

- Units 16 & 31: These units are being considered for a Special Assessment Project. The Water Demand Study provided information to the Department that it may be most beneficial to pursue this expansion through a Special Assessment Vote. If the residents vote in favor of the Special Assessment, Unit 16 will receive approximately 111,000 linear feet of water lines, providing approximately 1,949 lots with access to the public water system. Unit 31 would receive about 105,000 linear feet of water lines, providing 1,772 lots with availability to City water. The project cost for Unit 16 will be approximately \$4 Million, and the project cost for Unit 31 will be approximately: \$3.8 Million.

The Utilities Department has benefited from the organizational guidance the study has provided. City officials have utilized this resource and its objective conclusions to assist in making sound and justifiable decisions concerning the implementation of new projects.

While the Water Demand Survey has served and will continue to serve its purpose well, there is always a risk associated with commissioning such a study. When funds are expended to conduct a survey the results may not be worth the money and/or time invested. The study could have returned results indicating areas within the City need services that Palm Bay Utilities Department could not deliver with its current infrastructure; Or when the survey was complete, the department may have wished it had considered other factors and/or issues; Or the Water Demand Survey could have been met with resistance from members within the organization – stifling further progress. In addition, citizens may not see the value of using funds that could provide water service on such studies.

Fortunately for the Palm Bay Utilities Department, this innovative study was approved and widely accepted by City Management and the City Council. The reason for such acceptance may have been a result of the logical progression of its development. The idea for the Water Demand Study was initiated based on recommendations made in the Water Master Plan that was developed by the Utilities Department. The Palm Bay City Council approved the Water Master Plan and consequently the Water Demand Study. Each Community Investment Program presented to the City Council regarding the expansion of municipal water that has been supported by the results of the study has gained approval.

Hindsight is always 20/20 and lessons are learned when a task of this magnitude is tackled. One thing the Palm Bay Utilities Department learned was that projection costs used in the study need to be as realistic as possible. Inflated costs can alter the result of the study, negating some of its effectiveness. Wade-Trim made minor adjustments to the project costs after the study was finalized due to falling contractor pricing as a result of the housing slow down. These adjustments only slightly altered the findings of the study and did not impact the decisions for new projects.

The idea to develop the Water Demand Study was championed by several individuals and departments City-wide. Support and execution of this came from the City Managers' Office, Utilities Administration, City Council, Utilities Advisory Board, and the Office of Economic and Business Development. This project and its value would not have been realized without the input and direction of these organizational units.