



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1994

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

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 \$195 million including construction of the new plant (estimated completion 2025), redirection of the wastewater flow (in phases; estimated completion 2027), 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 been awarded nearly \$60 million in grant funds, with \$53.4 million from Resilient Florida, \$5 million in FY 23-24 State Appropriations, and \$1 million in 23-24 Federal Appropriations.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**

State Agency contacted?

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	5,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	5,000,000

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	5,000,000	6%
Matching Funds		
Federal	1,000,000	1%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	11,333,934	15%
Local	60,666,066	78%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	78,000,000	100%

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

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (YYYY-YY)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2024-25	0	2,500,000		Yes

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

a. **If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.**

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



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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.

Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

10. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning
 Design
 Construction
 N/A

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

Yes

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

01/01/2024

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12/31/2027

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

FPUA's wastewater revenue (customer rates charged to wastewater customers each month)

11. 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

12. 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		
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 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

13. Program Performance

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



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Funds are needed to support the relocation of FPUA's wastewater treatment plant off the shores of the Indian River Lagoon. Estimated to cost \$195 million including construction of the new plant (2025 end), redirection of the wastewater flow (2027 end), and decommissioning of the existing plant (2027 end). 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, plus almost \$60M in grant funds awarded.

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 Floridan 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 49,374. 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 in the contract?

Implementation of a corrective action plan.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?

a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?

- Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)
- Response (addressing the immediate and short-term effects of a natural disaster)
- Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure)

b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):

15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received



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- No
- No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:

b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:

16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):

Please complete questions 17 through 21 for Water Projects only.

17. Have you been awarded or applied for alternative state funding for this project?

- Water Quality Improvement Grant Program
- Resilient Florida Grant Program
- Wastewater Revolving Loan
- Drinking Water Revolving Loan
- Small Community Wastewater Treatment Grant
- Other (please specify, ex. Alternative Water Supply Grants) native Water Supply Grants
- N/A

18. 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)



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N/A

19. What is the status of construction?

In progress

20. What percentage of the construction has been completed?

50%

21. What is the estimated completion date of construction? 12/31/2027

22. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Rachel Last Name Tennant
 b. Organization Fort Pierce Utilities Authority
 c. E-mail Address rtennant@fpu.com
 d. Phone Number (772)466-1600 Ext. 3012

23. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization Fort Pierce Utilities Authority
 b. Municipality and County Saint Lucie
 c. Organization Type
 For Profit Entity
 Non Profit 501(c)(3)
 Non Profit 501(c)(4)
 Local Entity
 University or College
 Other (please specify)

d. First Name Rachel Last Name Tennant
 e. E-mail Address rtennant@fpu.com
 f. Phone Number (772)466-1600 Ext. 3012

24. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name Travis W. Blanton
 b. Firm Name Johnson & Blanton
 c. E-mail Address cheryl@teamjb.com
 d. Phone Number (850)224-1900



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The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.