



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 1302

1. **Title of Project:** Okeechobee Utility Authority Southwest Wastewater Service Area

2. **Senate Sponsor:** Ben Albritton

3. **Date of Submission:** 02/08/2019

4. **Project/Program Description:**

Project addresses public health and environmental concerns as severe flooding from rainfalls in this area compromise drain fields, where citizens experience constant failure of aging septic system where the effluent leaches back into homes and into the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Basin, creating a serious health hazard for pets, children, residents and visitors. Project will include construction of the vacuum collection/gravity sewer system in the Southwest Wastewater Service Area that includes eliminating 700+ aging and/or failing existing septic systems as part of the overall system. Project's location makes these improvements extremely vital to clean-up efforts of the of the Everglades Ecosystem, Lake Okeechobee Watershed, Florida Everglades Ecosystem and augment US EPA water quality rules and plans of FDEP and is in accordance with Florida Amendment 1 cleanup, restoration and protection policies.

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

State Agency Contacted? No

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2019-2020**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	
Fixed Capital Outlay	2,500,000
Total State Funds Requested	2,500,000

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percent
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	2,500,000	17.92%
Federal		0.00%
State (excluding the amount of this request)		0.00%
Local	11,447,186	82.08%
Other		0.00%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020	13,947,186	100.0%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	NonRecurring		
2018-19		523,867	1136	No

9. **Is future-year funding likely to be requested?** No



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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		
Other Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs:		
Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Construction	2,500,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,500,000

11. Program Performance:

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

Purpose is to protect and improve life, health, safety and the environment by addressing old/failing drain fields due to severe flooding from rainfalls where citizens are experiencing constant failure of aging septic tank systems, where the effluent is leaching back into homes and into the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Basin, creating a serious health hazard for pets, children, residents and visitors. Goal is to construct the vacuum collection/gravity sewer system in the Southwest Wastewater Service Area that includes eliminating 700+ aging/failing existing septic systems and reduce flooding. The project's location is extremely vital to clean-up efforts of the Northern Everglades Ecosystem, Lake Okeechobee Watershed, Florida Everglades Ecosystem. Augments U.S. EPA water quality rules and regulations of FDEP.

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

Construction of centralized wastewater collection system and removal of old failing septic systems in the Southwest Wastewater Service Area and connection to regional wastewater utility through the OUA procurement policy.

c. What are the direct services to be provided to citizens by the appropriations project?

Protection and improved life, health and safety of residents, citizens, general public and pets from harm by reducing flooding and preventing pollutants and effluent leaching back into homes and the environment. Protecting State water resources. Improved water quality.

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

The State, through the protection of State endangered waters in the Lake Okeechobee and surrounding areas, citizens, visitors, residents in Southwest Section Service Area, Okeechobee County, 1500+ expected to be served,



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

Expected benefit associated from the requested funds is the prevention of flooding, pollutants and effluent leaching back into homes and the environment. Protection of life, public health, safety and the environment, improved water quality, ground, surface and drinking water, increased service, reliability, protection of the State endangered waters (Taylor Creek, Nubbin Slough, Lake Okeechobee Indian River Lagoon, Caloosahatchee River and the Fort Myers area Estuaries) with the removal of 700+ old/failing septic systems (pollutant source). Augments US EPA water quality rules and regulations of FDEP and is in accordance with Florida Amendment 1 cleanup, restoration and protection policies.

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?

Non-of invoices; corrective action plan

12. The owner(s) of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owner(s) of the facility and the entity.

Okeechobee Utility Authority is the entity, owner and requestor

13. Requestor Contact Information:

- a. **Name:** John Creasman, Chairman
- b. **Organization:** Okeechobee Utility Authority
- c. **E-mail Address:** khamblen@ouafl.com
- d. **Phone Number:** (863)763-9460

14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** Okeechobe Utility Authority
- b. **County:** Okeechobee
- c. **Organization Type:**
 - For Profit
 - Non Profit 501(c) (3)
 - Non Profit 501(c) (4)
 - Local Entity
 - University or College
 - Other (Please specify) Special District
- d. **Contact Name:** John Hayford, P.E., Executive Direc
- e. **E-mail Address:** jhayford@ouafl.com
- f. **Phone Number:** (863)763-9460

15. Lobbyist Contact Information

- a. **Name:** Connie Vanassche



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- b. Firm Name:** CAS Governmental Services
- c. E-mail Address:** ccvgrovser@gmail.com
- d. Phone Number:** (561)512-0089

Please complete the questions below for Water Projects only

16. Have you applied for alternative state funding?

- Wastewater Revolving Loan
- Drinking Water Revolving Loan
- Small Community Wastewater Treatment Grant
- Other (Please describe): USDA
- N/A

17. 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

18. What is the status of construction? Not ready

19. What percentage of construction has been completed? 0

20. What is the estimated completion date of construction? December 31, 2022