



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 1732

**1. Title of Project:** Cutler Bay-Wetland Observation Tower

**2. Senate Sponsor:** Jose Rodriguez

**3. Date of Submission:** 02/07/2019

**4. Project/Program Description:**

The Town of Cutler Bay is requesting \$200,000 to construct an environment education observation tower, enabling citizens to learn about Biscayne Bay, the Cutler Wetlands and the unique fauna and flora associated with the bay and its region. This project will further the Town’s efforts to expand the availability and access to Florida’s greenways and natural areas. This project is aligned with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's SCORP priority area of “Environmental Education” - “Public schools in Florida, in partnerships with the Department of Education and public park and recreation agencies, should continue to integrate environmental education for children and adults throughout their curricula to increase awareness of the threats to and benefits of Florida’s natural systems” (pg. 7-6). Four (4) schools in the Town limits have specialized environmental education programs that will benefit directly from this project.

**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	200,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>200,000</b>

**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)	200,000	44.84%
Federal	0	0.00%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.00%
Local	246,000	55.16%
Other	0	0.00%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020</b>	<b>446,000</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**8. Has this project previously received state funding?** No

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

**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
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Not Applicable	0
Other Salary and Benefits	Not Applicable	0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Not Applicable	0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Not Applicable	0
<b>Operational Costs:</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Not Applicable	0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Not Applicable	0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Not Applicable	0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Costs associated with the construction of Wetland Pavilion and Educational Facilities (see attached)	200,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>200,000</b>

**11. Program Performance:**

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

The Town is requesting \$200,000 (45% of construction cost) to install an observation tower and create a bird-themed preserve in the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands located at 97 Avenue south of SW 224 Street. The goal of this site is to create open space that is maintained as a natural, educational showcase, with the development of trails and boardwalks through the wetlands. The project also promotes pedestrian and bicycle access through connection to the State's Old Cutler Bike Trail.

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

Four (4) of the schools located in the Town have specialized environmental programs. The development of an observation tower in the Cutler Bay Wetlands will allow students to practice what is learned in school; without having to leave their community.

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

Aligned with the FDEP SCORP: Schools in partnerships with the Dept. of Ed and public park and recreation agencies, continue to integrate environmental education for children throughout their curricula to increase awareness of the threats to and benefits of Florida's natural systems. (Ch 7, pg. 6).

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

Town desires to attract students of all ages (K-12 and Post-Secondary) to use the Tower as a "lab" for their environmental studies. The Tower is also open to the general public and will become a part of the Town's network of public parks.



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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?**

Improve quality of education: Provide local resources for teachers to connect environmental science classwork to the students' personal environment (participant surveys). Enhance/preserve/improve environment: Increase community awareness about the importance of conserving Biscayne Bay and the Wetlands (Installation of educational plaques)

**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?**

Failure to meet deliverables will result in reduction of appropriation amount based upon the compensation for unmet deliverables.

**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.**

Project site is owned by Miami-Dade County. The Town is negotiating a joint use agreement with the County for long-term site control.

**13. Requestor Contact Information:**

- a. **Name:** Rafael Casals
- b. **Organization:** Town of Cutler Bay
- c. **E-mail Address:** rcasals@cutlerbay-fl.gov
- d. **Phone Number:** (305)234-4262

**14. Recipient Contact Information:**

- a. **Organization:** Town of Cutler Bay
- b. **County:** Miami-Dade
- 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:** Rafael Casals
- e. **E-mail Address:** rcasals@cutlerbay-fl.gov
- f. **Phone Number:** (305)234-4262

**15. Lobbyist Contact Information**

- a. **Name:** Fausto Gomez
- b. **Firm Name:** Gomez Barker Associates



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c. E-mail Address: fgomez@gomezbarker.com

d. Phone Number: (305)860-0780

**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?** Construction is not started. Project will be shovel ready by 1/30/2020

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

**20. What is the estimated completion date of construction?** 9/30/2021