



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1503

1. Project Title North Florida Water Utilities Authority Regional Wastewater Feasibility Study

2. Senate Sponsor Corey Simon

3. Date of Request 11/17/2025

4. Project/Program Description

Study will evaluate the technical, environmental, and financial feasibility of consolidating multiple small wastewater systems (Ft. White, Branford, Ellisville) and replacing aging or failing septic systems (estimating 4,000-6,000) with modernized regional facilities with advanced treatment capabilities, alternative water reuse, and aquifer recharge. Additionally the study will identify and prioritize projects aligning with FDEP and SRWMD strategic water quality and sustainability objectives.

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

State Agency contacted? No

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	700,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	700,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	700,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	700,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (YYYY-YY)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. Is future-year 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.



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1503

Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

10. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

☒ Planning ☐ Design ☐ Construction ☐ N/A

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

08/30/2026

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

04/01/2027

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

Once the project launches, the appropriations, if approved, would fund the project.

11. List 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.

Not an FCO project, but the end report, deliverables and analysis documentation from the Regional Feasibility Study would be owned by the North Florida Water Utilities Authority.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Study will evaluate the technical, environmental, and financial feasibility of consolidating multiple small wastewater systems (Ft. White, Branford, Ellisville) and replacing aging or failing septic systems (estimating 4,000-6,000) with modernized regional facilities with advanced treatment capabilities, alternative water reuse, and aquifer recharge.	700,000
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		700,000

13. Program Performance

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1503

The study will evaluate the technical, environmental, and financial feasibility of consolidating multiple small wastewater systems and replacing aging or failing septic systems with a modern regional facility. The project aligns with Florida's strategic water quality and sustainability objectives under the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD).

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

The funds will drive the assessment of existing and future wastewater system needs, identify deficiencies and opportunities, and develop a list of implementable, fundable projects to improve service reliability, sustainability, and growth capacity for Suwannee and Columbia Counties.

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

Study will evaluate the technical, environmental, and financial feasibility of consolidating multiple small wastewater systems (Ft. White, Branford, Ellisville) and replacing aging or failing septic systems (estimating 4,000-6,000) with modernized regional facilities with advanced treatment capabilities, alternative water reuse, and aquifer recharge.

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

The funds will serve all citizens and groups in Suwannee and Columbia Counties.

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

Improved physical health, protection of the general public from environmental harm, increase or improve economic activity, improve regional wastewater management, and improve groundwater quality.

Measurement: Formulate a prioritized list of regionally based implementable projects aligning with Florida's strategic water quality and sustainability objectives under the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD).

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?

Remittance of funding back to the State.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?

a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?

- ☐ Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)
- ☐ Response (addressing the immediate and short-term effects of a natural disaster)
- ☐ Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure)

b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):

15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?

- ☐ Yes, Applied
- ☐ Yes, Received
- ☐ No
- ☐ No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1503

b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:

16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?

- ☐ Yes, Applied
- ☐ Yes, Received
- ☐ No
- ☐ No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):

Please complete questions 17 through 21 for Water Projects only.

17. Have you been awarded or applied for alternative state funding for this project?

- ☐ Water Quality Improvement Grant Program
- ☐ Resilient Florida Grant Program
- ☐ Wastewater Revolving Loan
- ☐ Drinking Water Revolving Loan
- ☐ Small Community Wastewater Treatment Grant
- ☐ Other (please specify, ex. Alternative Water Supply Grants)
- ☒ 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?

Awaiting funding to launch but potential start date could be 8-30-2026.

20. What percentage of the construction has been completed?



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1503

0%

21. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

04/01/2027

22. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Shannon Last Name Roberts

b. Organization North Florida Water Utilities Authority

c. E-mail Address shannonr@nfwua.org

d. Phone Number (386)590-0732 Ext.

23. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization North Florida Water Utilities Authority

b. Municipality and County Suwannee

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 Shannon Last Name Roberts

e. E-mail Address shannonr@nfwua.org

f. Phone Number (386)590-0732 Ext.

24. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name Mike Grissom

b. Firm Name Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC

c. E-mail Address michael.grissom@bipc.com

d. Phone Number (850)681-4238

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