



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1898

1. Project Title Lake County - Cherry Lake Dam Replacement

2. Senate Sponsor Keith Truenow

3. Date of Request 10/28/2025

#### 4. Project/Program Description

Replace the 1956 Cherry Lake Dam, classified as a significant hazard potential structure by the National Inventory of Dams, with a modern structure that will ensure on-going protection and safety of residents and properties downstream of the existing dam from major storm events and maintain water levels and flow rates throughout the upper Ocklawaha River basin.

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	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,750,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>1,750,000</b>

#### 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)	1,750,000	70%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	750,000	30%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027</b>	<b>2,500,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

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.

Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1898

#### 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?

12/30/2027

##### d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

06/30/2029

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

The Lake County Water Authority-Special Taxing District

#### 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.

Lake County Water Authority

#### 12. 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</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	Removal of the existing Cherry Lake Dam and construction of replacement dam at Cherry Lake	1,750,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>1,750,000</b>

#### 13. Program Performance

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

The requested funds will support the replacement of the aging Cherry Lake Dam Structure to ensure continued optimal water-level management and flood protection for the watershed. The project's goal is to restore the dam's full functionality, improve public safety, and maintain downstream ecological balance by providing reliable water control infrastructure.

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



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1898

Activities will include engineering design, permitting, and demolition of the existing deteriorating structure, and construction of a new reinforced concrete dam with updated gates and control systems. Services will also include geotechnical analysis, environmental protection measures during construction, and installation of new instrumentation to monitor flow and water levels in coordination with the U.S. Geological Survey Network

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

The project will directly protect nearby residents, agricultural areas, and public lands from flooding, while preserving recreational opportunities such as boating and fishing on Cherry Lake. Citizens benefit through improved water management reliability, protection of property, and enhanced ecosystem stability supporting water quality and wildlife habitat.

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

The project serves approximately 20,000 to 25,000 thousand residents located within the Cherry Lake and Palatka River watershed in Lake County, Florida. It also benefits visitors who use the Clermont Chain of Lakes for recreation and supports the broader downstream population of more than 100,000 residents by maintaining proper water flow and flood protection for connected waterways.

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

Replacement of the dam with a higher conveyance capacity modern structure. Reduced flood risk and improved water-level & flood control. Provide measurable improvements in water conveyance and safety inspections. Improve ecosystem health. Success will be measured through compliance with State & Federal dam safety standards, and post-construction monitoring data, in combination with U.S. Geological Survey.

**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?**

The Lake County Office of Procurement Services in coordination with Lake County Water Authority contracting officer will include the appropriate penalties (financial penalties including bond forfeiture) to ensure quality.

**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 # 1898

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?

Planning stages.

20. What percentage of the construction has been completed?



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

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LFIR # 1898

0%

21. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12/30/2029

#### 22. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name  Last Name   
b. Organization   
c. E-mail Address   
d. Phone Number  Ext.

#### 23. 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  Ext.

#### 24. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name   
b. Firm Name   
c. E-mail Address   
d. Phone Number

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