



# Water Resources Master Plan

# UPDATE

Summer 2006

Jointly funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Guam Waterworks Authority.

## Master Plan Sparks Improvements

Guam residents and businesses are already realizing benefits from GWA's Water Resources Master Plan even though the plan has just been completed.

**The Water Resources Master Plan is intended to improve reliability and safety in Guam's drinking water system, protect the environment and public health, and ensure the system runs efficiently for many more years to come.**

"The Water Resources Master Plan is intended to improve reliability and safety in Guam's drinking water system, protect the environment and public health, and ensure the system runs efficiently for many more years to come," said David Craddick, GWA General Manager. "The fact that we're able to additionally implement immediate improvements while the plan is still in development is a win-win for all our customers, GWA staff and our island environment."

### Fewer Service Interruptions With More Reliable Pumps

One of the "early gains" from the master planning effort is the electrical control project that will reduce service interruptions and operations costs. The project involves a thorough assessment of the power system that supports the pumps and other equipment needed to deliver water to customers. "We're proud to have a more reliable system for pumping water from wells on the island and moving it through the various lift stations to make sure drinking water can reach residents and businesses across Guam," said Mark Miller, Production & Treatment Manager.

### Rapid Response Through New Electrical Protection Cooperative

Another benefit of the electrical control project is the development of an electrical protection cooperative between Guam Power and GWA. Employees of both systems are now able to identify quickly what needs to be fixed after having gone through the education program in the cooperative.

An equally important gain from this cooperative is the reduction in sewage pump failures, which has reduced the number of sewage overflows and the cost to repair pumps. Reducing sewage overflows also means a significant increase in environmental protection for our island.

### Accurate System Mapping Speeds System Repairs

Included in the master planning project is the development of detailed Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping that will ultimately be used to provide a system model for GWA's future system improvement program. Improving the accuracy of Guam's water and wastewater pipeline distribution system maps has meant that problems can be located and repaired more quickly.

### Preventive Maintenance Reduces Unplanned Problems

Another important factor of the master plan is a thorough system assessment conducted periodically by key GWA personnel. This includes writing down details about GWA's equipment and facilities in order to better plan preventive and predictive maintenance. Predicting where maintenance is likely to be needed in the water and wastewater systems, and then scheduling preventive maintenance will reap enormous benefits in terms of improving customer service and extending the life of the water and wastewater infrastructure.

## Common Questions

### How has the public been involved in the master plan?

Everyone has had an opportunity to provide input to the draft master plan. GWA met with residents at village meetings in fall 2004 to introduce the master plan concept and solicited suggestions about what should be included in the master plan. Here is what came out of those meetings:

- Ensure good quality water and adequate water pressure is available for everyone on Guam.
- Reduce sewage breaks — and improve the associated public health and environmental conditions.
- Provide for improved maintenance response and completion of repairs.
- Accommodate future growth on Guam.
- Include a funding plan.

Recently, GWA held a public meeting at Dededo Community Center to present the draft master plan and receive comments on it, and is starting a second round of village meetings to present the plan and receive comments on it. The final plan presented to the Consolidated Commission on Utilities will include responses to all comments received at meetings or in writing.

For more information about the master plan or to schedule a presentation about the master plan for your organization, contact Prudencio Aguon or Jude Calvo.

### GWA Contact Information:

Call Prudencio Aguon or Jude Calvo at 647-7887 or fax to 649-3750; e-mail to [prudencio@guamwaterworks.org](mailto:prudencio@guamwaterworks.org). You can also visit the GWA website to post your comments at [www.guamwaterworks.org](http://www.guamwaterworks.org). GWA is located at 578 North Marine Drive in Tamuning (along Route 1, Upper Tumon, behind TeleGuam).

# We want to hear from you!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

- I would like more information about the Water Resources Master Plan
- I have a comment about the Water Resources Master Plan (fill in below)

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Please detach and drop off at GWA offices or mail to P.O. Box 3010, Hagatña, Guam 96932



P.O. Box 3010  
Hagatña, Guam 96932

Permit info to  
be provided

Guam Waterworks Authority  
Water Resources Master Plan Update



## Planning for the Future

1. Public health protection: Makes living and visiting here safer.
2. System protection: Makes living here cost less.
3. Aesthetics: Makes living and visiting more enjoyable.

These are the ranked priorities of a capital planning process agreed on by both GWA and the Environmental Protection Agency, which continues to be involved in monitoring GWA's system improvement progress. GWA staff and the master plan team recently participated in a CIP workshop to discuss not only these priorities but also the specific projects that will complete repairs and renovation to the existing water system. The meeting also provided a forum to identify future system improvements that will ensure continued high quality service throughout Guam.

## UOG/GWA Cooperative Research Study

The Water and Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific - University of Guam and GWA are working together to assess the impacts on the aquifer from septic systems and lack of wastewater infrastructure systems in parts of Guam. Substances such as nitrites and chloride are measured in groundwater and wells, and the data will help identify future infrastructure needs.



*GWA recently kicked off installing residential sensitive radio read meters that have already been placed in most commercial establishments on Guam. GWA continues to work closely with its customers and private contractor to provide a smoother transition. If you have any questions about the new meter, you may use the attached form to have them answered.*