



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 2395

1. Title of Project: Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Aquaculture Project

2. Senate Sponsor: Janet Cruz

3. Date of Submission: 03/13/2019

4. Project/Program Description:

To create a sustainable fresh and saltwater Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Nursery and implement regional specific plantings along with creation of SAV habitat restoration grow plots in critical areas of need (Springs, Caloosahatchee River Basin, And the Indian River Lagoon). Projected 60 acres of plantings grown and planted annually within critical habitat areas. The program includes public private partnerships and includes State University students along with 501c3 organizations.

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	5,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	
Total State Funds Requested	5,000,000

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)	5,000,000	100.0%
Federal	0	0.0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.0%
Local	0	0.0%
Other	0	0.0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020	5,000,000	100.0%

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

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



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Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Construction oversight and deliverables management/project and phase planning	100,000
Other Salary and Benefits	Field staff for aquaculture facility and center maintenace	300,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Admin Expenses and site inspections	100,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Aquaculture facility lease and maintenance	200,000
Operational Costs:		
Salary and Benefits	Internships, data collection, and quality control, planted SAV maintenance and monitoring	400,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	SAV, exclusion cages, signage, education	2,000,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Installation of SAV, Exclusion cages, signage, permitting	1,900,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		5,000,000

11. Program Performance:

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

The objective of this project is to create a aquaculture facility that can sustain annual plantings to restore critical nursery habitat and replace lost valuable natural resources. The project will also uptake nutrients and outcompete algae for nutrients.

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

Fresh and saltwater nursery grown SAV will be contract grown for restoration activities within Springs, Caloosahatchee River and Indian River Lagoon. These areas have been damaged and lost critical habitat. Small scale projects have shown success over the past 10 years in these areas. over 60 acres of plants will be planted and monitored overall.

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

The loss of statewide SAV has shown increased algae blooms and fish kills contributing to billions in lost revenue. FDEP estimates the economic value of 1 acre of seagrass to be \$20,500 per year. Local citizens will benefit from increased tourism, essential fish habitat, fish production, nutrient absorption and ecotourism.

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

The project will span and cover 3 critical areas of the state. The target population would be statewide and include tourist, given the these figures it would be an estiamte between 21,000,000 Floridians, and over 118,000,000 tourist.

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



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The outcome of this project is to produce an ongoing aquaculture facility and nursery planting area within critical areas of the state by planting 60 acres of seagrass annually. The 60 acres of SAV usually support up to 1,200,000 fish and up to 1.5 billion small invertebrates. The improvements will be quantified by independent scientist using state approved methods.

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?

The nursery and SAV will be inspected and certified by FDACS staff, any plants that fail certification or inspection will not be used for planting and not considered for payment.

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.

None

13. Requestor Contact Information:

- a. **Name:** Beau Williams
- b. **Organization:** AquaTech Eco Consultants
- c. **E-mail Address:** beau@aquatecheco.com
- d. **Phone Number:** (813)918-6169

14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** Ecosphere Restoration Institute
- b. **County:** Hillsborough
- 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:** Thomas Ries
- e. **E-mail Address:** tries@ecosphererestoration.org
- f. **Phone Number:** (813)376-9076

15. Lobbyist Contact Information

- a. **Name:** None
- b. **Firm Name:** None
- c. **E-mail Address:**
- d. **Phone Number:**



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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? Aquaculture and Florida Nursery Certifications have been recieved

19. What percentage of construction has been completed? 2%

20. What is the estimated completion date of construction? 07/01/2019