

## City Continues to Consider Package Plant Purchase

Inspections are being conducted at the Sanibel Bayous Package Treatment system and the Sanibel City Council is scheduled to decide whether to purchase the plant after a public hearing in January.

The public hearing is set for January 15. After the hearing, the Council will consider whether to approve a contract to buy the plant. The public hearing must be held before the Council's decision in order to meet a statutory requirement by the State.

The owner of the Sanibel Bayous plant has received the contract and the City has talked with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), asking for adequate time to consider remedies at the plant without concern about getting penalized by the state.

Should the contract be approved, the eventual plan would be to allow the plant grounds to be restored as a mangrove forest. But first, the organic material near the plant would need to be allowed to decompose completely to avoid harm to water quality. Homes currently serviced by the package treatment plant would be added to Sanibel's central sewer system.

<p>The City continues to monitor whether the plant is in compliance with State regulations through a standing public records request with the FDEP.