



November 14, 2024

Juan Hernandez State Conservationist Natural Resources Conservation Service 4500 NW 27th Ave, Bldg. A Gainesville, Florida 32606

Dear Mr. Hernandez:

Pinellas County requests Federal assistance under the provisions of section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1950, Public Law 81-516 or section 403 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978, Public Law 95-334, to restore damages sustained in Pinellas County, Florida by Hurricane Milton on October 9, 2024. This work is needed to safeguard lives and property from an imminent hazard of flooding. Pinellas County is requesting funding for debris removal that is obstructing ditches, drainage channels, creeks, streams, and associated culverts and structures. Also, the County is requesting funding for streambank sloughing/erosion and structural wall failures, undermining, and washouts. These County maintained waterways serve primarily as drainage flood control systems and require assistance to eliminate immediate threats to life, public health, safety, and for the overall economic recovery of the community at large. Hurricane Milton's devastation deposited sedimentation, construction and demolition (C&D), and vegetative debris into the waterways, caused streambank sloughing/erosion, and structural failure damages to nearly 8.5 miles of County waterways, reference Attachment A listing the waterways and the length of damage. The County has developed maps that identify the damage at each waterway location, reference Attachment B. There is a great need to remove the debris and eliminate the immediate threat of flooding.

We are a County government with a responsibility for the values threatened by the watershed emergency. We understand, as sponsors of emergency watershed protection measures, that our responsibilities will include:

- Contributing a share of the project costs, as determined by Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), by providing funds or eligible services necessary to undertake the activity.
- Obtaining any necessary real property rights, water rights, and regulatory permits.
- Agreeing to provide for any required operation and maintenance of the completed emergency measures.

The County has insufficient funding and resources available to provide adequate relief from the applicable hazards. The County is currently under an Emergency Final Order, OGC Number 24-2580, with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) that includes measures made necessary by Hurricane Milton. The County has requested guidance from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regarding the required permits. The County acknowledges that NRCS may not provide funding for activities undertaken by a sponsor prior to the signing of an agreement between NRCS and the sponsor. The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the administrative and technical contact persons in our organization are as follows:

Barry A. Burton County Administrator 315 Court Street Clearwater, FL 33756 (727) 464-3485 bburton@pinellas.gov

Jill Silverboard
Deputy County Administrator/Chief of Staff
County Administration
315 Court Street
Clearwater, FL 33756
(727) 464-3465
jsilverboard@pinellas.gov

Kelli Hammer Levy
Public Works Director
Public Works Department
22211 U.S. Highway 19 North, Clearwater, FL 33765
(727) 464-8900
klevy@pinellas.gov

Daniel Schoel
Disaster Cost Recovery Coordinator
Office of Management and Budget
400 South Fort Harrison Avenue – 3rd Floor
Clearwater, FL 33756
(727) 453-3457
dschoel@pinellas.gov

Please contact us for any additional information that you might need in assessing our request.

Sincerely,

Barry A. Burton County Administrator

Attachments

A. Pinellas County_Approx Channel LF Impact

B. PinellasCounty_HurricaneMilton_ChannelDamageObvservations

Attachment A

Channel	Approximate Linear Feet Affected
Allen Creek	100
Bee Branch	5800
Bishop Creek	50
Ch R	2700
Cross Bayou Canal	50
Curlew Creek	10600
Jerry Branch	2200
Long Branch Creek	100
McCauley Road Drainage Ditch	50
Mullet Creek	50
Ranch Road Drainage Ditch	50
St. Joe's Creek	22500
St. Joe's Creek 5	500
Starkey Road Drainage Ditch	100
Wild Oaks Way Drainage Ditch	50







































































