



News Release
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**FDEP APPROVES DEEP INJECTION WELL;
WATER RESIDUAL NO LONGER
DISCHARGED INTO SARASOTA BAY**

Sarasota, FL: Following a thorough on-site inspection at the City of Sarasota Utilities campus last week by Florida Department of Environmental Protection officials, the City's new deep injection well is now being used to safely dispose of water treatment plant residual, also known as brine. With the activation of the well, the City is no longer discharging water residual into Hog Creek, which flows into Sarasota Bay.

“This is a significant step forward for the health and preservation of our environment,” said City Manager Tom Barwin. “The water residual is now being injected safely deep into the ground 1,700 feet below the aquifer. This is a better way of disposing of the residual which, no doubt, will lead to a healthier Sarasota Bay.”

The City received written confirmation from FDEP last Thursday night that the deep injection well passed the on-site inspection and could begin receiving water residual. The Utilities Department started the operational flow into the well immediately on Friday morning.

As part of an agreement with FDEP to cease the permitted discharge into Hog Creek, the City of Sarasota constructed a deep injection well over the past year. The comprehensive system and complex construction project cost approximately \$6 million and was completed on time and on budget.

The agreement with FDEP only requires the discharge of brine into Hog Creek to cease. The City, though, will soon exceed that requirement by also stopping the permitted discharge into Whitaker Bayou of excess treated wastewater. Currently, the City discharges into Whitaker Bayou approximately six million gallons a day of excess treated wastewater which is not used or sold for irrigation purposes.

“In a few weeks, the second portion of the deep injection well system will be activated allowing it to receive treated wastewater,” said Mitt Tidwell, Utilities Director. “So, with both systems operational, the City no longer will discharge both water residual and excess treated wastewater into the small bodies of water that feed into Sarasota Bay. This has been a complex project, and we’re going above and beyond to be good stewards of the environment.”

In total, approximately nine million gallons of residual and treated wastewater have been legally discharged into Hog Creek and Whitaker Bayou each day – until last Friday. The deep injection well, located on the north side of the Utilities campus on 12th Street, has the capacity to receive up to 18 million gallons a day.

The construction project included building the deep well, replacing oversized motors, snaking new underground lines from the water and wastewater treatment plants to the well, installing transfer pumps, reconfiguring a motor control center and constructing a pipeline under 12th Street (while keeping the road open to traffic) to deliver the treated material to the deep injection well. The construction occurred without stopping daily operations at the water and wastewater treatment plants.

For more information contact [Mitt Tidwell](#), Utilities Director: 941-365-2200 ext. 6210.

-30-

About the City of Sarasota: Distinguished by Google as a Digital Capital in the U.S., the City of Sarasota is a diverse community located on Florida’s Suncoast with 53,000 year round residents, several internationally recognized cultural arts venues, stunning sunsets along Lido Beach, a 45-hole municipal golf course at the historic Bobby Jones Golf Club, and Major League spring training baseball with the Baltimore Orioles. Learn more about us at www.SarasotaGov.com

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