



November 6, 2013

Re: East and West Spring Lake Wastewater MSBU
Project Status Update

Dear Property Owner:

On May 28, 2013, the Board of County Commissioners adopted Resolution 2013-036, relating to the construction of and connection to wastewater facilities to be located within the proposed East and West Spring Lake Wastewater MSBU. This Resolution included provisions for (1) developed non-residential lots; (2) a septic system rebate program; (3) an initial prepayment option; (4) the possible use of a hardship program; and (5) temporary assistance for failing on-site sewage treatment and disposal systems (OSTDS) within the MSBU area. The current status of those features of the MSBU is described below.

Rebate Program:

Applications for the rebate program are now being received and processed. Rebate checks are being issued to all qualified applicants. The actual Rebate Program, as per the adopted Resolution, is attached to this letter. In general, the current property owner of any home within the MSBU which had installed a new or replacement on-site septic tank and/or drainfield between January 1, 2004, and September 30, 2013, can apply for a rebate until January 31, 2014. The rebate form can be found on our web page at www.charlottecountyfl.com/CCU/Projects/SpringLakeWW/RebateForm.pdf. If you do not have access to the internet you may call our office at 941.764.4539 and request that a Rebate Form be mailed to you. Along with completing the rebate form, you must attach to it the Department of Health Construction Permit and the Final Inspection sheet. If you do not have the Construction Permit and Final Inspection sheet you may contact the Department of Health at 941.743.1266 and request that both be mailed to you.

Prepayment Option:

On November 1, 2013, CCU mailed a Prepayment Notice to each property owner. If you are interested in prepaying the entire assessment amount (Note: prepayment amount avoids financing and collection costs) rather than paying annually over the 20 years of the MSBU assessment, this Prepayment Notice will explain the steps needed for you to do so. If you have additional questions about the prepayment program you may call 941.764.4539. Please remember, it is your choice whether to prepay the entire assessment amount or make annual payments over the 20 year period.

Temporary Assistance for Failing OSTDSs:

The Resolution states that "CCU and the Department of Health will jointly determine temporary operational measures to address OSTDSs that are not functioning and/or nearing a state of failure. These temporary measures will be initiated by CCU to allow the properties with this condition to continue to be

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occupied during the interim period between adoption of the September 2013 MSBU budget and connection to CCU's sanitary sewer system. Property owners shall continue to be responsible for normal maintenance and minor repairs including pump outs, inspections, and lid replacements." Please contact CCU at 941.764.4539 if you are experiencing any OSTDS problems, as outlined above, or if further clarification and/or assistance is needed.

Hardship Program:

The Resolution states the following: "If a financial hardship is funded, the Board may delete the annual Assessment for a low income Property Owner from the Assessment Roll upon transfer of an equal amount of lawfully available funds to the account in which the Assessment would otherwise be deposited." This means that once a funding source for the hardship fund is identified, such as a grant, the county will pay the annual MSBU assessment for each qualifying property owner, on a case-by-case and year-by-year basis. Currently, no funds have been identified or dedicated for this program, but CCU is in the process of requesting grant funds for this program. More information will be forthcoming as it becomes available. Please contact CCU at 941.764.4539 if you have further questions on the hardship program.

General Comments:

Currently, the final design plans for the hybrid gravity sanitary sewer system that will be installed in the neighborhoods off of Harbor Blvd and Edgewater Drive are 90% complete. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) permit to construct this portion of the project has been received. An FDEP Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) grant application in the amount of \$800,000.00 has been submitted for this portion of the project. A decision on this grant award should be forthcoming within the next few months.

We anticipate that the 100% design plans for the vacuum portion of the system that will be installed in the remaining Spring Lake neighborhood will be completed by May 2014. When completed, we will submit a permit application to FDEP in order to construct this portion of the project. A second TMDL grant application will be submitted for this portion of the project, also.

Once all permits are received, CCU will begin the bidding process to select the contractor(s) to construct the entire MSBU sanitary sewer system. CCU anticipates that the bidding process will be completed by September 2014, with construction expected to begin in late fall 2014, and final turn-key completion/connection by the spring of 2016.

As more information about any of these programs becomes available, the information will be posted on our web site. Additional mailings will also be provided to update everyone in the future.

If you have additional questions, please contact us at 941.764.4539.

Sincerely,



Terri Couture, Director
Charlotte County Utilities

TC/jh
File

Excerpt from Resolution 2013 – 036

Section 3.05.

REBATE PROGRAM AND METHODOLOGY. In order to reimburse Property Owners for costs associated with substantial outlay of dollars to install or replace the drainfield and/or septic tank on or after January 1, 2004 and up to and including September 30, 2013, a \$500,000 rebate program has been established. All rebates will be reviewed and approved for the program by the Utilities Director (subject to availability of funds) using the following method:

(A) Only drainfields and/or septic tanks installed or replaced between January 1, 2004 and September 30, 2013 are eligible for the program. Drainfields and/or septic tanks installed or replaced after September 30, 2013 will not be eligible for the program. For any new building construction in the MSBU after September 30, 2013, County will communicate with such Property Owners and keep them informed of upcoming availability dates for the Wastewater Facilities so said Property Owners, if they so desire, can coordinate their building schedules so as to eliminate the need for a new OSTDS prior to availability of Wastewater Facilities.

(B) Rebate will be based on a prorata percentage of average costs incurred for installation or replacement of a drainfield, a septic tank or a combined drainfield and septic tank installation or replacement. There will only be one Septic Tank Rebate and one Drainfield Rebate per Lot.

(C) A copy of the Department of Health permit must accompany a completed CCU Rebate Request Form for East and West Spring Lake and must be submitted no later than January 31, 2014. Rebate Request Forms will only be accepted from current Property Owners.

(D) Rebate will be sent to current Property Owner within 90 days of approval, less any CCU liens on that property.

(E) Amount of rebate will be as reflected in the table below.

Date of Installation or Replacement	Septic Tank Rebate	Drainfield Rebate	Combination Rebate
January 1, 2013 – September 30, 2013	\$1800	\$4667	\$6467
January 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012	\$1569	\$4134	\$5703
January 1, 2011 – December 31, 2011	\$1349	\$3616	\$4965
January 1, 2010 – December 31, 2010	\$1141	\$3113	\$4254
January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009	\$944	\$2624	\$3568
January 1, 2008 – December 31, 2008	\$758	\$2150	\$2908
January 1, 2007 – December 31, 2007	\$584	\$1691	\$2275
January 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006	\$421	\$1246	\$1667
January 1, 2005 – December 31, 2005	\$269	\$816	\$1085
January 1, 2004 – December 31, 2004	\$129	\$401	\$530