

ECUA GENERAL RESOLUTION NO. GR20-46

A GENERAL RESOLUTION TO THE GRINDER PUMP REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM RELATIVE TO INNERARITY ISLAND SEWER SYSTEM CUSTOMERS; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO DISTRIBUTE FUNDS PER THE BOARD'S DECISION; AND AUTHORIZING THE USE OF FUNDS FROM THE BUDGET ESTABLISHED FOR CIP PROJECT CS318— NON GRAVITY SEWER CONNECTIONS.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE EMERALD COAST UTILITIES AUTHORITY:

- WHEREAS, the Innerarity Island Sewer System is a private utility system located on Innerarity Island, at the terminus of Innerarity Point Road; and
- WHEREAS, the Circuit Court appointed Escambia County as the "Receiver" of the private utility system in March of 2014 due the death of the owner; and
- WHEREAS, the County and the Emerald Coast Utilities Authority (hereinafter "ECUA") agreed that once the water and sewer system were repaired and improved to meet ECUA standards, the water and sewer systems would be accepted by ECUA for ownership and maintenance; and
- WHEREAS, the ECUA Board approved an interlocal agreement in May 17, 2018, for Escambia County's funding for a project to repair the water and sewer systems and bring them up to ECUA standards; and
- WHEREAS, the projects were funded through a Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) to be repaid by the involved property owners; and
- WHEREAS, the water system has since been improved and accepted by ECUA; and
- WHEREAS, the existing sewer system on Innerarity Island, excluding Russell Bayou, is currently being replaced with a low-pressure sewer system; and
- WHEREAS, the sewer system requires the installation of individual pumping stations (grinder pumps) on each lot to connect each home to the sewer collection main located in the right-of-way; and
- WHEREAS, to further benefit the environment and public health, sewer service will also be provided in areas with septic systems to promote the abandonment of the existing tanks; and

- WHEREAS, ECUA has a current program wherein the policy provides for the reimbursement of up to \$1,500 reserved for only those individuals that choose to install a grinder pump to replace and allow the abandonment of an existing septic tank system; and
- WHEREAS, ECUA staff has been contacted by an Innerarity Island Homeowner's Association (HOA) Board Member (Mr. Michael Floyd) to determine which individuals getting a grinder pump can apply for the reimbursement program; and
- WHEREAS, the Innerarity Island HOA Board wants all owners to be eligible for the reimbursement since the use of a grinder pump was not a decision made by owners that currently utilize the existing gravity collection system; and
- WHEREAS, there are 170 owners / parcels that will be taken off gravity sewer and placed on the low-pressure sewer system with grinder pumps which do not qualify for the grinder pump reimbursement program; and
- WHEREAS, there are 19 owners / parcels that have elected to switch from septic to sewer as part of this project and do qualify for the grinder pump reimbursement program; and
- WHEREAS, there are 22 owners / parcels that have chosen to remain on their septic system and may be eligible to be reimbursed for the installation of a grinder pump if they connect to the low-pressure sewer system in the future using the regular application of the reimbursement program; and
- WHEREAS, due to the abnormal manner in which the Innerarity Island sewer project originated, the ECUA staff will coordinate with those property owners switching from septic systems to low-pressure sewer to apply for the grinder pump reimbursement.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Emerald Coast Utilities Authority:

SECTION 1. That the Board approve up to \$1,500 for each of the 19 owners / parcels choosing to abandon existing septic systems to be paid to the Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) for the respective property owners rather than making payments directly to each property owner.

SECTION 2. This General Resolution shall take effect upon adoption.

Approved as to form:

ECUA General Counsel

ATTEST:

Amanda Miller, Administrative Assistant

Adopted on:

Lois Benson, Board Chairman

Date: October 20, 2020
Account Number:
Amount: TBD
Type of Resolution: General Resolution

EXPLANATION TO ECUA BOARD

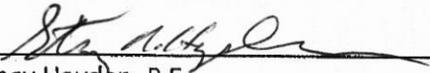
Originating Department: Engineering

PURPOSE: The purpose of this Board item is to present a request made by the Innerarity Island Homeowner's Association to waive a portion of the current grinder pump reimbursement policy stipulating its use for septic to sewer customers only.

REMARKS: The grinder pump reimbursement policy provides for the reimbursement of the cost of a grinder pump system for those customers who are currently on private disposal (septic) systems only. The selection of a low-pressure sewer system to serve a large portion of the Innerarity Island customers was substantially less than the replacement of the gravity collection system, thereby saving the property owners potentially thousands of dollars. In addition, deviating from the current policy could be construed as ECUA subsidizing private development and placing the burden of this unfortunate situation on the ECUA ratepayers at-large. For these reasons, the staff does not recommend the above policy change being requested by the Innerarity Island Homeowner's Association.

There is approximately \$185,000 in CIP CS318 – Non Gravity Sewer Connections that may be used for grinder pump reimbursements. Should the Board waive the current grinder pump reimbursement policy to allow its application to current gravity customers, the Board will need to authorize a budget transfer in the amount of \$125,000 from CIP CS317 Sewer Expansion to CS318 – Non Gravity Sewer Connections.

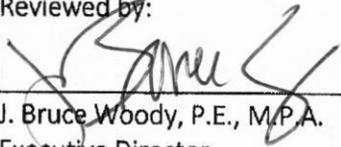
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