

CHAPTER 7: WATER AND SEWER

Much like the private development that has taken place over time in Eastlake, water and sewer infrastructure has been developed over time. A private well and water distribution system was installed in Historic Eastlake in the 1920's. In 1969, the Eastlake Water and Sanitation District was formed and the district purchased a private water system. At the time the City annexed Eastlake in 1990, major sewer infrastructure improvements were installed and the area was connected to City sewer service. Improvements were also made to improve fire safety in the area. Eastlake did not connect to the City water supply system upon annexation because it was deemed unnecessary at the time. However, as demand continues to increase, the future water supply for Eastlake is an issue of concern.

This chapter focuses primarily on the town of Eastlake as the area in which the City does not currently provide water service. There are no issues currently or anticipated regarding provision of sewer service to the town of Eastlake. The goals of the Eastlake Subarea Plan focuses therefore only on water supply to the town of Eastlake.

The **water and sewer goals** for the Eastlake Neighborhood are to:

7-A: Support the Eastlake Water and Sanitation District's efforts to improve the water service available in the historic town of Eastlake;

Master Plan Accomplishments

Prior to annexation, the town of Eastlake relied on private septic systems for sanitary sewage disposal. The septic systems became a public health concern in the late 1980's. Thornton, due to the proximity of its gravity sewer system to Eastlake, was the most cost-effective option for servicing Eastlake. Therefore, Eastlake was annexed to the City and was allowed sewer connections to the City wastewater system, thus resolving the immediate public health concern. In May 1989 a tax mill increase was adopted by the Eastlake Water and Sanitation District to fund the new public sanitary sewer system and connections to the City of Thornton system. As of the end of 2002, the balance of the loan on the completed sewer improvements is approximately \$94,000 and is scheduled to be paid off in nine more years. While not mentioned as a specific recommendation of the Eastlake Master Plan, the sewer improvements that took place in the early-1990's were a key component of the Eastlake Master Plan.

Existing Conditions

The Eastlake Water and Sanitation District provides domestic water service to approximately 50 residential and 16 commercial customers within Eastlake. Some of the homes in the District have their own wells but this water is used only for irrigation. There are four properties in the area which are not served by the District and have their own wells for domestic water supply. Eastlake water comes from three wells, which is pumped to two storage tanks and then to a distribution system. The District's pump house is located at the southeast corner of Lake Avenue and Second Street.

A policy adopted by City Council Resolution No 89-104 permitted Eastlake to continue its current water service system after annexation to the City of Thornton. In the event the District wells become contaminated or can no longer function, the Resolution stated that the area has to connect to City water. To date, the necessary conditions to require a connection to City water have not been met.

Due to a shortfall in meeting higher summer demands, Thornton has provided a supplemental source of water from June through October to the District as stipulated in the interconnect agreement between the two entities. In addition, Thornton provides fire protection water on an on-going basis. The interconnect contract for the supplemental water service is expired at the end of 2002. The Eastlake Water and Sanitation District would like to expand the ability to connect year round or at least May through October, since there are concerns that the District has insufficient water for year round demand.

Policies and Recommendations

The Eastlake Water and Sanitation District is currently examining options to improve water service. The City has the ability to provide water service to Eastlake. Serving this area is in the long range water plan for the City, should the District's water system fail or request a connection to City water. Through discussions between City staff and District members, the following options have been identified to resolve the situation:

- Rehabilitate and redrill existing Eastlake wells
- Connect a Master Meter to City water, allowing the District to retain existing infrastructure
- Connect each home and business to City water, which would require all infrastructure to meet City Code

The Eastlake Water and Sanitation District plans to take the three options to a vote in 2003 to ascertain the most feasible solution.

The following **water service recommendations** are intended to help improve Eastlake's water situation:

7-1: Make City staff available to discuss and assist in the resolution of the Eastlake water issues;