

purpose of constructing said systems.

(c) Privately-owned systems shall be taken under condemnation by the [Commission] COUNTY free and clear of all debts and liens, but the [Commission] COUNTY shall make a party defendant of any person, firm, or corporation having any recorded lien or encumbrance against the same, and the Circuit Court may determine the respective amounts due the defendants; and from and after payment into Court or to the proper parties as hereinabove provided, the [Commission] COUNTY is authorized to take possession of, maintain, and operate the system, which shall be subject to the same regulations and penalties as though the system so acquired had been constructed and put into operation by the [Commission] COUNTY under the provisions of this subtitle; provided, however, that no building or premises actually connected in an adequate manner with [the] AN acquired WATER OR SEWERAGE system shall be required to pay any connection charge.

(d) Whenever there is in existence a privately-owned water supply, [or] sewerage OR DRAINAGE system which in the judgment of the [Commission] BOARD is unsuitable in whole or in part, for incorporation into the [Commission's] COUNTY'S system, the [Commission] BOARD may disregard the existence of said system or unsuitable part thereof and extend its system to serve the area tributary to the existing system or unsuitable part thereof, and all the provisions of this subtitle relating to systems constructed by the [Commission] COUNTY apply thereto.

15-6.

(a) The [Commission] COUNTY may purchase or acquire by gift any existing water, sewerage, or drainage systems, or parts thereof, including those owned, operated by, or serving any municipality, or any land, structure, buildings, stream bed, water rights, or watershed, either in fee or as an easement, which in its judgment is desirable or necessary for the purpose of providing adequate water, sewerage or drainage service or [either] ANY OF THEM for the residents of the [county] SERVICE AREA. Any such purchase [is subject to the approval of the Board and] may be made upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon, but before any part of the purchase price is paid, other than a nominal sum of money to bind the agreement, it is the duty of the vendor or agent to furnish a statement to [said Commission] THE BOARD setting forth all names and addresses of persons having any interest or claims against the property whatsoever, which shall be verified by an oath in writing.

(b) Thereupon it is the duty of the [Commission] BOARD to notify personally or by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, all persons having any interest whatever in the property, and in addition the [Commission] BOARD shall give three weeks' notice of its intention to purchase the property, in a newspaper or newspapers published within the [county] SERVICE AREA where