1. **Project Title**: Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Statewide Restoration and Aquaculture program

2. **Senate Sponsor**: Janet Cruz

3. **Date of Request**: 10/15/2019

4. **Project/Program Description**
   To create a sustainable fresh and saltwater Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Nursery and implement regional specific plantings along with creation of SAV habitat restoration grow plots in critical areas of need (NW Florida Panhandle, Springs, Caloosahatchee River Basin, and the Indian River Lagoon, Biscayne Bay and The Florida Keys). Projected 100 acres of plants grown and planted annually within critical areas of need. The program includes public-private partnerships consisting of Universities, Corporations, and 501c3 organizations.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**: Department of Environmental Protection
   State Agency contacted?  Yes  No

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2020-2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Funding</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
<td>5,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Capital Outlay</td>
<td>000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total State Funds Requested</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,000,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 (including matching funds available for this project)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Funding</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)</td>
<td>5000000</td>
<td>100.0 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Matching Funds**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Funding</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>0 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State (excluding the amount of this request)</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>0 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>0 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>0 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2020-2021**: 5,000,000 100 %

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?**
   Yes  No
   If yes, provide the most recent instance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)</th>
<th>Amount Recurring</th>
<th>Amount Nonrecurring</th>
<th>Specific Appropriation #</th>
<th>Vetoed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

9. **Is future-year funding likely to be requested?**  Yes  No
   If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 2,000,000
10. **Details on how the requested state funds will be expended**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spending Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Administrative Costs:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits</td>
<td>Construction oversight and deliverables management/project and phase planning</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Salary and Benefits</td>
<td>Field staff for aquaculture facility and center maintenance</td>
<td>300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other</td>
<td>Admin Expenses and site inspections</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultants/Contracted Services/Study</td>
<td>Aquaculture facility lease and maintenance</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operational Costs: Other</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salary and Benefits</td>
<td>Internships, data collection, and quality control, planted SAV maintenance and monitoring</td>
<td>400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other</td>
<td>SAV, exclusion cages, signage, education</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultants/Contracted Services/Study</td>
<td>Installation of SAV, Exclusion cages, signage, permitting</td>
<td>1,900,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>5,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
11. **Program Performance**

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

The objective of this project is to create an aquaculture facility that can sustain annual plantings to restore critical nursery habitat and replace lost valuable natural resources. The project will also uptake nutrients and outcompete algae for nutrients.

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

Fresh and saltwater nursery grown SAV will be contract grown for restoration activities within Springs, Caloosahatchee River and Indian River Lagoon. These areas have been damaged and lost critical habitat. Small scale projects have shown success over the past 10 years in these areas. Over 60 acres of plants will be planted and monitored overall.

c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?

The loss of statewide SAV has shown increased algae blooms and fish kills contributing to billions in lost revenue. FDEP estimates the economic value of 1 acre of seagrass to be $20,500 per year. Local citizens will benefit from increased tourism, essential fish habitat, fish production, nutrient absorption and ecotourism.

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

The project will span and cover 3 critical areas of the state. The target population would be statewide and include tourist, given these figures it would be an estimate between 21,000,000 Floridians, and over 118,000,000 tourists.

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

The outcome of this project is to produce an ongoing aquaculture facility and nursery planting area within critical areas of the state by planting 100 acres of seagrass annually. The 100 acres of SAV usually support up to 1,800,000 fish and up to 2.6 billion small invertebrates. The improvements will be quantified by independent scientists using state approved methods.

f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for in the contract?

The nursery and SAV will be inspected and certified by FDACS staff, any plants that fail certification or inspection will not be used for planting and not considered for payment.
12. The owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.

None

13. **Requestor Contact Information**
   a. **First Name** Beau
   b. **Organization** AquaTech Eco Consultants
   c. **E-mail Address** beau@aquatecheco.com
   d. **Phone Number** (813)918-6169

14. **Recipient Contact Information**
   a. **Organization** Ecosphere Restoration Institute
   b. **Municipality and County** Statewide
   c. **Organization Type**
      - For-profit Entity
      - Non-Profit 501(c) (3)
      - Non-Profit 501(c) (4)
      - Local Entity
      - University or College
      - **Other (please specify)** Non Profit 501(c) (3)
   d. **First Name** Thomas
   e. **E-mail Address** tries@ecosphererestoration.org
   f. **Phone Number** (813)3769076

15. **Lobbyist Contact Information**
   a. **Name** None
   b. **Firm Name** None
   c. **E-mail Address**
   d. **Phone Number**
Please complete the questions below for Water Projects only.

16. Have you applied for alternative state funding?
   - Waste Water Revolving Loan
   - Drinking Water Revolving Loan
   - Small Community Wastewater Treatment Grant
   - Other (please specify) [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?
   - Aquaculture and Florida Nursery Certifications have been received

19. What percentage of the construction has been completed?
   - 0

20. What is the estimated completion date of construction?
   - 07/01/2020

The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.