



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 1519

1. Title of Project: Hernando County Airport Water Reclamation Facility Expansion

2. Senate Sponsor: Wilton Simpson

3. Date of Submission: 02/07/2019

4. Project/Program Description:

Weeki Wachee Springs is an Outstanding Florida Spring and also one of the main attractions for tourism in Hernando County. It is impaired with nitrates and is experiencing accelerated algae growth, which is causing adverse impacts to the delicate aquatic ecosystem. One of the largest point sources of Nitrogen to Weeki Wachee is the old Spring Hill Water Reclamation Facility (WRF). This wastewater treatment facility has out-of-date technology that does not nitrify or denitrify wastewater and the effluent is releasing high concentrations of nitrogen into the spring shed. Funding this project will expand the Airport Water Reclamation Facility from a permitted capacity of 3.5 MGD to 6 MGD and allow the decommissioning of the Spring Hill (Osowaw) WRF. The Airport WRF expansion will meet advanced wastewater treatment standards for nitrogen (3mg/l). This project will reduce an estimated 48,000 lb/yr of total nitrogen with a favorable estimated life cycle cost/benefit ratio of (\$18/lb).

5. State Agency to receive requested funds : Department of Environmental Protection

State Agency Contacted? Yes

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2019-2020

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	
Fixed Capital Outlay	5,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	5,000,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percent
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	5,000,000	19.23%
Federal	0	0.00%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.00%
Local	21,000,000	80.77%
Other	0	0.00%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020	26,000,000	100.0%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	NonRecurring		

9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested? No



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10. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		
Other Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs:		
Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Construction and Professional Engineering Services	5,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		5,000,000

11. Program Performance:

a. What is the specific purpose or goal that will be achieved by the funds requested?

This project is to expand an existing water reclamation facility (WRF) achieving high level nitrogen removal. Expansion of the Airport WRF will allow the decommissioning of the Spring Hill WRF which is currently providing reclaimed water within the Weeki Wachee Priority Focus Area. This will reduce an estimated 48,000 lb/yr of TN loading which this project alone is close to meeting the 5 year goal of the Weeki Wachee Basin Management Action Plan (58,560 lb/yr).

b. What are the activities and services that will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?

Construction of the Airport WRF expansion (3.5 million gallons per day (MGD) to 6.0 MGD) while meeting the advanced wastewater treatment standards for total nitrogen removal (3 mg/l).

c. What are the direct services to be provided to citizens by the appropriations project?

Advanced wastewater treatment to reduce nitrogen loading to Weeki Wachee Springs.

d. Who is the target population served by this project? How many individuals are expected to be served?

General Hernando County population (approximately 185,000) and tourists.

e. What is the expected benefit or outcome of this project? What is the methodology by which this outcome will be measured?

Expanding the Airport WRF from 3.5 to 6.0 MGD. An estimated reduction of 48,000 lb-N/yr of total nitrogen (TN) from the Weeki Wachee Priority Focus Area (PFA). This project alone is close to meeting the 5 year goal of the Weeki Wachee Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) which is (58,560 lb-N/yr).

f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard



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penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for in the contract?

The Weeki Wachee BMAP mandates that any Water Reclamation Facilities inside the PFA meet the AWT standards for nitrogen removal at permit renewal or no later than 5 years. Therefore, no additional penalties are necessary since it is already state mandated.

12. The owner(s) of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owner(s) of the facility and the entity.

Hernando County

13. Requestor Contact Information:

- a. **Name:** Leonard Sossamon
- b. **Organization:** Hernando County
- c. **E-mail Address:** LSossamon@hernandocounty.us
- d. **Phone Number:** (352)754-4002 Ext. 20161

14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** Hernando County Utilities Department
- b. **County:** Hernando
- c. **Organization Type:**
 - For Profit
 - Non Profit 501(c) (3)
 - Non Profit 501(c) (4)
 - Local Entity
 - University or College
 - Other (Please specify)
- d. **Contact Name:** Gordon Onderdonk
- e. **E-mail Address:** Gonderdonk@hernandocounty.us
- f. **Phone Number:** (352)540-4368

15. Lobbyist Contact Information

- a. **Name:** Shawn Foster
- b. **Firm Name:** Sunrise Consulting Group
- c. **E-mail Address:** foster@scgroup.us
- d. **Phone Number:** (727)808-4131

Please complete the questions below for Water Projects only

16. Have you applied for alternative state funding?

- Wastewater Revolving Loan
- Drinking Water Revolving Loan



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- Small Community Wastewater Treatment Grant
- Other (Please describe): State Springs Funding
- N/A

17. What is the population economic status?

- Financially Disadvantaged Community (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)
- Financially Disadvantaged Municipality (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)
- Rural Area of Economic Concern
- Rural Area of Opportunity (s. 288-0656, Florida Statutes)
- N/A

18. What is the status of construction? Not under construction

19. What percentage of construction has been completed? 0% at time of application

20. What is the estimated completion date of construction? 08/01/2022