



To: Jared A. Jaworski
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From: Christopher Benigni, ALM
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Date: April 6, 2023

Subject: **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Application for Hurricane Ian (DR - 4673) Pinellas County - McKay Creek Operable Lake Controls and SCADA**

The City of Largo is pleased to write this letter of support for Pinellas County's proposal to the HMGP – Hurricane Ian program, for our regional McKay Creek Operable Lake Controls and SCADA project.

This impactful regional drainage improvement project is intended to remove several hundred homes and buildings, and several evacuation roadways, from the 100-year floodplain within the McKay Creek watershed. About half of the residents in this large and developed watershed (9 sq. mile) are in the City of Largo jurisdiction, and the other half of the residents are in Unincorporated County, City of Seminole, and City of Belleair Bluffs. The McKay Creek Operable Lake Controls and SCADA project was recommended with highest priority in the 2014 McKay Creek Watershed Management Plan (WMP), to help reduce flood hazard threats and improve regional resiliency during extreme weather conditions.

City of Largo appreciates the funding consideration by FDEM to build our McKay Creek Operable Lake Controls and SCADA project, at both Walsingham Reservoir location and Taylor Lake location. This important hazard-mitigation project, with high benefit-cost return, will tremendously benefit our residents in several Municipalities and the Pinellas County.

Sincerely,

Christopher Benigni

