DOCKET NO.: 961321-WS - [Point Water and Sewer, Inc.]

WITNESS: Direct Testimony of Ray O. Avery, Clay County Utility Authority. Appearing on Behalf of the Florida Public Service Commission

DATE FILED: May 19, 1997

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FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

#### DIRECT TESTIMONY OF RAY O. AVERY

2 Q. Please state your name and business address.

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- My name is Ray O. Avery. My business address is: Clay County Utility 3 A. 4 Authority, 782 Foxridge Center Drive, Orange Park, Florida 32065.
- 5 0. Please give a brief description of your educational background and 6 experience.
- I graduated from the University of Florida in December 1966 with a degree in Accounting. I worked for a CPA firm for six years. During that period of time I passed the CPA examination, however, I did not maintain the continuing education requirements to keep my license active. I went to work with Kingsley Service Company, a water and sewer utility in Clay County, Florida in November 1972 and worked with Kingsley Service Company through May 1986. At that time, I and several other associates established a consulting firm by the name of Diversified Utility Services, Inc. I continued to do consulting work for Kingsley Service Company and other companies from May 1986 through March 1995. Also, during that time, in 1987. I and several associates established a water and sewer utility company by the name of Mid-Clay Service Corp. (Mid-Clay), which purchased a utility system in the Lake Asbury area. In December 1993, the utility assets of Mid-Clay were sold to Clay County. I worked as a consultant to the Clay County Water & Sewer Authority from December 1992 to September 1994. As of October 1, 1994, the Clay County Water & Sewer Authority became the Clay County Utility Authority (CCUA). November 1994, the CCUA hired my consulting company, Diversified Utility Services, Inc., as the Executive Director of the CCUA, pending divestiture of my interest in an underground utility construction and consulting business. 25

- 1 | Effective April 1, 1995, I had sufficiently divested myself of other
- 2 activities and became the Executive Director of the CCUA. I am a licensed
- 3 underground utility contractor, as well as a licensed building contractor.
- 4 My licenses are active on behalf of the Clay County Utility Authority.
- 5 Q. By whom are you presently employed?
- 6 A. I am presently employed by the CCUA.
- 7 Q. How long have you been employed with Clay County Utility Authority and
- 8 in what capacity?
- 9 A. I have been employed with the CCUA since April 1, 1995 as the Executive
- 10 Director.
- 11 Q. What are your general responsibilities as the Executive Director of
- 12 CCUA?
- 13 A. I have complete responsibility for all daily activities of the CCUA, and
- 14 I report to a seven member Board of Supervisors (Board). Six members of the
- 15 | Board are appointed by the Clay County Board of County Commissioners, and one
- 16 member is appointed by the Governor of the State of Florida.
- 17 Q. Could you please explain briefly how the CCUA is organized?
- 18 A. The utilities acquired by Clay County were originally organized as a
- 19 "dependent special district", under the direct control and supervision of the
- 20 Clay County Board of County Commissioners. In early 1994, the legislature
- 21 passed legislation creating the CCUA as an independent special district.
- 22 pursuant to Chapter 94-491. Laws of Florida, Special Acts of 1994. The
- 23 district was set up to meet all of the requirements for independent special
- 24 districts provided in Chapter 189, Florida Statutes.
- 25 Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?

- 1 | A. The purpose of my testimony is to provide information on the location
- 2 of the CCUA's facilities with respect to the Point Townhomes and Whitney's
- 3 Marina, the estimated interconnection costs between the CCUA system and the
- 4 Point Townhouses and Whitney's Marina, and also the applicable service rates
- 5 Q. Are you familiar with Point Water & Sewer, Inc., (Point Utility)?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Are you also familiar with The Point Property Owners Association (PPOA)
- 8 and the neighboring Whitney's Marina?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Where are the CCUA's water and wastewater lines located with respect to
- 11 The Point Townhomes and Whitney's Marina?
- 12 A. The CCUA's nearest water and sewer mains are located directly across SR
- 13 | 15 (U.S. Highway 17) and approximately 150' south of the southerly property
- 14 line of The Point Townhomes property.
- 15 Q. Are those mains of sufficient size to handle the additional flows of The
- 16 Point Townhomes and Whitney's Marina, if these were interconnected?
- 17 A. Yes. These lines were sized with the intent of providing adequate
- 18 service to this general area, including, The Point Townhomes and Whitney's
- 19 Marina.
- 20 Q. Has the CCUA developed any estimates of what steps would be required to
- 21 interconnect the existing customers of the Point Utility to the CCUA's system.
- 22 and what the cost of that interconnection would be?
- 23 A. Yes. Our staff has developed an estimate of the cost of the connection
- 24 of the The Point Townhomes and Whitney's Marina to the CCUA's system. In order
- 25 to fully explain and understand the estimated cost, some background

information is necessary and some assumptions must be made:

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- First of all, a 10" water main and a 6" sewer force main were extended from the entrance of the Harbor Island Subdivision to the Doctor's Lake Marina at a total cost of \$119,390.00.
- 2. This cost was originally financed by Pete Dalton and Doctor's Lake Marina, Inc., by advancing their share of the construction cost and the payment in advance of enough connection fees for their proposed developments to fund the off-site extension. The CCUA cooperated in this effort by allowing an amount equivalent to the connection fees received to be temporarily invested in the off-site main extension, in order to get the mains in place.
- 3. An agreement was entered into with Pete Dalton and Doctor's Lake Marina, identifying their pro rata share of the cost of these main extensions, as opposed to the actual portion of the cost of those main extensions which each of them funded. The excess of the amount funded over their pro rata share was set up in a refundable agreement. Likewise, the amount of the offsite extension the CCUA funded from equivalent cash flow was also scheduled to be collected from future parties connecting to the system.
- 4. A charge per ERC for the pro rata share of such future connections to these off-site main extensions was established. The amount per ERC to be collected from future connections for this pro rata share is \$1,293.39 (\$659.63 water and \$633.76 sewer).
- We had originally estimated Whitney's and the total number of developed and developable lots at The Point Condominiums to be equivalent to
   Based on the Florida Public Service Commission's (FPSC)

- 4 -

determination, the number of connected ERCs are as shown as Exhibit ROA-1. Likewise, the CCUA's method of determining ERCs per its service availability policy is also shown on Exhibit ROA-1. (Note: Whitney's ERCs are estimated, based on the above calculations, as we did not have the fixture unit count necessary to determine the number of ERCs according to the method required by the CCUA's service availability policy).

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- 6. Per the CCUA's service availability policy, the obligations of the parties applying for service are as follows:
- a. Payment of their pro rata share of any off-site costs benefiting the applying party where oversized mains have been extended and paid for by prior parties.
- b. The direct cost of any additional extensions, including engineering and permitting, required to extend service to the property. If mains are oversized to serve additional ERCs, then a refundable agreement for the pro rata share of such oversizing may be entered into.
- c. The cost of any on-site installation necessary to connect the system or any pumping facility upgrades necessary to make such pumping station design compatible with the CCUA's system.
- d. The cost of individual meters or master meters and the appropriate backflow preventers to properly meter the flow for billing purposes.
  - e. Connection charges (based on CCUA approved rates).
  - f. Plan review charges (based on estimate of actual time required).
  - g. Inspection fees (based on estimate of actual time required).
- h. The Point will be responsible for any on-site and off-site design and permitting.

I. The assumed points of connection to the existing on-site facilities are noted on the conceptual sketch, identified as Exhibit ROA-2. Based on this background and the assumptions listed, the total cost, allocation of the total cost, the cost to be paid by each party at this time, and the potential refundable portion of that cost is shown on Exhibit ROA-3.

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- 6 Q. Are there any other costs or expenses that the current customers of the 7 Point Utility would have to pay in order to receive service from the CCUA?
- A. The only additional charges the PPOA and Whitney's Marina would have to pay in addition to those included in Exhibit ROA-3, would be the service rates, the security deposit, and any other cost, whereby the actual construction cost exceeds those costs estimated by the CCUA.
- 12 Q. Could you also identify the applicable service rates for these customers, if they were interconnected to the CCUA's system?
  - A. Yes. The applicable service rates are included as Exhibit ROA-4. Due to the uncertainty of what it would entail to individually meter each one of these accounts, we have included in the construction cost estimates, included on Exhibit ROA-3, the cost of a 4" turbine water meter that would meter all the flow to Whitney's Marina and The Point Townhomes. The flow to Whitney's would be sub-metered through their existing 2" meter. This flow would be deducted from the 4" reading, so that a separate bill could be sent to the PPOA.
- Q. And all of these charges would apply, whether or not the interconnection was mandated through the Comprehensive Plan, or voluntarily requested by the customers?
- 25 A. Yes. These charges are based on our typical extension to customers who

- 1 voluntarily request service. No special consideration has been given to any 2 mandated Comprehensive Plan requirement.
- Q. Has the CCUA received an application for water and wastewater service from the PPOA?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Could you please provide a copy of the letter and application.
- 7 A. Yes. It is included as Exhibit ROA-5.
- 8 Q. The application states that the County's Comprehensive Plan mandates
- 9 that all private package plants have to connect to a central water and sewer
- 10 system when these systems are within one-quarter mile of a central system.
- 11 Are you familiar with that provision and is that correct?
- 12 A. Yes. I have read this provision. As I recall, the provision in the
- 13 Comprehensive Plan states. "Existing package treatment plants shall be
- 14 connected to a central sewage system when those systems are within one-quarter
- 15 mile." I am not aware of another section of the Comprehensive Plan that
- 16 pertains to package water plants, but I am familiar with the one that pertains
- 17 to package sewer plants.
- 18 Q. Does the sewage treatment plant of the Point Utility fall within this
- 19 criteria?
- 20 A. Yes. The plant is within one-quarter mile of the CCUA's nearest sewer
- 21 main.
- 22 Q. At this time, does the CCUA have any plans to prepare for an
- 23 interconnection of the Point System based on the Comprehensive Plan?
- 24 A. No. It is our understanding that the existing utility has a contractual
- 25 | right to serve this area, and until all of the parties are mutually agreeable

to the disconnection from the Point Utility and connection to the CCUA's system, then we have been advised by our counsel that we do not have the legal right to interfere with this contractual arrangement and/or property right which the existing Point Utility owns. Therefore, a formal agreement for the purpose of connecting The Point Utility to the CCUA's system will not be prepared until our counsel agrees that this legal issue is no longer a problem.

- Q. Do you have anything further you wish to add to your testimony?
- A. No. not at this time.

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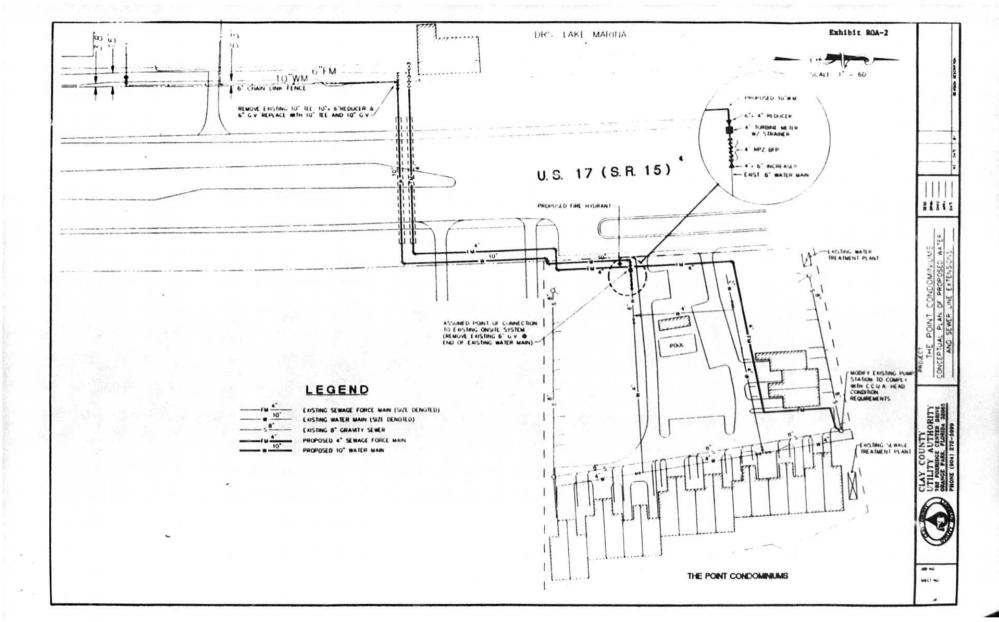
## CALCULATION OF ERCS FOR THE POINT CONDOMINIUMS AND WHITNEY'S MARINA

### Connected ERC Estimate Per PSC Staff

	WA	WATER		WASTEWATER	
	Units	ERCs	Units	ERCs	
The Point	19	17	19	17	
Whitney's Marina	-0-	12	-0-	_4	
Total Connections		27		21	

### CCUA's Calculation of ERCs

	WATER	WASTEWATER
The Point (3-2 bedroom units & 16-3 bedroom units) (3 x 0.833 ERCs = 2.499) (16 x 1.000 ERCs = 16.000) (* 18.500)	18.50	18.50
Whitney's Marina (used FPSC numbers)	12.00	4.00
(12 x 1.000 ERCs = 12.000) (4 x 1.000 ERCs = 4.000)	30.50	22.50



# THE POINT / WHITNEY'S RECAP OF ALL CHARGES AND ALLOCATION OF COST

	ALLOCATION OF COST		COST TO BE PAID BY			
	Total	The Point	The Point	Whitney's	The Point	Whitney's
	Cost	Existing ERC	Future ERC	<b>Existing ERC</b>	Existing	Existing
Units Installed	46	19	15	12		
Existing or Future ERC's	45.5	18.5	15	12	18.5	12
%	100%	41%	33%	26%	61%	39%
WATER:						
Construction Cost (Estimated)						
Off site water	\$26,167.00	\$10,728.00	\$8,635.00	\$6,804.00		
On site water	\$7,026.00	\$2,881.00	\$2,319.00	\$1,826.00		
On site master meter	\$6,570.00	\$2,694.00	\$2,168.00	\$1,708.00		
Subtotal	\$39,763.00	\$16,303.00	\$13,122.00	\$10,338.00		
Est. for engineering & permitting (10%)	\$3,976.30	\$1,630.30	\$1,312.20	\$1,033.80		
Subtotal construction	\$43,739.30	\$17,933.30	\$14,434.20	\$11,371.80	\$26,680.97	\$17,058.33
Pro rata share of prior construction cost	\$30,013.00	\$12,203.00	\$9,894.00	\$7,916.00	\$12,203.00	\$7,916.00
Connection Fees	\$10,692.00	\$4,347.00	\$3,525.00	\$2,820.00	\$4,347.00	\$2,820.00
Subtotal Water	\$84,444.30	\$34,483.30	\$27,853.20	\$22,107.80	\$43,230.97	\$27,794.33
SEWER:						
Units Installed	38	19	15	4		
Existing or Future ERC's	37.5	18.5	15	4	18.5	4.0
%	100%	49%	40%	11%	82%	18%
Construction Cost (Estimated)	611/18/07/19/19	ALCOHOLD SERVICE	THE RESERVE OF THE PERSON NAMED IN	ETHICATED ADMINISTRATION	SERVICE STREET, PROPERTY AND ADDRESS.	narrous amenalistation
Off site sewer force main	\$19,483.00	\$9,547.00	\$7,793.00	\$2,143.00		
On site sewer force main	\$11,784.00	\$5,774.00	\$4,714.00	\$1,296.00		
On site pump station upgrade	\$21,000.00	\$10,290.00	\$8,400.00	\$2,310.00		
Subtotal	\$52,267.00	\$25,611.00	\$20,907.00	\$5,749.00		
Est. for engineering & permitting (10%)	\$5,226.70	\$2,561.10	\$2,090.70	\$574.90		
Subtotal construction	\$57,493.70	\$28,172.10	\$22,997.70	\$6,323.90	\$47,719.77	\$9,773.93
Pro rata share of prior construction cost	\$23,766.00	\$11,725.00	\$9,506.00	\$2,535.00	\$11,725.00	\$2,535.00
Connection Fees	\$37,875.00	\$18,685.00	\$15,150.00	\$4,040.00	\$18,685.00	\$4,040.00
Subtotal Sewer	\$119,134.70	\$58,582.10	\$47,653.70	\$12,898.90	\$78,129.77	\$16,348.93
OTHER:						
Plan Review Charge (Estimated)	\$375.00	\$184.00	\$150.00	\$41.00	\$311.25	\$63.75
nspection Fees (Estimated)	\$385.00	\$189.00	\$154.00	\$42.00	\$319.55	\$65.45
Subtotal Other	\$760.00	\$373.00	\$304.00	\$83.00	\$630.80	\$129.20
TOTAL	\$204,339.00	\$93,438.40 (1)	\$75,810.90	\$35,089.70 (2	\$121,991.54	\$44,272.46

Less/Fair Pro Rata Share for Whitney's & The Point Existing Potential Refundable when Future Units are Built

\$93,438.40 (1) \$35,089.70 (2)

\$28,553.14 \$9,182.76

NOTE: Potential refundable is limited to 7 years.



782 Foxridge Center Drive Orange Park, Florida 32065

## Clay County Utility Authority

Telephone (904) 272-5999 Fax (904) 272-6288

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#### EFFECTIVE 10/07/96

GENERAL SERVICE RATES - METERED (Includes Metered Multi-Family, Public Schools, Churches, and Other Non-Residential)

#### WATER SERVICE: METER SIZE: BASE FACILITY CHARGE: 5/8 x 3/4" \$ 13.62 1" 34.08 1-1/2" 68.13 2" 109.03 3" 218.05 4" 340.70 6" 681.40

Consumption Charge - \$ .71 per thousand gallons

8"

10"

All reclaimed water charges are based upon gallons used as measures through a single bulk service meter. \$ .17 per thousand charge

1090.24

1567.20

#### SEWER SERVICE:

METER SIZE:	BASE FACILITY CHARGE:
5/8 x 3/4"	\$ 31.06
l"	77.68
1-1/2"	155.35
2"	248.56
3"	497.14
4"	776.76
6"	1553.53
8"	2485.64
10"	3573.12

Consumption Charge - \$1.69 per thousand gallons

TERMS OF PAYMENT: Bills are due and payable when rendered and become delinquent if not paid within twenty (20) days. At this time a 2nd - Final Notice will be processed and payment must be in our office within seven (7) days from the date of the notice to prevent disconnection of service.

BILLING POLICY: Billings are processed on a quarterly basis. The base facility charges are billed in advance and the usage charges are billed in arrears.

#### SERVICE CHARGES:

\$25.00 - Meter Test Charge for 1" & 1-1/2" Meters (2" and Above Meters are Actual Cost)

\$20.00 - Meter Test Charge for 3/4" Meter

\$20.00 - Return Check Charge

\$15.00 - Initial Connection Charge

\$15.00 - Normal Reconnection Charge

\$15.00 - Violation of Reconnection Charge

\$15.00 - Reconnection Due to Repair

\$15.00 - Reconnection for 2nd Trip Charge Due to Running Water

\$15.00 - Special Meter Rereads Charge

\$10.00 - Premise Visit Charge

#### SECURITY DEPOSITS:

\$25.00 - Water Only Account Per ERC

\$50.00 - Sewer Only Account Per ERC

\$75.00 - Water and Sewer Account Per ERC

NOTE: ERC's (Equivalent Residential Connections) to be determined on the same basis as is established in the Clay County Utility Authority's Service Availability Policy.

A security deposit or equivalent security will be required on all new accounts and existing accounts that become delinquent.



782 Foxridge Center Drive Orange Park, Florida 32065

## **Clay County Utility Authority**

Telephone (904) 272-5999 Fax (904) 272-6288

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#### EFFECTIVE 10/01/96

#### METERED AND UNMETERED RESIDENTIAL SERVICE RATES

METERED SERVICE WATER SERVICE:

Base Facility Charge -

\$13.62 per quarter

Gallonage Charge -

\$ .71 per thousand gallons

SEWER SERVICE:

Base Facility Charge -

\$31.06 per quarter

Gallonage Charge -

\$ 1.40 per thousand gallons

30,000 gallon cap

Total Base Facility Charge - \$44.68

#### UNMETERED SERVICE

Sewer Service - Flat Rate \$66.17 per quarter

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\$25.00 - Water Only Account

\$50.00 - Sewer Only Account

\$75.00 - Water and Sewer Account

A security deposit or equivalent security will be required on all new accounts and existing accounts that become delinquent.

Mr. Ray Avery - Director Clay County Utility Authority 782 Foxridge Center Drive Orange Park, Fla. 32065

Re: Application for Water & Sewer Service from The Point Property Owners Association (PPOA).

Dear Mr. Avery,

Enclosed you will find the PPOA's application for water and sewer service. The PPOA is made up of the owners of "19" townhomes in The Point Townhome Community in Orange Park, Fla. Two of the units are owned by the developer of The Point (James Yonge) and one unit is owned by his son-in-law and daughter (Pat & Karen Carr). Mr. Yonge originally owned the private water and sewer plants that have provided service to The Point and the adjacent marina (Whitneys' Sail Center). Mr. Yonge sold the plants to his son-in-law and his son (John Yonge) in August 1996.

Because of the adversarial relationship with the Yonge family over water and sewer, the PPOA is unable to get their consent to have their system disconnected from his system and connected to yours. The PPOA knows that the Yonge family (1) has not been previously granted a franchised area or been certificated by the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) (2) does not have a current Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) permit and (3) based on the PSC guidelines, had no right to control water and sewer service or to charge rates at The Point or Whitneys' Sail Center. The PPOA also knows that your company has the capacity and capabilities to serve our community and Whitneys', and that your present water and sewer lines are within 500 feet of our community. Based on the above facts and the fact that Clay Countys' Comprehensive Plan mandates that all private package plants have to connect to central water and sewer if they are within ½ mile, the PPOA has just cause to apply for and be granted service from your company.

The PPOA is applying for 19 townhomes. The responsibility for paying for bringing water and sewer to our community, connecting charges and service rates lies solely with the PPOA. I have enclosed a survey of our community. I also have enclosed a work up by the PSC on their calculations of ERC's relating to our community and Whitneys'. It appears from the survey that your future line work can be installed, with the possible addition of a new wet well and lift station, without infringing on the existing line work of the private plants owned by the Yonge family. Please work up a construction estimate with all other fees and costs to provide water and sewer to the 19 townhomes. You might want to do this also for Whitneys' in that we have been told they are also applying shortly after the PPOA. Whitneys' will pay their share of their costs directly to you.

Please expedite our application. If you have any questions regarding this matter you can contact me at (904)269-8760 or you can contact Mark Easterling (a PPOA member) at (904)269-0304 or his digital beeper at 399-9451.

Since ely,

Steven C. Glenn - PPQA President

319 Scenic Point Lane Orange Park, Fla. 32073

cc: Scott Schilberg, P.A. - Martin, Ade, Birchfield & Johnson Dale Wilson, Chairman - Clay County Commission Kathy Johnson, P.A. - Public Service Commission Submittal Date: 4/2/97 APPLICATION FOR SERVICE

INITIAL CONTACT I	DATE:DR CONTRACT PREPARATION:
	CONTACT PERSON: Steve Glenn/ Mark Easterling
	[1] [1] [1] [1] [2] [2] [2] [2] [2] [2] [2] [2] [2] [2
	PHONE NUMBER: 269-8760/269-0304
TYPE: Residential Service F	PAX NUMBER: 269-5842
101 Scenic Point	Lane 32073
Owner xx Lessor Type of A	greement: Short Form Long Form
According to map recorded 111 plat h	of portion of Lot 10, Creighton Forest, ook 4, page B Resolution: ?
Connection Fee Information: 2	
Irrigation Flow Data: Have a	n existing irrigation well
INTERNAL FIRE SPRINKLER CONNECTION RI	ize Would like a fire hydrant
SERVICE REQUIRED: Water xx	
PRIOR REFUNDABLE AGREEMENT: Yes No Verif CURRENT REFUNDABLE PROVISION: Yes CLAY COUNTY WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY	No
Water	r Sewer Other Total
Connection Form	
ire Flow Connection Charge	
Meter Installation Charge	
Plan Review Charge	
POTAL	
BACKFLOW PREVENTER REQUIRED Yes	No
REASE TRAP REQUIRED: Yes	No
explanation:	
pecial Provision:	
omments:	

H.A. YEARGIN: & Assoc. ates Exhibit ROA-5 (Page 3 of " WE IT SOME ! POINT SEPTEMBER 1, 1980 N: 17 W1.11 12221 104,00 ..... Subject ... RIVER JOHNS 157.

LOCATION MAP

# H.A. YEARGIN & Assoc.ates

THE POINT

A SUSSIVIAION OF A PORTION OF LOT ID, CREMITON BOREST, ACCORDING TO MAN RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK A, PAGE 8, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF CLAY COUNTY, PLORIDA.

FOR: PDY ING.

BEPTEMBER 2, 1980

ANNOUNCE I HAY 13, 1981 TO SHOW ADDITIONAL BASHIBARS

U. B. HIGHWAY N: 17

- FORLAND DIGHT. DF.WAY LILL

WEN. CONTRACEMENT

WEST LIVE OF LOT IT AS PER MO.4 PO.8-

POINT OF BEGINNING

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110.40

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#### MEMORANDUM

#### MARCH 3, 1997

TO: H. KEMP; ANALYST, BUREAU OF SPECIAL ASSISTANCE

THROUGH: N. BETHEA; SUPERVISOR, BUREAU OF SPECIAL ASSISTANCE

FROM: T. DAVIS: ENGINEER, BUREAU OF SPECIAL ASSISTANCE

RE: DOCKET NO. 961434-WS; APPLICATION OF POINT WATER & SEWER, INC. FOR

STAFF ASSISTANCE ON A RATE ADJUSTMENT IN CLAY COUNTY.

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Florida Public Service Commission, Point Water & Sewer, Inc. has qualified for staff assistance in this docketed proceeding. A field investigation of the above utility was conducted during January 27-29, 1997. The investigation included a visual inspection of the water and wastewater treatment plants serving the two general service customers of the utility (The Point Condominiums and Whitney's Marina). Both the wastewater collection system and the water distribution systems were reviewed by walking along the lines as described on the engineering plans. Also conducted was a general review of the service territory, a review of utility's expenses for technical operations, and an in-house study of the utility's maps, files and rate application to establish reasonableness of capital plant in service, daily expenses to operate the plants, and general quality of service.

#### 2.0 HISTORY

During the first quarter of 1967, the Board of County Commissioners of Clay County decided to exercise its provisions of Chapter 367, Florida Statutes, and relinquish its jurisdiction of privately owned utilities to the Florida Public Service Commission. On May 19, 1967, this Commission issued Order Number 4196 that accepted the decision of the Clay County Commissioners.

On November 4, 1996, Point Water and Sewer, Inc. (Point Utility or the Point) filed an application with this Commission for original certificates to operate water and wastewater utilities in Clay County. This utility has been in existence since 1980. The certification procedure is still in progress with a Hearing date set for August 28, 1997.

On December 2, 1996, Point Utility filed an application with this Commission for staff assistance on an adjustment of its rates and charges to its two general service customers in Clay County. The following is the staff engineer's findings pursuant to that request.

#### 3.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

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The territory served by Point Utility is located along U.S. Highway 17, South of Orange Park in Clay County, and is along the waterfront of the Saint Johns River at the southeastern most corner of Doctor's Inlet Bridge (See Attachment "A"). According to the records at the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the first application for a permit to operate was dated October 18, 1979, and the water well was drilled in 1980.

The utility serves two general service customers, a condominium complex and a marina. The condominium complex, known as The Point Condominiums, is platted for 34 town-house style condominiums. Upon investigation, evidence indicates that the existing water distribution and wastewater collection mains were constructed to accommodate 24 of the platted 34 units. It is believed that the capacity of Point Utilities, without the construction of additional mains, is 24 units which is equivalent to 21 ERCs. All of the existing 19 units (estimated to be 17 ERCs) at The Point Condominiums are receiving both water and wastewater service.

The marina is known as Whitney's Marine, and is contiguous to The Point Condominiums. Flows recorded during 1996 indicate the peak use month occurred in June with over 4,000 gallons per day (gpd) which equates to 12 ERCs of water use. The marine's water consumption is mostly for the washing down of boats. Therefore, a goodly portion of the water sold to the marine is wasted into the river and never becomes influent to the wastewater treatment plant. Water consumption at the marina that later becomes wastewater influent is from three rest rooms. There is a single rest room inside the marina's 960 square foot office which is reserved for marina employees. The office is connected via a three-quarter (3/4) inch line which (in accordance with Chapter 25-30.055(1). FAC) is 1.5 ERCs. There are two rest rooms located outside for the convenience of marina users. These facilities are connected via a one (1) inch line which is 2.5 ERCs by the same reference. The total of all three rest rooms are estimated to be four (4) ERC connections to the wastewater treatment plant.

The utility operates and maintains two meters which are in the immediate vicinity of the water plant. One meter (two inch) is the master meter measuring raw water flow from the well. The second meter (also a two inch) measures the flow of water to the marina. Water service to the condos is calculated based on the difference between the two meters. This meter arrangement is not optimum. It impedes an accurate calculation of customer use due to unmeasured water lost during the treatment process.

The utility is required by Rule to have a master meter at the plant to measure treated water leaving the plant. From the treatment plant, each customer should be properly metered to determine and develop accurate consumption records for each customer. The possibility of metering each condominium unit separately was discussed at a meeting between the parties. It appears that concrete driveways and other impediments have been constructed over lateral connections which makes individual metering improbable. The staff engineer recommends the installation of an additional master meter for the condo units.



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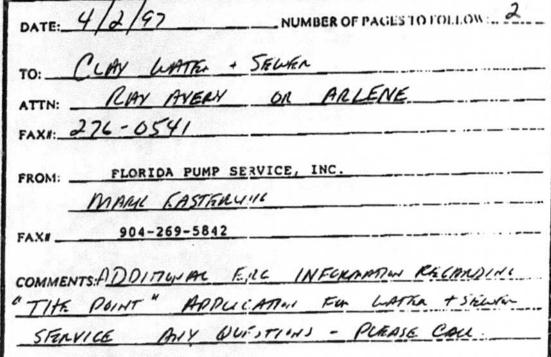
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