



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2143

1. Project Title Okeechobee Utility Authority Southwest Service Area Wastewater Improvements

2. Senate Sponsor Erin Grall

3. Date of Request 02/22/2023

4. Project/Program Description

Funds needed for contractual design, permit, bidding, project management and construction services for wastewater vacuum collection system to remove 700+/- septic tank systems from service with conversion to centralized wastewater treatment system that is located in a Rural Area of Economic Concern/Rural Area of Opportunity (s. 288.0656, Florida Statutes). It is estimated approximately 6.7 tons of nitrogen and 1.6 tons of phosphorus per year from entering groundwater and local surface waters. Less pollutants and harmful algal blooms entering Lake Okeechobee Water Basin. Improves water quality, protects life/health/safety and reduces HAB's.

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

State Agency contacted? Yes

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	2,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	2,000,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	2,000,000	6%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	30,391,000	92%
Local	498,332	2%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	32,889,332	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2020-21	0	500,000	1635a	No

9. Is future funding likely to be requested? No

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 00

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

n/a

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



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No

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

n/a

Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

☐ Planning ☐ Design ☒ Construction

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

Yes

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

07/01/2023

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12/31/2025

12. 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.

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

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	n/a	0
Other Salary and Benefits	n/a	0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	n/a	0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	n/a	0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	n/a	0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	n/a	0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	n/a	0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Contractual design, permit, bidding, project management and construction services	2,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,000,000

14. Program Performance

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



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Goal is to protect life/health/safety, reduce HAB's and improve water quality with removal of 700+/- septic tank systems from service. Funds needed for contractual design, permit, bidding, project management & construction services for wastewater vacuum collection system. Approximately 6.7 tons of nitrogen and 1.6 tons of phosphorus a year removed from septic tanks, prevented from entering groundwater and local surface waters. Less pollutants and harmful algal blooms entering Lake Okeechobee Water Basin.

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

To seek contractual design, permit, bidding, project management and construction services through the OUA's procurement policies.

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

Direct services to citizens once the wastewater collection/pumping system is completed; it will provide for improved life, health and safety of the citizenry, children, and pets with improved water quality/quantity, reliable service, improved environment with reduction of pollutants entering State protected water resources. 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?

Target population is the State through the protection of waters of the State in the Lake Okeechobee Estuaries and surrounding areas. Additional benefits are increased levels of service expected by visitors and residents of Okeechobee County, which is designated as a Rural Area of Economic Concern per Executive Order #11-81 and as outlined in Florida Statutes 288.0656 Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) as a Rural Area of Opportunity.

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

Expected benefit is improved life, health, safety, water resources and the environment/wildlife with reduction of contaminants leaching from 700+/- private failing septic systems into State protected Lake Okeechobee Water Basin; Estimated per year 6.7 tons of nitrogen and 1.6 tons of phosphorus to be removed from 700+/- old/failing septic tanks. Provides for a safe means to dispose of wastewater. Completion and certification of the 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?

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

15. Requester Contact Information

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

16. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization
b. Municipality and County
c. Organization Type
☐ For Profit Entity
☐ Non Profit 501(c)(3)



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

d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

Please complete the questions below for Water Projects only.

18. Have you applied for alternative state funding?

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

19. 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

20. What is the status of construction?

21. What percentage of the construction has been completed?



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0%

22. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12/31/2025