



Pinellas County Utilities: User Fees Study

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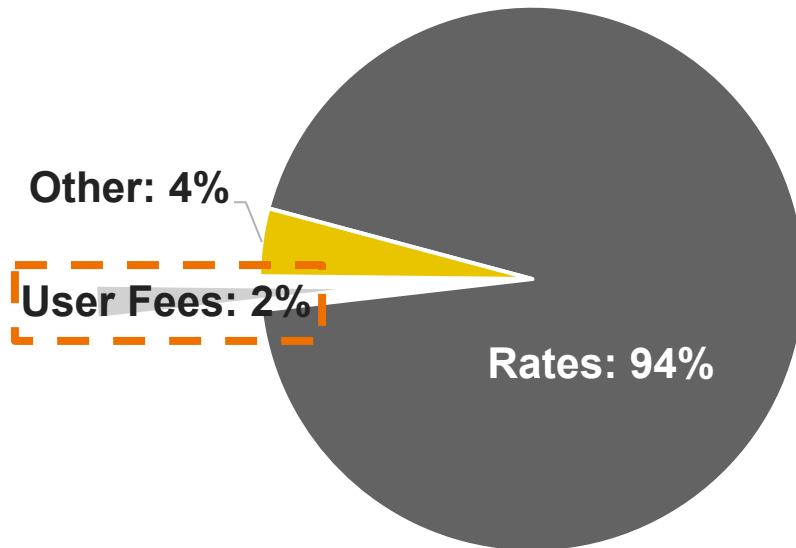
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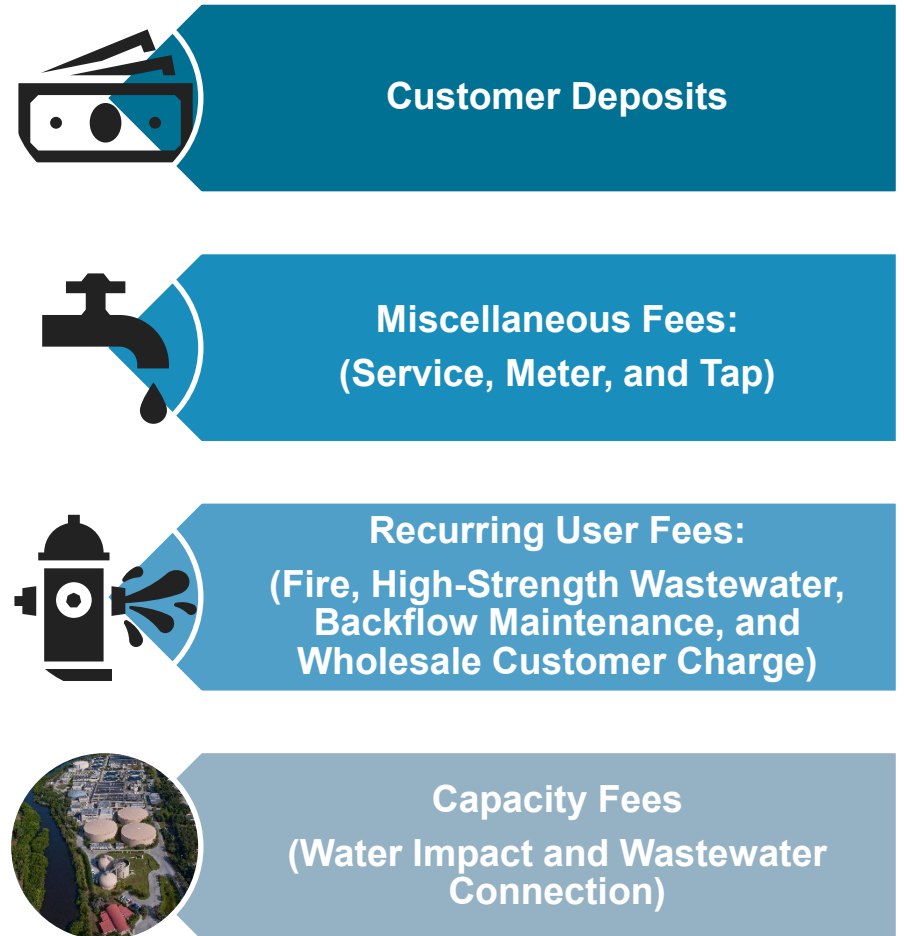


Background

- Equitably recover costs directly from beneficiaries
- Most fees reviewed in 2010, others 15+ years
- Offsets rates/future increases
- No user fee changes for 70% of residential customers



Scope: Update User Fees





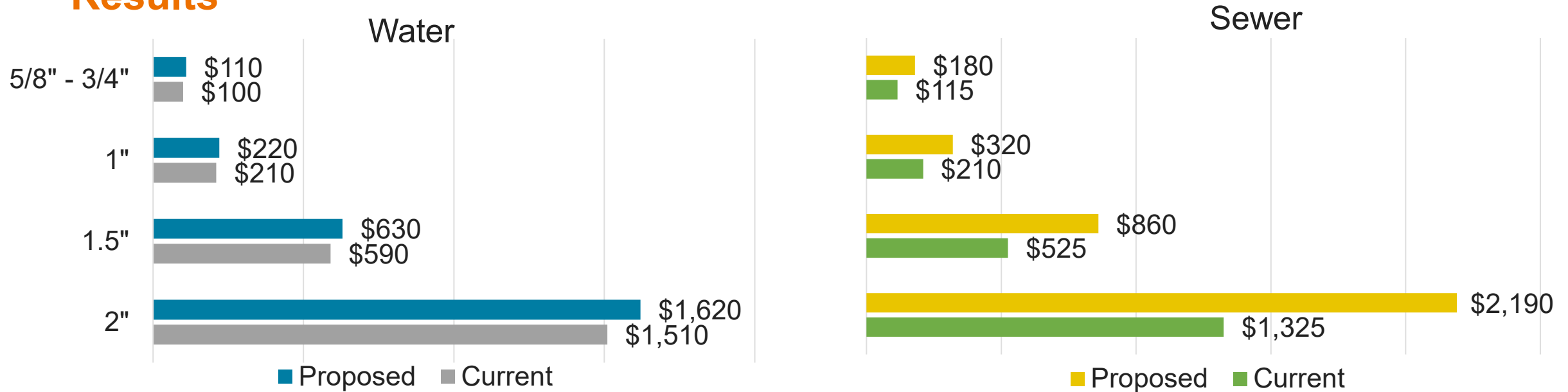
Customer Deposits

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Overview

- Deposits for new service – minimizes risks of non-payment
- Last updated in 2010

Results



- Waived with good payment history or other utility reference
- Refunded: 24-months good standing (res.) or account close (non-res.)



Existing Miscellaneous Fees

Description

Updated nearly 100 fees to reflect current processes and costs

Notable Fees	Current Fee (\$)	Proposed FY 2023 (\$)
Turn-on Fee (Scheduled)	16	17
Turn-on Fee (Same Day)	32	42
Pre-termination Notice	18	7
Delinquent Turn-off	21	30
Permit Fee (Food Service Facility with Grease Interceptor)	140	270
Meter & Meter Box 5/8" (Excludes Tap and Service)	660	590
Septage Fee per 1,000 Gallons*	35	40

*Septage fees developed by MGT Consulting in a Study (full cost of \$48.57)

Results

- Align to PCU's costs and processes and update every 3-5 years

Description

Staff identified services provided, but not directly charged:

Fee	Proposed FY 2023 (\$)
Electronic Meter Data Logging: Multi-Unit	460
Removal of Meter and Water Service Connection	350
Engineering Plan Review	330
Private Sewer System Annual Operating Permit Fee (Incl. Inspection)	300
Electronic Meter Data Logging: Single-Family	155
Pre-termination notice delivery (Trip Fee)	65
Service/Trip/Truck Charge	43
Private Sewer System: Non-Residential Single Lateral Connection Annual Permit Fee (Incl. Inspection)	30
Notice of Lien Process	23
Release of Lien Process	11
Lien Payoff Process	9
Title Disclosure	6

Results

- Align to PCU's costs/processes and update every 3-5 years



Backflow Prevention Devices

Description

Device maintenance to protect and ensure water quality

Results

Benchmarking Range:

At or Above Range

Within Range

At or Below Range

Description	Customer Count	Current Fee (\$)	Proposed FY 2023 (\$)
Monthly Fee for Device Maintenance:			
Residential >4 Units or Commercial/Small Fireline <=2"	6,014 (5% of accounts)	2.41	5.83
Commercial/Multi-Family, Double Check Valve, >=4"	1,196 (1% of accounts)	5.23	15.42
Commercial/Multi-Family, Reduced Pressure Valve, >=4"	98 (<0.1% of accounts)	8.61	15.83
Residential <=3 Units and <=1"	32,615 (28% of accounts)	0.81	1.59

+\$0.78 per month = <1% impact to typical customer)

Description

Standby charges for unmetered private fire protection facilities

Results

Benchmarking Range:

At or Above Range
Within Range
At or Below Range

Description	Customer Count	Current Fee (\$)	Proposed Fee FY 2023 (\$)	Benchmarking Range (\$)
Annual Standby Charges:				
6" and smaller	536	102	215	60 – 735
8"	372	174	450	108 - 1,323
10"	3	342	820	168 - 1,690
12"	2	390	1,320	390 - 3,160

Increases range from 1-3% for typical customer's total bill



Wholesale Monthly Meter Service Charges

Description

Meter maintenance, meter reading, telemetry, billing and accounting for water wholesale customers

Results

- Update charges to reflect cost
- Scaling based on meter costs and testing
- Minimal impact on total bills

Meter Size	Wholesale Water Meters	Current Fee (\$)	Proposed Fee FY 2023 (\$)
2"	1	16	10
4"	1	25	50
6"	4	38	90
8"	5	55	95
10"	9	72	100
12"	3	133	105



Wastewater High-Strength Surcharge

Description

Recover treatment costs of excessive concentrated wastewater discharges

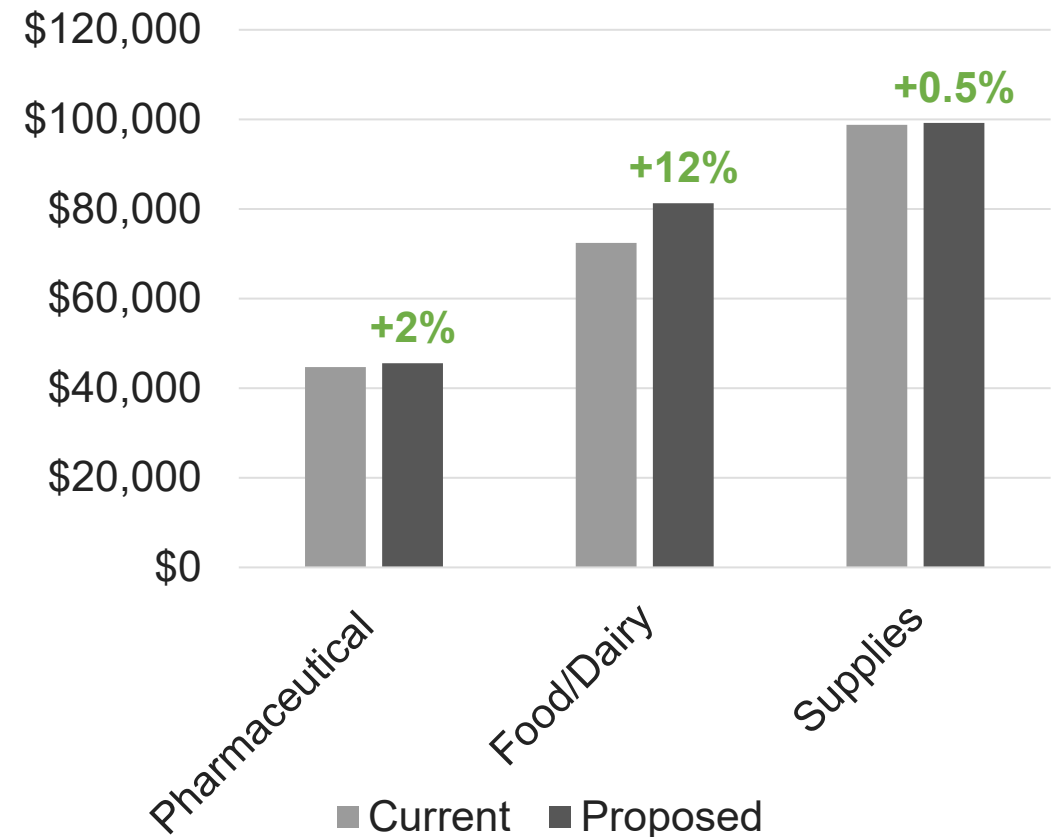
Last reviewed and changed in 2014

Results

- Adjust methodology to better correlate to costs and industry practice
- Implement at cost

Parameter	Updated Surcharge
Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD)	\$0.86 per lb.
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	\$0.60 per lb.

Annual Customer Impacts





Capacity Fees: Water (Impact) & Sewer (Connection)

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Overview

Different names: capacity fees, impact fees, capital charges, connection fees, system development charges/fees

Similar purpose: one-time fees for capacity costs of new development (“growth pays for growth”)

Fees haven't been updated in decades: (Water 1981) and Sewer (unknown)

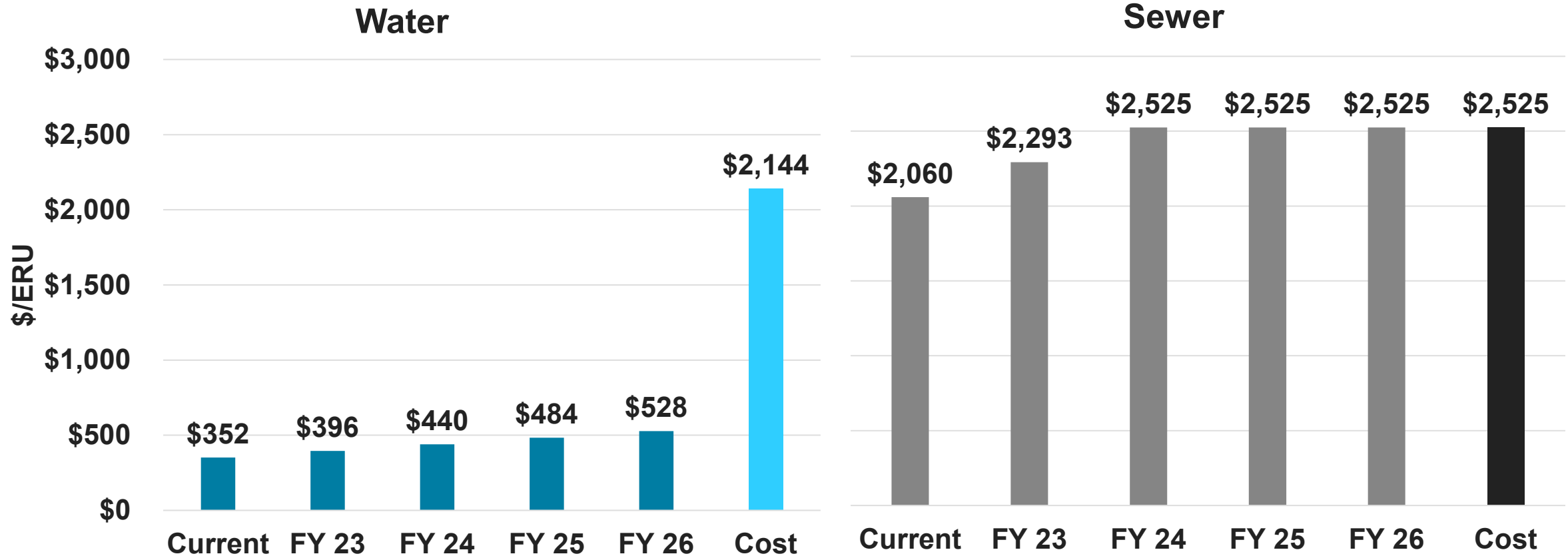




Capacity Fees: Water (Impact) & Sewer (Connection)

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Results



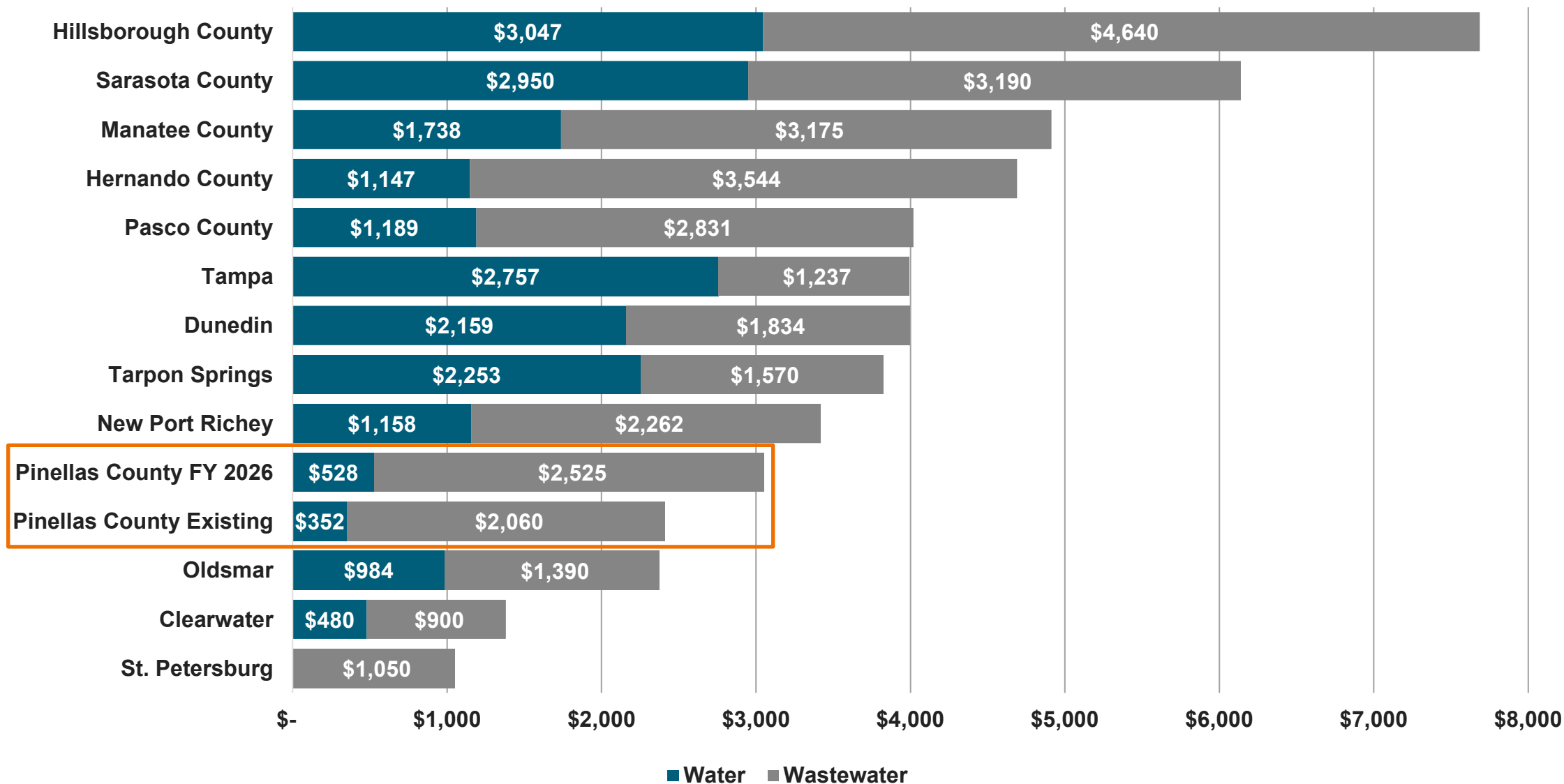
Florida Impact Fee Act:

- Phasing and increase limitations (Maximum 50% increase)



Benchmarking: Local Combined Capacity Fees

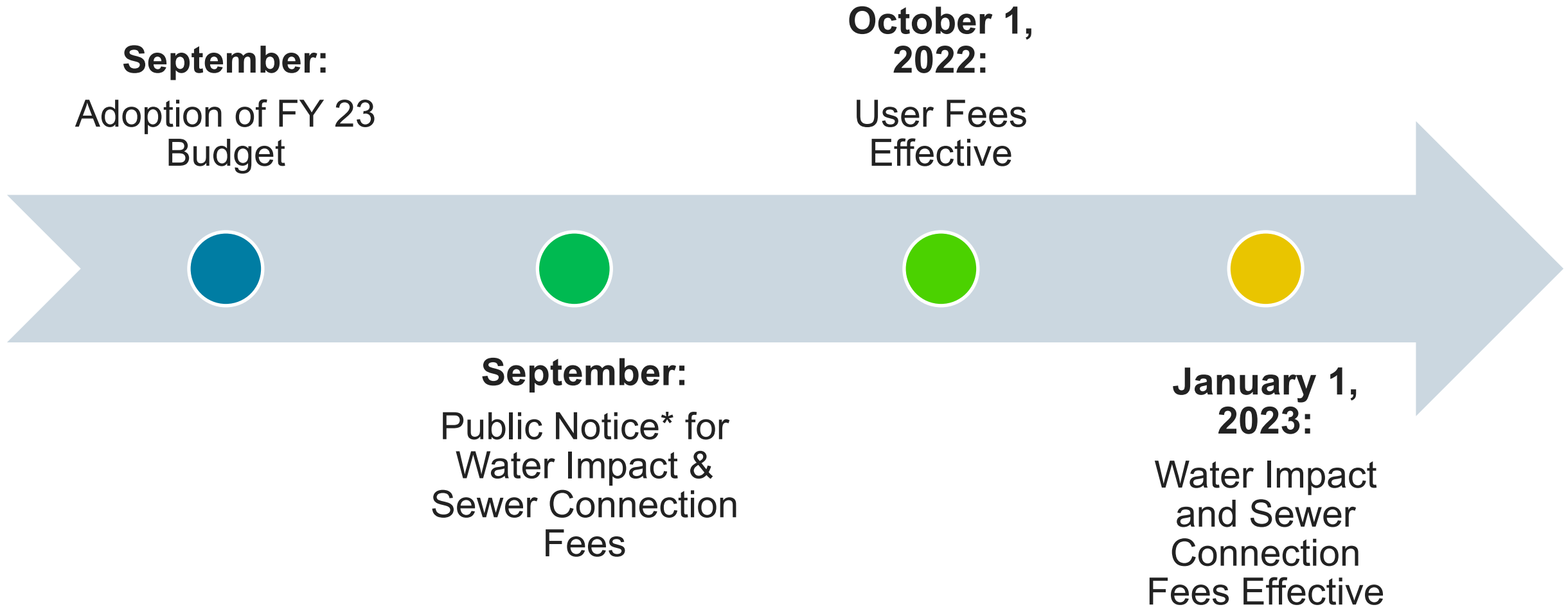
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Conclusion and Next Steps

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* Florida Impact Fee Act requires a 90-day notice period prior to effective date of increased impact fees