

Operational Impacts of Capital Improvement Projects

Parks / Recreation: Fiscal Year 2003 will see the culmination of a four year effort to improve 16 Parks and Recreation facilities that were funded through \$17.7 million in FY99 Utilities Tax Improvement Bonds. These facilities consisted of Community Centers, Athletic and Aquatic Centers and Special Facilities. The final four to open in FY03 are: Kate Jackson Center; Loretta Ingraham Center; College Hill Community Center; and DeSoto Park Center. Other non-bond funded facilities scheduled for opening include the New Tampa Recreation Center and Williams Park. The FY03 budgets for the Parks and Recreation Department have been adjusted commensurate with the scheduled openings of these facilities throughout the year. This includes 36 full and part-time positions (\$376,000), operating expenses for utilities, landscaping, security, communications, supplies and tools (\$135,000), and one-time capital equipment costs (\$53,000). Some of these facilities replaced old, inefficient ones that will result in reduced expenses in areas such as electricity through new energy efficient air-conditioning and lighting.

Solid Waste: In FY02 a 32-month retrofit project at the McKay Bay Refuse-to Energy (RTE) facility was completed. With almost a full year of actual operating experience, adjustments in both revenues and expenses were made in the FY03 program. On the revenue side, energy sales (electricity generated by the RTE is sold to the local electric company) were increased by \$112,000 to \$5.8 million. The expense budget was increased by \$1.1 million due to higher than expected ash residue being sent to the landfill and increased contract monitoring costs (\$300,000).

Water: FY02 marked the completion of the Rome Avenue Park Aquifer Storage Recovery (ASR) project that provides the City with a storage capacity of one billion gallons of potable water. Water is pumped into the ASR during the wet season and withdrawn at the rate of 10 millions gallons per day for 100 days during the dry season. This has enabled the City to be less reliant on more expensive water from outside sources. Accordingly, the budget for water purchases from outside sources is being reduced by \$2.5 million for FY03. Another project, which started in FY02, designed to lessen the dependence on outside sources is called STAR (South Tampa Area Reclaimed). This project will provide for recycled water for lawn irrigation and a rate to customers that will be lower than the rate for potable water. The first phase, which will cost approximately \$30 million, consists of a pumping station, transmission main and the distribution system. Phase I is scheduled for completion at the end of calendar year 2003. The operating budget for both revenues and expenses will be adjusted, as the system becomes operational.

Parking: In the fourth quarter of FY02 the Fernando Noreiga, Jr. Palm Avenue Garage opened. This 1,200 space garage cost \$15 million and was funded through a City bond issue (\$9 million) and a contribution from Hillsborough Community College (\$6 million), whose students have access to the facility during school hours. The operating program was adjusted for one quarter of operations in FY02 and for the full year in FY03. The funding in FY03 provided for projected increased revenue (\$621 thousand) and operating expenses for 20 full and part-time personnel (\$498 thousand), and utilities, communications, landscaping, supplies, and elevator maintenance / licenses (\$123 thousand).