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December 12, 2023

To: Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)
(Via email to Michael.Chase@FloridaDEP.gov & RFI_SRF@FloridaDEP.gov)

Re: Request for a SAHFI Funds for Charlotte County's "East Port Plant Expansion" Project.

Please accept this letter as an official request by Charlotte County Utilities in consideration for the Supplemental Appropriation for Hurricanes Fionna and Ian (SAHFI) Fund. Charlotte County requests \$20 million in SAHFI funds to help recover from Hurricane Ian and build community resilience. Funds would be applied to our East Port Plant Expansion Project.

Charlotte County Utilities operates four (4) wastewater treatment plants. Our largest wastewater plant is named the "East Port Water Reclamation Plant" with FDEP Permit ID# FL040291 and located at coordinates; 26°58'53.6"N 82°02'02.3"W. Burnt Store serves 43,009 equivalent residential connections and 4,505 commercial service connections. Currently our system lacks the necessary treatment capacity to support future growth and lacks the capacity to maintain full treatment during high inflow events from emergencies such as hurricanes. To solve these issues Charlotte County plans to upgrade our treatment plant from 6 MGD to 9 MGD to support our collection system and serve our citizens. The expansion will benefit the environment as well. East Port serves as a reclamation facility serving our residents and business with the expansion, we will be able to produce more reclaimed water. Reclaimed water is used for irrigation reducing potable water demands. As part of the expansion advanced wastewater treatment (AWT) will be incorporated into our treatment process. AWT will help to ensure our deep well injections and reclaimed water distributions are clean and safe for the environment.

During Hurricane Ian the East Port Water Reclamation facility experience extensive damages including but not limited to; the reclaimed water storage pond aeration system was destroyed, the reclaimed water storage pond liner was severely damaged, a supporting dike to the reclaimed water storage collapsed, the traveling bridge filter was derailed causing electrical and mechanical damage, the conveyer belts on the presses were destroyed, an operations office trailer was knocked off of its foundation and damaged, the pumps at the stage 5 reclaimed water station were severely damaged, there was extensive damage to all lighting at the plant, the power poles and electrical equipment for the deep wells were destroyed, there was extensive damage to the security fencing surrounding the plant and the mechanical entry gates were damaged, the safety cage for the chemical storage tank ladders was destroyed, and the exhaust fans to the laboratory and operations building were severely damaged.

The plant expansion was designed with resiliency and natural disasters as a guiding principle. The entire plant will be upgraded to withstand 160 MPH winds. East Port Water Reclamation Facility is located outside of the 100-year flood zone, however as an extra layer of protection all treatment units will be raised an additional 12.5 ft as additional protection from severe rainfall.

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Eastport Water Reclamation Facility covers 22.66 acres, to manage stormwater on site and prevent localized flooding the facility has a 1.9 acre retention pond.

Our treatment plant expansion project meets the requirements of the tier I funding for the SAHFI, "Projects that prevent interruption of collection system operation in the event of a flood or natural disaster". A treatment plant expansion is eligible under part f of tier I, "Correction of significant infiltration and inflow problems that increase the likelihood of sewer backups or flooding of a treatment works". The Eastport Plant is currently receiving the maximum capacity of wastewater possible during normal conditions. During events of high inflow and infiltration the plant lacks the capacity to handle the influent flow. The expansion will directly address the issue expanding our treatment and storage capacity preventing the flooding of the treatment headworks during high inflow and infiltration events.



The East Port Water Reclamation Facility expansion project meets the requirements of the tier III funding for the SAHFI, "Projects that maintain the operation of a treatment works and the integrity of the treatment train in the event of a flood or natural disaster". A treatment plant expansion is eligible under parts b & d of tier III, "Replacement of damaged equipment with more energy efficient equipment" & "Relocation of critical equipment to less flood prone areas of a facility and/or elevation of critical structures". Many pumps were damaged during the storm and many of the pump currently at the plant are at the end of their useful life. As part of the plant expansion new energy efficient pumps will be installed to replace the old and damaged pumps. Additionally, all treatment units will be raised to 12.5 inches above grade to protect from flooding.

The project meets the requirements of the tier IV funding for the SAHFI, "Projects that preserve and protect treatment works equipment in the event of a flood or natural disaster". A treatment plant expansion is eligible under part a of tier IV, "Relocation of critical equipment to less flood prone areas of a facility and/or elevation of critical structures". As part of the expansion all treatment units will be raised to 12.5 inches above grade to protect from flooding.

Charlotte County Utilities appreciates the State Revolving Funds past and continued support in helping the utilities fund infrastructure projects to better serve and protect our community. The County thanks your organization in consideration for this funding opportunity and looks forward to continuing to work with the Florida State Revolving Fund.

If you have any questions or need any additional information regarding this request, please do not hesitate to reach out to Luke Wright at Luke.Wright@CharlotteCountyFL.gov or 941-769-2229.

Sincerely,



Christopher G. Constance
Vice Chairman of Charlotte County Commissioners
Charlotte County Government
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