

From: [Florida DEP Protecting Florida Together Funding](#)
To: [Magyar, Emily M](#)
Subject: Submittal Confirmation - Water Quality Improvements Grant Proposal
Date: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 10:13:59 AM

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Thank you for submitting a project for consideration under the Florida DEP Protecting Florida Together website. Our project team is evaluating your submittal. In the event your submittal is identified to move to the next stage of consideration, our staff will be in touch with you. You can always check our [grants page](#) for final project selections.

Submitted on Tue, 07/16/2024 - 15:06

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Get Started

Applicant Email

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Project Details

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Entity/Sponsor Name

Pinellas County Utilities

Project Title

Manufactured Home Communities Wastewater Collection System Improvements

Please select all grant programs for which you seek to apply and are eligible:

Water Quality Improvement Grant

Project Description

This project includes the improvement and replacement of deteriorating sanitary sewer systems for 13 mobile home communities (MHCs) in Pinellas County that have historically been found to contribute high or excessive levels of inflow and infiltration (I/I) to the County's public sanitary sewer systems. This project mitigates the adverse impacts from wetter climate conditions, flooding, and sea level rise by improving critical wastewater infrastructure to reduce sanitary sewer overflows. This results in a contribution to: (a) better water quality in the area and nearby water bodies, like Lake Seminole; (b) the protection of living freshwater and marine resources and their environments; and (c) a more resilient wastewater collection system.

Please describe how the project will address the sources of nutrients or other pollutants and/or how this project is effective and necessary for restoring water quality.

This project will aid in the reduction of pollutants from entering the water body, rather than reducing nutrient loads in the water bodies themselves, through the replacement of private wastewater collection systems that have been found to contribute excessive levels of inflow and infiltration (I/I) to the County's public wastewater system. Replacing the wastewater systems will reduce the likelihood of sanitary sewer overflows (SSO) and associated adverse impacts in the area as well as contribute to a more resilient wastewater infrastructure system. As a result of the I/I reduction and SSO mitigation, water quality within the surrounding surface waters known to be community resources for recreation will improve over time. The County's public sanitary sewer system is directly impacted by the excessive levels of I/I contributed by these private communities as SSOs may occur as a result. In addition, the County's water reclamation facilities are directly impacted by I/I as the facilities are designed to handle a certain flow based on wastewater projections of their service area and facility capacities can be breached with high levels of I/I that contribute stormwater into the sanitary

sewer system. The project improvements are necessary to reduce I/I and mitigate SSOs, which will effectively enhance water quality to the area's surface water bodies of Lake Seminole, Cross Bayou, and Boca Ciega Bay. It promotes more predictable flows to the South Cross Bayou Advanced Water Reclamation Facility and contribute to supporting a more resilient wastewater collection system in an environmentally vulnerable area.

Project Location

Enter the county and/or counties in which the project is located.

Pinellas County

Please select the project location on the map below

Project Location Latitude

27.858907662950163

Project Location Longitude

-82.74832627903412

What is the targeted waterbody for this project? (Can include downstream waters.)

Lake Seminole, Cross Bayou, and Boca Ciega Bay.

Is the project benefiting a waterbody not attaining nutrient or nutrient-related water quality standards, including an area with a total maximum daily load (TMDL)?

Yes

What is the name of the waterbody not attaining standards that this project benefits?

Lake Seminole has a Reasonable Assurance Plan with a plan to improve a water body where a TMDL has not been established, Cross Bayou is impaired for fecal coliform, and Boca Ciega Bay is impaired for a variety of nutrients and fecal.

Is this project located within a basin management action plan (BMAP) area or a reasonable assurance plan area adopted by final order (RAP)?

Yes

What BMAP or RAP area is the project located in? [View Map of BMAPs](#)

RAP 4b - Lake Seminole Watershed - Nutrients, pH

Is the project identified in the BMAP Statewide Annual Report?

No

Is this project located within a [Rural Area of Opportunity](#)?

No

Project Benefits

Project Benefits

Address compound flooding and wet weather-related system vulnerabilities, reduce the likelihood of SSOs within the County's public sanitary sewer system, and restore and protect freshwater, coastal, and marine environments like Lake Seminole.

Total Nitrogen reductions (lbs/year)

0

Total Phosphorus reductions (lbs/year)

0

Reason

The benefit is unknown or cannot be calculated

Water made available within 2 years of project completion (MGD)

0

Storage created upon project completion (MG)

0

Reason

The benefit is unknown or cannot be calculated

If the project has benefits beyond water quality and/or water quantity, please explain.

The majority of this project’s benefits are related to water quality and water quantity in terms of inflow and infiltration (I/I) abatement and SSO mitigation. Another benefit includes equity considerations as the residents of the 13 mobile home communities are home to generally low and fixed-income residents who do not have the funds to improve the communities’ infrastructure and overall resilience to intensifying wet weather events due to climate change. In addition, there are recreational benefits resulting from this project as the water quality of the water bodies of Lake Seminole, Cross Bayou, and Boca Ciega Bay are being enhanced, where a variety of recreational activities, such as paddling, fishing, and boating, are being conducted on a daily basis.

Please provide a description of how the above benefits were calculated, including the name of the model or tool used, if applicable. For septic to sewer projects, please use the OSTDS calculations for BMAPs tool found [HERE](#).

The benefits cannot be calculated, but this project will aid in preventing nutrient and bacterial contamination from sanitary sewer overflows (SSO) to the water bodies of Lake Seminole, Cross Bayou, and Boca Ciega Bay. This project will improve and replace deteriorating sanitary sewer systems for 13 mobile home communities that were historically found to contribute high or excessive levels of inflow and infiltration (I/I) to the County's public sanitary sewer systems. I/I directly impacts a sanitary sewer system’s conveyance capacity as well as the wastewater treatment plant’s capacity and efficiency with the influx of stormwater flows; it may result in the disruption of treatment processes of the water reclamation facility, which can result in an unauthorized discharge event of substandard-treated wastewater. This project does not remove nutrients directly from one of the benefitting water bodies but rather result in upstream system improvements that eliminate potential nutrient and bacterial contamination.

Funding Requests

Is this a new project or a new phase of an existing project?

New Project

Does this project have a multi-year project implementation schedule with previous state funds committed to the project, or to a phase of this project?

Yes

Please provide the previous DEP grant agreement number(s) associated with this project:

Resilient FL (2022) - 22FRP09

State grant amount awarded previously:

\$ 25,000,000.00

Please outline the multi-year implementation schedule detailing any previously state funded phases of the project, the phase currently being requested with this project proposal, future phases of the project, including the projected timeline for full implementation of the completed project:

Currently, the project is in the bid phase, where the recommendation of award to contractors for construction is anticipated to occur in August 2024, with notice to proceed being issued in October 2024. The previously state-funded phase is construction, which is anticipated to start in October 2024 and will be substantially completed by June 30, 2026. Closeout of the project is anticipated to occur by December 21, 2026. Projects funded by future funding would have their own deadlines, but these projects are “shovel-ready”.

Anticipated grant funds needed

\$ 30,000,000.00

Does the grant amount requested include costs for preconstruction activities? (Design, permitting, surveys, etc.)

No

Total project cost

\$ 103,000,000.00

Cost Effectiveness

MHC were identified from flow monitoring and have been prioritized based on benefits in inflow and infiltration reduction per project. The current execution of the project has the MHC broken out into different bid packages to ensure a reasonable schedule given the current grant deadlines, and to create competition. Multiple bid packages were bid and multiple contractors were awarded projects during the first round of projects, and it is anticipated that future bidding will be done accordingly.

Proposed Project Readiness to Proceed

Estimated design completion at the time of this proposal submittal?

100%

Has all required permitting been completed?

No

Please provide relevant status information for each permit not yet completed.

One Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) right-of-way (ROW) permit has not been issued but application has been deemed complete in July 2024. One building permit application for one community will be submitted to the City of Seminole by the contractor. Six infrastructure permits and one ROW permit will be submitted to the City of Largo; where three infrastructure permits will be applied for by the County to meet construction notice-to-proceeds and the remaining permits will be applied for by the Engineer of Record or the contractor. One Pinellas County habitat permit for all communities located within Unincorporated Pinellas County will be submitted by the contractor. All permits are anticipated to be secured prior to the construction.

Estimated completion date of design and permitting:

2024-09-30

Estimated start date of construction or BMP implementation:

07/01/2025

Estimated project end date:

12/31/2027

Does this project have approval from a city council, county board or other governing board to move forward?

Yes

Identify the parties responsible for operating and maintaining the proposed project and affirmatively state that there is a legal or other commitment to do so.

Pinellas County Utilities is the party legally responsible for operating and maintaining the proposed project. Agreements were obtained with the mobile home communities for easement access and rights to the sanitary sewer collection systems within their private properties.

Land ownership status (for construction projects only):

Land is under an easement that allows for construction and access.

Project Specific Information

Please select from the following eligible project types for this grant program:

Other Water Quality Projects

Does the project fall within the below project types?

Not Applicable

Please describe how the project improves water quality.

This project improves water quality through the improvement and replacement of deteriorating

sanitary sewer systems for 13 MHCs in Pinellas County that have historically been found to contribute high or excessive levels of I/I to the County's public sanitary sewer systems. I/I directly impacts a sanitary sewer systems conveyance capacity and the wastewater treatment capacity and efficiency of downstream utility infrastructure. Wastewater flow is conveyed via Pinellas County's public sanitary sewer system to the South Cross Bayou Water Reclamation Facility for treatment, which is the largest wastewater treatment facility in Pinellas County (average 33 MGD). I/I can strain and overwhelm the capacity of the wastewater infrastructure and disrupt the treatment processes of the water reclamation facility, which can result in an unauthorized discharge event of substandard wastewater. Unauthorized discharge of substandard treated wastewater and the SSOs ultimately discharge to nearby surface waters, such as Lake Seminole, Cross Bayou, and Boca Ciega Bay. These events can result in the water bodies being classified as impaired and adverse human health and environmental impacts arise, which will impact Pinellas County, City of St. Petersburg, and City of Clearwater. This project mitigates I/I and prevents SSOs. Replacement of the 13 MHC sanitary sewer systems will also promote more predictable flows to the South Cross Bayou Water Reclamation facility and contribute to the protection of living coastal and marine resources and their environments. This project supports a more resilient wastewater collection system in an environmentally vulnerable area.

Additional Information

Is there a public outreach component to the project?

Yes

Please describe. Include key messages and target audience.

Consistent communication has been maintained with each of the 13 MHCs, specifically with their Board members, community management partners, and legal representatives, as applicable. Communication methods include calls, emails, in-person meetings, and virtual meetings. Subjects pertaining to the project, such as design progression, construction schedule, grant fund availability, legal agreements, and general project status has been communicated with each community.

The project identified is eligible for a Water Quality Improvement Grant as a

Project listed in a city or county capital improvement element pursuant to section 163.3177(3)(a)4.b, F.S.

Will any monitoring or modeling be included in the project?

No

Are there any innovative technologies being used for the project?

No

Is any restoration included in the project?

No

Please provide any additional information that would be beneficial in the evaluation of the project.

This request is for the construction phase of currently unfunded MHC within this project. The design for the entire project is 100% complete and was funded with RESTORE Act (Federal)

dollars. Construction for the first seven MHC is funded through Resilient Florida (\$25 million) and County ARPA dollars (\$21,429,000). Construction, Engineering, and Inspections will be funded by additional RESTORE Act dollars allocated to the County. There are six MHC that remain unfunded for the construction phase. Please see attachments emailed to the DWRA funding portal for more information on this very important project.

Acknowledge and Submit

Yes
Yes