



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 1365

1. Title of Project: Dona Bay Watershed Restoration Project

2. Senate Sponsor: Joe Gruters

3. Date of Submission: 02/05/2019

4. Project/Program Description:

The work to be conducted in this watershed will have a positive effect on the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for nutrients, fecal coliform, and other pollutants of concern in 9 impaired waterbodies in Sarasota County. This funding will help Sarasota County reduce the volume of fresh water discharged to the tidal estuary of Dona Bay, remove pollutant (nutrient) loads, and develop an alternative water supply to recharge groundwater aquifers threatened by saltwater intrusion. The requested funds will be used to offset a portion of the costs of constructing an Aquifer Recharge or Aquifer Storage & Recovery project that would draw from naturally-treated water stored in a 400-acre former shell rock mine, and then recharge the excess surface water to the Upper Floridan Aquifer through a system of recharge wells. This project will remove pollutants that flush to tide following tropical storms or hurricane events, feeding Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs) affecting Florida's coastline.

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

State Agency Contacted? Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	
Fixed Capital Outlay	4,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	4,000,000

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)	4,000,000	49.23%
Federal	0	0.00%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.00%
Local	4,125,000	50.77%
Other	0	0.00%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020	8,125,000	100.0%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	NonRecurring		
2018-19		750,000		No

9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested? Yes



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a. If yes, indicate non-recurring amount per year. 4,000,000

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	The requested funds will be used to offset a portion of the costs of designing and constructing an aquifer recharge project that would draw from naturally-treated water stored in a 400-acre former shell rock mine which was excavated in the historical (pre-drainage modifications) path of Cow Pen Slough, and then recharging the excess surface water to the Upper Floridan Aquifer through a system of recharge wells. Phase III of the project will evaluate both Aquifer Recharge and Aquifer Storage & R	4,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		4,000,000

11. Program Performance:

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

This funding will help Sarasota County work towards its stated program goals of reducing the volume of fresh water discharged to the tidal estuary of Dona Bay, pollutant (nutrient) load removal, the rehydration of previously-impacted wetlands, and the development of an alternative water supply to recharge groundwater aquifers threatened by saltwater intrusion due to regional over-pumping. This project is especially important in providing a buffering system to capture, retain, treat, and beneficially use excess fresh water and to remove pollutants that are normally flushed rapidly to tide following heavy rains associated with tropical storms or hurricane events, feeding the Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs) affecting Florida's coastline.

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

The requested funds will be used to offset a portion of the costs of designing and constructing an aquifer recharge project that would draw from naturally-treated water stored in a 400-acre former shell rock mine which was excavated in the historical (pre-drainage modifications) path of Cow Pen Slough, and then recharging the excess surface water to the Upper Floridan Aquifer through a system of recharge wells. Phase III of the



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project will evaluate both Aquifer Recharge and Aquifer Storage & Recovery technologies to determine the best approach for this project.

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

none

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

All citizens of Sarasota County.

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

The project will improve surface water quality in the Dona Bay estuary by reducing freshwater flows to the bay and reducing nutrient pollution in the water that is eventually discharged to the bay. This outcome will be measured by ongoing surface water quality monitoring. A resultant outcome will be improved oyster and seagrass beds, which will be measured by ongoing habitat monitoring. Effects on saltwater intrusion and aquifer protection will be measured via regional groundwater monitoring wells.

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?

Funding could be withheld for any items that fail to meet deliverable or performance measures.

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.

The requesting entity and the facility owners are one and the same.

13. Requestor Contact Information:

- a. **Name:** Scott Schroyer
- b. **Organization:** Sarasota County Public Utilities
- c. **E-mail Address:** sschroyer@scgov.net
- d. **Phone Number:** (941)861-0661

14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** Sarasota County Public Utilities
- b. **County:** Sarasota
- c. **Organization Type:**
 - For Profit
 - Non Profit 501(c) (3)
 - Non Profit 501(c) (4)
 - Local Entity
 - University or College
 - Other (Please specify)
- d. **Contact Name:** David Cash



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e. **E-mail Address:** dcash@scgov.net

f. **Phone Number:** (941)861-0550

15. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. **Name:** Rob Lewis

b. **Firm Name:** Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners

c. **E-mail Address:** rlewis@scgov.net

d. **Phone Number:** (941)444-9532

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)
- 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? In design/permitting stage

19. What percentage of construction has been completed? 0%

20. What is the estimated completion date of construction? 10/01/2020