

Ribbon cutting ceremony set for new Lee County water treatment plant
Mark your calendar for Oct. 29

Fort Myers, FL, Oct. 19, 2018 – The public is invited to attend an official ribbon-cutting ceremony and tours at 10 a.m. Monday, Oct. 29, at the Green Meadows Water Treatment Plant, a Lee Board of County Commissioners' \$75.4 million state-of-the art facility in southeast Lee County. The location is 16003 Airport Haul Road, Fort Myers, 33913.

The new plant increases treatment capacity of the adjacent, former plant from 9 million gallons per day to 14 million gallons per day of potable drinking water. It provides water to Lee County Utilities customers in service areas such as south Lee County neighborhoods and Gateway, Florida Gulf Coast University, Southwest Florida International Airport, Iona-McGregor and Fort Myers Beach.

"This new water treatment plant uses modern technology and reduces the use of energy and chemicals, driving new efficiencies in water treatment while maintaining the same high-quality water to residents," said Cecil Pendergrass, Board chairman and District 2 representative. "It also increases service capacity to more Lee County residents and businesses both now and in the future."

Due to the remote location of the plant, attendees are asked to allow for ample travel time. Lee County Utilities staff will lead a guided tour immediately following the ceremony, which is anticipated to last less than a half hour. Tours run about 30 minutes.

Lee County Utilities is a department under the Board of County Commissioners and is one of about a dozen public and private utility organizations that serve residents and businesses in Lee County. For service area locations, visit www.leegov.com/utilities/new-development/service-franchise-area-maps.

Note to media: Below are facts and figures about the Green Meadows Water Treatment Plant (WTP) for your use online or for coverage of the event:

THE NEW GREEN MEADOWS WTP

- The contracted cost of construction was \$75.4 million, over three different GMPs (guaranteed maximum prices). Project was under budget and on schedule, bringing approximately \$1.5 million back to Lee County.
- Treatment Capacity increased from 9 million gallons per day (MGD) to 14 MGD of potable drinking water.
 - Reverse Osmosis treatment production: 7.5 MGD
 - Ion Exchange treatment production: 3.9 MGD
 - Sandstone Aquifer blend production: 4.6 MGD
- 33 raw production wells with depths ranging from 40 feet to 870 feet.
- A 1.5 megawatt emergency power generator.
- One deep Injection well, drilled to a depth of 2,873 feet.

CONSTRUCTION MAN POWER & JOB CREATION:

Note that the following quantities varied throughout the construction process, as different parts of the project were constructed.

- On average, 60 to 80 people working on the job site. During the height of construction, 100 to 120 people working on the job site.
- On average, 12 to 17 sub-contractors on the job site.

- 75 percent of the sub-contractors were local to Lee County.
- 300 local residents are estimated to have worked onsite, an estimated 15-20 percent of the workers were hired to work specifically on Green Meadows.
- 4 full-time FGCU engineering school alumni have been hired by companies working on the project.
- 7 FGCU engineering interns have worked on the project.

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS:

- 9,257 tons of concrete poured.
- 719 valves from half-inch to 54 inches installed.
- 6.3 miles of pipes sized quarter-inch to 54 inches installed in WTP area.
- 7.2 miles of pipes sized 8 inches to 30 inches installed in the wellfield.