



The South Hillsborough Wellfield Phase One could send an additional annual average of 2.3 million gallons of water per day to Hillsborough County.

South Hillsborough Wellfield Phase One

Meeting Hillsborough County's Water Needs

As population in southern Hillsborough County grows, demand for drinking water is growing along with it. Since March 2022, average demand has increased by nearly 3 million gallons of water per day (mgd), and it continues to increase.

Project Overview

Tampa Bay Water and Hillsborough County have agreed to turn an existing test well into a new drinking water well to help meet water needs. If permitted by the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the well could bring an additional annual average of 2.3 mgd to southern Hillsborough County by late 2025.

The test well and three monitoring wells were constructed in the Balm area in 2021 during feasibility studies for a larger project. At that time, Tampa Bay Water conducted an aquifer performance test that showed the wellfield was technically feasible, environmentally sound and economical. The wellfield

concept was not selected for implementation at that time, but Hillsborough County and Tampa Bay Water are pursuing one well to boost supply until the South Hillsborough Pipeline brings more water to the area in 2028.

Phase One Components

Tampa Bay Water will:

- install a submersible pump, electrical instruments, controls and permanent power
- install a short run of 12-inch diameter pipe to connect the well to the County's temporary on-site treatment system.

Hillsborough County will:

- design, construct and operate a temporary water treatment system on the well site to treat the water coming from the well
- install a 12-inch diameter pipeline to bring this new water supply into the County's distribution system.



The water from the South Hillsborough Wellfield Phase One will go directly to Hillsborough County.

High-Quality Water with No Anticipated Impacts

The well is more than 900 feet deep; in this area the deep aquifer is separated from the shallow aquifer by a 250-foot thick clay confining layer. That means water level changes in the deep Upper Floridan Aquifer do not affect surface water features; lakes, wetlands, springs and rivers in the area will not be affected by the new well.

Additionally, Tampa Bay Water engineers conducted modeling, which showed minor drawdown effects from pumping — about 3 feet in the Upper Floridan Aquifer at the well, 2 feet at a distance of 300 feet from the well and 1 foot or less at legal existing users, which includes residential wells. Given that water levels in this area normally fluctuate 15-20 feet, this minimal withdrawal is not expected to impact other existing legal groundwater users.

Tampa Bay Water has a Good Neighbor Policy and will investigate any water-level related well complaints. If the investigation shows that pumping at Tampa Bay Water's well caused a problem with a particular well, Tampa Bay Water will restore that well at no cost to the owner.

Local Water for Local Use

Water from the well will go directly to Hillsborough County, instead of the regional system, to address immediate County needs. The well will be used at least until the new South Hillsborough Pipeline is operational in 2028 and beyond if both parties agree to an extension.

Cost

Tampa Bay Water's cost for the South Hillsborough Wellfield Phase One design and construction is approximately \$1.8 million.

Well Commissioning Schedule

- Design and Bidding: June 2023 to May 2024
- Construction: May 2024 to August 2025
- Operational: August 2025

For More Information

Visit tampabaywater.org/shw or call (813) 486-0361.

About Tampa Bay Water

Tampa Bay Water provides wholesale water to the public utility systems of Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas counties, as well as the cities of New Port Richey, St. Petersburg and Tampa.