

## PORT LABELLE UTILITY SYSTEM (PLUS) REPORT

The Port LaBelle Utility System recently completed two major projects – the construction of a water treatment plant and the construction of a transmission and service pipe network for Banyan Village.

The first project, a newly constructed water treatment plant located at 6002 Cedarwood Parkway, was fully completed in October 2007. It replaces the previous plant on the same site. The new plant went on line in late July 2007.

The new plant can deliver 0.90 million gallons per day (GPD) of potable water, with a maximum expansion capacity of 1.8 million GPD to supply future demand. The old plant is off-line and will be dismantled.

The new plant was designed by Craig A. Smith & Associates and built by Encore Construction under the supervision of Tetra Tech at a total cost of \$6.41 million. The project was financed through USDA grants and loans totaling \$5.97 million, supplemented by Hendry County funds totaling \$455,000.

The new plant supplies potable water to current residents of Port LaBelle in Hendry and Glades Counties, as did the decommissioned plant, and will service future residents of Hendry and Glades County. The Indian Hills community elected not to be included in the service plan. The Port LaBelle Ranchettes community was never included in the PLUS service area.

The new plant currently draws its water supply from the Sandstone Aquifer. Application has been made to the SFWMD for an additional well to support future demand.

The second project, Banyan Village, included the installation of a 16-inch diameter delivery pipeline and a 6-inch return line. Both are under ground lines, located on the South side of, and running parallel to SR80. The project also included installing all of the service lines and fire hydrants in Banyan Village, an area of 3600 residential lots in Hendry County. Construction was completed on February 5, 2008.

The Glades County portions of the PLUS service area include 1350 lots in Unit 102, between the Ranchettes and Hwy 80, as well as an undeveloped area called Unit 101, which includes another 375 platted lots that were part of the old golf course. Fully populated, Glades County could accommodate another 5000 people in Port LaBelle with absolutely no changes to land use designations or zoning. Also, PLUS recently approved a water service letter for 500 proposed residences in Glades County on the Port LaBelle Marina lands, with development subject to state approval.

A formal ribbon cutting dedication ceremony for the water plant and pipeline projects is scheduled for the latter part of March 2008. Invitations to attend the ceremony will be mailed out at the appropriate time.

The Port LaBelle Utility System operates under the direction of Mr. Roger Greer whose offices are located at 3130 Utility Drive.

The PLUS Advisory Board's Facilitator is Dr. John Capece, whose most appreciated assistance enabled me to prepare this report for the Glades County BOCC.

Respectfully submitted on February 12, 2008 by Han Mouthaan, Glades County appointee to the PLUS Advisory Board.