

## **Application to Connect to, or Use NSLRWCD facilities for Water Use Purposes**

### **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

1. Why is North St. Lucie River Water Control District (NSLRWCD) involved in water use permitting?

**Historically, the NSLRWCD issued irrigation permits to landowners for the use of District surface waters. However, landowners were required to also seek SFWMD permits for their proposed surface water use. In 2005, at the request of landowners and the SFWMD, the NSLRWCD obtained a SFWMD Diversion and Impoundment Permit, which allows permit approval coverage for secondary users of surface water withdrawn from NSLRWCD facilities. If permit approval as a “dependent” secondary user is extended to a property under this Diversion and Impoundment Permit, NSLRWCD landowners are no longer required to maintain their own individual permit through SFWMD for surface water uses.**

2. Who should apply for a water use permit?

**If you withdraw surface water from the NSLRWCD facility you need to obtain an *Application to Connect to, or Use NSLRWCD facilities for Water Use Purposes*.**

3. What is the difference between an independent user and a dependent user?

**An independent user maintains their own NSLRWCD and SFWMD permits, but a dependent user is permitted through the NSLRWCD for all surface water uses under the Diversion and Impoundment permit, and does not need a SFWMD permit for surface water usage. Please note that wells are not covered under this Diversion and Impoundment Permit, and landowners must maintain their own SFWMD permits for well facilities.**

4. Who should not apply for this water use permit?

**If you do not use surface water that is withdrawn from NSLRWCD facilities, then you do not need an *Application to Connect to, or Use NSLRWCD facilities for Water Use Purposes*. If you obtain water for irrigation from other sources (e.g. an onsite lake or well) you will be required to obtain a SFWMD Water Use Permit.**

5. What about groundwater that I obtain from existing wells on my property?

**The groundwater that you obtain from existing wells on your property is permitted by the SFWMD and does not require a NSLRWCD Permit. Please contact the SFWMD to determine permitting requirements.**

6. If I want to install a new well for irrigation and I have submitted an *Application to Connect to, or Use NSLRWCD facilities for Water Use Purposes*, do I need to obtain permits from St. Lucie County and SFWMD?

**You may need to obtain permits from these agencies. The water use permit issued by NSLRWCD only applies to surface water withdrawn from NSLRWCD Canals, not to groundwater from wells. Groundwater withdrawn from wells is subject to the rules of both St. Lucie County and SFWMD. Please contact the SFWMD and St. Lucie County to determine the permitting requirements.**

7. We are a property owners association for a development within NSLRWCD and we irrigate portions of our development with water withdrawn from a lake that we own. We replenish the water in the lake with a well and/or rainfall, and we do not withdraw surface water from any NSLRWCD Canals. Do we need a water use permit from NSLRWCD?

**No, as long as you do not withdraw surface water from NSLRWCD Canals you do not need a water use permit from NSLRWCD. You will need to have a water use permit from SFWMD.**

8. If I recently submitted an irrigation connection application and fee prior to implementation of the current NSLRWCD Water Use program, do I need to submit the \$100 fee per canal?

**If you have submitted an irrigation connection permit and fee after December 1, 2004, than you do not have to submit an additional \$100 fee per canal for submittal of the new application form.**

9. If I am a single landowner with separate parcels which connect to NSLRWCD facilities for water use, do I need to submit separate applications for each parcel?

**Yes, if you have parcels which are not contiguous and are served by separate irrigation systems, then you will need to submit a separate application for each parcel.**