

**CONSIDERATIONS AND PRINCIPLES RELATING TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS
FOR SEWER AND AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING AGREEMENTS**

1. Background:

- a. The County is a regional government.
- b. County decisions often have regional effects that should be evaluated.
- c. In addition, as the primary regional government in Lake County, the County has ~~a special responsibility to encourage~~ an interest in encouraging intergovernmental cooperation, where possible.

2. Decision-Making Process:

As a regional government, the County must ultimately exercise its legislative discretion in determining what it believes is best for the County and its residents as a whole. Such discretion often requires the County to balance competing interests, and in doing so, the County's decision-making process involves:

- a. Evaluation: To weigh the potential impact decisions will have on other governmental entities, the County should evaluate the impacts upon affected communities~~should consult with those entities and evaluate any external effects~~. Decisions should be made by giving due consideration to the direct and indirect effects of such decisions, including the totality of the benefits and impacts of the decision on affected governmental entities.
- b. Framework Plan: Decisions should be made with due consideration to the objectives of the County's Framework Plan.

3. Factors to Be Assessed Relating to Sewer Service Decisions:

The County is not a public utility, but it provides certain public services with the goal of enhancing the well-being of all Lake County residents. This goal is ordinarily achieved through the use of regional publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities. In decisions related to sewer service, the County should evaluate both direct and indirect effects from both a policy and practical perspective. The following factors, which are considerations and not strict requirements, ~~Those effects may~~ include without limitation:

- Consistency with the Framework Plan
- Consistency with relevant municipal plans
- Available and committed capacity of system
- Impact on County roads and other services
- An applicant's reasons for preferring one solution over another, and reasons for that preference
- Impact on other affected public bodies
- Fiscal and related benefits
- Level of support/opposition to proposal
- Specific environmental concerns
- Alternative proposals put forth by an applicant or governmental entity

- a. Trying to coordinate the ~~Coordination of~~ concerns of affected governments is important to achieving appropriate planning and the wise investment of public resources. This is increasingly important as development spreads throughout the County, ~~because and the~~ actions of one community are more likely to affect other communities.
- b. To better ensure that decisions are made based on understandable parameters, sewer service agreements and amendments to such agreements should ordinarily be based on specific limitations on the County's obligations to provide such services. Those limitations should be expressed in terms of capacity and, when appropriate, the nature of the development to be served. In addition, amendments to existing sewer service agreements should ordinarily be considered in the context of specific developments to be served.

- c. Although past practices are important, the considerations and effects of sewer decisions are ever-evolving and cannot be made based on static models of precedent.