



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 1715

1. Project Title Okeechobee Utility Authority Treasure Island Septic to Sewer Infrastructure

2. Senate Sponsor Ben Albritton

3. Date of Request 02/18/2021

#### 4. Project/Program Description

Removal of 934 old/failing private septic tanks & wastewater package plants potentially leaching septic tank effluent into Taylor Creek, Lake Okeechobee & eventually to the Indian River Lagoon & Caloosahatchee River estuaries or the Everglades Ecosystem. OUA has expended its resources including property or easement purchases, preliminary engineering, permitting & design since 2008. Project requires piping, valves, vacuum/pump stations & sanitary force main/pump station connecting the system to regional treatment facility. Wastewater generated by residents & businesses is to be collected & pumped to Regional Wastewater Plant via the Eastside Forcemain for treatment & disposal that includes keeping effluent away from Lake Okeechobee. Nutrient reductions are one of the key elements needed to prevent harmful algal blooms. It's estimated per year 8.42 tons of nitrogen & 2.03 tons phosphorus will be removed. Project submitted to FDEP Lake Okeechobee BMAP update.

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

State Agency contacted? Yes

#### 6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	3,500,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>3,500,000</b>

#### 7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	3,500,000	22%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	12,742,147	78%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2021-2022</b>	<b>16,242,147</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2018-19	0	523,867	1136	No

9. Is future funding likely to be requested? No

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.



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**10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?**

No

If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

**11. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended**

Spending Category	Description	Amount
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Engineering design, permitting, construction, and construction services/inspections	3,500,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>3,500,000</b>

**12. Program Performance**

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

Goal is the removal of 934 old failing package plants & septic systems and the reduction of pollutants entering State water resources. Addresses permitting agencies regulations & State standards. Provides for improved life, health & safety for the residents and visitors to the area. Removal of the nutrient loads to reduce the potential for harmful blue-green algal blooms. It's estimated, per year 8.42 tons of nitrogen & 2.03 tons phosphorus removed from 934 septic tanks with connection to regional treatment facility.

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

Engineering services for design, permitting, construction and construction services/ inspections of North Treasure Island Wastewater System & sanitary force main for centralized sewer system and removal of 934 old/failing private septic tanks & failing package wastewater plants leaching septic effluent into State waters, Lake Okeechobee & surrounding estuaries. Augments EPA/FDEP/SFWMD water quality rules, cleanup, restoration & water policies. Removal of nutrients limits formation of blue green algal blooms.

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

Improved life, health & safety of the citizenry with improved water quality/quantity, reliable service, improved environment with reduction of pollutants entering State protected water resources once constructed. It's estimated, per year 8.42 tons of nitrogen & 2.03 tons phosphorus removed from 934 septic tanks with connection to regional treatment facility. Connections to the piping system will be encouraged by other wastewater generators along the pipeline route.

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

The State through the protection of waters of the State in the Lake Okeechobee Estuaries and surrounding areas. Additional benefits in increased levels of service expected by visitors to and residents of Okeechobee County.



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

Expected results & benefits associated from the requested funds include protection of life, public health, the environment, increased service, reliability, protection of State endangered waters (Lake Okeechobee & Kissimmee River) due to improved water quality resulting from the removal/replacement of the existing old/failing wastewater package plant/infrastructure & constructing new wastewater infrastructure/sanitary forcemain. This project is located in a Rural Area of Opportunity and was submitted to FDEP Lake Okeechobee BMAP update.

**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 the contract?**

Non-payment of outstanding invoices, implementation of the corrective action plan, invoking the public construction bond or performance bond.

**13. 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.**

The Okeechobee Utility Authority is the entity requesting the funding and is the owner of the facility receiving the funding benefit.



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#### 14. Requestor Contact Information

a. First Name  Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number  Ext.

#### 15. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County

#### c. Organization Type

- ☐ For Profit Entity
- ☐ Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- ☐ Non Profit 501(c)(4)
- ☐ Local Entity
- ☐ University or College
- ☒ Other (please specify) Independent Special District

d. First Name  Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number

#### 16. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number



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**Please complete the questions below for Water Projects only.**

**17. Have you applied for alternative state funding?**

- ☐ Waste Water Revolving Loan
- ☐ Drinking Water Revolving Loan
- ☐ Small Community Wastewater Treatment Grant
- ☒ Other (please specify) Water Quality Grant Program
- ☐ N/A

**18. 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

**19. What is the status of construction?**

Not Ready

**20. What percentage of the construction has been completed?**

0%

**21. What is the estimated completion date of construction?**

12/31/2024