



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2368

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

Lake Seminole continues to face significant water quality challenges, including nutrient enrichment and harmful algal blooms (HABs), despite decades of restoration efforts. While past interventions have led to improvements, recent data reveal that key water quality targets are not being met. Nutrient discharges from the lake persist, contributing to HABs and degraded water quality downstream in Tampa Bay.

Pinellas County is seeking funding to develop a comprehensive road map to complete the restoration of Lake Seminole, utilizing the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s (FDEP) proven, innovative technology for HAB mitigation. Phase 1 will include a detailed lake assessment and modeling, treatment planning, and the design of a system capable of meeting water quality targets. This innovative and cost-effective approach provides a sustainable pathway to restoring Lake Seminole’s water quality, delivering lasting environmental, economic, and community benefits.

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

State Agency contacted? Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	350,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	350,000

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)	350,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	350,000	100%

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

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (YYYY-YY)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. **Is future-year funding likely to be requested?** No

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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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?

7/1/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

06/30/2026

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

We are in the planning stages of recruiting other funding streams for ongoing operations and maintenance.

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.

N/A

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	A consultant will be contracted by Pinellas County to conduct the project including feasibility and concept planning, lake assessment and treatment design modeling, regulatory permitting and coordination, and design engineering to meet water quality restoration goals. This design package will be needed for future phases of the project to install and operate the algae harvesting system at Lake Seminole	350,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		350,000

13. Program Performance



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

The funds will support the development of a detailed restoration plan for implementing algae harvesting technology at Lake Seminole, providing a cost-effective solution to address ongoing water quality challenges. While the northern section of the lake has benefited from dredging and water quality control technologies, extending these efforts to the southern basin is cost prohibitive. Algae harvesting technology offers a lower-cost alternative. The project will establish a comprehensive pathway to implementing this technology, focusing on reducing nutrient levels, mitigating HABs, and preventing nutrient discharges to Tampa Bay, ultimately achieving sustainable environmental, economic, and community benefits.

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

Pinellas county will secure the services of the technology provider to develop a comprehensive algae harvesting restoration plan. Activities will include lake assessment and treatment modeling, engineering design, and permitting and planning to support future implementation of an algae harvesting system that can effectively achieve restoration goals.

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

If funding is granted to reduce the nutrient load in Lake Seminole, Pinellas County residents can expect improved water quality, resulting in fewer algae blooms and healthier aquatic habitats, with benefits extending downstream to Tampa Bay. These improvements will enhance recreational opportunities, protect local wildlife, and contribute to a more vibrant and sustainable ecosystem for the community.

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

The target population served by this project includes Pinellas County residents, tourists, and other visitors to Pinellas County and Florida. This project supports the Governor's Innovative Tech grant awarded by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), facilitating the transition from a pilot project to a full-scale restoration of Lake Seminole. The funding will enable Pinellas County to complete the initial work needed to implement the algae harvesting equipment tested by FDEP, setting the stage for a comprehensive cleanup of the lake. This effort will directly benefit the approximately 1 million residents of Pinellas County, as well as millions of tourists visiting the area each year, with long-term regional benefits for water quality.

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

The outcome will be a comprehensive plan for the sustainable, efficient, and cost-effective restoration of Lake Seminole through the use of algae harvesting technology. Success will be measured through detailed lake assessments and modeling of engineered system designs tailored to the specific conditions of Lake Seminole, aimed at achieving the target water quality improvements and meeting established restoration goals for the lake. An independent advisor will be engaged to provide technical review of the plan.

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?

Suggested penalties may include reduction in payment amounts for each delayed deliverable, a requirement to extend the project timeline by a certain percentage or period without additional funding, and a corrective action plan detailing steps to remedy issues and realign the project with agreed-upon deliverables and deadlines.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster? No

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):



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

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- 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)
- N/A

18. What is the population economic status?



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- 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

19. What is the status of construction?

Ready

20. What percentage of the construction has been completed?

0

21. What is the estimated completion date of construction? 06/30/2026

22. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Mackenna **Last Name** Davis

b. Organization Senator

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number (863)608-6658 **Ext.**

23. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization Pinellas County Government

b. Municipality and County Pinellas

c. Organization Type

- For Profit Entity
- Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- Non Profit 501(c)(4)
- Local Entity
- University or College
- Other (please specify) Government

d. First Name Robert **Last Name** Burnes

e. E-mail Address rburnes@pinellas.gov

f. Phone Number (727)453-3149 **Ext.**

24. Lobbyist Contact Information



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a. Name	<input type="text" value="Mackenna Davis"/>
b. Firm Name	<input type="text" value="Cynergy Consulting LLC"/>
c. E-mail Address	<input type="text" value="mackenna@convergepublic.com"/>
d. Phone Number	<input type="text" value="(863)608-6658"/>

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