



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 2382

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The purpose of this project is to create 25 acres of submerged aquatic vegetation/seagrass meadows within the Caloosahatchee River. The restoration will be achieved by planting 128,415 Tape grass planting units, protect them for a period of three years, and monitor the beneficial impacts of the project. The project will filter nutrients from the water column, provide critical habitat for juvenile sport fish such as red drum, and provide food for manatees that winter in the river.

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	1,619,693
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>1,619,693</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)	1,619,693	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>1,619,693</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2021-22	0	1,366,000	1607A	No

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.

Previously a \$10k grant has been applied to SAV restoration in this area but does not approach the magnitude of the need.

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



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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	Administrative	100,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Public Outreach, events	78,166
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Environmental Monitoring, Permitting, Engineering, Reporting, Planting Nursery grown grass, Protecting grass, Maintenance of grass, Educational markers installation	1,441,527
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>1,619,693</b>

#### 12. Program Performance

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

This project will create 25 acres of critically important submerged vegetation meadows. The benefits of submerged vegetation meadows have been extensively researched for their importance in recreational and commercially important fisheries production, providing critically important habitat, reducing toxic algae blooms, stabilizing sediments, absorbing nutrients, and coastal resiliency.

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

The funds will be spent on project management, cultivation and installation of 128,415 nursery cultivated aquatic plants, protect plants with 16 aids to navigation and 625 herbivory exclusion cages, maintenance of the herbivory exclusion cages and plants, reporting, and scientific review.

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

This project will create 25 acres of critically important submerged vegetation meadows. The benefits of submerged vegetation meadows have been extensively researched for their importance in recreational and commercially important fisheries production, providing critically important habitat, reducing toxic algae blooms, stabilizing sediments, absorbing nutrients, and coastal resiliency.

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

Both the local and state economy will benefit from this project. This project will have direct positive impacts to the seafood industry, eco-tourism industry, recreational boating industry, real estate industry, and the tourism industry as each of these industries are dependent on healthy habitats and clean water. The indirect effects of this project will reach individuals that depend on clean water in Florida.

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



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Both the local and state economy will benefit from this project. This project will have direct positive impacts to the seafood industry, eco-tourism industry, recreational boating industry, real estate industry, and the tourism industry as each of these industries are dependent on healthy habitats and clean water. The benefits of this project will be reviewed by independent scientist that will monitor changes in water quality, fisheries production, and plant expansion. Annual monitoring reports will be generated for three years documenting the success of the goals of this project.

**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?**

If deliverables are not achieved in full monies allocated to the deliverable should be withheld.

**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.**

N/A - SAV restoration



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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?**

Planning - construction not started on this phase

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

0%

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

01/01/2024