

Service Contracts and Tap Agreements with Developers, Businesses, and Individuals; Intergovernmental Water and Sewer Service Contracts

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Water and Sewer Service Contracts with Developers, Businesses, and Individuals

- Service Agreements are also known as Tap Agreements, or Development Agreements
- 2. Types of Agreements:
 - Residential Development or Tap Agreement (Multiple Residential Improvements)
 - Commercial Development or Tap Agreement (Multiple Commercial Improvements)
 - Business Tap Agreement (Single Commercial Improvement)
 - Individual Tap or Permit Agreement (Single Residential Improvement)



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Water and Sewer Service Contracts with Developers, Businesses, and Individuals (Contd.)

- 3. When Needed Generally:
 - 3.1. Service Contract vs. Rules and Regulations
 - Pro Contract. Reasons:
 - Terms Clear and Unambiguous
 - Easier to Enforce
 - Less Likely to be Litigated
 - More Likely to Win if Litigated
 - Approved Design or Construction Plan = Contract
 - Catch All Provision- Customer Must Comply with all Rules and Regulations and Construction and Material Specification
 - Covers Items Unaddressed in Rules and Regulations





Water and Sewer Service Contracts with Developers, Businesses, and Individuals (Contd.)

- 4. Pre-Contract Commitment to Provide Services
 - Detrimental Reliance
 - USDA 1926(B) Protection Issues
- Important Contract Provisions for Service Contracts with Developers and Businesses
 - 5.1. Off-Site Extensions:
 - Public Bidding / Prevailing Wage
 - Joint Economic Development Districts (JEDDs), Tax Increment Financing (TIFs)
 - Tap Fee Credits for Off-Site Extensions
 - Reimbursements of Third-Party Tap Fees





Important Contract Provisions for Service Contracts with Developers and Businesses (Contd.)

- 5.2. Pre-Construction Requirements:
 - Compliance with Zoning
 - Subdivision Plat Requirements
 - Other Governmental Entity Requirements
 - Approved Design and Construction Plans
- 5.3. Payment of Costs for Easements, Property Rights, Rights of Way, Permits, Inspections
- 5.4. Hold Harmless / Indemnification





Important Contract Provisions for Service Contracts with Developers and Businesses (Contd.)

- 5.5. Breach / Remedies for Breach:
 - Stop Work, Complete Construction, Terminate Contract, Deposit to Continue Project, Failure to Construct On-Site Systems
- 5.6. Prerequisites for Acceptance of Project Improvements:
 - Conditional Acceptance, Affidavit Regarding Subs, As-Builts,
 2-Year Maintenance Security, Video of Lines, Convey
 Facilities by Bill of Sale and Easement





Important Contract Provisions for Service Contracts with Developers and Businesses (Contd.)

5.7. Miscellaneous:

- Right to Record
- Exclusive Provider
- Prohibition on Annexation





Service Agreements with a Large Volume Business Customer, Considerations:

- 6.1. Require Business to Provide Requirements in Writing from the Start
- 6.2. Confidentiality Agreements
- 6.3. Reserving Capacity:
 - 6.3.1. Reserving Capacity Currently Available, Cost
 - Lost Revenue
 - O & M Cost Related to Unused Capacity
 - 6.3.2. Cost to Replace Capacity
 - Future Design and Construction Costs to Replace Capacity





Service Contracts with Individuals, Permits

- 7.1. Service Agreements or Permit Recommended
- 7.2. Service Agreements with Landlords and Tenants
- 7.3. Limited License Agreement to Enter onto Customers Property to Read Meters, Repair, Replace, Review for Compliance with Rules, and Terminate Services





Intergovernmental Service Agreements for Water and Sewer Services

- Types of Service Agreements for Water and Sewer Services Include Bulk Water Contracts, Contract for Sewer Treatment Services Only, Direct Service Contracts, and Contracts for Operations and Maintenance Only
- Important Provisions:
 - 2.1. Termination of Services for Non-payment; Termination for Other Reasons





Intergovernmental Service Agreements for Water and Sewer Services (Contd.)

2.2. Rates

- USDA Contract: "Any increase or decrease in rates shall be based on a demonstrable increase or decrease in the costs of performance hereunder, but such costs shall not include increased capitalization of the Seller's system."
- 2.3. Compliance with Rules and Regulations of the Entity Providing the Service
- 2.4. Exclusivity
- 2.5. Volume / Availability of Additional Capacity / Cost





Intergovernmental Service Agreements for Water and Sewer Services (Contd.)

- 2.6. Service Area, Expansion of Service Area
- 2.7. Oversizing of Facilities to Service Other Areas
- 2.8. Term of Contract
- 2.9. Annexation, JEDDs, TIFs
- 2.10. Pressure / Water Quality



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Intergovernmental Service Agreements for Water and Sewer Services (Contd.)

- 3. Implementing Modification or Replacement of Service Agreements:
 - 3.1. Negotiation. Provide a Benefit in Return for Implementing a Better Agreement.
 - 3.2. Implement Changes When the Agreement Expires





Questions?

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