

Reserve Community Development District Partners with St. Lucie West Services District for Improved Utility Services

The Reserve Community Development District (Reserve) has reached a significant milestone by signing a Preliminary Agreement with the St. Lucie West Services District (SLWSD) to transfer the Reserve's Utility System to SLWSD. This is a major step forward for us that's going to bring lasting improvements to our water and sewer services and leave us with a safe and secure system.

Currently, the Reserve produces only 20% of our water needs, with the remaining 80% purchased from SLWSD's reverse osmosis water treatment plant. All wastewater is processed by SLWSD. Since 2003, the Reserve has had an Interconnect Agreement with SLWSD, which is set to expire in 2028 and will not be renewed. After careful consideration of several options, including building our own water treatment plant or obtaining service from other districts, we determined that integrating into SLWSD's system is the best option for our customers.

Key Benefits for the Reserve Community:

Enhanced Service Reliability: SLWSD has the resources, expertise, and equipment to maintain and upgrade our aging utility infrastructure. The Reserve is a small district with limited in-house resources and staff and will benefit from SLWSD's well-established maintenance capabilities and full-time personnel. SLWSD has a Public Information Office that keeps customers informed and handles emergency updates whenever the need arises.

Ongoing Infrastructure Improvements: Leading up to the turnover SLWSD and the Reserve will jointly oversee major upgrades to ensure long-term service quality. Projects will include the installation of new water and sewer connections under I-95, creating a "loop" to improve water pressure and system security. Additionally, 16 sewage lift stations will be modernized with remote monitoring systems, enabling quicker detection and resolution of issues before they become problems.

Expanded Capacity for Future Growth: This move will also help SLWSD expand their water treatment plant, making sure that our growing community will have the water capacity it needs, with a secure and steady supply moving forward.

Competitive Rates: Starting January 1, 2026, Reserve customers will pay the same rates as SLWSD customers. While a temporary surcharge could be added for initial improvements, it's not expected. Our rates have been some of the lowest water and sewer rates in the state due to discounted rates from SLWSD under the expiring agreement. The new rates will remain competitive compared to other regional providers. Below is a comparison of 2025 rates based on usage of 4,500 gallons per month:

- Reserve: \$70.39
- SLWSD: \$81.26
- City of Port St. Lucie: \$88.37 (we'd have had to pay a 25% surcharge if serviced by the city as non-residents)
- St. Lucie County: \$117.95

The switchover to full service by SLWSD could take up to two years as we get all the necessary approvals and permits for the work to be done. During this time the Reserve will continue to issue monthly bills and answer service calls. As the process gets closer to completion, we will provide updates on billing and other details and hold public meetings at the PGA Village Island Club and SLWSD to answer any questions. For answers to any immediate questions, email ReserveCDD@aol.com.

Ultimately, this agreement will bring us improved, reliable utility services while maintaining competitive costs. By partnering with SLWSD we're securing a more sustainable and resilient water and sewer system for our future.