of Safety Harbor's water conservation initiatives currently in place will be carried forward to new development areas, along with enhancements to the program to assure an adequate supply of excellent quality potable water to meet the needs of City's residential and non-residential customers. Overall, the Goal of the City of Safety Harbor is long term sustainability of water resources.

## **Water Division Initiatives**

### **Water Reuse**

- The City of Safety Harbor's goal is to protect, maintain, restore, and enhance natural resources to maintain a living environment that supports a healthy, vibrant population and promotes the wellbeing of all citizens and the natural environment. The City shall maintain initiatives to conserve potable water resources. (*City of Safety Harbor Comprehensive Plan, Goals, Objectives, and Policies.*)
- The City shall adhere to SWFWMD and Pinellas County emergency water shortage restrictions when mandated by the District and the County. (*City of Safety Harbor Code of Ordinances Article V Section 24.*)
- The City of Safety Harbor shall encourage conservation of water resources by the enforcement of watering restrictions of customers, monitoring excessive water use and other active measures until non-compliance is corrected. The City of Safety Harbor shall follow SWFWMD and Pinellas County guidelines for yard watering. (*City of Safety Harbor Code of Ordinances Article V Section 24.*)
- The City shall encourage the use of drought tolerant plant and Florida Friendly materials to meet landscaping requirements. (*City of Safety Harbor Land Development Code Section 154.00.*)
- A meter replacement program is in place to replace aged meters and reduce unaccounted for water. Residential and commercial meters are targeted for replacement every 10 years.
- A meter calibration program is in place to ensure accurate meter readings, and the accuracy is within  $\pm$  5%. (*City of Safety Harbor Code of Ordinances Section 24.31.*)
- The City shall maintain a leak detection program to discover and eliminate wasteful losses of potable water from the City's water supply and distribution system. The program includes, but is not limited to:
  - Accounting system used to track individual users and identify higher than usual or large volumes of usage monthly.
  - Fire hydrants and valves in the distribution system inspected and maintained regularly. Logs are kept per FDEP regulations.
  - Monthly system usage is monitored for changes that could indicate potential leaks. Operations personnel are notified, and a system survey is requested if an area of concern is identified.
  - Meter readers and operations personnel are trained to watch for signs of system or service leaks and unaccounted water loss is monitored to identify potential areas of concern.
- The City shall evaluate and implement strategies to achieve a reduction in water

consumption through various water conservation measures, consumer education, and develop programs to identify and repair leaking pipes and plumbing fixtures. These strategies include website and social media postings, FAQs, and community meetings.

- The City shall promote the environmental awareness of its citizens and visitors on issues relating to protection, conservation, restoration, and appropriate use of our natural resources.
- The City shall endeavor to educate, using signage, brochures, press releases, and community meetings, the public on conservation issues.
- The City shall cooperate with SWFWMD and the U.S. Soil Conservation Service to implement water conservation programs.
- The City's Water Division shall coordinate with public entities, such as the Conserve Florida Water Clearinghouse (University of Florida), to obtain technical assistance in the collection of measurable baseline data that can be used to establish a set of benchmarks from which the effectiveness of the water conservation measures will be evaluated in the future.
- The City will maintain a tiered water rate structure to ensure conservation of potable water. (*City of Safety Harbor Code of Ordinances Sec. 24.18.*)
- The City will continue to develop and implement Capital Improvement Projects (CIP). The City of Safety Harbor constructs one (1) to two (2) water main projects annually which has decreased water main breaks on aging infrastructure thus saving water. These CIPs aid in the conservation efforts that will maximize our water resources. (*City of Safety Harbor Comprehensive Plan, Goals, Objectives, and Policies.*)

### **Commercial Initiatives**

- Water use is monitored and reviewed monthly for large commercial consumers.
- Water conservation presentations are made to community groups and during the annual Citizens academy.
- High usage customers are contacted and provided with water conservation information.
- Rates structures are analyzed periodically to determine effectiveness. We are scheduled to conduct a rate study during the FY21/22 budget year.

### **Residential Initiatives**

- Water conservation presentations are made to community groups and during the annual Citizens Academy.
- High usage customers are contacted and provided with water conservation information.
- Rates structures are analyzed periodically to determine effectiveness. We are scheduled to conduct a rate study during the FY21/22 budget year.