



UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

Resilient Florida – Additional Funding Request:

In 2022, Pinellas County, FL, received a Resilient Florida grant in the amount of \$25,000,000 for the Pinellas County Wastewater Collection System Improvements Project (22FPR09). The County has allocated \$21,429,000 in County ARPA funding to this project, as well. In addition, Pinellas County received RESTORE Act funding for Design and Engineering Services in the amount of \$2,053,000. Additional funding has been requested from RESTORE for post design services in the amount of \$736,970. As of the date of this application, the County has \$20,507,784 in ARPA dollars remaining to apply to the construction phase, as well as \$3,479,961 in RESTORE Act funding for Construction Engineering and Inspections Services. Total matching funds that can be applied to this additional funding request is \$23,987,745.

This is a request for additional funding for the Pinellas County Wastewater Collection System Improvements Project (22FPR09) in the amount of **\$23,987,745**.

Project Purpose:

Various manufactured home communities' (MHCs) private wastewater systems within the County's wastewater collection system are outdated and problematic. Many assets within these systems fail and pose costly risks to the residents and adverse effects to the environment. Improvements made to the wastewater systems of these flood-prone communities would increase the reliability of service during typical conditions and increase the resilience during wet weather events. The intention of this project is to upgrade the outdated private systems that currently add infiltration and inflow (I/I) to the County's system and take over these assets for County ownership.

Pinellas County Utilities (PCU) has identified fourteen (14) private MHCs within the Lealman, Largo, and Lake Seminole areas of the County whose wastewater systems contribute high or excessive I/I to the County's public wastewater collection system and initiated a program for the replacement of these private community's systems. As the County pursued this project, one MHC opted out of the program, and thirteen (13) MHC have been moving forward.

PCU views the MHCs wastewater systems holistically as these systems are conveyed to the County's public system. Improving these systems impacts multiple elements such as environmental stewardship, operation and maintenance, sustainability, and public health. Overall replacement of the wastewater collection systems within these communities would eliminate leaking pipes, leaking manholes, and illegal connections from storm and roof drains. Replacing the wastewater systems will also reduce the likelihood of sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) and associated impacts leading to higher water quality in the area and nearby water bodies. This contributes to the protection of living coastal and marine resources and their environments, and a more resilient wastewater collection system in an environmentally vulnerable area. As this project requires significant federal and state funding investment, PCU evaluated vulnerabilities of each MHC to sea level rise and flooding impacts due to climate change.

Additionally, PCU developed MHC Agreement packages provided to each participating MHC which enables the County to repair or replace the wastewater systems by transferring the following from the MHC to the County:

- Necessary rights to the County for construction of system improvements.
- All rights, titles and interests of the wastewater infrastructure to the County.
- Easement rights and rights-to-use for dedicated rights-of-ways that are free of restrictions.

Any assets acquired under this program will become an integrated part of PCU's system. As such, these acquired systems will become part of PCU's Asset Management Program, to include regular inspections, repair and replacement, as needed, and inclusion into any relevant future studies or programs, as appropriate.

Project Cost and Funding:

Originally it was anticipated that all 14 MHCs could be replaced for \$25 million. As this project has progressed, Engineer's Opinion of Probable Construction Costs (OPCC) have grown to about \$60.5 million for the remaining 13 MHC. In June and July of 2024, Pinellas County put 10 of the MHC out to bid and received hard bids, which exceeded the OPCC between 21-56%, with an average of 53%. For the MHCs that were not bid on, it was assumed that the costs would be 49% higher than the OPCC. This brings the total construction cost of this project to \$102,991,627.54 (including CEI and post-design services).

Pinellas County has committed funding in the amount of \$46,429,000 towards the construction of these MHCs, which allows seven MHC to be constructed meeting the ARPA and Resilient FL deadlines. This leaves a shortfall of \$52,345,697 to complete the remaining six MHC.

Project Additional Funding Request:

The original Resilient FL application, submitted in 2022, did not require matching funds. However, as the rules and funding sources for Resilient FL have changed, a 50% match is required for all additional funding requests. While usually this would not present difficulty for PCU, because these are private systems, the County cannot use Wastewater Enterprise Funds to match Resilient FL funding. Therefore, using the ARPA and RESTORE funds as matching funds, the additional funding request is for \$23,987,745. While this will not be enough to complete the entire project, the County will continue to pursue other grant funding opportunities. Table 1 summarizes the total budget, funding sources, eligible match, and remaining funding required.

Table 1. Summary of Costs and Funding.

Total Project Costs	\$ 102,991,627.54
Current Resilient FL Grant (no match required)	\$ (25,000,000.00)
ARPA Funding (available to use as match)	\$ (20,507,783.82)
RESTORE Funding (available to use as match)	\$ (3,479,960.72)
Total Budget Shortfall	<u>\$ 54,003,833.00</u>
Resilient Florida Additional Request - limited by matching funds	\$ 23,987,745.00
Remaining budget shortfall (to be pursued through other grant funding mechanisms)	\$ 30,016,138.00

Pinellas County is requesting the maximum amount allowed, as limited by the available matching funds, of \$23,987,745 to continue to complete this important project.