



Water Resources Master Plan COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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

What is the Master Plan?

The Water Resources Master Plan is a blueprint for how water and wastewater facilities and services will be managed over the next 20 years. For example, the Water Resources Master Plan is examining GWA's existing water and wastewater system resources and identifying what needs to be built during the next 20 years to provide reliable water and wastewater service. It also identifies ways to improve service now. Master Planning is a normal process for water and wastewater utilities. It helps utilities become more efficient and effective as they plan for the future.



Why are you doing a Master Plan?

Planning for water resources is important to ensure that current and future generations have this important resource available to them, to make sure water is always safe to drink, and to ensure the water and wastewater system works for everyone. GWA is developing the Water Resources Master Plan to comply with an agreement among the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, GWA and the Government of Guam. The agreement is called a Stipulated Order and is intended to help GWA provide safe, reliable service to the island, while meeting all regulations.

Who is doing the Master Plan?

A team of independent experts is working with GWA staff to develop the Master Plan.

How will the Master Plan benefit me as a customer?

The Master Plan will benefit all customers because it will lead to improved water and wastewater service. It will help GWA focus more on routine maintenance instead of emergency repairs, which helps keep rates more affordable in the long run. The Master Plan will also help ensure Guam's natural beauty and environment are protected by improving wastewater service.

What is the schedule?

Work began on the Master Plan May 6, 2004. A draft of the Master Plan is expected to be ready for public review in Spring 2006. The final Master Plan should be completed in July 2006.

Why has GWA been fined by the EPA?

As part of the Stipulated Order, the EPA requires GWA to make specific improvements or submit specific information to the EPA by certain dates. GWA has met most of the EPA's deadlines, but not all of them. In some cases specific parts of the Master Plan have taken longer than was anticipated. EPA fines GWA when deadlines are not met, regardless of the reason. Even though some deadlines have been missed, GWA is making good progress on the Master Plan, and it is scheduled to be completed on time.

How can I have input into the Master Plan?

The public is an important part of the Master Plan team. At the outset, GWA met with residents of villages throughout the island and is using that input to help develop the Master Plan. GWA will present a draft of the Master Plan to the public for review and comment before it is finalized. Comments can be sent by fax to 649-3750 or e-mail to prudencio@guamwaterworks.org. You can also visit the GWA Web site to post your comments at www.guamwaterworks.org. GWA is located at 578 North Marine Drive in Tamuning (along Route 1, Upper Tumon, behind TeleGuam).

How much is the Master Plan costing and who is paying?

The cost of the Master Plan is \$5.9 million. The EPA is contributing \$2 million of that amount. GWA is paying for the rest.

What are you doing to improve service today?

Several parts of the Master Plan will have an immediate benefit to customers. One example is the detailed Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping. Improving the accuracy of Guam's water and wastewater pipeline distribution system maps has meant that problems can be located and repaired more quickly. Quicker repairs result in improved customer service and reduced costs since GWA workers can go directly to the problem area. Another example is improvements to the Ugum Water Treatment Plant. Erosion of soil into the stream had been a problem at the Ugum Water Treatment Plant in the past, but operations and maintenance improvements have allowed the plant to remain open and provide water service to customers for the last two years.



Is the Master Plan related to privatization?

No. The Master Plan is being done to help improve water and wastewater service on Guam, regardless of who runs GWA.

Once it is done, how will the Master Plan be carried out?

The Master Plan will be an approved document spanning the next 20 years and will include a detailed schedule of what needs to be done and when it needs to be completed. By developing a Master Plan, system improvements will get carried out regardless of changes in local government leadership. In addition the Master Plan will provide GWA with technology and tools to perform its duties more effectively.

Will my rates go up because of the Master Plan?

Rates will go up to fund system improvements regardless of the Master Plan. Having a Master Plan will help keep rates affordable in the long run because it will enable GWA to shift from emergency repairs, which are more expensive, to routine maintenance, which is less expensive.



Will we finally get sewer service and reliable water service as a result of this?

Unsewered areas are being evaluated as part of the Master Plan. These areas will be prioritized for service based on environmental and funding. Some areas will be sewered sooner than others. It might not be cost-effective to sewer all areas.

GWA is constantly improving reliability of water service. The Master Plan will help improve reliability in the future.

Will this help reduce pollution on the beaches?

Yes. The Master Plan includes a number of measures to help protect Guam's natural beauty and environment.

When will improvements recommended by the Master Plan be built?

Improvements will be built throughout the next 20 years and beyond, but several projects have already started and customers will see more projects underway in the near future.

Want More Information?

For more information, please call Prudencio Aguon or Jude Calvo at 647-7887.

Comments can be sent by fax to 649-3750 or e-mail to

prudencio@guamwaterworks.org.

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