



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 1435

1. Title of Project: Dolphin Research Center Removal of Organic Material in Dolphin Lagoons

2. Senate Sponsor: Anitere Flores

3. Date of Submission: 02/05/2019

4. Project/Program Description:

In the 1950s the dolphin's lagoons at DRC were deepened by using dynamite. This unique habitat provides an excellent home for the dolphins. As the deepest part of the Gulf of Mexico in our area, marine debris collects in the lagoons. In 1990 DRC received a DEP permit to remove the organic material that had accumulated. Hurricanes Irma and Wilma exacerbated the situation almost doubling the amount of sea grass in the lagoons impeding water flow.

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

State Agency Contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	627,041
Fixed Capital Outlay	
Total State Funds Requested	627,041

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)	627,041	94.00%
Federal	0	0.00%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.00%
Local	30,000	4.50%
Other	10,000	1.50%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020	667,041	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

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Design system, safety protocol, hire consultant, secure materials and vendors	34,975



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Other Salary and Benefits	Purchase materials, schedule workers, submit payment requests - Animal Care and Habitat (AC&H) 8 hours a week 52 weeks Manage construction of systems and work schedule - Director of AC&H 8 hours a week 52 weeks. Accounting department - Process A/P and Grants administration 8 hours a week 52 weeks	30,143
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Environmental Project Consultant	3,000
Operational Costs:		
Salary and Benefits	3 certified divers 3 days a week 52 weeks 1 supervisor 3 days a week 52 weeks	72,923
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Equipment (hydraulics, impellers, dive equipment, pipes, pumps, bobcat, turbidity equipment, dewatering equipment, transportation to dispose material, containers, etc)	470,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Contracted Specialist Engineer Disposal	16,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		627,041

11. Program Performance:

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

The depth, water clarity and flow will be restored to the dolphin's lagoons in the Gulf of Mexico. The effects of Hurricane Irma and Wilma will be mitigated.

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

The accumulated organic material that has accumulated in the lagoons due to the winds from the storms will be removed.

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

A major component of Marathon's economy is driven by tourism. Dolphin Research Center is the primary destination tourist attraction in our district. Local hotels, restarants and other attraction benefit from increased and positive guest interactions and reviews. DRC employs between 70 and 100 individuals.

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

DRC has an average attendance of 70,000. Marathon's population is approximately 10,000.

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

Based on a similar project we undertook in the early 1990s we can expect clearer water, better water flow, increased oxygenation of the water. This can be measured using SECHI cards, and the return of native marine species such as lobsters and parrot fish.



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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?

Since the project is being initiated by DRC for animal welfare and environmental best practices reasons there are no penalties to add to the contract. If we did not receive this appropriation we would have to break the project down into smaller segments that would delay the results of the project and increase the expense.

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.

Dolphin Research Center is a 501(c)3 not for profit organization.

13. Requestor Contact Information:

- a. **Name:** Rita Irwin
- b. **Organization:** Dolphin Research Center
- c. **E-mail Address:** rita@dolphins.org
- d. **Phone Number:** (305)289-1121 Ext. 226

14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** Dolphin Research Center
- b. **County:** Monroe
- 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:** Rita Irwin
- e. **E-mail Address:** rita@dolphins.org
- f. **Phone Number:** (305)289-1121 Ext. 226

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?

Wastewater Revolving Loan



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- Drinking Water Revolving Loan
- Small Community Wastewater Treatment Grant
- Other (Please describe)
- 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 started

19. What percentage of construction has been completed? 0

20. What is the estimated completion date of construction? 6/30/2020