

June 1, 2023

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 Hurricane Ian (DR-4673)
Pinellas County - McKay Creek Operable Lake Controls and SCADA**

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

Background

The nine (9) square-mile McKay Creek watershed is located in the western coastal portion of Pinellas County, with significant flooding along McKay Creek, Church Creek, and other locations within the watershed. The largely urbanized watershed is comprised of unincorporated areas and three municipalities:

- 42.7% Unincorporated Pinellas County
- 46.3% City of Largo
- 8% City of Seminole
- 3% City of Belleair Bluffs

The most recent flood protection Level-of-Service (LOS) analysis performed in 2014 determined that nearly 40% of the basins have a “F” classification containing over three (3) thousand structures in the 100-year, 24-hour floodplain in addition to miles of roadway flooding, including evacuation routes. The lowest LOS rating “F” indicates that the basins are subject to hazardous flooding conditions, with critical facilities, infrastructure, and emergency service centers (including a regional hospital) 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, and local roads are subject to flooding during more frequent storm events. The main project goal is to **improve flood protection LOS and reduce flood risk** in the McKay Creek watershed.

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Project Description and Mitigation Benefits

The 2014 *McKay Creek Watershed Management Plan* (WMP) identified the regional Taylor Lake and Walsingham Reservoir Drawdown projects to provide significant flood reduction in the watershed. The proposed capital improvement project includes the construction of two (2) lake level control structures with Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems for control and monitoring, at the following two locations:

- Taylor Lake flood gate
- Walsingham Reservoir flood gate

Significant flood reduction benefits can be achieved by gradually lowering lake levels at both waterbodies prior to the onset 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 360 structures from the 100-year floodplain**. Pinellas County has started the preliminary engineering phase and will prepare inter-agency operational guidelines.

Our application demonstrates that the McKay Creek Operable Lake Controls and SCADA project is an ideal candidate for HMGP grant funding and benefits from broad community and stakeholder support. We thank you for your consideration of this important project and look forward to the partnership opportunity to bring watershed-wide flood relief to the residents and businesses in Largo, Seminole, Belleair Bluffs, and unincorporated Pinellas County.

Please don't hesitate to contact me or Anita Wang (awang@pinellas.gov) directly with any questions.

Sincerely,



Rhonda Bowman, P.E.
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Pinellas County Capital Improvements Division
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Cc: Kelli Levy, MS, MPA, CPM, ENVSP
Mona Gabriel, PE, CCM
Anita Wang, PE

Attachments:

0. Cover Letter & List of Attachments
1. HMGP Budget Workbook
2. HMGP Application PDF with Authorized Signatures and signed Maintenance Agreement
3. HMGP Worksheet (Flood Control Drainage Improvement)
4. 2020 H&H Technical Memo
5. LMS Endorsement & Prioritization
6. Support Letter – Floodplain Program Manager
7. Support Letter – City of Largo
8. Budget Breakdown
9. Schedule
10. Photos
11. Map - Project Location (Lat-Long)
12. Map - Flood zone aerial map
13. Map - FIRM Panels
14. Map – EJscreen
15. Map – CCCL
16. Map - USGS Topo
17. Map – Zip Codes
18. Map – Critical Facilities / Evacuation Routes
19. Map – Wastewater Manholes in Flood Zone
20. Map – Buildings in Flood Zone
21. BCA – 100Y1D Before Mitigation
22. BCA – 100Y1D After Mitigation
23. BCA – 500Y1D Before Mitigation
24. BCA – 500Y1D After Mitigation
25. BCA – Building Values
26. BCA – 500Y1D Regression Estimation
27. SOW – Preliminary
28. 2014 Watershed Management Plan (WMP)
29. Map – Flooded structures from 2014 WMP
30. LMS Adoption by Pinellas County Resolution
31. LMS FEMA Approval
32. Proof of Signature Authority
33. OMB Intent to Apply Approval
34. Map – Alternative project site, 2020 Memo
35. NOFO