

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** January 5, 2016

**TO:** City Manager Judie Zimomra

**FROM:** Director Andrea Miller

**RE:** Captiva 2015 Wastewater Treatment Plant and Septic Records

### **Background**

Recently, City staff compiled the 2015 records for septic systems and wastewater treatment plants for the 33924 zip code (Captiva and North Captiva). Pursuant to Florida statutes, properties that generate commercial sewage at a rate of 5,000 gallons or more per day and domestic properties that generate more than 10,000 gallons of wastewater per day and do not have access to centralized sanitary sewer systems are required to install wastewater treatment plants. WWTPs are regulated by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The DEP also has the authority to grant exceptions to this guideline. Properties generating less than these flows are required to install septic systems that are regulated by the Department of Health.

### **Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTP)**

Currently, according to the Department of Environmental Protection in the 33924 zip code, there are four wastewater treatment plants:

- Captiva Shores Condominium Association
- South Seas Plantation
- Tween Waters Inn
- Sunset Captiva

Based on Florida Statutes, Chapter 403, the DEP is responsible for the oversight of adequate collection, treatment, disposal and reuse by Florida's domestic and industrial wastewater facilities and promotes sound waste management practices, ensures appropriate and timely cleanup of environmental contamination. Additionally, State of Florida, Department of Environmental Protection, Chapter 62-620, Florida

Administrative Codes provides the following standards for wastewater facilities:

- Wastewater facilities' Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMR) are submitted at the frequency specified in the facility permit. Typically, DMR submission is monthly; however, some facilities may also be required to submit quarterly, semi-annually, or annually.
- Permittees are required to report to the Department any noncompliance which may endanger health or the environment. Information is to be provided orally within 24 hours from the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances. A written submission is also to be provided within five days of the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances.
- Typically, permits are required to be renewed every five years; however, if a plant qualifies, there is a formula that can be applied to extend the permit renewal period to every ten years.

### **Septic Systems**

Currently, according to the Department of Health (DOH), there are 171 known confirmed septic systems and an estimated 355 likely septic systems for a total of 526 estimated septic systems in the 33924 zip code. The DOH database is post 1998 and does not include systems installed prior to 1998. The DOH database tracks new septic permits issued. Please note, the DOH does not remove retired septic systems from their database.

Based on Florida Statutes, Chapter 381, the DOH performs septic system application reviews and site evaluations, issue permits, and conducts inspections and complaint investigations associated with the construction, installation, maintenance, modification, abandonment, operation, use, or repair of an onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems. Additionally, State of Florida, Department of Health, Chapter 64E-6, Florida Administrative Codes provides the following standards for onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems:

- Conventional systems that only receive residential type waste are not required to be inspected on a regular basis.
- Each aerobic unit (advanced systems) is to be inspected by an approved maintenance entity at least two times each year.
- Aerobic treatment units serving commercial establishments are inspected four times per year (maintenance entity is to furnish the DOH county health department a listing of all

aerobic units inspected or serviced during the respective reporting period).

- The DOH county health department, at least annually, inspects the maintenance and performance of aerobic treatment units. Additionally, the DOH county health department also inspects each authorized maintenance entity, including review of their service records and maintenance agreements.

As this is written, additional 2015 records are continuing to be submitted from both DOH and DEP for this calendar year.

Attached please find the summary matrices and related records.

CC: Public Works Director Keith Williams  
Natural Resources Director James Evans  
City Attorney Ken Cuyler