



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FGUA COMPLETES ALOHA UTILITY SYSTEM ACQUISITION

On February 27th, The Florida Governmental Utility Authority (FGUA) assumed ownership and management of the Aloha Utility System. Aloha is now the third system in the FGUA family of utility systems throughout Florida. The FGUA also operates a system in Lee County and Collier County and has operated as many as seven systems. Aloha customers will begin receiving their bills directly from the FGUA in March. Water and wastewater plant operations, meter reading, and customer service will be provided by the FGUA's contract operator, US Water Services/Wade Trim. US Water Services/Wade Trim has extensive utility system operations and maintenance experience in Florida and throughout the country. Thanks to Wachovia Bank/Wells Fargo who provided the financing of this transaction.

There are several planned projects to address water quality concerns, customer service, and community involvement. FGUA Capital Improvement Plan includes a 2-year project to interconnect with the Pasco County water system, and involves the evaluation of the problematic wells, as well as additional treatment improvements. The FGUA has already contracted for preliminary engineering and system evaluation necessary to begin.

A Utility Advisory Committee (UAC), which consists of Aloha customers, will be initiated to provide customer feedback to the FGUA regarding customer service issues, major development projects, capital improvement plans, environmental issues, operational issues, and other subject matters associated with the activities of the FGUA in Aloha Gardens/Seven Springs. There will also be a FGUA customer ombudsman in the local office to monitor responsiveness, address customer concerns, and provide community outreach.