

Business Impact Estimate

Proposed ordinance's title/reference: AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CAPE CORAL FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 19, WATER AND SEWER UTILITIES, ARTICLE I, GENERAL PROVISIONS, SECTION 19-2.5, CONNECTION TO APPROVED SEWER SYSTEM AND MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEM MANDATORY UPON AVAILABILITY, REGARDING MANDATORY CONNECTIONS OF RECLAIMED WATER SYSTEMS, PROVIDING SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Business Impact Estimate is provided in accordance with section 166.041(4), Florida Statutes.

In accordance with the provisions of controlling law, even notwithstanding the fact that an exemption noted above may apply, the City of Cape Coral hereby publishes the following information:

1. The ordinance is required to protect public health, safety and the welfare of the community. The Mid-Hawthorn aquifer is becoming unsustainable for further use from private wells for outdoor irrigation purposes. The aquifer is not recovering water levels during the rainy season and the frequent droughts have exacerbated ground water levels in the Mid-Hawthorn Aquifer. The Ordinance will require properties to connect to the City's irrigation system and will no longer have the option to continue utilizing private wells for outdoor irrigation of lawns and landscaping.

2. An estimate of the direct economic impact of the proposed ordinance on private, for-profit businesses in the City of Cape Coral, if any:

(a) An estimate of direct compliance costs that businesses may reasonably incur:

Cost will vary depending on the plumber that connects a private automatic sprinkler system to the City's reclaimed water system. The estimate is between \$750-\$1,000. Approximately 90% or more of property owners already connect when irrigation becomes available to their property in the UEP areas.

(b) Any new charge or fee imposed by the proposed ordinance or for which businesses will be financially responsible: Property owners will be charged \$9.50 per month flat rate for the irrigation water but should realize a savings in electricity costs for not running their well pump once they connect to the City's centralized irrigation system.

(c) An estimate of the City of Cape Coral's regulatory costs, including estimated revenues from any new charges or fees to cover such costs. The City's current cost for inspection of the plumber's connection is \$49.50. The estimated additional revenue from the roughly 10 percent of customers that choose to continue using their private well in other areas of the City is approximately $693 \times \$9.50 = \$6,583.50$ per month minus City's cost to produce and pump the irrigation water which exceed this amount.

3. Good faith estimate of the number of businesses likely to be impacted by the proposed ordinance: The number of businesses that will be impacted is 19 based on the City's GIS and information technology systems.

4. Additional information the governing body deems useful (if any): The Mid-Hawthorn Aquifer is reaching record low levels. If something is not done to curtail water withdraws from this aquifer from private residential water wells, it could cause irreversible damage to the Mid-Hawthorn aquifer from aquifer compaction and land subsidence.