



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2136

1. Project Title Fort Pierce Utility Authority - Relocating Wastewater Treatment Plant off of the Indian River Lagoon

2. Senate Sponsor Erin Grall

3. Date of Request 02/15/2023

4. Project/Program Description

Funds are needed to support the relocation of FPUA's wastewater treatment plant off the shores of the Indian River Lagoon. The overall relocation is estimated to cost \$145 million including construction of the new plant (estimated completion 2024), redirection of the wastewater flow (in phases; estimated completion 2026), and decommissioning of the existing plant (estimated completion 2027). The project has already been approved locally by the City of Fort Pierce and FPUA has already secured a \$100 million bond toward the total cost. FPUA has also submitted several state and federal grant proposals totaling nearly \$39 million toward this relocation effort, and we were recently awarded \$15,000,000 of Resilient Florida grant funds.

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	5,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	5,000,000

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)	5,000,000	7%
Matching Funds		
Federal	530,070	1%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	10,079,012	16%
Local	48,669,930	76%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	64,279,012	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. Is future funding likely to be requested? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 5,000,000

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

FPUA will continue to pursue state and federal grant awards. If grants are not viable or the timeline does not align with funding needs, FPUA will need to pursue additional bonds which will likely require increased customer rates.



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Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2136

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

Yes

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

FPUA received \$144,075 reimbursement from St. Lucie County through the CARES Act for the purchase of air scrubbers, which were installed to improve the air quality of FPUA buildings during COVID-19.

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?

January 2023

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

July 2027

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.

Owner and entity are the same: Fort Pierce Utilities Authority

13. 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		0
Operational Costs: Other		
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	Construction of the new wastewater treatment plant that will be located at 4515 Energy Lane in western Fort Pierce. The new location is in an industrial development zone and immediately adjacent to a natural gas power plant.	5,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		5,000,000

14. Program Performance

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



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

Construction of the new treatment plant will allow FPUA to provide critical wastewater treatment and disposal services to the citizens of Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County without endangering the Indian River Lagoon. The new treatment plant will also provide reuse water to the neighbor power plant cooling towers, eliminating over 2 million gallons of draw from the Florida aquifer per day.

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

Wastewater treatment and disposal are critical for protecting public health. The current wastewater treatment plant is over 50 years old and sits on the vulnerable Indian River Lagoon. The new wastewater plant will be a state-of-the-art plant that is off of the lagoon, ensuring a healthy public as well as a healthy environment.

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

The target population is residents of Fort Pierce, Florida and St. Lucie County. This includes a high percentage of economically disadvantaged and impoverished persons in Fort Pierce. The population of Fort Pierce is estimated 46,600. St. Lucie County is also a high volume bulk customer that will benefit from the higher efficiency, state-of-the-art wastewater plant.

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

Diverting flow to the new plant will eliminate risk of overflow into the Indian River Lagoon. Large storm events such as hurricanes or high-rain events create an influx of wastewater flow that can overwhelm the system and require effluent to be released directly to the lagoon. This risk will be eliminated. Benefit will be measured by number of large storm events that would have posed a risk to the system and Indian River Lagoon if we instead continued relying on the current wastewater plant that sits on the Indian River Lagoon rather than relocating it. Benefit will also be measured by tracking millions of gallons of sewage that is directed to the new wastewater plant instead of the old plant which is located on the IRL.

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?

Implementation of a corrective action plan.

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



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Fiscal Year 2023-2024

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- ☐ 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

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)
- ☒ 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?



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21. What percentage of the construction has been completed?

0%

22. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

07/31/2027