



July 19, 2021

**RE: Indian Waters Phase I Septic-to-Sewer Project
Frequently Asked Questions
Kimley-Horn Project No. 142240057**

Resident's Questions

- 1. Q. How much will my monthly sewer bill be?** A. Customers outside of the City limits pay a base rate of \$20.85 plus \$6.95 per 1,000 gallons. Customers within the City limits pay a base rate of \$16.67 plus \$5.55 per 1,000 gallons. Single family homes typically consume 4,000 – 12,000 gallons per month
- 2. Q. Who is responsible for the costs involved?** A. See Table Below.

Item	Responsible Party
Construction of the municipal wastewater collection system (including grinder station)	City, grant and residents through the assessment
Physical connection to the system by each resident, including plumbing and electric	Residents (less any additional grants obtained)
Connection / Impact Fees	Residents (less any additional grants obtained)

- 3. Q. What is the total project cost to the resident?** A. The project cost will be presented during consideration of the Initial Assessment Resolution hearing at the August 9th City Council meeting.
- 4. Q. Why does the City charge County residents a 25% surcharge?** A. City residents pay City property taxes (milage) which are used to pay for the costs of services provided by the City. The County surcharge is used to offset the City's expenses associated with servicing County residents. (i.e., City residents pay for City services with property taxes; County residents pay for City services associated with water through a surcharge).
- 5. Q. Who maintains the system once it is installed?** A. Each resident will be connected via a small pump station located on or adjacent to their property. The City maintains the pump station and the low-pressure force main in the road right of way. The resident is responsible for electrical service to the pump station from the meter box and maintaining the gravity sewer lateral leading to the pump station on their property. If the pump station is located on the resident's property, an easement will be required from the property owner for the City to maintain the system.

6. ***Q. Will I have to pay extra to remove my septic mound?*** **A.** Each resident will be provided a fixed dollar contribution to offset the cost of the physical connection to the system and abandon their existing septic system. Additional costs of the private property work, beyond the contribution would be the residents' responsibility.
7. ***Q. Combination of lots (vacant lots).*** **A.** If a lot is buildable, it would be subject to an assessment for the construction of the infrastructure to provide sewer service. If an owner of a vacant lot adjoining their resident wishes to avoid the assessment on the vacant lot, a unity of title would be necessary.
8. ***Q. Annexation.*** **A.** Annexation is not required as part of this project. However, it is something the residents might consider. There are several ways that the annexation could take place. For voluntary annexation, the properties that are contiguous to the City may petition the City at any time to annex. Involuntary annexation is accomplished via a vote of the electors in a geographic area wishing to annex. If many of the residents want into the City, the area can be annexed. If the community is interested in this, the City would request a petition showing enough support to move forward.
9. ***Q. What steps are required to abandon the septic tank?*** **A.** Please see the steps below:

SEPTIC TANK ABANDONMENT MUST BE COMPLETED WITHIN 90 DAYS FOLLOWING CONNECTION TO PUBLIC SEWER.

Procedures for homeowners to abandon their system are as follows:

STEP 1: Contact the utility's customer service office for sewer connection permit and hookup requirements.

STEP 2: Obtain an abandonment permit by completing an application. The cost of the permit is \$50.00. The check for \$50.00 along with the completed application can be mailed to the Citrus County Health Department for processing and we will contact you by phone when it is ready for pick-up.

STEP 3: Have the tank pumped out by a licensed septage hauler and post a copy of the receipt for this service along with the permit board in a protective plastic bag. The Environmental Health Specialist will collect the receipt at the time of the inspection.

STEP 4: Crush or collapse the tank in a manner that will prevent the vessel from holding water, either by punching a hole in the bottom of the tank or collapsing its side walls. This work is most recommended to be done by a licensed septic installer, or a licensed plumbing contractor, but can be done by the owner if they are living in the residence.

STEP 5: Fill the remaining hole with clean sand or other suitable material to prevent a safety hazard, then grade and stake the tank site.

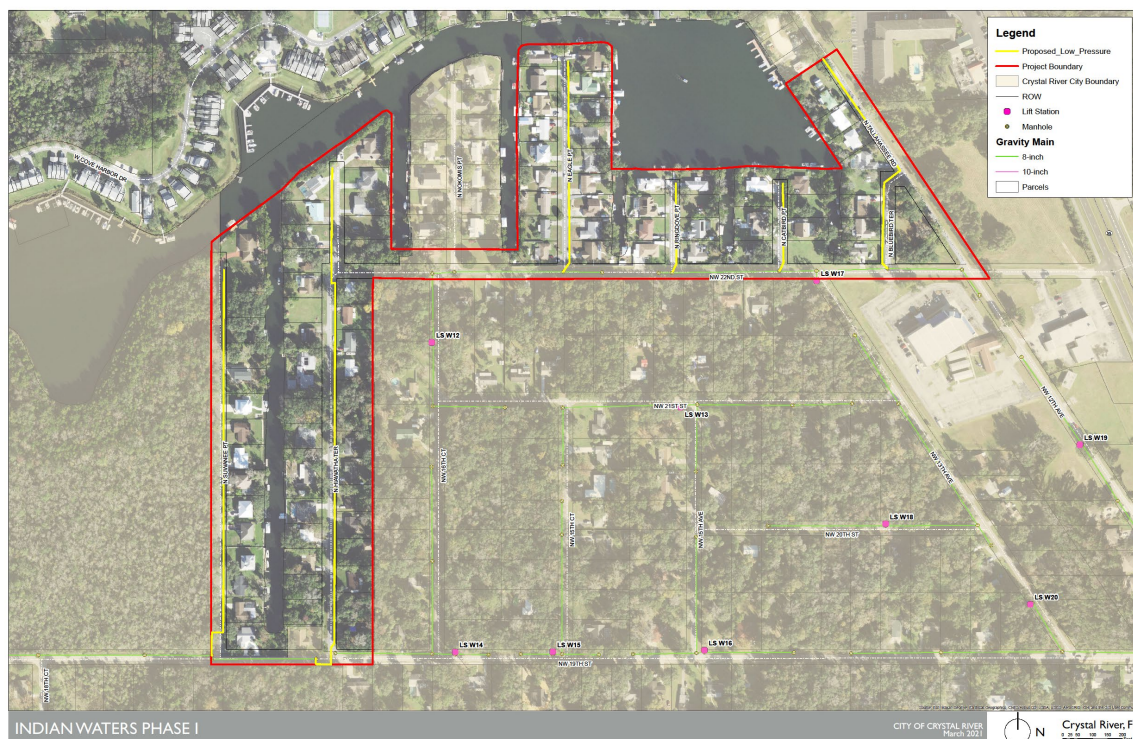
STEP 6: After these procedures have **ALL** been completed, please call the Environmental Health Division at the Citrus County Health Department at 352-527-0068 for an inspection or for more information.

GREASE TRAPS WHEN USED WITH A COMMERCIAL SEPTIC SYSTEM WILL REMAIN PART OF THE BUILDING SEWAGE SYSTEM AND WILL NOT BE ABANDONED.

10. ***Q. Will the project increase taxes?*** **A.** The answer is it would most likely have a positive impact on their values as it would be considered an improvement by the property appraiser. As far as a tax increase, that's unknown as there are many other variables that impact values and taxes.
11. ***Q. When will the construction begin?*** **A.** Anticipated start is October 2021
12. ***Q. Do I have to connect to the central sewer system?*** **A.** Yes.

13. **Q. Will I have to pay a monthly sewer bill once they hook up to the sewer system?** A. Yes.
14. **Q. Will the monthly sewer bill be based on their monthly water bill?** A. Yes, the monthly sewer bill will be based on their monthly metered water use.
15. **Q. If so, can residents get separate irrigation metering?** A. Yes, irrigation meters are allowed.
16. **Q. What happens with our existing septic tank?** A. The tank will be abandoned in accordance with the guidance provided above.
17. **Q. Will my yard be torn up?** A. Quite possibly the area near the road in front of your property that is within the right-of-way will be disturbed; however, the area will be returned to as good or better condition. Impacted driveways will be reconstructed.
18. **Q. Who is the driving force behind this project?** A. The state of Florida citizens by virtue of a state ballot initiative vote and specific State Legislative action to adopt Basin Management Action Plans to protect Florida waters. FDEP & SWFWMD are the lead agencies responsible to implement the legislative directive in cooperation with the City of Crystal River.
19. **Q. Will there be a grace period for people to perform abandonment and plumbing line?** A. Yes. Property owners have one year from the completion of construction and notification to hook-up.
20. **Q. Which side of the road will the forcemain be on.** A. See **Figure 1.** below indicating which side of the road the force main will be on. On North Suwanee Point, the force main will be on the east side of the road. On North Hiawatha Terrace, the force main will be on the east side of the road until its intersection with NW 22nd Street, where the force main will then be run on west side of the road. On North Eagle Point, the force main will be on the east side of the road. On North Ringdove Point, the force main will run along the east side of the road. Along North Catbird Point, the force main will run on the east side of the road. On North Bluebird Terrace the force main will run on the west side of the road and continue to be run on the west side of the road after crossing into North Tallahassee Road.

Figure 1. Force Main Location for Indian Waters Phase 1.



21. **Q.** *What will the pump stations look like if they are on a resident's property?* **A.** Please see the image below which shows the control box and the grinder pump station identified in the red boxes.



22. **Q.** *How will decorative driveways be protected, preserved, or restored?* **A.** Decorative Driveways have been identified and the contractor is required to install the force main by missiling under the driveway to avoid impacts. Work will be coordinated with the City and the property owner.