



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1882

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Okeechobee County occupies the majority of Lower Kissimmee and Taylor Creek Nubbin Slough subwatersheds in the Lake Okeechobee Watershed. These subwatersheds are 2 of the 3 largest contributors of Total Phosphorus (TP) to the Watershed and a TMDL and BMAP for TP are in place. Agriculture is the largest landuse. A regional stormwater treatment area project by the County supports watershed water quality improvements and the county landowners already implementing agricultural BMPs to reduce nutrient contributions. This County project helps everyone: landowners, stakeholders, and the state progress in meeting the TMDL. The project will remove 7-10 metric tons of TP on an average annual basis and will be constructed on private agricultural lands. The project and real property are owned by a private entity and may be conveyed to Okeechobee County for continued operation in approximately 10-15 years.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,800,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>1,800,000</b>

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	1,800,000	100%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2022-2023</b>	<b>1,800,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

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

9. Is future funding likely to be requested?

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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Because Okeechobee County is a rural and financially disadvantaged county, revenues do not allow the County to take on additional debt to cover the cost of this very important project to the region. The County will continue to seek additional grants from other sources, but understands the region cannot afford to wait any longer to act on water quality issues and therefore the County has made this project one of its priorities to move forward.

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

Yes

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

The County is slated to receive \$8,190,640.00 in American Rescue Recovery Act funds, that will be used to address Jail Expansion/Renovation from revenue loss, water, sewer, storm water, broadband infrastructure and tourist development shortfall.

#### 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	Services for survey, geotechnical, modeling and preliminary design procured via P3 through County procurement process to support project permit applications to jurisdictional agencies. County has completed initial procurement steps within the P3 process and has selected a the private partner.	1,800,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>1,800,000</b>

#### 12. Program Performance

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

Improve water quality and make progress in meeting Lake Okeechobee watershed TMDL. Okeechobee County occupies the majority of Lower Kissimmee and Taylor Creek Nubbin Slough subwatersheds in the Lake Okeechobee Watershed. These subwatersheds are 2 of the 3 largest contributors of Total Phosphorus (TP) to the Watershed and a TMDL and BMAP for TP are in place. Agriculture is the largest landuse. This regional project by the County supports watershed water quality improvements and landowners already implementing BMPs to reduce nutrient contributions. This County project helps everyone: landowners, stakeholders, and the state progress in meeting the TMDL and demonstrates the Counties commitment in supporting water quality improvements.

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

Activities provided for by the initial appropriation include topographical survey, geotechnical engineering, soil sampling and classification, hydrologic monitoring and modeling and preliminary design for use in project permit applications to the jurisdictional agencies. These activities prepare the project for implementation.



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

Direct services include the development of project documents to move a water quality improvement project forward for the long-term benefit of the citizens of Okeechobee county and all constituents downstream within the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program. It will provide the citizens of Okeechobee a creditable project for inclusion in the BMAP should allocations in the Lake Okeechobee BMAP be assigned in future BMAP updates.

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

The target population most directly impacted is Okeechobee County (42,168 people). However because TP contributions from Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough subwatershed are 1 of the 3 highest in the Lake O watershed, all downstream populations, those that receive Lake Okeechobee discharges, and those relying on the Lake itself for water supply, benefit from reduced nutrient contributions as a result of this project. Over 2 million people in South Florida between the counties connected to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie River and estuaries benefit.

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

The 2022/23 appropriation will allow for the initial phase of investigations and engineering to be completed to submit for required permits to allow for the project's implementation in a follow-on phase. The outcome to measure success and completion of the initial phase includes completed documents accepted by the jurisdictional permitting authorities. Documents should be suitable for permitting review and development of final design to move the project into construction.

**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?**

Contractual milestones established throughout project must be adhered to. Failure to perform and implement in accordance with contracted milestones will result in withholding of payment until activities are completed and may result in cancellation of contract by the agency. Any missed milestones requires the contractor to provide a corrective action plan to be approved and implemented.

**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 owner of the facility will initially be a private entity with experience in large scale environmental and ecological restoration and they will be responsible for the development and success of the project through several years of operations and maintenance once the facility is constructed. The property and project will be conveyed to Okeechobee County in 10-15 years for continued operation at no additional cost to the County or the State.



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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)

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)
- ☒ 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?**

10/01/2024