



# Pinellas County

## Staff Report

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File #: 22-0495A, Version: 1

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### **Subject:**

Joint Funding Agreement with the United States Geological Survey, Department of Interior for the Caribbean-Florida Water Science Center Water Resource Investigations.

### **Recommended Action:**

Approval of a Joint Funding Agreement with the United States Geological Survey (USGS), Department of Interior for the Caribbean-Florida Water Science Center Water Resource Investigations.

- USGS has constructed and installed data gathering stations at various locations throughout the County to collect continuous monitoring data, including flood stages, discharge, and rainfall.
- Data is utilized to meet County's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater permit water quality requirements.
- USGS will manage and gather data for the project at a cost of \$270,200 for one-year period of May 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023.
- County will contribute \$198,474 (funded in the Surface Water Utility) and the USGS will contribute \$71,726.

Total project cost is \$270,200 for the period May 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023; Authorize the Chairman to sign and the Clerk of the Circuit Court to attest.

### **Strategic Plan:**

Practice Superior Environmental Stewardship

3.3 Protect and improve the quality of our water, air, and other natural resources

Deliver First Class Services to the Public and Our Customers

5.1 Maximize partner relationships and public outreach

### **Summary:**

The purpose of this Agreement is to continue funding the joint effort with the USGS to collect scientific data used to develop watershed management plans, design surface water management projects, and aid in compliance with the County's NPDES stormwater permit. The USGS will manage and perform the work.

### **Background Information:**

The USGS has constructed and installed data gathering stations at various locations throughout the County. These stations collect continuous monitoring data including flood stages, discharge, and rainfall. This effort, combined with water quality data, allows the County to report pollutant loading information to meet federal and state water quality requirements, supports the planning and design of

systems to address flooding, and is used in the development of watershed models - which aids in the understanding of the surface waters and the overall function of the stormwater system. The Water Discipline Data Collection Program has been an ongoing program since 1999.

**Fiscal Impact:**

The County's Contribution is included in the Public Works operating budget:

County Contribution	\$ 198,474
<u>USGS Contribution</u>	<u>\$ 71,726</u>
Total Project cost	\$ 270,200

Funding for this agreement is included in the fiscal year (FY) 2022 Adopted budget and in the FY 2023 budget request.

**Staff Member Responsible:**

Kelli Hammer Levy, Director, Public Works

**Partners:**

USGS

**Attachments:**

Agreement