

December 17, 2021

Jared A. Jaworski  
Senior Management Analyst I - Bureau of Mitigation  
Florida Division of Emergency Management  
2555 Shumard Oak Blvd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Mr. Jaworski:

**Re: Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Application for COVID-19 Pandemic (DR-4486)  
McKay Creek Operable Lake Controls and SCADA**

Pinellas County Public Works is pleased to submit this HMGP grant application for the **McKay Creek Operable Lake Controls and SCADA** project for the McKay Creek watershed.

## Background

The nine (9) square-mile McKay Creek watershed is in the western coastal portion of Pinellas County, with significant flooding along McKay Creek, Church Creek, and other locations within the watershed. The most recent flood protection Level-of-Service (LOS) analysis performed in 2014 determined that nearly 40% of the basins have a "F" classification, with over a thousand flooded structures in addition to roadway flooding. The lowest LOS rating "F" indicates that the basins are subject to hazardous flooding conditions, with buildings and emergency service centers subject to flood damage from 100-year storm events. Besides structural flooding, evacuation and emergency service roads become impassable during or following 100-year storm events, while arterial /collector/ local roads are subject to flooding during more frequent storm events.

The 2014 *McKay Creek Watershed Management Plan* (WMP) identified the regional Taylor Lake and Walsingham Reservoir Drawdown projects to provide significant improvement to flood protection LOS for the watershed.

Stormwater management goals for this project include:

- Improve flood protection LOS and reduce flood risk in the watershed
- Improve surface water quality
- Improve natural biological and ecological habitats
- Implement green infrastructure design elements where applicable

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## Project Description and Mitigation Benefits

The proposed project scope of work includes the design and construction of two (2) lake level control structures, one at Taylor Lake and one at Walsingham Reservoir, and a SCADA system in the McKay Creek watershed. Significant flood reduction benefits can be achieved by lowering lake levels slowly before the start of major storm events. The lower lake levels will provide a more favorable tail-water condition for inflowing tributaries and provide additional storage volume, therefore reducing flooding conditions currently experienced in the watershed.

As shown in Scenario 3C of the 2020 *McKay Creek Watershed Lake Levels Operation Study*, this project is expected to remove about 359 structures from the 100-year floodplain. As part of the engineering design scope of work, operational guidelines (both manual and SCADA) and development of protocol to coordinate amongst County departments and outside emergency management agencies will be included. The scope will also include other design elements like hydrological / geological / utility investigation, wetland and ecological considerations, and long-term maintenance and operational planning.

Pinellas County truly appreciates the funding consideration of the **McKay Creek Operable Lake Controls and SCADA** project, and our team looks forward to the partnership opportunity to bring regional flood relief to residents and businesses in the McKay Creek watershed. If any additional information is needed, please contact me or Anita Wang ([awang@pinellascounty.org](mailto:awang@pinellascounty.org)) in the Capital Improvements Division (CID).

Sincerely,



Rhonda Bowman, P.E.  
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Cc: Kelli Levy, MS, MPA, CPM, ENVSP  
Mona Gabriel, PE, CCM

Attachments:

1. Cover Letter & List of Attachments
2. Application PDF with Authorized Signatures and signed Maintenance Agreement
3. Flood Control – Drainage Improvement Worksheet
4. Proof of Authorization Authority
5. LMS Letter of Endorsement from LMS Coordinator
6. GIS Flood Map
7. McKay Creek Watershed Lake Levels Operation Study Technical Memo (2020) & Cost Estimates
8. GIS Project Location Map
9. GIS Project Zip Code GIS Map
10. GIS CCCL Map
11. GIS Parcel Map & Structure Types
12. GIS FEMA FIRM Map
13. GIS Flood Zone Map
14. GIS County scale map (showing entire Project Area, Project Site and structures marked)
15. GIS USGS 1:24,000 TOPO map (project site marked)
16. Site photographs (4 minimum) with labels
17. McKay Creek Watershed Management Plan (WMP) Excerpts (2014) Flood Reductions
18. McKay SCADA - Budget Costs Breakdown and Schedules
19. Adopted CIP Budget for McKay Creek SCADA Project
20. Environmental Justice Documentation Maps (Minority Population, Low Income Population)
21. Project Alternative Info, Map & Cost Estimates (2014 WMP Alternatives BMP Analysis)
22. Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA)
23. Support Letter from Local Flood Program Manager