

South Hillsborough Wellfield Public Input Survey Results

September 2021



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OVERVIEW

Tampa Bay Water, the region's wholesale water provider, sought input from the general public and specifically residents of southern Hillsborough County for its proposed South Hillsborough Wellfield via Aquifer Recharge Credits. This project is one of three new projects the utility is investigating to bring additional water to the region. The other two projects are expanding its existing seawater desalination facility and expanding its surface water treatment capacity. Studies have shown the region will need an additional 10-20 million gallons per day (mgd) of new water supply for 2028 through 2038.

Tampa Bay Water created an automated presentation video about the proposed new wellfield and posted it, Frequently Asked Questions and a survey link to its website June 24, 2021, ahead of a virtual public meeting on Aug. 24, 2021. The utility advertised the video and requested public feedback via a news release, paid social media advertising, social media posts and direct mail/email to area homeowners' associations beginning six weeks prior to the meeting.

The 12-question online survey had a total of 169 respondents, although not all respondents answered every question.

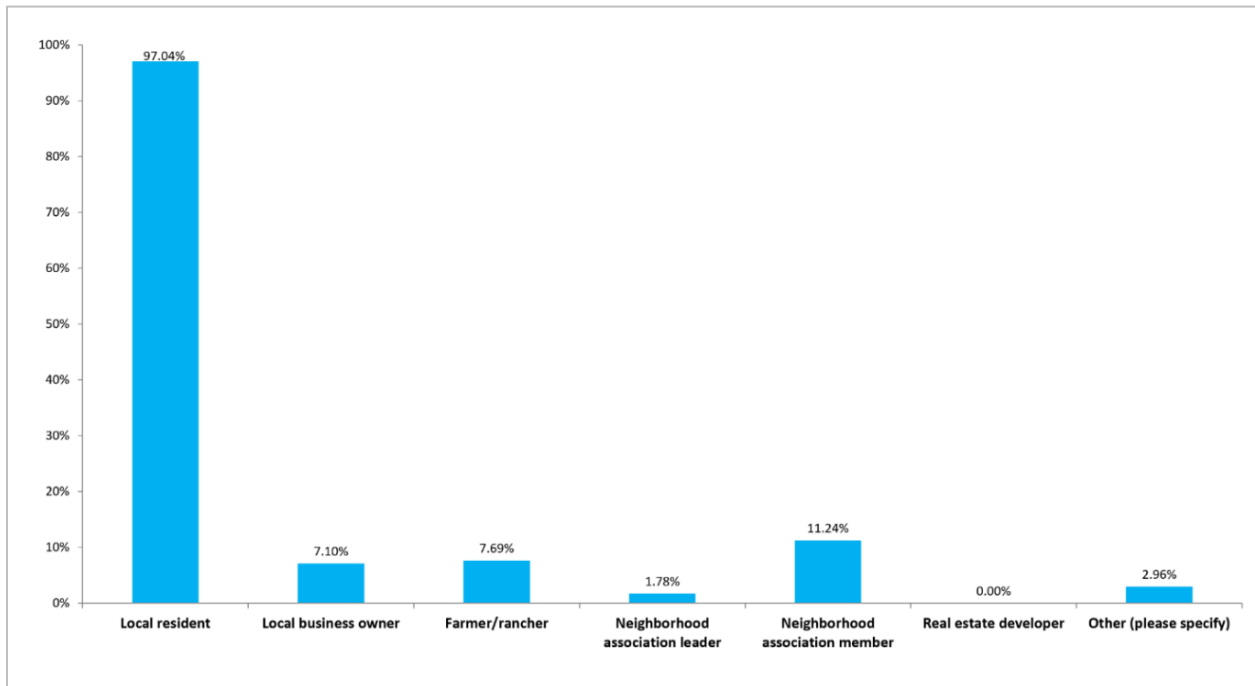
RESULTS

Most respondents (97%) were local residents; 92% live in single family homes, and 60% of those homes are in planned developments. Two-thirds of respondents get their water from the County/municipal supply, and the remaining third gets their water from a private well.

Top-ranked concerns from all respondents differs from the top-ranked concerns of those who said they have a private well. Responses to individual questions follow.

Question 1: What is your relationship to the project and community? Check all that apply.

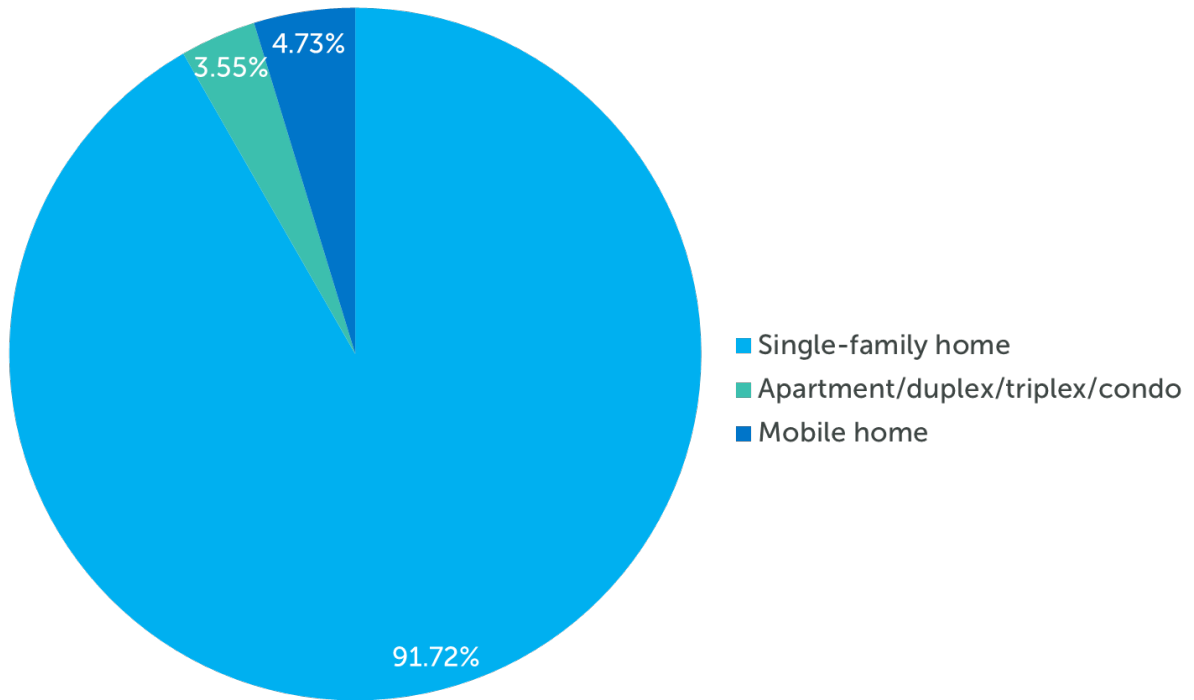
169 answered; 0 skipped



- 164 respondents were local residents
- 12 were local business owners
- 13 were farmers/ranchers
- 3 were neighborhood association leaders
- 19 were neighborhood association members
- 0 were real estate developers
- 5 responded “other”:
 - seasonal homeowners
 - protestor
 - live in Hillsborough County and work in the environmental field
 - realtor
 - county resident interested in all things water

Question 2: Do you live in a ...

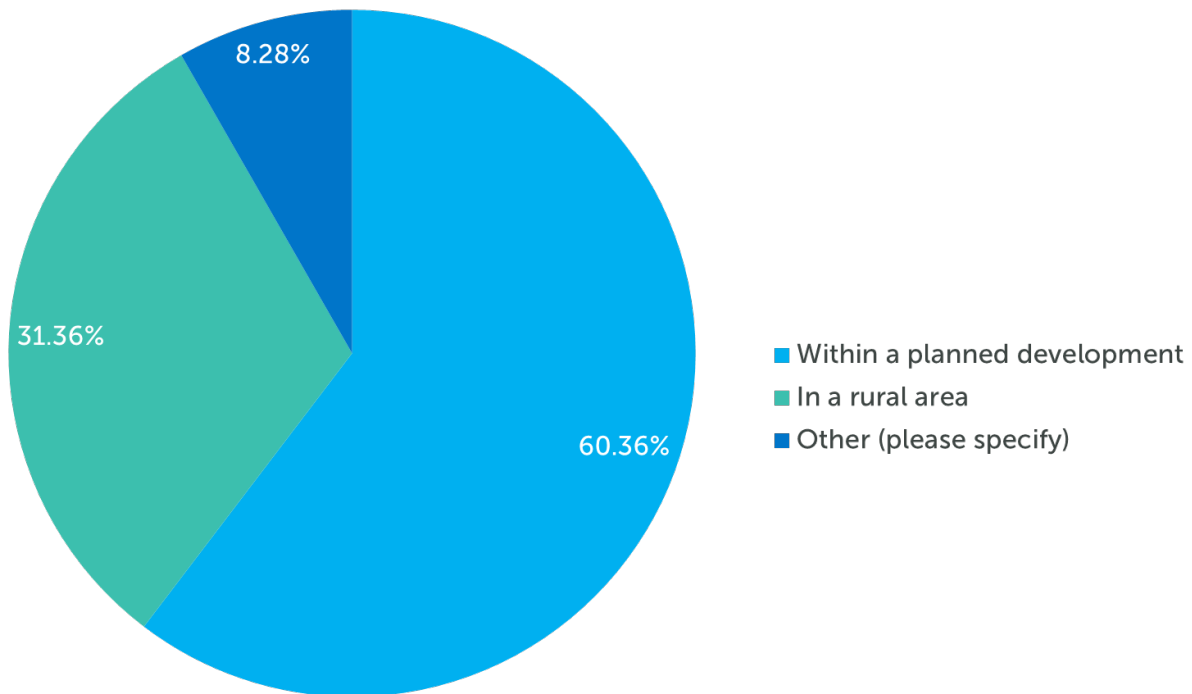
169 answered; 0 skipped



- 155 respondents lived in single-family homes
- 6 live in an apartment/duplex/triplex/condo
- 8 live in a mobile home

Question 3: Is your home ...

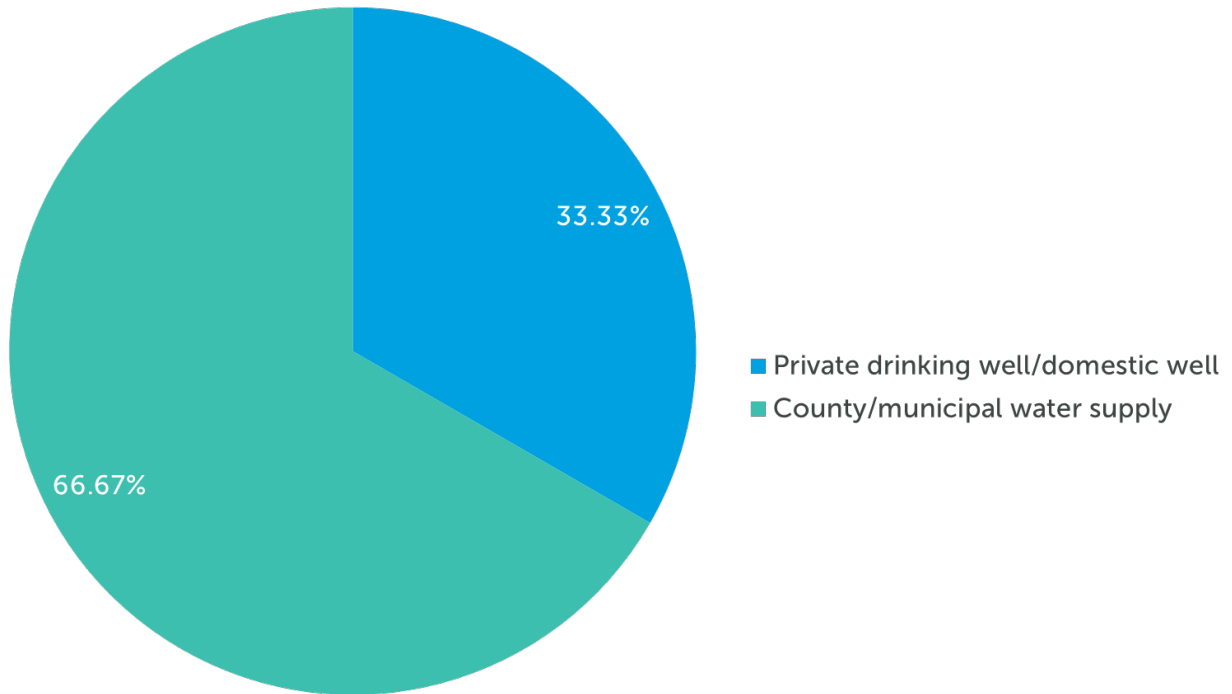
169 answered; 0 skipped



- 102 respondents lived in a planned development
- 53 live in a rural area
- 14 specified “other”:
 - Urban but not planned development
 - Valrico area
 - Not in a planned development but not rural
 - Palm Harbor Re-Development corridor
 - Suburban street
 - It was rural when we moved here. You have allowed urban sprawl to overtake this area.
 - Home on the west side of 41 on the border of Apollo Beach/Ruskin
 - Surrounded by the upcoming projects
 - In the City of Tampa
 - Egypt Lake, urban however not master planned
 - It’s not in the development area
 - Summerfield development area
 - Over 55 gated community
 - Was rural, now surrounded by development

Question 4: Where do you get your drinking water?

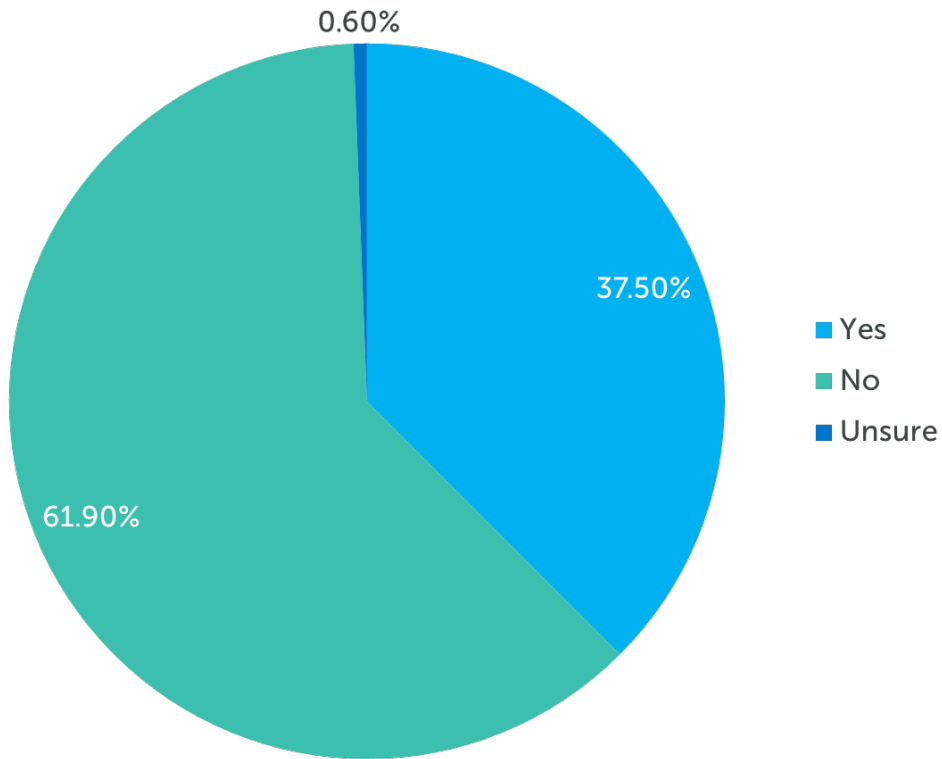
168 answered; 1 skipped



- 56 respondents have a private drinking well/domestic well
- 112 use county/municipal water supply

Question 5: Do you have a well(s) on your property that you use for drinking water, irrigation, livestock or other uses?

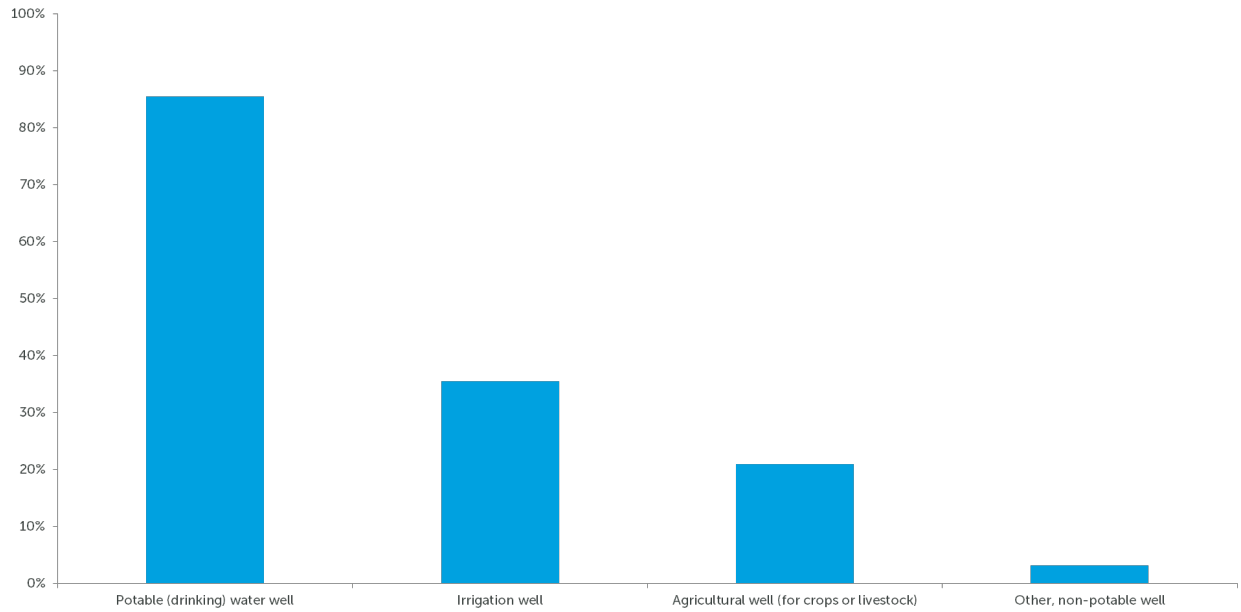
168 answered; 1 skipped



- 63 respondents have a well on their property
- 104 do not have a well on their property
- 1 respondent was unsure of a well's existence on the property

Question 6: What kind of well(s) do you have? Check all that apply.

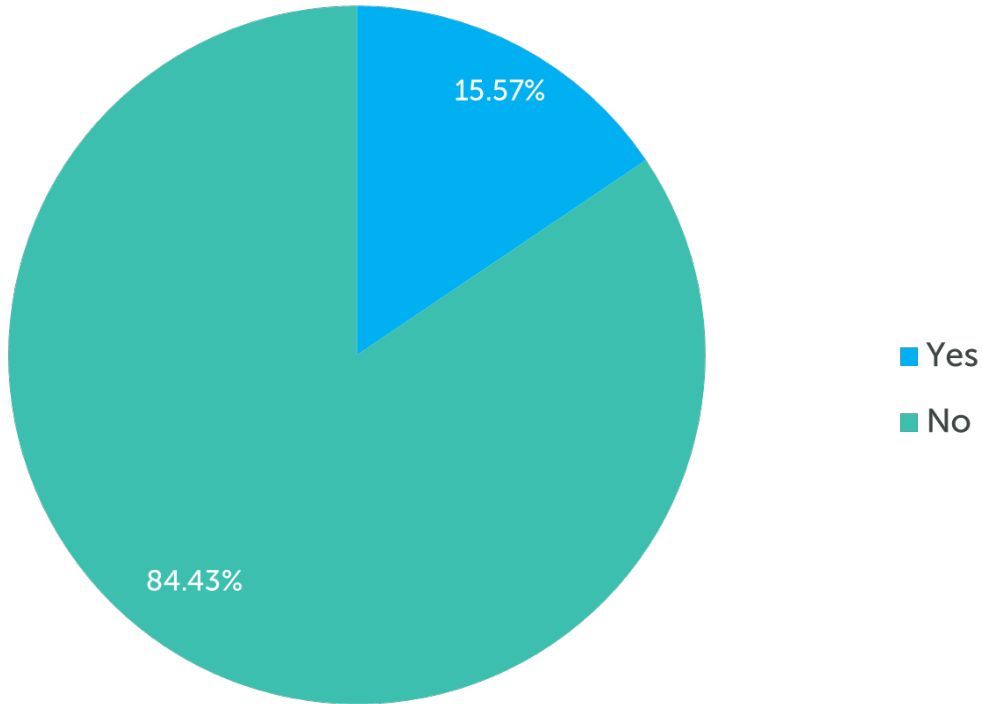
62 answered; 107 skipped



- 53 respondents have a potable (drinking) water well
- 22 have an irrigation well
- 13 have an agricultural well (for crops or livestock)
- 2 respondents have an “other, non-potable well”

Question 7: Do you use reclaimed water for irrigation?

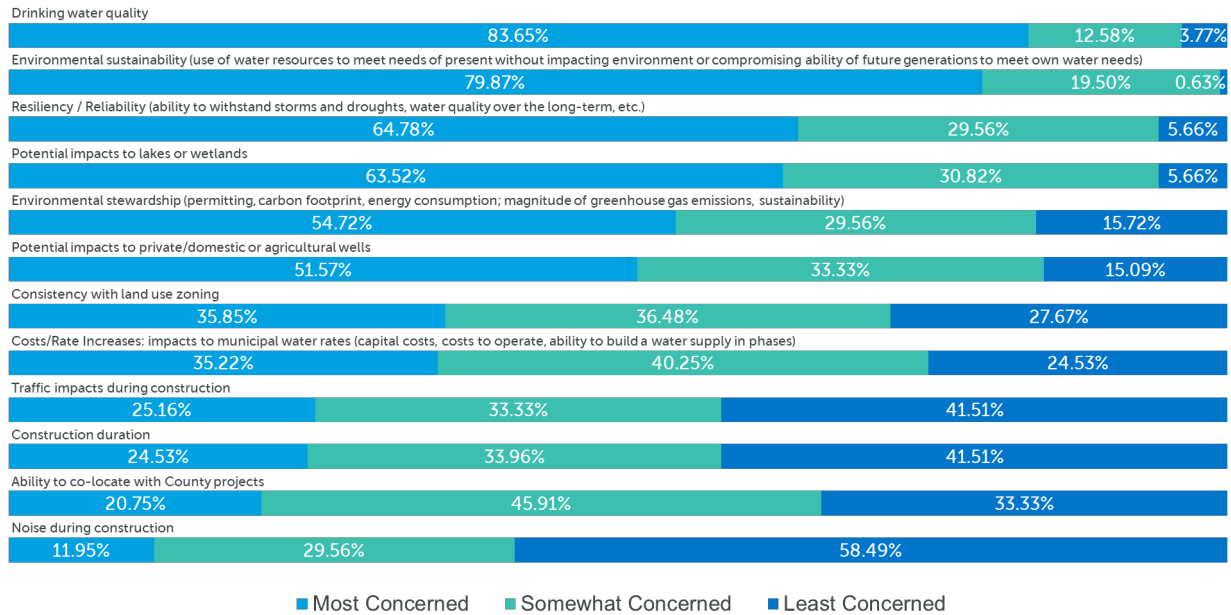
167 answered; 2 skipped



- 26 respondents said they use reclaimed water for irrigation
- 141 do not use reclaimed water for irrigation

Question 8: Please tell us what is most important to you when it comes to selecting drinking water projects to meet the region’s needs:

159 answered; 10 skipped



Respondents were **most concerned** with:

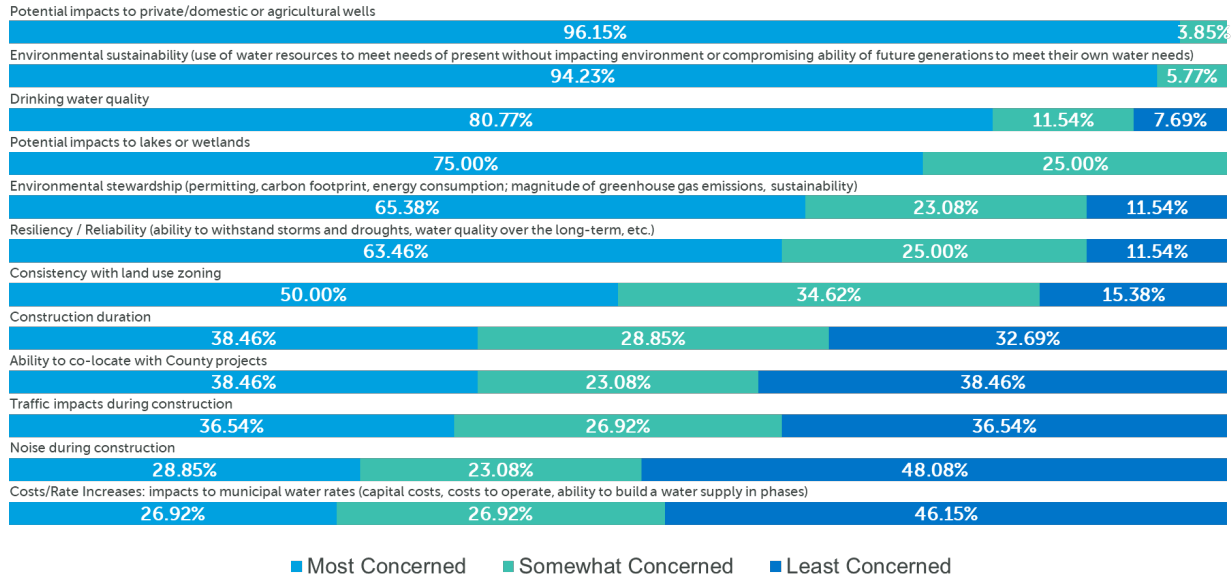
- drinking water quality (84%)
- environmental sustainability (80%)
- resiliency/reliability (65%)
- potential impacts to lakes or wetlands (64%)
- environmental stewardship (55%)
- potential impacts to private/domestic or agricultural wells (52%)

Respondents were **least concerned** with:

- noise during construction (59%)
- construction duration (42%)
- traffic impacts during construction (42%)
- ability to co-locate with County projects (33%)
- consistency with land use zoning (28%)
- costs/rate increase (25%)

However, the top-ranked concern **among respondents who get their drinking water from a private drinking well/domestic well** is different than the top-ranked concern of all respondents.

54 answered; 2 skipped



Respondents with private drinking wells were **most concerned** with:

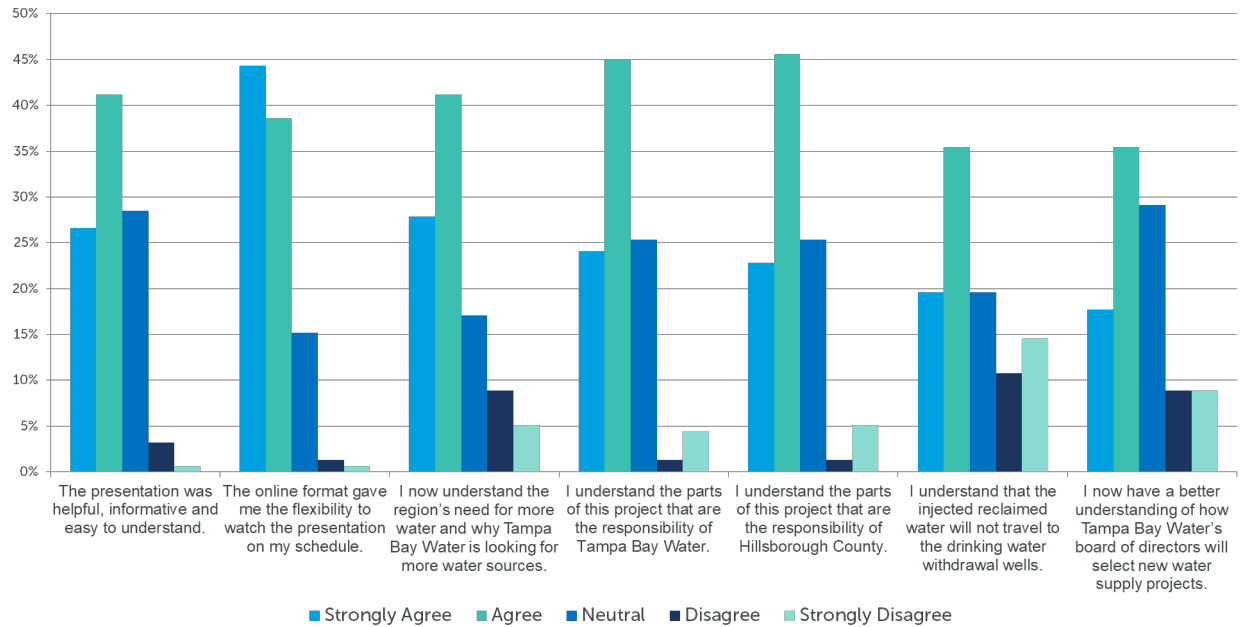
- potential impacts to private/domestic or agricultural wells (96%)
- environmental sustainability (94%)
- drinking water quality (81%)
- potential impacts to lakes or wetlands (75%)
- environmental stewardship (65%)
- resiliency/reliability (63%)
- consistency with land use zoning (50%)

Respondents with private drinking wells were **least concerned** with:

- noise during construction (48%)
- costs/rate increase (46%)
- ability to co-locate with County projects (39%)
- traffic impacts during construction (37%)
- construction duration (33%)

Question 9: Please select the answer that best reflects your response.

158 answered; 11 skipped



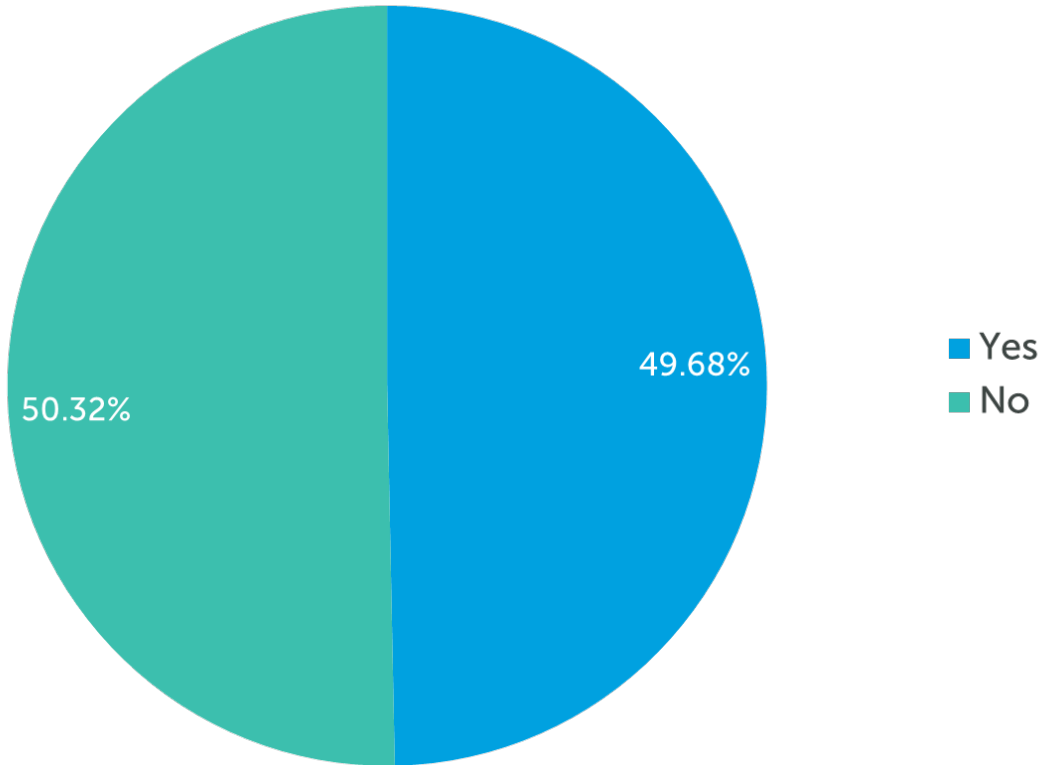
Overall, respondents rated favorably that they understood the need for more water, how Tampa Bay Water’s board selects projects and which entity was responsible for the individual parts of the project.

Most respondents (44%) strongly agreed that the online format gave them flexibility to watch the presentation at their leisure; 68% agreed or strongly agreed the presentation was helpful, informative and easy to understand.

Regarding the statement, “*I understand that the injected reclaimed water will not travel to the drinking water withdrawal wells*”: roughly 55% agreed or strongly agreed, 20% of respondents were neutral, and a little more than one-quarter of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement.

Question 10: Were your questions / concerns addressed?

157 answered; 12 skipped



- 78 respondents said the presentation addressed their questions/concerns
- 79 respondents said the presentation did not address their questions/concerns

Question 11: What questions remain that you would like answered?

77 respondents; 92 skipped

Following are the individual responses as they were entered without spelling or grammar edits:

- How the project will affect our well? Are we to be offered “city water” when this project is completed?
- If recharge wells were to help environment recover why would you then increase pumping again, seems like we've just wasted all the money and effort to restore damage already caused by overpumping
- Why take more farm fields ? Why accommodate further over-population of what was, a rural area? Why take more water from the environment given current water supply concerns?
- Will Tampa Bay Water and Hillsborough County be accountable and responsible for costs that may be incurred if our wells are compromised? And pay the costs that may be in the future because of this project?
- I do not agree with this development because of the possible effects to my water I don't want them to build this at all
- How bout instead of building so many houses and letting all the damn Yankees and Cali dems move here we do a no build law then we ain't got to waste tax money on all these people that are just moving here and changing our town. Born and raised in Riverview and I used to love it. Now it's a pain to go or do anything
- Not a question - injecting 'polluted' water back into the ground trying to force 'Mother Nature' to clean it will create more problems. Look at Tampa Bay right now. It's turning into a cesspool
- Why are we not looking into reverse osmosis Why are we not slowing development Why does the water board not understand that red tide is related to outflow and loss of natural springs
- Property values and disturbances to the homes next to the proposed areas
- What about water pressure levels and use in our houses? Is there a potential for sinkholes?
- Because of sinkholes and reducing water quality here in the eastern Hillsborough County area, who is going to be legally- and financially- liable for damages caused by sinkholes related to this project?
- How would the project compensate for disasters like no electrical power for weeks? What would be the impact to the residents in the impacted area?

- Concern that pulling water from the aquifer will create more sink holes
- I would like to know the likelihood of sinkhole formations in the area before any plans are finalized. I'd like to see the geologic data and any conclusions from experts as to the likelihood of sinkhole development directly related to the project.
- How much of an increase in cost
- How it would impact local residents during construction etc
- You state that since groundwater travels west, there is no way the reclaimed water could reach the freshwater well. However, we know that saltwater intrusion has been going on for years in south county...in other words, the saltwater is moving East. An excerpt from a 2002 Peer Review: "Saltwater Intrusion and the Minimum Aquifer Level in the Southern Water Use Caution Area" This is a general description of groundwater conditions within the Upper Floridan Aquifer near the coast in the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD). The seawater/freshwater interface is onshore and moving eastward (landward) within the most permeable portions of the aquifer. A number of investigations that included both data collecting and model analyses were conducted to investigate the position of the interface and its rate of movement. This problem has continually gotten worse over the past 2 decades. I've not convinced the reclaimed water you described will not end up coming through my tap.
- Tampa Bay Water's projects of improvements to a booster pump station and a 42" diameter water main running N to S to Route 674 by 2028 is to increase supply to about 110 MGD and demand in 2050 is about 70 MGD in South Hillsborough County. Why is this Aquifer Recharge Project even needed?
- How does injecting water to the west that will flow to the west makeup for the water that will be pumped out from the east?
- I need my well to be CLEAN AND FULL 😡
- Why does anyone have the right to ruin our wells our highways our quality of life so the land developers can continue to ruin our environment by over development because of greed. The interstate is backed up daily and most of our other roads now keep building more homes we can start calling our roads parking lots. We are ruining the quality of our water and all our natural resources.
- Reclaimed water on edge of gulf will and probably already does secrete into the bay contributing to red tide which is killing our sea life. It may not make it back to your withdrawal wells but what about the Wells of individuals who live closer to the gulf? Once you pull all your millions of gallons from our area what will happen to local wells? If we live in a state who can not see far enough into the future to see if we are already running out of water that we need to stop building then what hope do we have that the future of our state

will not end up like California with constant shortages for everyone. Putting a bandaid on the problem is not a solution, destroying our environment on what you hope will work is not a solution, ruining the wells or the people and farmers who have lived in the area for decades or centuries is not a solution. The people in the Balm area where you are placing these wells have no city water options, our wells are our lives. Once you drain our wells dry will you be responsible to come in mad put in city waterlines and supply us with free water, our water that you are now basically stealing out from underneath us? Your construction will be impacting the animal population in our area, I know for a fact that there are endangered gopher turtles on that property but do you not have to follow the federal laws that protect their habitations. We have reservoirs in the area that can be utilized..we have water sources in the area being shipped to Pinellas County why not stop that. It is not Hillsborough counties fault that the people in charge of other counties water supplies were not smart enough to stop growth that their region could not support. We need to stop this now!! If Hillsborough county can no longer support the water needs without your experimental treated water wells into our already delicate gulf then it is time to put a stop to growth now ! Why is it that the environment, the local property owners, the animals all take a second seat to you making more money. You can not buy back aquifer credits with a system you can not guarantee will work but undoubtedly will end up like the Piney Point disaster costing us and future generations with your ignorance.

- When will the county and Tampa Bay Water agree that the current growth rate is unsustainable in S. Hillsborough County?
- Assurances my well water quality and level will not be affected.
- Why is health and safety of people not truly the priority.?
- Given an increase in population growth, wil Hillsborough County be willing to incorporate stronger water conservation policies for businesses, residents, and agricultural sites including mandatory Florida friendly practices and sprinkler limitations? Would increasing population and development risk degrading the aquifer? Have additional considerations been taken to project further water needs beyond the scope of this project? Would the offset actions required by future development include environmental benefits aside from water concerns such as habitat restoration, urban green spaces, and measures to increase biodiversity? Would this project provide disproportionately benefit any class or race over another?
- How will this effect the drinking water from my well since my home is located about 5 miles from Tampa Bay in southern Hillsborough county
- Stick to desalinization
- Overdevelopment of this area is a big concern I have. Water needs are going to be a bigger problem unless growth is managed which doesn't seem to be happening.

- The Reclaimed Water Fee is an AdHoc 3rd party "licentious" toll charge, based on contrived circumstances, the logic of such hedge-fund (statute 153.03(5)) is the inappropriate product of fabricated desire of political greed. The parasites introduced both politically and biologically into the essential need of our vital water are in question.
- Pick option 1 or 2. Do not build a wellfield or any more wells to destroy the aquifer. Just stop it! It's really disgusting that it's an option.
- STOP taking water from our future. This is insane. You need more desalination. Your constant raping of our aquifer is destroying Florida from the inside. When will this insanity end?
- We have areas that are short on water from uncontrolled growth now. What are we doing about this? More growth is t fixing. This implied all was fine and we know it's not.
- Why are you allowing more homes built when there is already difficulty supporting current homes?
- What about the Kohn parcel?
- Further discussion regarding environmental impacts and how it's possible the reclaimed water wouldn't begin to blend with fresh water and also decrease the aquifers ability to filter groundwater
- How do you know that injecting reclaimed water won't damage our precious aquifer?
- Long term impact on aquifer
- How are county planners still approving building plans when we do not have the water to supply them?
- Why the need here in Hillsborough when the waiter is for another county. Control the number of new homes being constructed and don't put your problems you've created out here in the rural community of southeast Hillsborough County where we rely on our water for not only our families drinking water, our landscape, wetlands, ponds, and the means to continue to make our agricultural living!!!! This is wrong, and the decisions being made by people whom don't live here for the benefit of the wrong reasons!!!
- I dont understand how pumping water into the ground near the bay (that travels toward the bay and not inland) "increases" the amount of water available from the aquifer inland. If my well stops supplying water after the project is operational, will TBW dig me a deeper well? It seems to me that this project will be of absolutely no benefit, but will be a liability, to the existing residents of this area (outside of the cancer of the real estate developments, that is, who will be assured of enough water to keep their lawns green in accordance with HOA rules and regulations). Also, this whole project just seems to provide a boost to the

developers to allow them to overrun--and destroy--the rural communities in the area, such as Balm.

- Why isn't this being presented in a public forum so that questions and answers can be entertained?
- Whether this project will affect my well directly. Whether the level of my well will go down and if I will have to go deeper to get my water.
- Injecting gray water into the aquifer for that comes up in our bay and our gulf this is crazy why would you take a chance that could possibly ruin our gulf and bay The danger is too risky we have too many different options Menard park reservoir do you like manatee county damn the little manatee way too many options than to take a chance nobody should be allowed to screw with our aquifer especially with what you call gray water you have no way of removing the phosphates the mercury all the stuff that's in the gray water long term affects terrible short term game we've already had too many red tides we don't need anymore the fishery FWC with \$5 million experimental oyster beds and clam Beds or tourism it reminds me of McKay be in Tampa my dad used to swim from Davis Island to ballast point look at the dead bay today it's pitiful please find a different plan this isn't going to work salt water intrusion will not be pushed back by gray water injection anybody with any common sense knows that it will contaminate local wells as well as your Wellfield in balm Will be just like Lithia and Keysville where are you dried up everybody's well they had delicious drinking water now they've got stinky Sulfur water that ruins pipes makes your house smell it's terrible you have too many alternatives increase your salt water plant do US carriers of the United States of America don't run out of fresh water thank you
- DO LAND DEVELOPERS AND/OR NEW USERS PAY FOR THIS? IF NOT, WHY?
- What are the consequences of using the reclaimed water? After the water has been "injected" and flows to the Gulf of Mexico, what are the potential environmental consequences?
- Why are builders allowed to continue building without the infrastructure to support them, and can fees be assessed on the builders to support timely build outs on necessary utilities like water
- More details overall, maybe another video for those who would want to learn additional information.
- This feels like a foregone conclusion. The boundless population growth in this county is staggering. The rampant pace of development needs to be reined in so that our infrastructure projects can keep pace with growth instead of playing catch up all the time.
- The impacts of injection of reclaimed water, flowing west towards the Gulf, on our Bays, Gulf and more western groundwater sources. This project overview seems to imply that once it is out of sight (out of the Floridan Aquifer) the potential impacts of reclaimed water in these sensitive ecosystems should be out of mind. There is confusion or contradiction to

me in that, hearing that the technology for reclaiming wastewater is so advanced that the water is safe to drink directly, then why would we not just drink this water directly? That solution would avoid the creation of this elaborate infrastructure network and eliminate any potential negative environmental impacts of deepwell injection. If however, reclaimed wastewater is not advanced enough to create potable water and it is necessary to inject it into the aquifer for recharge, then I have environmental concerns about injecting it into the aquifer. Our most precious resource should be protected at all costs from potential unknown impacts. The presentation shows that TBW is focusing on groundwater as a solution to the anticipated water shortage because it is the most economical solution. The growth in south-central Hillsborough County is spawned largely by families looking to save money on housing compared to more urban settings, but perhaps it is time to put a more accurate price tag on our most precious resource, water. Economic feasibility was mentioned before environmental protection which is an inherently short-sighted and dangerous perspective. We should embark on whatever project is most sustainable for our environment, and I don't feel this was discussed thoroughly in regards to deepwell injection, as without the precious natural resources of our area, we will not be able to sustain healthy and economically sound communities.

- Will the proposed water treatment plant produce foul odors in the local area?
- Have we determined how many homes/people can feasibly live in these developing areas, plus existing areas, based on the aquifers overall water capacity? Basically, what is the max number of homes and people the aquifer could ever sustain given its current usage or projected use over the next 300 years? Can we keep expanding our use of the water resources indefinitely or is there a cap to our use? Another major concerns about this project is it only looks out to 2038. What happens after that, especially if a maximum capacity number of homes and people can be determined?
- Do not want my private well contaminated or have to sink a deeper well. If I have to because of the new water project , county should have to pay for it .
- don't feel safe with this
- How much is this going to cost the residents
- What is the impact to residence in the area that are receiving water from their private Wells, which we paid thousands to have installed. what is the cost impact to us and are being forced to use from this new water supply and then being charge a monthly fee.
- Effect on private wells near the project
- Why are you not giving priority to desalination projects? Surely the costs are coming down and will soon (?) be comparable to other sources of drinking water. I won't live long enough to see 50% of our water provided from desalination, but my grandchildren will. Please don't ignore the elderly. We pay!

- The presentation makes it clear the Injunction process will have no effects leaving only one big question; The effects, if any, the withdrawal of water from the aquifer will have on production and water quality of private drinking water wells south of the Little Manatee River. County water services are not available in the area as an alternative to wells.
- Why is the water bill in Cypress Creek \$120. and \$40 in Villas on the Green
- Stop more house
- Why are we dipping into ground water by mt. Trashmore and so close to residential communities, farm lands where they are all required to have green lawns? Seems like a lot of contaminated water. Drawing water from well could create high chances of sink holes?
- How will we'll fields pumping 10 mill gal/day affect my 230' well located near C.J. Young Reservoir?
- How will this project affect local existing wells in the same aquifer? Will there be a fund set up to rebuild resident wells if they fail due to excessive draw down by Tampa bay water?
- Why Tampa Bay Water still thinks they can drill without local consent and continue to ruin wells and local lives in Eastern Hillsborough
- The location for the well field is adjacent to landfills. I'm concerned about the quality of the water proposed to be pumped out next to a mountain of trash
- Environmental soundness and protection for existing water wells in the areas that water is being taken from.
- Why not stop issuing building permits until area infrastructure can support increased population? Why is the county permitting multi-family housing that contributes little to tax revenues while straining already overloaded infrastructure? What makes the county think that polluted (reclaimed) water will not contaminate the aquifer? What is the county doing to improve poor water pressure due to poor planning besides "ordering" residents to damage their lawns by watering at ill-advised times?
- Lat long of the injection site. Dye trace data before and after, to confirm your theory of a west ward hydrostatic flow. Offer well testing for isotopes related to the garbage water you are injecting near my farm and family's water source.
- What the cost burden on the residents of Tampa Bay will be, and if it will lead to more affordable water bills. I am also concerned about the overall quality of our drinking water seeing as it is not actually safe for consumption.
- How can a two-week test period possibly indicate whether that well will or will not have impacts to environment, aquifer levels, and other concerns? Seems rather short to make such a long-term decision.

- How will this affect existing homeowner wells? Will pumping water out of the aquifer in that area create a higher risk of sink hole development?
- How much are we accommodating the land developers in this project? One of the aquifer recharge wells is clearly next to a radioactive gypsum stack. Why??
- STOP THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW HOUSING COMMUNITIES. WE NEED OPEN SPACES AND HABITATS FOR WILDLIFE. THE INFRASTRUCTURE CANT UPHOLD THE NEW DEVELOPMENTS. WE WANT OUR PART OF OLD FLORIDA TO STAY THE SAME. NO MORE PEOPLE OR HOUSES!
- need more info
- when will unrestrained development stop? I know the awnser, do you?

Question 12: Thank you for completing this survey. If you would like to be added to Tampa Bay Water's mailing list, please provide your contact information.

67 respondents; 102 skipped

Nearly 40% of respondents gave their contact information to be added to Tampa Bay Water's mailing list: 66 gave a mailing address, 65 gave an email address, and 55 gave a phone number.