

## **Fragmentation of Public Services**

The more fragmented the delivery of services becomes, the more difficult it will be to coordinate and manage growth. The county has been fortunate to have avoided a proliferation of governmental and quasi-governmental jurisdictions that are present in other metropolitan areas.

Urban fringe developments were annexed by existing municipalities rather than incorporated as separate cities. In some cases, however, special purpose districts have been created to address sewer and water needs in the rural area. These individual entities by their very nature each pursue their own self serving interests, regardless of the costs imposed on others. For example, excess capacity in a portion of the rural water system's service area may encourage the company to promote further growth to capitalize on investment even though such growth could be detrimental to a sanitary district and necessitate costly and inefficient improvements. Furthermore, the township may have to reconstruct roads to accommodate the extra traffic. Likewise, the water system may be negatively impacted by the actions of other entities. Communication and coordination among the various entities is usually nonexistent.

Unless sprawl type development patterns are curtailed, the need for more sewer districts, new road districts, and drainage districts will become a very real possibility. In formulating development policies, the county is in a position to avoid the further fragmentation of service delivery systems.