



**CITY OF  
MOUNT  
DORA**

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**DATE:** June 20, 2017  
**TO:** Robin R. Hayes, City Manager  
**FROM:** John A. Peters, III, PE, Public Works Director  
**RE:** **Thrill Hill Project and Alternative Water Program**

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At a recent Council Meeting, a resident asked several questions related to Thrill Hill Project and Alternative Water Program in the City of Mount Dora. I will start with a review of the Alternative Water initiative in the City of Mount Dora.

**Alternative Water Program:**

During our last negotiations for a Consumptive Use Permit (CUP) from the St Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), we were able to receive a coveted twenty –year CUP based in large part to our commitment to provide alternative water by storing reclaimed water at the old Thrill Hill Mine site. In theory, we would store reclaimed water that is normally discharged at our spray field from the June to March period. In turn, we would use the stored reclaimed water during high demand periods / dry period from March to June. In furtherance of this effort, the City purchased the Thrill Hill Mine.

Two years ago, we began to compile a comprehensive spreadsheet that tracked all forms of potable water, reclaimed water and sewage flows. Based on this data, we began to note that we would have difficulty providing enough reclaimed water to our current customers until such time as Thrill Hill is completed. In addition, it appears that Thrill Hill will not retain enough reclaimed water to serve the future utility service area east of the current City boundary. To remedy this situation, we contacted the City of Apopka about interconnecting with their reclaimed water system and taking the future flow from Orange County (1 million gallons per day in 2018, 2 million gallons per day in 2019, and 3 million gallons per day in 2020 and each year thereafter). Apopka has agreed in concept to this interconnect, and the City of Mount Dora was able to get a grant from the SJRWMD in the amount of \$363,000. This additional flow will insure the viability of our alternative water program well into the future.

**Thrill Hill Project:**

In December 2015, we were informed by the adjoining property at Thrill Hill that the sedimentation pond berm had failed resulting in significant damage to their property. The City cleaned up the spilled sediment and began the permitting process with Lake County. To date, we

have developed three separate grading plans with the latest plan providing approximately 70 million gallons of storage. This storage is in contrast to the 13 million gallons of storage that we currently have at the Perc Ponds and Wastewater Treatment Plant No. 2. For comparison purposes, the last two years we have disposed of approximately 60 million gallons at the Spray Fields while augmenting the reclaim system with approximately 60 million gallons with fresh groundwater (that is subject to the CUP).

Once we obtain the "Mining" Permit from Lake County later this year, we will repair the Sedimentation Pond and advertise the availability of approximately 500,000 cubic yards of excellent fill dirt to potential FDOT Contractors on the Wekiva Parkway. In exchange for the excavated material, we will ask the contractor to regrade approximately 150,000 cubic yards of dirt to create the dams and 70 million gallon reservoirs. Once the excavation and grading is complete, the City of Mount Dora will seek 30 percent funding from the SJRWMD to install liners in the reservoirs to eliminate lost water through infiltration, to construct a filtration, chlorination and pump facility to complete the overall project.

Through our Alternative Water Initiative and the ultimate construction of Thrill Hill, the City of Mount Dora has put itself in an excellent position to serve our current customers and to prepare for future growth. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.