

HURRICANE DAMAGE

Historic hurricane season flexed its muscles



PHOTO BY JOSH SALMAN/SUNCOAST SEARCHLIGHT

David Sell, Sarasota County's wastewater manager, inspects wastewater at the county's Bee Ridge facility. Several improvements are underway to improve capacity at the plant.

In a season of three storms, a Suncoast sewage crisis followed

JOSH SALMAN
Suncoast Searchlight
Charlotte Sun March 14, 2025

When three named storms slammed into the Suncoast this past hurricane season, they did more than just flood neighborhoods and topple power lines — they also forced millions of gallons of sewage into local waterways.

Heavy rains and storm surges unleashed by Hurricanes Debby, Helene and Milton seeped into the region's aging sewer lines through cracks and breaks, overwhelming systems never built for such deluges and causing them to spill their contents into nearby rivers, bays, and bayous.

From the Manatee River to Sarasota



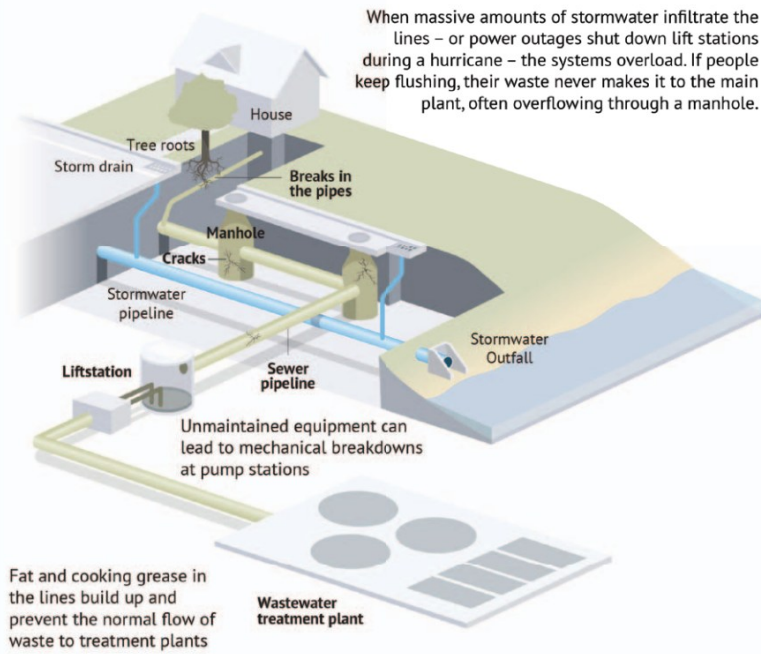
A COMMUNITY NEWS COLLABORATIVE

Bay, 177.8 million gallons of wastewater were released last hurricane season — enough to fill nearly 270 Olympic-sized swimming pools, according to a Suncoast Searchlight analysis of data from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

That's more sewage pollution from three storms than any other time over at least the past half decade across Sarasota, Manatee and DeSoto counties, the data showed.

The aftermath was both immediate and enduring. Dead fish washed up

Where sewer systems have overflow problems



More **SEASON** | A4

CREDIT: Suncoast Searchlight

[ONLINE: For more information, visit yoursun.com](#)

Lessons learned follow storms

2024 tropical storms, hurricanes resulted in millions of gallons of sewage getting into Charlotte County waterways, officials note

JESS ORLANDO
Staff Writer

PORT CHARLOTTE — Millions of gallons of sewage — including 1.6 million gallons in Punta Gorda that went into Charlotte Harbor — were spilled as a result of the 2024 hurricane season around Charlotte County.

Charlotte County Utilities Operations Manager Kenneth Stecher said Hurricane Helene caused four sanitary sewer overflows, releasing 250 gallons or less per occurrence while Hurricane Milton caused

49 SSOs, ranging from 500 to 30,000 gallons per occurrence.

It takes a lot from staff to be able to clean up the sewage spills, but Stecher said the department worked 12-hour shifts for a 24/7 response.

"We requested assistance through the state for additional trucks, generators, pumps and staff," Stecher said.

Manasota Key was also a victim to sewage spills during Hurricane Milton.

The department used bypass pumps, generators to power pumping systems and vacuum/pumping trucks to remove excess sewage.

"We applied lime to soil to disinfect affected areas, and immediately conducted sampling of waterways where SSOs



PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE ENGLEWOOD WATER DISTRICT

A broken sewer line in Englewood caused a 125,000-gallon raw sewage spill in May 2023 behind the Holiday Park community. More followed in Southwest Florida following the hurricanes and tropical storms of 2024.

More **STORMS** | A4

Storms/

from A1

occurred,” he said.

Moving forward, there were lessons learned.

Stecher said he would like additional generators in preparation for the next storm season, as well as upgrades to staff equipment.

“We also want to work with the county department to improve communication within department and to customers,” he said.

There are a few things the public can do to help prevent stress on the system during hurricanes and when the system is down.

“Reduce the amount of water used (dishwashers, laundry, showers) until the system is able to get back to normal,” he said.

Additionally, residents reporting their water concerns can help staff, even if it doesn’t directly affect them.

“If you see something, say something,” Stecher said.

The Englewood Water District said they had roughly eight sewage spills between Debby, Milton and



CHARLOTTE COUNTY UTILITIES

Charlotte County Utilities will spend tens of millions of dollars over the next decade expanding its water and sewer lines and replacing old lines.

Helene. Three of those were on Manasota Key.

One of the bigger spills was due to the tides inundating the system.

“One of the manholes actually had the lid came off, so we were basically spilling out of the top of the manhole, and the problem was we did not know about it,” EWD interim Administrator/Technical Support

Manager Keith Ledford Jr. said. “That wasn’t called in for 17 days after the event had happened, and the customer actually called Charlotte County, not us.”

Ledford said had the crews known about it, there wouldn’t have been as much of a spill as what happened.

“The other two out there on the Key were more just in recovery efforts of both

Helene and Milton,” Ledford said.

EWD Wastewater Operations Manager David Larson said the district isolates the spill to stop it.

“As soon as we know of it, repair the work, if we can,” Larson said. “We have vacuum trucks that we will try and recover as much of the spilled wastewater that we can, and then after that, we disinfect the area with lime to make sure that it’s clear and safe again.”

Ledford added that there are cases when the spill mixes in ditches already full of water and the crews take out as much water as possible because there’s no way of knowing which is sewage and which is drainage.

“When it does go into the bay, we are required by DEP to sample the water at the spill upstream and downstream until those results come back to where what would be a normal coliform count,” Larson said.

Ledford and Larson said the public can help minimize the possibility of a spill by never removing clean-out caps on a sewer.

“The sewer system is not intended to drain your yard,” Ledford said. “By doing that, it negatively impacts our system and causes a larger part of the system to go down.”

Vacuum vents are also not intended to drain yards, and it’s important to not stack debris on those or manholes.

“I mean, the biggest thing right now that we are working on is just trying to get all those broken vents, all those broken clean outs, all of that fixed so that if we do have another event, we’re not going to be really bad off,” Ledford said.

Ledford said properties being demoed have become a concern as well. Cap-offs aren’t being scheduled and during a rain event, the pipe is wide open, meaning water will directly inundate the system.

“Let’s make sure your sewer is capped off, so we’re not going to impact the system for your neighbors,” Ledford said.

After the hurricanes, especially on Manasota Key, Ledford and Larson

said debris covered meters, manholes and vacuums. It made it harder for crews to maintain the system.

“What looks like a manhole might actually be a vacuum pit, and when we’re trying to get out there and do our recovery efforts, a lot of times, you have to go to every pit and fire the valve inside there,” Larsons said.

“So when they pile stuff on top of that, we now have to spend time moving everything off of it to get into it, and fire that valve.”

Ledford and Larson said the community can always report something to EWD even if they’re not sure.

“Anything that the public can do to not bury that vacuum pit, or just be aware of what they’re doing when they do that stuff, more than anything, and yes, let us know,” Larson said.

Punta Gorda faced a 1.6 million-gallon raw sewage spill from its master pump station at the city’s main wastewater treatment plant at 900 W. Henry St during Helene.

That spill went into Charlotte Harbor.

Season/

from A1

along the shoreline, beach advisories went into effect, and tour boats remained docked as communities felt the weight of the crisis.

This stark reality revealed the vulnerability of the region’s aging sewer systems, long neglected and ill-equipped to handle such extreme weather events.

While some local governments have begun addressing decades of neglect, the sheer volume of sewage spilled last season demonstrates that piecemeal fixes have fallen short and underscores the critical need for comprehensive, systemic reforms to protect our environment and public health against future storms.

“We know about the aging sewage infrastructure across the country and how it’s creating problems,” said Katie Bauman, Florida policy manager for the Surfrider Foundation, an environmental nonprofit that works to preserve oceans.



PHOTO BY JOSH SALMAN/SUNCOAST SEARCHLIGHT

Tanks treat and store sewage at Sarasota County’s Bee Ridge reclamation facility. The facility can process 12 million gallons of sewage on average per day, but during Debby, facility was running a peak flow of more than 20 million gallons a day

“Here, it’s compounded by climate issues like rising sea-level and increased flooding.

“So much of what we hear is out of sight, out of mind, and that’s the line time and again until there’s a catastrophe.”

From Palmetto down to Englewood, officials

project it will cost billions of dollars to bring the aging sewage infrastructure across the Suncoast up to modern standards.

The aging pipes outlived their intended lifespan decades ago. But it wasn’t until environmental advocates started suing municipalities in 2016 that they

began to prioritize fixing cracks in the pipes, loose line connections and plant deficiencies.

The millions of dollars spent on stopgaps and retrofits since have failed to keep pace with the region’s booming populations and intensified rainfalls.

In the past three decades

alone, the combined population of Sarasota and Manatee counties has about doubled to nearly 1 million people — all flushing toilets and adding strain to sewer systems never designed to handle those kinds of loads.

The growth comes as the warming Earth has supercharged storms, with even regular rainfalls dumping more water.

“All of these things are the result of a changing climate,” said Bob Bunting, chief executive of the Climate Adaptation Center in Sarasota. “Then you add population growth, and you have a recipe for disaster.”

To be sure, sewer systems malfunction for reasons other than storms. But of the 830 spills across the Suncoast during the past five years, just 38 were labeled as accidents and another 103 were contractor mistakes, Suncoast Searchlight found. Nothing produced anything even close to the havoc of issues associated with rain-

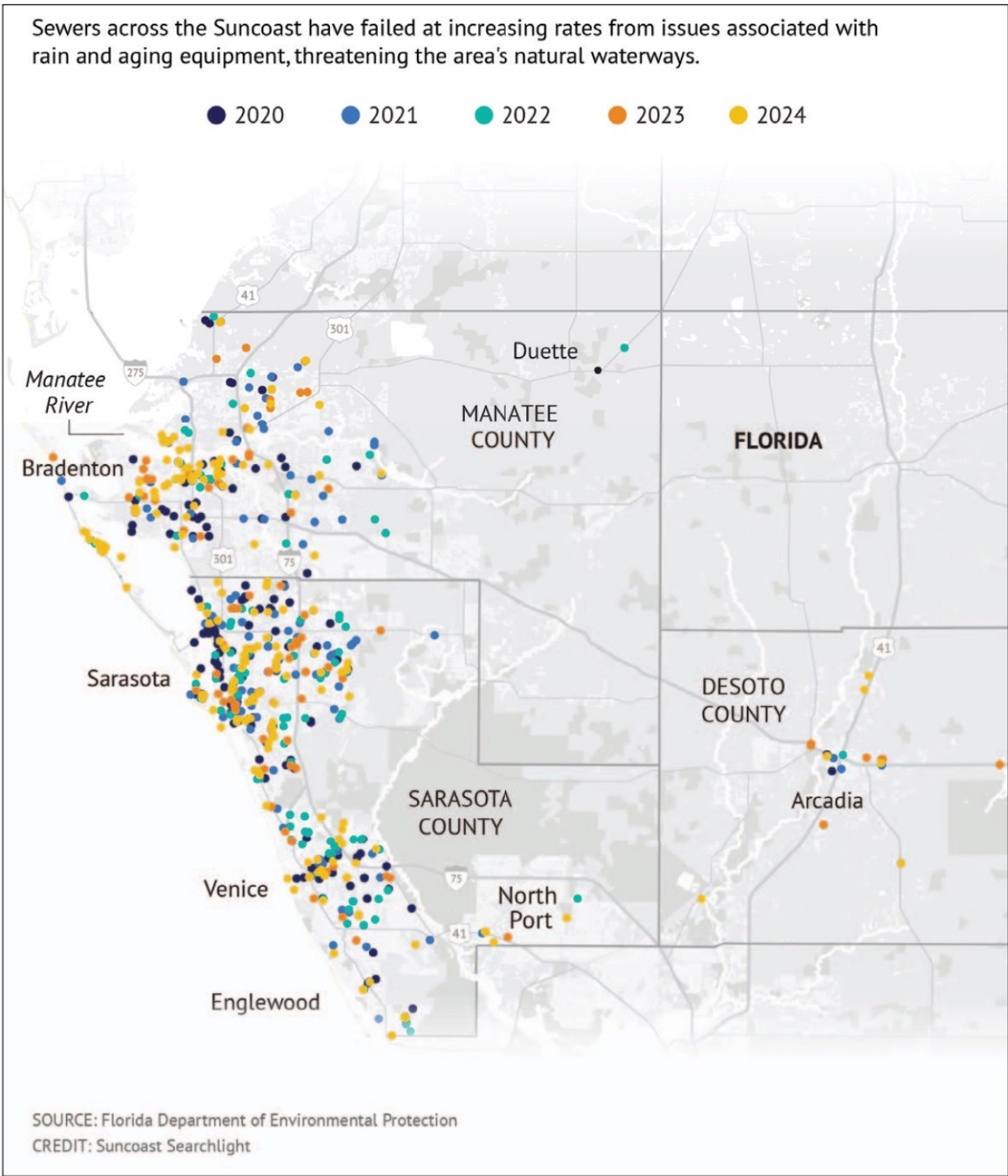
fall.

Local government officials interviewed by Suncoast Searchlight blamed the sewage breaks on sins of past predecessors, pointing to more recent efforts to address sewer infrastructure and improve water quality throughout the region.

“We are in this like everyone else,” said Mohammed Rayan, public works director for the city of Palmetto. “The old terracotta (clay) pipes are not sealed, so we’re going through to line them and replace them, but of course, funding is a challenge. The storms we had last year were unprecedented. I don’t think any system in the world would sustain it.”

Suncoast governments scramble to contain sewage pollution

Through the three major storms last year,



Bradenton’s system released far more sewage than any other local government.

The city’s system was built to handle 9 million gallons of sewage a day. During Hurricane Debby, it was drowning in more than three times that amount.

City officials scrambled to create more capacity, but the plant on 1st Street West still couldn’t keep up. Twenty-five million gallons of wastewater surged into the Manatee River.

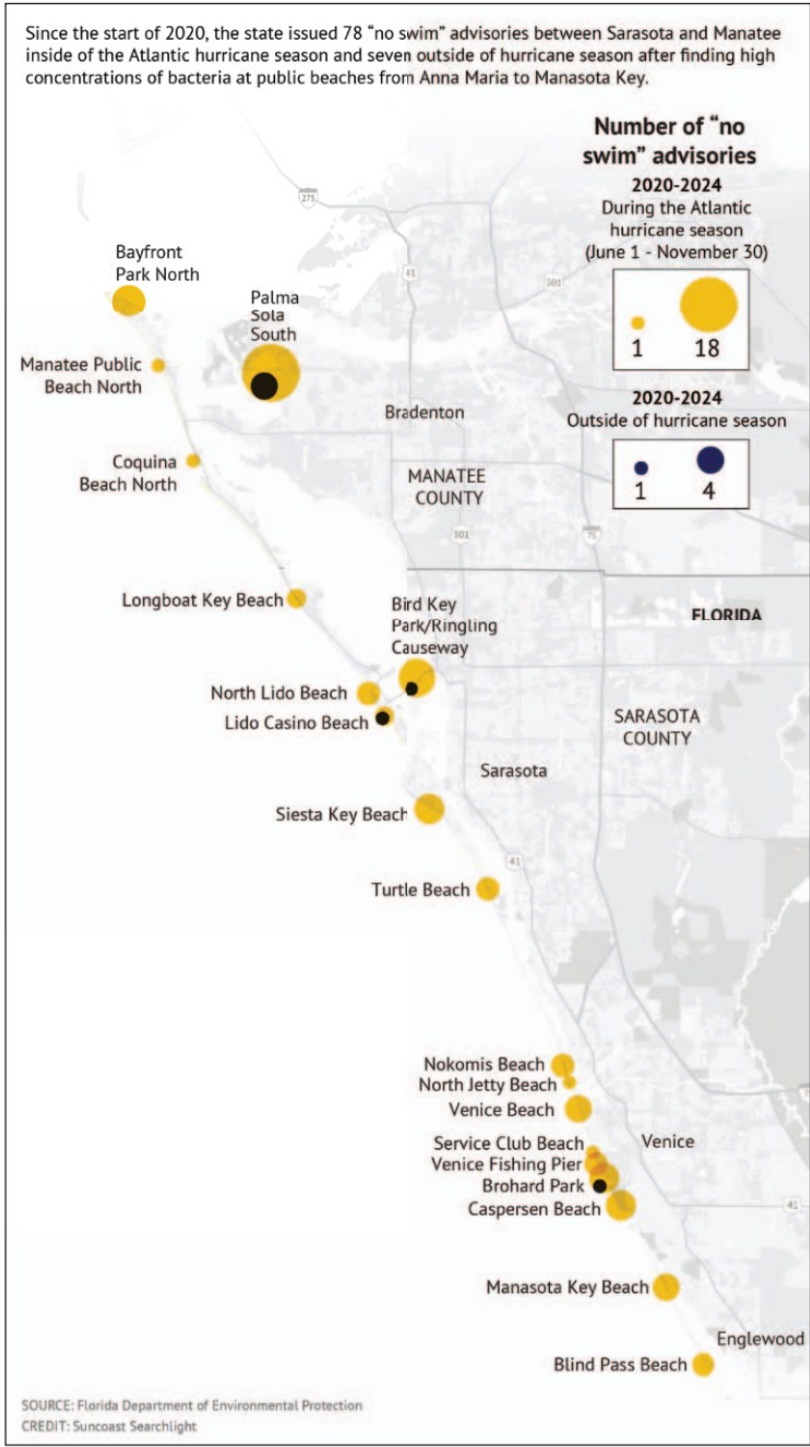
Days later, another 1.6 million gallons of raw sewage spilled into the river and nearby Ware’s Creek.

Seven weeks after that came Hurricane Helene and its record levels of storm surge that flooded the barrier islands and shorelines of Sarasota and Manatee counties. Stormwater from the disaster inundated the lift stations on Longboat Key, damaging their electrical panels and sending tens of thousands of gallons of untreated waste into the gulf.

By the time Hurricane Milton hit in October, sewage spilled out of manholes in Palmetto, a Mosaic Co. fertilizer mine released industrial waste into the small community of Lithia, and an effluent holding tank in Sarasota overflowed into a creek.

“You have these intense rainfalls that are getting worse,” said Justin Bloom, founder of Suncoast Waterkeeper. “Our wastewater infrastructure is not designed to address this new reality. Every time there’s a hurricane, there’s major overflows. The question is whether that’s just the cost of doing business?”

Despite repeated sewage failures, environmental advocates say elected officials did not prioritize major retrofits until



Season/

from A4

ordered by a judge.

Sarasota County settled a lawsuit over sewage pollution by the Suncoast Waterkeeper, Our Children's Earth Foundation and the Ecological Rights Foundation in 2019, and the city of Bradenton settled a similar lawsuit with the three groups and Manasota-88 Inc. in 2022.

In Sarasota County, the court order included a corrective action plan for improvements to the wastewater collection system.

Since then, the county has invested \$280 million on upgrades to its Bee Ridge facility, with a new advanced wastewater plant to expand capacity opening by December and a state testing permit to inject the treated water underground through a new well on-site.

From 2013 to 2019, the Suncoast saw three different wastewater discharges of more than 200 million gallons and five more incidents of 100 million gallons or more. Much of that spilled from a treated storage pond at the Bee Ridge facility.

But this past hurricane season, even though the facility was running a peak flow of more than 20 million gallons a day during Debby, the improvements worked and there were no forced releases from Bee Ridge.

Funded in part through customer utility bills, the improvements will add capacity for another two decades, said Brooke Bailey, the county's director of public utilities.

"This is the biggest capital project for Sarasota County," she said.

Bradenton, too, was given a timetable for work required under its 598-page settlement. The city borrowed \$50 million to expand plant capacity, with another \$120 million allocated to rebuilding or relocating 64 city lift stations.

But Bradenton has struggled to meet benchmarks due to delays in state permitting and contracts, poor administration, and staff turnover, Bloom said.

Just in January, the city's overloaded system continued to malfunction, sending sewage overflowing onto facility grounds and into drainage ditches, where 450,000 gallons of partially-treated waste spilled into the river.

"Bradenton failed really badly," Bloom said. "They



PHOTO BY JOSH SALMAN/SUNCOAST SEARCHLIGHT

Tanks treat and store sewage at Sarasota County's Bee Ridge reclamation facility. Storms produce major problems for sewage systems across the Suncoast.

are so far behind when it comes to deferred maintenance on a system that's been in decay for many years. Now, they're trying to play catch-up, but they were really behind the ball during the rainy season."

Bradenton's system is 270 linear miles of pipe connecting a series of 4,200 manholes. Crews use submersible cameras to inspect pipes and insert a protective lining without digging up roads at a clip of \$2 million per seven miles, according to city documents.

So far, about half of the city's outdated 62-mile clay, cast iron and metal pipes — which date back to the 1930s — have been fixed. More than 1,000 faulty manholes were identified for repair.

"You're going to have breakdowns because it's so old," Bradenton Mayor Gene Brown said. "Until something breaks, oftentimes, in government, they don't fix it."

Brown said he's prioritized sewage infrastructure since his election in 2020. He defended the health of the Manatee River, calling the sewage an "eyedrop in a bathtub," and said he personally asked then-President Joe Biden last year for help securing the \$22 million needed to finish lining city pipes.

"We're facing it and fixing it," Brown said. "We're trying to make a difference. I don't know why (it wasn't done in the past), but this is not something you can just tax your way out of."

HURRICANES AND SEWERS — A STORM OF DESTRUCTION

Sewers are a collection of pipes buried beneath the ground that carry human waste from homes, schools and businesses to treatment facilities.

The system here is a puzzle of more than 100 former utilities cobbled together by local governments from private developers. When builders put in new subdivisions without sewage infrastructure, they'll build their own, but often neglect proper maintenance for years.

Any number of things can cause these systems to falter or fail.

Some are caused by humans: Fat, oil and cooking grease dumped down drains build up in the lines and hardens over time, narrowing the path and impeding the flow of water and waste to the treatment plants; baby wipes, sanitary napkins and other items never meant to be flushed cause similar logjams.

Some are caused by nature: The roots of growing trees infiltrate the underground pipes, creating cracks and gaps that allow rainwater and sediment to seep in. It's exacerbated with older clay or cast iron pipes — the standard before PVC plastic — more susceptible to cracking and corrosion.

Others owe to natural wear and tear as old materials break down and the ground shifts and resettles. Across the Suncoast, hundreds of miles of clay pipes are now nearing a century old and well beyond the intended 50- to 60-year lifespan.

When massive amounts of stormwater seep into the lines — or power outages shut down lift stations during a hurricane — the aging systems overload. If people keep flushing during the storms, waste never makes it to the plant, often overflowing through manholes.

Even during Florida's typical afternoon thunderstorms, sewers often cannot

take the pounding.

Since the start of 2020, heavy rainfall caused at least 232 sewage incidents across Sarasota, Manatee and DeSoto — nearly four spills per month. Each year, 70 times more wastewater gets dumped across the Suncoast during the Atlantic hurricane season compared to the rest of the year.

"There's no question when it's raining a lot, that's typically when we have our water quality issues," said Justin Tramble, executive director of the Tampa Bay Waterkeeper. The Manatee River is part of the Tampa Bay estuary. "There's a direct correlation with that and the breakdowns at these wastewater facilities."

Cindy Post has lived in Bradenton's historic Ware's Creek neighborhood for eight years, in a middle-class home just across the street from the water. During that time, she said she's noticed a decline in the creek's quality, especially after hurricanes or when the tide is low and sediment builds. Now, she said, she's greeted with a constant stench of sewage while doing yardwork or watching her young children play outside.

"Every time we go down (by the creek), the smell is horrendous," Post said. "It's only getting worse."

In an attempt to curb pollution following historic red tide devastation, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis signed the Clean Waterways Act in 2020, sponsored in the Legislature by Sen. Joe Gruters, R-Sarasota. The law doubled fines for wastewater releases, among other regulations.

The DEP sent a warning letter to Bradenton in September citing two unauthorized sewage discharges from Debby that together gushed more than 50 million gallons of wastewater into the Manatee River. Bradenton officials would not confirm if any of the city's sewage discharges were preemptive.

Yet state officials could not say if any Suncoast municipalities were fined even a penny for the sewage discharged during last year's storms.

"Far too often, these local governments ignored signs and didn't upgrade (sewage) systems,"

Gruters said. "I just don't think it was a priority. It hurts everybody, from the people waiting tables to the support staff at the beaches."

NO SWIMMING: SEWAGE CLOSES SUNCOAST BEACHES

For Dave Metcalfe, the impact on water quality cost him 20% of his business last year.

The owner and operator of Sharkey's Glass Bottom Tours said he depends on clean water and abundant fish for his tours, which guide customers from the beaches from Clearwater down to New Pass in Sarasota.

The trip along the calm blue waters should be marked with schools of snook, seabirds circling prey and the occasional jumping dolphin. Between the multimillion-dollar mansions and condos that dot the shore, baitfish and small crabs should burrow in the lush maze of protected mangrove roots.

But lately, Metcalfe said local marine life is becoming more scarce.

"Every year, it gets worse," Metcalfe said. "We see sea life die right in front of us."

Nitrogen-rich sewage from back-to-back sewer spills accelerate algae growth and suffocate fish. Long before the widespread kills that make headlines, low fish counts are the first sign of trouble, he said.

To ease the losses, the military veteran and his crew use shallow motorboats to clean dead fish from the water — leaving it to rot will further feed the algae and kill business.

"We shut down Sarasota again just the other day," Metcalfe said in January. "The sewage is ridiculous. It was so bad and got so thick, you could literally see crap on the shoreline."

After almost every significant storm, sewage from failing pipes and lift stations makes its way to area shores — polluting the water with dangerous levels of human waste, shutting down beaches and wiping out sea life.

Pollution from Hurricane Debby contributed to high levels of bacteria in the water at the Palma Sola South beach in Manatee County, prompting a "no swim" advisory through much of August.

Four weeks later, the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program ran samples that found the open waters from Siesta down to Venice Inlet still had fecal bacteria levels exceeding what the state considers safe for swimming.

Researchers at Mote Marine Lab & Aquarium also found high concentrations of nitrate and ammonia in the bay, along with elevated turbidity, which tints the water darker.

After Helene in late September, health officials issued an advisory for Brohard Beach in Venice when they found high levels of enterococcus bacteria from fecal pollution, with harmful pathogens and viruses that can make humans critically sick, according to the Florida Department of Health in Sarasota County.

Then as Milton neared, tests at Venice Beach and North Jetty Beach led to advisories in early October.

Dozens of government officials, scientists and environmentalists who spoke to Suncoast Searchlight pointed to the nitrogen-rich sewage pollution as a major contributor to the red tide algae blooms that washed more than 400 tons of rotting fish onto Suncoast beaches in 2017 and pose a threat to the ecosystem and tourism each year.

Many natural buffers like mangroves and wetlands that would keep sewage from entering tributaries and estuaries have been erased by new real estate development.

Since the start of 2020, the state issued 85 "no swim" advisories between Sarasota and Manatee after finding high concentrations of bacteria at public beaches from Anna Maria to Manasota Key.

Just seven advisories were outside the Atlantic storm season, according to a Suncoast Searchlight analysis of state sampling data.

The region now faces a reckoning. With sewage spills fueling red tide blooms and "no swim" advisories becoming all too common, local experts warn that the bay's future is at risk.

"It absolutely damages our bay," said David Tomasko, executive director of the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program. "The biggest lesson, I think, is you can get a grip on this, but it is going to cost a lot of money."

This story was produced by Suncoast Searchlight, a nonprofit newsroom of the Community News Collaborative serving Sarasota, Manatee, and DeSoto counties. Learn more at suncoastsearchlight.org.

A trillion gallons of water wasted?

FGUA's 'Detective Drippy' is on the case!

By KEVIN BAKEWELL

One trillion gallons. According to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), that's about how much water is wasted in household leaks every year.

While that 1 followed by 12 zeros is a staggering amount, consumers old and young alike – aided by a bit of detective work – can make a huge impact on reducing this costly waste and conserving a precious resource.

That's where the Florida Governmental Utility Authority's (FGUA) "Detective Drippy" comes in. In honor of Fix a Leak Week (March 17–23), FGUA invites kids to grab their magnifying glasses and calculators and help Detective Drippy track down sneaky leaks around the house. This fun, hands-on activity teaches kids the importance of saving water while turning them into real-life leak detectives.

Guided by a printable two-page flyer, which can be found at <https://is.gd/wNNJmd>, children are asked to help Drippy solve the case of the high water bill. The clues, activities, checklist and find-a-word game provide a fun focus on identifying and solving the most common causes of water leaks.

Looking for clues

One of the biggest water-wasting culprits is the toilet, which if not in good working order can waste more than 200 gallons of water a day. Checking for leaks is easy:

- Remove the lid from the tank and remove any cleaners that might change the color of the water

- Place a drop or two of food coloring in the tank; without flushing, wait 20 minutes then check the bowl

If the water has changed color, you know you have a leak from the tank and likely need to replace the rubber toilet flapper; visit youtu.be/TPeViXIgOPE for a helpful EPA video on replacing your leaky toilet flapper.

While a leaky faucet or shower head is much easier to spot, be patient and "wait for the drip" if you see evidence of water in or on the sink, tub or tile. A

drip at the rate of one drop every 30 seconds wastes 100 gallons per faucet per year.

One drop per second, according to the EPA, can waste as much as 3,000 gallons of water per year, or enough to take more than 180 showers!

The problem is likely a worn or cracked washer or could be a bad valve. Unless you are a confident DIYer, contact a licensed plumber to further assess and make any necessary repairs.

Remember to look for clues outside your home as well, with a leading suspect being your irrigation system. Water running on sidewalks, over curbs or pooling in your lawn are good indications that you've got a broken sprinkler head or busted underground pipe. Most DIYers can easily make these repairs, but contact a licensed lawn irrigation specialist if you have any doubts.

If you suspect you have a leak but see no visible clues, your water meter might provide the evidence you need. Most water meters have a small gauge known as a "leak indicator."

- Look for a small, red or black triangular shaped indicator on the meter face

- Make sure no water inside or outside the home is being used, including a water softener in the regeneration cycle

- Watch carefully to see if the leak indicator is spinning or moving, which indicates water is passing through the meter and could be evidence of a possible leak

- Contact a licensed plumber who has the equipment to detect hard-to-find leaks in your water delivery system

For more information about other types of leaks as well as helpful videos for DIYers, visit www.epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week for the EPA's WaterSense website for Fix a Leak Week.

The Florida Governmental Utility Authority (FGUA) owns and operates almost 100 water and wastewater utility systems in 14 Florida counties, including Marion and Citrus, providing service to more than 120,000 customer connections.



Dredging Phillippi Creek a priority

Sarasota Co. to seek
ways to get it done fast

Christian Casale
Sarasota Herald-Tribune
USA TODAY NETWORK
March 14, 2025

Sarasota County’s biggest priority as hurricane recovery efforts proceed will be dredging Phillippi Creek to help prevent future flooding, and it has a huge infusion of cash expected to pay for it.

The County Commission voted unanimously Wednesday for its staff to explore possibilities on how to accomplish the dredging, ideally before another major storm rolls through. Hurricane season officially begins on June 1.

Sarasota County is set to receive

See **DREDGING, Page 6A**



Floodwaters from Tropical Debby inundated the Laurel Meadows subdivision along Lorraine Road in Sarasota County. Photographed on Aug. 7, 2024.
HERALD-TRIBUNE ARCHIVE/THOMAS BENDER

Dredging

Continued from Page 1A

about \$211 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for hurricane recovery projects, which will be spent through its Resilient SRQ program, originally set up after 2022’s Hurricane Ian.

At a recent county meeting, commissioners looked to put a huge bulk of that money – \$75 million – toward “Dredging of Major Waterways.”

The first draft of Resilient SRQ’s Public Action Plan for funding received after last year’s storms said Phillippi Creek and other major waterways have had been steadily choked by sediment for years. The 2024 storms only accelerated that process, leading to increased flood risk.

“Substantial siltation (accumulation of sediment) has compromised the creek’s ability to manage stormwater effectively, resulting in flooding of critical evacuation routes,” said the plan, which will eventually be submitted to HUD for approval.

Area residents express concern about need for dredging

Residents along Phillippi Creek, many of whom spoke about their storm experiences during more than an hour of public comment at Wednesday’s meeting, have claimed that sediment brought in from Hurricane Debby last August made their homes more susceptible to flooding from Helene and Milton in September and October, respectively.

Some homeowners experienced three separate floods from three separate storms last year.

During a presentation Wednesday, the Sarasota extension of the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) said its most recent Vulnerability Assessment found the Phillippi Creek area was a “focus area” for flood mitigation projects.

The county plans to partner with the West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND), a special taxing agency encompassing Sarasota, Manatee, Char-

lotte, and Lee Counties that is responsible for maintaining publicly accessible water channels along the Gulf.

County officials said WCIND already plans to dredge Phillippi Creek up to Tamiami Trail. Public commenters from different areas up the creek, such as Southgate, urged the County Commission to extend the dredging to their area, with pictures and anecdotes of the devastating flooding they faced.

Commissioner Ron Cutsinger, who also sits on the WCIND board, addressed some of those flood victims. “I think it’s clear we’re prioritizing the creek, which is such a big watershed and touches so many communities,” he said. “We’re all for that. It’s very clear you’ve been hurt, and this commission is moving forward with a sense of urgency.”

County officials indicated they will explore whether Resilient SRQ funds can be use to have WCIND organize all the dredging of Phillippi Creek.

Commissioner Teresa Mast, whose district includes Phillippi Creek and Cow Pen Slough, asked county staff for a prioritization list of which waterways are most important to dredge.

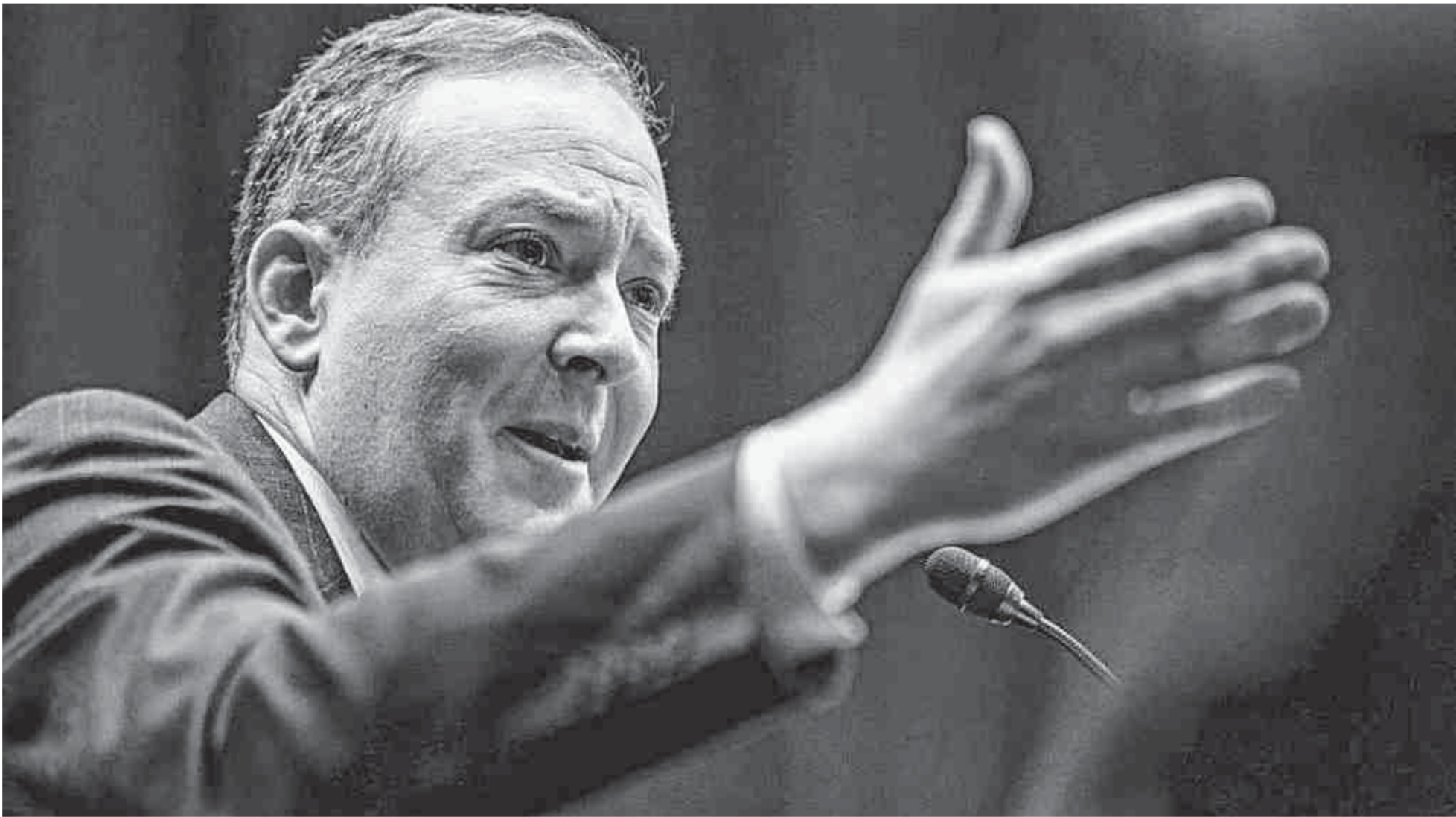
Public Works Director Spencer Anderson had previously told the Herald-Tribune that his staff was also looking at dredging other major waterways, including Forked Creek, Curry Creek, Gottfried Creek, Shakett Creek, Hudson Bayou and Whitaker Bayou.

“Dredging” is the removal of sediment and debris from bodies of water. The National Ocean Service calls it a “a routine necessity” to clear waterways and increase their depth.

Anderson emphasized at the meeting that the dredging itself wouldn’t be a magic cure to flooding.

“No matter what we do – the major rain event, the major surge event, the big storm that comes through – it’s not realistic to think that whatever we’re going to do here is going to protect us from everything Mother Nature can throw at us,” he said.

Christian Casale covers local government for the Sarasota Herald-Tribune. Email him at ccasale@gannett.com or christiancasale@protonmail.com



UPI | Jan. 16, 2025

EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin says: ‘We are driving a dagger straight into the heart of the climate change religion to drive down the cost of living for American families, unleash American energy, bring auto jobs back to the U.S. and more.’

EPA announces rollbacks on environmental regulations

BY MIKE HEUER
UPI
Miami Herald
March 14, 2025

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin announced 31 actions that the agency will undertake to “power the great American comeback.” He called the actions the “greatest and most consequential day of deregulation in U.S. history” and said they support President Donald Trump’s agenda to revitalize the U.S. economy. “We are driving a dagger straight into the heart of the climate change religion to drive down the cost of living for American families, unleash American energy, bring auto jobs back to the U.S. and more,” Zeldin said Wednesday in a news release. “We are living up to our promises to unleash American energy, lower costs for Americans, revitalize the American auto industry and work hand-in-hand with our state partners to advance our shared mission,” Zeldin added. The proposed regulatory

actions include reconsidering:

- Regulations on power plants.
- Regulations on the oil and gas industry.
- Mercury and air toxins standards that target coal-fired power plants.
- The mandatory Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program.
- Limitations, guidelines and standards for steam electric power generation.
- Wastewater regulations for coal-fired power plants.
- A risk-management program that Zeldin says made oil and natural gas refineries and chemical facilities more dangerous.

Zeldin said the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program does not improve air quality but does raise costs for American businesses and manufacturing by millions of dollars while harming small businesses. Revising the wastewater regulations for oil and gas extraction would modernize regulations on wastewater discharges for oil and gas extraction facilities while lowering energy costs and

supporting environmentally sustainable water re-use, Zeldin said. He said the EPA will consider expanding from the western United States to the entire nation where treated wastewater can be added to agricultural and wildlife water uses, support the extraction of lithium and other critical minerals and manage wastewater used in the extraction of oil and gas. Other regulatory actions are designed to lower the cost of living for U.S. families and promote “cooperative federalism.” Among those actions is reconsidering the EPA’s 2009 declaration that greenhouse gases are harmful pollutants that endanger public health. “The Trump administration will not sacrifice national prosperity, energy security and the freedom of our people for an agenda that throttles our industries, our mobility and our consumer choice while benefiting adversaries overseas,” Zeldin said. “We will follow the sci-

ence, the law and common sense wherever it leads,” Zeldin added, “and we will do so while advancing our commitment towards helping to deliver cleaner, healthier and safer air, land and water.” Those actions include reconsidering the Biden administration’s regulations and greenhouse-gas-emissions standards for light-duty and medium-duty vehicles made in 2027 and beyond and repealing the federal electric vehicles mandate. “The American auto industry has been hamstrung by the crushing regulatory regime of the last administration,” Zeldin said. “As we consider nearly \$1 trillion of regulatory cost, we will abide by the rule of law to protect consumer choice and the environment.” Zeldin’s announcement of pending EPA regulatory actions drew criticism from the Natural Resources Defense Council environmental group. “In the face of over-

whelming science, it’s impossible to think that the EPA could develop a contradictory finding that would stand up in court,” NRDC climate expert David Doniger told CBS News. Jackie Wong, NRDC senior vice president for climate and energy, accused the EPA of abandoning its mission. “Breaking faith with the American people and breaking 50 years of laws of the land, the Environmental Protection Agency today abandoned protecting human health and the environment,” Wong said in a prepared statement. The New York Times reported that the EPA also will close 11 environmental justice offices that address the disproportionately high levels of pollution facing poor communities. The move effectively ends three decades of work at the EPA to try to ease the pollution that burdens poor and minority communities, which are frequently located near highways, power plants, industrial plants and other polluting facilities. Studies have shown that people who live in those communities have higher rates of asthma, heart disease and other health problems, compared with the national average.

CITY OF PUNTA GORDA

Flooding concerns inundate City Council



PHOTO PROVIDED

First responders helped more than 100 residents who were trapped in flood waters in Punta Gorda following Hurricane Helene in September, 2024.

Plans, funding remain years away for downtown improvements

ELAINE ALLEN-EMRICH

Staff Writer

Charlotte Sun March 15, 2025

PUNTA GORDA — Kathy Melcher was flooded out of her home in Historic Downtown Punta Gorda three times. Despite not being able to live there, she pays her taxes and monthly water bill. Melcher recently told Punta Gorda City Council members she didn't have the time or money to wait for them to create a long-term plan and funds to fix the ongoing downtown flooding issues.

Meicher spoke during a city flooding workshop at the Isles Yacht Club in Punta Gorda. She said she was flooded during Hurricane Idalia in 2023. Then again last year during Hurricane Helene in September. She was rebuilding and then Hurricane Milton hit a week later. "I'm exhausted," she said. "I have been dealing with FEMA since 2023. I'm just getting through my Helene claim with FEMA and not started on the Milton claim. It's a lot to navigate. There's a 50% rule and the Florida Building Code you

have to follow when rebuilding. We lost so much in these floods." Meicher asked the council if they'd consider not charging her for water or sanitation services since she can't move back into her Chasteen Street home. About three downtown business owners asked the council what's going to be done to better protect their assets before the next hurricane season begins in seven weeks.

Flooding/from C1

City officials promised the flood panels at the city-owned Herald Court Square which failed last year would be fixed. The city promised to seal the businesses shut about 48 hours before a storm.

However, one Herald Court business owner said there's still unaddressed water intrusion issues from Hurricane Ian. Again, city officials promised to check into it.

During the presentation, Public Works city staff couldn't say how much it will cost to fix ongoing flooding issues across the 500 acres of the downtown corridor.

Flooding comes from

rainfall, regular tides and hurricanes and also drains differently depending upon the instance.

The city is searching for a firm to study causes of flooding, potential solutions, examine data, capacity of the pipes and associated costs. The plan would be implemented in phases over many years, according to staff.

Challenges including funding. Staff will apply for state and federal grants.

John Peterman, who lived in the downtown district since 2016, said he feared not all Punta Gorda residents might want to pay for the flooding issues.

"We may have to think about a special taxing district, like they have in other

neighborhoods in Port Charlotte and Englewood," he said.

Others disagreed, saying if the downtown businesses don't thrive and the historic homes aren't saved from flooding, there won't be a downtown anymore.

A few residents also asked city officials not to rely on historical data. They said the last four hurricanes proved that flooding can occur further inland and into homes where it never did before.

They also said what used to be considered 100-year storms seem to now occur annually.

Resident Wendy Mueller said the city might reconsider rules for impervious surfaces during downtown

construction.

City Council member Janis Denton said she wants to see more setbacks with grass and trees growing downtown.

Staff said the council and residents will have to determine the goals for fixing different types of flooding. The type of flooding solution will determine the cost, according to staff.

Residents have an opportunity to speak on flooding and other issues during the Citizen Summit set for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 22 at the Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association, 2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda.

Email: elaine.allen@yoursun.com

OPINIONS

City focused on finding help for flooding issues

This week the city was focused on listening to concerns from residents and business owners about flooding from rain events combined with high tides, flooding on blue sky days, and flooding from surge events. They're all very distinct situations with differing causes. It was important to hear about the individual experiences of our residents and business owners.

The city has two initiatives underway to determine the cause of the flooding from rain events and flooding on blue sky days. One involves having divers examine the 17 tide flex valves, that were placed based on recommendations from a 2008 flooding study, to ensure that they are still functioning as designed. If they are not they will need to be replaced. A video to help visualize how these work is available

at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WqI6TRxZXOg>.

The second initiative is a downtown flooding study that will examine the area for flooding causes and identify potential solutions to reduce or eliminate flooding. All of the pipes, inlets, and outfalls will be evaluated, the hydraulic capacity and conditions of the existing system will be evaluated.

From there the recommendations will be used to implement engineer designed solutions to improve the drainage and move water more effectively. These solutions will be aimed at the rain event/high tide flooding and flooding on blue sky days.

Storm surge events present additional challenges. The Climate Adaption and Vulnerability Assessment have recently been

completed. Our Urban Design Division will be working closely with the community and partners to implement items identified to protect critical assets in the community and utilize parks and open spaces to mitigate surge effect.

Residents have suggested a variety of ideas both large and small focused on in Sponge City concepts that could provide storage of water, slowing of water and reuse of captured water. We will continue to work closely with our partners at the Coastal and Heartland Estuary Program who have been performing cutting-edge scientific research and restoration, environmental education and public outreach, as well as supporting and convening partners and stakeholders throughout our region to protect and restore water and other exceptional natural resources for over 25 years. Their website <https://www.chnep.org>, is rich with data and resources to

assist in climate adaptation and improving vulnerability.

We also encourage residents who have experienced flooding in their homes to explore the Elevate Florida Program. Elevate Florida is a first-of-its-kind, groundbreaking statewide residential mitigation program.

Led by the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM), this program is designed to protect homes and communities by reducing damage caused by natural disasters like hurricanes and floods. To be eligible for the program the applicant must be over 19, a U.S. citizen and the legal owner of a residential property in the state of Florida. With only a cost-share up to 25%, much of the project cost is covered.

The program provides end-to-end assistance, from application to construction, including contractor services, temporary housing support, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

accommodations. Eligible projects include physically raising an existing structure, reconstruction of an improved elevated building on the same site of a demolished or destroyed building — if the original building is not sound enough to elevate, and wind mitigation such as roof alterations, windows and doors. To learn more about this program visit <https://www.floridadisaster.org/ElevateFlorida>.

The city remains committed to proactive flood mitigation and resilience planning. By working closely with residents, experts, and regional partners, we can develop sustainable solutions that protect our community from the growing challenges. Together, we will build a more resilient future for all.

For additional information, please contact interim City Manager Melissa Reichert at citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com or by calling 941-575-3302.

Charlotte Sun March 15, 2025

GRUA votes to terminate collection agreement

Elliot Tritto

Gainesville Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK
March 16, 2025

The GRU Authority board on Wednesday voted to work with the city of Gainesville to cease its agreement to collect the city’s stormwater and garbage collection fees.

The unanimous vote, with board member Robert “Chip” Skinner absent, comes after a billing error in January caused some GRU customers to see additional charges added to their bills.

In the meeting, GRU CEO Ed Bielarski said the city pays the utility over \$800,000 a year to handle the billing for stormwater and garbage collection fees, services GRU does not provide. These fees are only included on the GRU bills of customers within the city limits.

Bielarski spoke to The Sun on Thursday and said Gainesville City Manager Cynthia Curry informed him that the city will work with the utility to discontinue the agreement, but that it requires a 24-month notice. However, Curry said the city is open to ending

See GRUA, Page 3A

GRUA

Continued from Page 1A

the agreement sooner.

Bielarski said the decision was something the utility had always wanted to do, but couldn’t act until the authority board was created.

“When the GRU Authority took over, we were ranked the fifth highest electric utility rates in the state, now we’re only in the 12th,” Bielarski said.

On Feb. 20, the city adopted an ordinance in which the solid waste collection fees will increase to 20%. Bielarski reflected on the ordinance and said the authority has reduced the average monthly GRU bill from \$157 to \$137.

“We’re now getting increases that we can’t even control and it goes against the whole narrative of what we’re trying to do. So, with that, it means customers could have their power taken away because they can’t pay for the garbage bill,” Bielarski said.

Bielarski said this decision could see a GRU customer’s average bill reduced by around \$40 to \$50 a month.

Board member Craig Carter added that as a businessman, it’s hard to let go of more than \$800,000 for collecting money, and that the city will generate more money if the fees are added to residents’ tax bills. Carter and Bielarski added that customers have a misconception that GRU is in charge of garbage pickup.

Board Chairman Eric Lawson requested that Bielarski find other savings to make up for the future loss of \$800,000. In doing so, Bielarski ensured that GRU will make up for the loss.



Volusia County governments together are tackling 30 different studies on how to deal with stormwater management and flooding. EILEEN ZAFFIRO-KEAN/DAYTONA BEACH NEWS-JOURNAL

Leaders gather to discuss flooding

Officials give details on studies they have underway, strategies

Eileen Zaffiro-Kean
Daytona Beach News-Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK
March 15, 2025

DAYTONA BEACH – With memories still fresh of devastating flooding in Volusia County from the past few hurricanes, a group of about 50 local government employees and elected officials huddled Monday morning to talk about ways to deal with the rising water storms bring.

County government officials talked about the studies they have underway, and the strategies they have to tackle flooding that has damaged and destroyed thousands of homes and busi-

nesses in the county over the past 15 years.

If anyone at Monday’s meeting at Daytona Beach International Airport needed a reminder of how rough Florida weather can be, large glass windows in the meeting room provided a view of ominously dark skies and rain that was moving through Volusia County and creating a tornado warning.

“This is a big issue,” Daytona Beach Shores Mayor Nancy Miller said. “We need collaboration and cooperation.”

See FLOODING, Page 6A

Flooding

Continued from Page 1A

The county has a stormwater web page that it's developing to become a central location for flooding information. The hope is it will provide a holistic picture by showing what local governments across the county are doing, studies and things such as regional floodwater maps. Residents could also use the website to request debris removal and submit photos.

There were no grand declarations or new developments announced at the meeting. There are 30 flooding studies underway among the local governments, four being led by the county and the remaining 26 going on in the cities.

The studies, including one the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is conducting for Daytona Beach, will take time, so solutions will not be immediate.

'Stormwater knows no municipal boundary'

Volusia County Engineer Tadd Kasbeer explained the things that can make a stormwater management system become overwhelmed. Among the items on his list were storms that are larger than what the system is designed to handle, higher than usual groundwater elevation and soil conditions.

A look at local groundwater levels over the past 25 years shows they've been higher than average over the past seven years. When it's elevated year after year, it just gets higher and higher because there's no recovery period that would allow a drop, Kasbeer said.

"We want to get a comprehensive way to approach flooding," said Volusia County Public Works Director Benjamin

Bartlett.

Everyone at the Volusia County Elected Officials Roundtable meeting seemed eager to move toward solutions and work together.

"We know stormwater knows no municipal boundary," Bartlett said.

Bartlett noted that once projects are in motion they take time to get through the necessary engineering work, permitting, bidding processes and efforts to determine if bald eagles or gopher tortoises are impacted.

Also mentioned at the meeting are voluntary incentive-based programs that can encourage low-impact development, and changing the land development code and comprehensive plan to set new standards.

Governments can encourage developers to maintain natural topography, preserve the floodplain, retain tree canopies and natural vegetation, retain riparian or vegetated buffers, restore habitat, minimize total impervious areas, and minimize a building's footprint.

Incentives offered to developers could be flexible lot sizes, flexible building setbacks, additional density, increased floor area ratio, increased maximum building height, off-street parking flexibility, reduction in tree placement requirements, and reduced building permit and land development fees.

The county government and cities are pursuing various funding sources to tackle stormwater challenges from federal Community Development Block Grants, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Elevate Florida, state grants through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and St. Johns River Water Management District, ECHO and stormwater utility funds.

You can reach Eileen at Eileen.Zaffiro@news-jrnl.com

St. Johns district eases watering restrictions

Increased to two days a week, instead of one

Lucia Viti

St. Augustine Record
USA TODAY NETWORK

March 11, 2025

The St. Johns River Water Management District has eased its watering restrictions, now allowing two days a week instead of one.

Homes with odd-numbered or no addresses can water Wednesday and Saturday. Homes with even-numbered addresses can water Thursday and Sunday. And nonresidential properties can water Tuesday and Friday. Watering hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

With the onset of daylight saving time and spring's warmer weather, the district is asking residents to heed signs of a stressed lawn.

"Because you can water twice a week doesn't mean you should," said Samantha R Epstein, regional media and communications coordinator for the St. Johns River Water Management District. "Water when necessary to conserve resources and keep your landscape healthy,"

Data shows that public water use tallies at 626 million gallons per day – enough to fill almost 949 Olympic-sized pools. With much of the water allocated to outdoor irrigation, adjusting landscape watering conserves water and enhances lawn and plant health "by reducing the risk of mold, fungus, weak roots, weeds, and pests."

According to the St. Johns County Water Management District, while it's important to follow watering restrictions, it's also critical not to water a lawn that doesn't need to be watered just because it's your day.

"Irrigate your lawn when it shows signs of stress from lack of water,"

See WATER, Page 2A

Water

Continued from Page 1A

Epstein said.

Signs of lawn stress include grass blades that fold in half – lengthwise – on at least one-third of the yard, grass blades that appear blue-gray, and grass blades that do not spring back, leaving footprints on the lawn for several minutes after walking on it.

Watering is limited to one hour per zone between 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to reduce evaporation and enhance soil absorption. These restrictions apply to all water sources, including private wells and pumps, ground or surface water, and water from public and private utilities. It does not apply to residents or businesses that use reclaimed water to irrigate. Restrictions will remain in effect until Nov. 2.

"As temperatures rise and evaporation rates increase, the need for watering grows," Epstein said. "Watering twice a week helps to balance this demand and keep landscapes healthy without wasting water resources."

Epstein said that the cooler temperatures and frequent rainfall during the fall and winter seasons diminish the need for irrigation, "which is why the restrictions change to once per week."

"The district's watering restrictions help to preserve the region's water supply, protect the ecosystem, and prevent overwatering, which can lead to runoff and wasted resources," she said. "By adjusting irrigation schedules to the changing seasonal conditions and only watering when necessary, both residents and businesses help reduce unnecessary strain on local water reserves."

"Water conservation is essential to ensuring a sustainable water supply for future generations," said St. Johns River Water Management District Water Conservation Coordinator Kraig McLane. "By adhering to these seasonal restrictions, everyone plays a crucial role in protecting our natural resources and maintaining a healthy environment."

The St. Johns River Water Management District is one of five districts in Florida. It manages groundwater and surface water supplies in all or part of 18 northeast and east-central Florida counties.

For more information about the St. Johns River Water Management District please visit www.sjrwmd.com. For more water-saving tips, please visit www.WaterLessFlorida.com.



CARL JUSTE cjuste@miamiherald.com

Dr. Joseph Ladapo, right, Florida’s surgeon general, talks to Miami-Dade’s Health and Safety Committee on Tuesday in Miami. He is joined by, from left, Dr. Maya Assi, Dr. Claire Stagg, and Dr. Ashley J. Malin.

Florida’s surgeon general gets a lukewarm reception in Miami for his fluoride fight

BY DOUGLAS HANKS
dhanks@miamiherald.com
Miami Herald
March 12, 2025

The push to remove fluoride from drinking water may be gaining momentum in Florida, but the pitch from the administration of Gov. Ron DeSantis received a mostly tepid reception in Miami on Tuesday morning.

Florida Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo was the featured guest of Miami-Dade’s Health and Safety Committee, urging county commissioners to end what he described as “a harmful” practice “that doesn’t make sense.”

“I personally am convinced that this nation as a whole will stop

water fluoridation in the near future because it truly just defies any type of sensibility to continue doing it,” said Ladapo, a Harvard-trained physician who was named Florida’s top health official by DeSantis in 2021.

Democrats on the officially non-partisan board were the least receptive to Ladapo’s presentation, which runs counter to the scientific consensus that tiny amounts of fluoride in drinking water are both safe and a boon to dental health.

“The results you’re sharing are from one side,” Commissioner Marleine Bastien said after the 30-minute presentation on the



CARL JUSTE cjuste@miamiherald.com

Miami-Dade Commissioner Roberto Gonzalez arranged Tuesday’s fluoride symposium.

FROM PAGE 1A

FLUORIDE

alleged risks of fluoride in drinking water. “I have a ton of research producing a completely different view.”

A fellow Democrat, Commissioner Eileen Higgins, didn’t attend most of the fluoride symposium, which was arranged by the committee’s chair, Commissioner Roberto Gonzalez, a Republican first appointed to the commission by DeSantis to fill a vacancy. When she returned to the chambers, Higgins suggested the committee tackle other issues on the agenda.

“It would be nice to move on to the actual business of the county,” she said.

No votes were taken on fluoride Tuesday, but the meeting highlighted the dividing line facing elected officials across Florida and the country as they try to sort through conflicting studies on what’s best for the public.

While the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention declared water fluoridation one of the greatest public-health achievements of the 20th century, the Cabinet secretary now overseeing that agency for President Donald Trump, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., has called for removing fluoride from water supplies.

A federal judge last fall

instructed the Environmental Protection Agency to address fluoride risks after citing a U.S. report on studies linking high fluoride amounts in water to lower IQ scores for children.

Major medical groups, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, stuck with their backing of fluoride as a public-health tool, saying the broad scientific consensus still considers the mineral safe at the tiny doses used in water-supply systems.

“Even in an era with widespread availability of fluoride from various sources, studies show that community water fluoridation prevents at least 25% of tooth decay in children and adults throughout their life span,” the American Dental Association said in a statement last fall. “The scientific weight of sound evidence around the benefit of community water fluoridation is clear and compelling.”

Ladapo and three other advocates against fluoride in drinking water were given rare VIP treatment at the committee hearing, addressing commissioners from a table set up before the dais, microphones and nameplates before them. Speakers at commission meetings typically stand



CARL JUSTE cjuste@miamiherald.com

Dr. Claire Stagg attends Tuesday’s meeting.

at lecterns to address the board.

They argued fluoride in toothpaste fights tooth decay well enough that members of the public deserve the right to choose whether they want to drink the substance, too.

Gonzalez has asked county lawyers to draft legislation ending Miami-Dade’s nearly 70-year practice of adding fluoride to drinking water to help prevent cavities. Tuesday’s meeting was a chance to talk about fluoride but not to vote on it.

A Republican commissioner, Raquel Regalado, used her time at the mic to praise Miami-Dade’s water supply and urge the public to have confidence in the scientists charged with keeping tap water safe.

“Water and Sewer does keep an eye on the re-



CARL JUSTE cjuste@miamiherald.com

Dr. Ashley J. Malin gives her presentation about fluoride in drinking water on Tuesday.

“

WATER AND SEWER DOES KEEP AN EYE ON THE RESEARCH. I JUST WANT EVERYONE TO HAVE CLARITY IN THE QUALITY OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY WATER. WE HAVE A TREMENDOUS STAFF THAT WORKS ON THAT.

Commissioner Raquel Regalado

search,” she said. “I just want everyone to have clarity in the quality of Miami-Dade County water. We have a tremendous staff that works on that.”

Democrats have a one-seat advantage on the 13-member commission, so Republican support would likely be crucial for Gonzalez passing legisla-

tion to rid county drinking water of fluoride. The more likely scenario might come out of the Republican-controlled Legislature in Tallahassee, where there’s a proposal to make it illegal for local governments to add fluoride to tap water.

Ladapo’s County Hall appearance added Miami-Dade to the list of local

governments pulled into a fluoride fight that activists have helped spread across Florida.

Scott Kiley, a leader of the Stand for Health Freedom advocacy group out of Naples, told commissioners that Miami-Dade is the latest jurisdiction to be targeted for its fluoridation program.

“In Collier County, we ended water fluoridation five to zero. We moved on to the city of Naples, where we ended water fluoridation with a vote of five to two,” Kiley said.

He ticked off other jurisdictions that agreed to rid drinking water of fluoride, telling the committee: “Citizens want informed consent.”

Several parents from Broward County led a group of home-schooled children to the Miami-Dade chambers for the meeting. The children waited about three hours to read their remarks to commissioners in a hearing that the adults said they couldn’t get in their home county.

“We tried to get it on the Broward agenda,” said Cynthia Pfaff, a Davie resident. “So we came to Dade. With Dade being the hub it is, we figured if we could get [fluoride] removed here, we could it get removed from other counties.”

Douglas Hanks:
305-376-3605,
@doug_hanks

After flooding, Lakeland gets approval to pump water sooner from Lake Bonny

Previously, the city had to wait for the lake to reach a 10-year flood stage before operating an emergency pump

By: Chad Mills
Posted 9:52 PM, Mar 17, 2025 and last updated 11:19 PM, Mar 17, 2025
Abcactionnews.com

LAKELAND, Fla. — Misty Wells is becoming numb to her new normal. Her Lakeland home is still stripped to its studs. She's still living in a camper parked outside the badly damaged home.

“Miss it. Miss it every day,” she said. “We’ve still got a few months to go before we can realistically even think about moving back in.”

During Hurricane Milton, a huge amount of rain rushed into Lake Bonny, which flooded her home on Lake Bonny Drive and others along the lake.

For months, Wells and others have challenged Lakeland city leaders to take additional steps to better manage the lake level before future storms.

“Time is a huge factor right now,” Wells said. “Hurricane season is right around the corner.”

Their voices are being heard.

Monday, the city announced a 90-day emergency agreement with the Southwest Florida Water Management District, which controls lake levels.

Before the agreement, the city could only pump water from Lake Bonny into nearby Lake Parker when Bonny reached a 10-year flood stage.

The new agreement will allow the city to use the emergency pump sooner



when Lake Bonny’s flood level is roughly halfway between a normal lake level and the 10-year flood stage.

“What we’re trying to do now is just some preventative maintenance, if you will,” explained Kevin Cook, a spokesperson for the city.

With the level of Lake Bonny still high, especially after recent rain, the city might begin pumping water from the lake soon.

“We’re not quite there yet, but of course we monitor it every day,” Cook said.

Wells welcomes the change, but she’s skeptical if it will help save her home from future flooding.

“We are still going to continue to push for more because it’s not enough. It’s not going to save us,” she said. “They’re hearing us, and we just hope that they continue to hear us.”

Earlier this year, the City of Lakeland commissioned a study of the Lake Bonny flooding to identify causes and possible long-term solutions. It will take approximately four to six months to complete.



Lauren Allen, right, and her family enjoy an outing to Shingle Creek on Thursday. A proposed development near Allen's home threatens the wetlands of the creek. From left are her son P.J., husband, Brian, daughter Kairi and son Cain. **STEPHEN M. DOWELL/ORLANDO SENTINEL**

Developer's plan stirs up fears of worse flooding

The Tuscana project would remove wetlands in Orange County to bring hotel rooms and housing to the Shingle Creek basin. Will it make Osceola flood?

By Natalia Jaramillo
Orlando Sentinel
March 17, 2025

Three years ago, as Hurricane Ian dropped nearly 18 inches of water on Central Florida, flooding from Shingle Creek left hundreds of Osceola County residents stranded.

Now Orange County is considering a development that threatens to increase the flood risk.

The Tuscana project would bring over 1,600 hotel rooms and 5,200 multi-family dwelling units to an area of agricultural-zoned land near Central Florida's theme

parks and close to parts of 20-mile long Shingle Creek, extending into sensitive wetlands that serve as the headwaters to the Everglades and run through Osceola County.

"Florida originally had like 4 million acres of wetlands and ... they're like the kidneys of our land so the pendulum of protecting them as they get more rare is critical," said Gabrielle Milch of the Sierra Club, noting that wetlands absorb stormwater that otherwise can run off into neighborhoods. "We've tried to do a good job but the competing interests of economics and social values doesn't always consider the environmental impacts."

Last week the Tuscana project was set to be reviewed by Orange County's Development Review Committee. But applicant Kimley-Horn, representing developers Shingle Creek Co-owners LLC and Geyer Development LLC, amended its rezoning proposal the night before in an apparent effort to make it more palatable.

Included was a 22-acre decrease, from 58 to 36 acres, of the portion of the development that would remove wetlands. The entire development would occupy 227 acres surrounded by undeveloped forest and lying on the eastern portion of Shingle Creek Basin.

Kimley-Horn had already requested waivers from the county's code to build at a higher density, raising some buildings over 200 feet in the air. In this case, the company

Turn to Wetlands, Page 2

Wetlands

from Page 1

argues, the more intense development mitigates the environmental impact by reducing the buildings' footprint and the amount of wetlands affected.

Orange County staff said they didn't have enough time to review the new details and scheduled a decision on whether to move the proposal to public hearings at the next development committee meeting on April 2.

Kimley-Horn declined an interview request from the Orlando Sentinel.

While Orange County staff has many questions for the developer, Tuscana is being judged under more relaxed county rules established in 1987, but later tightened. The developer only needs to show it is attempting to minimize the project's wetland impact and that it doesn't require a cumulative impact analysis, said Tim Hull, environmental programs administrator for the Orange County's environmental protection division.

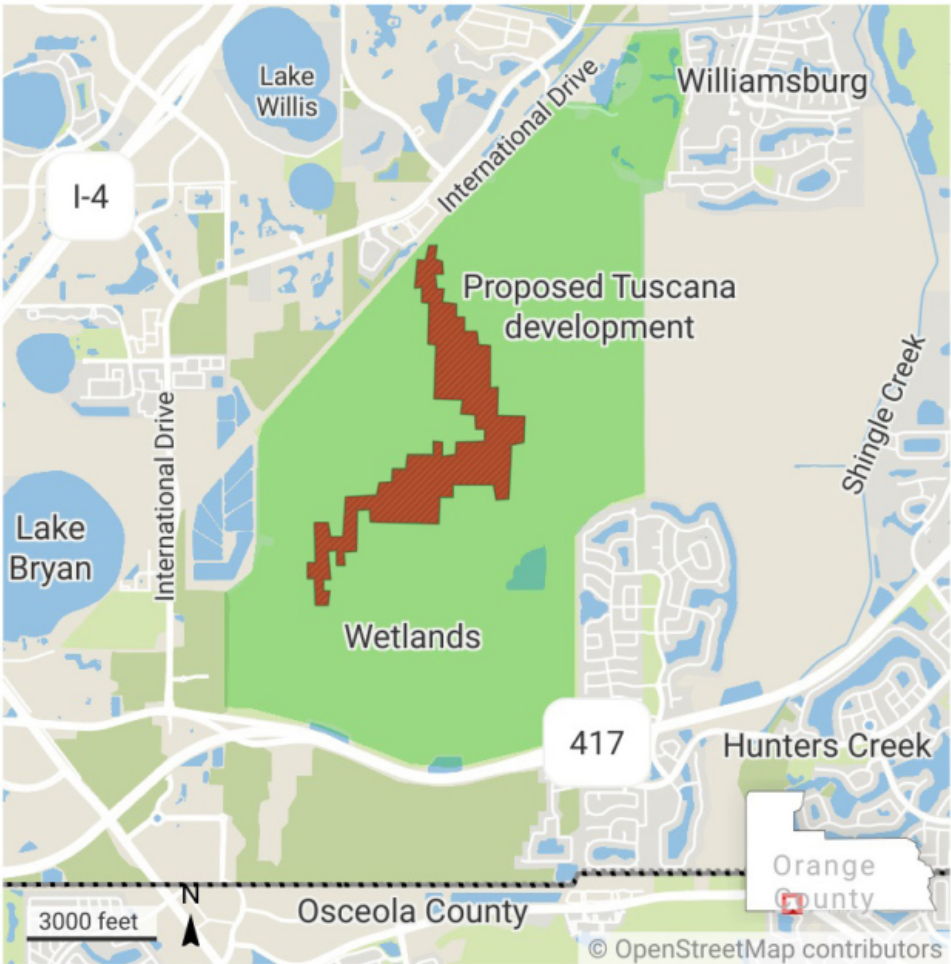
Kimley-Horn is seeking to make that case. Project Manager Jennifer Stickler told the committee board that the developer plans to offset any impact to the wetlands by preserving over 176 acres.

In 2023 the county adopted a more stringent code that more aggressively protects wetlands, but Tuscana began its application process right before the new code took effect. However, Hull said the county will require Kimley-Horn to explain in more detail how it will handle stormwater as part of its project.

"Shingle Creek is a very important drainage basin in the county," Hull said. "The county is very tuned in to flood concerns... once the applicant is at the level where they're providing engineering plans that's when they provide more details on stormwater management."

A development in sensitive wetlands?

Orange County is reviewing a proposed hotel and housing project in the Shingle Creek basin that opponents say could worsen downstream flooding because a portion of it encroaches on wetlands.



Map: Brian Bell | Orlando Sentinel • Source: Kimley-Horn • Created with Datawrapper

Even though the impacts may be felt in Osceola, that county is not involved in the process, Hull said. Instead the South Florida Water Management District, which oversees waters in both Orange and Osceola, has oversight and it has already issued a preliminary permit for the development, he said.

Environmentalists say that's a concern.

John Capece is an environmental researcher who leads Kissimmee Water Keeper, a global network of water protection organizations. Capece said it's alarming that the development is even under consideration, given its invasion into critical wetlands that store so much water.

"The undeveloped complex there west of Shingle Creek where Tuscana is proposed is the largest wetland complex remaining along the Shingle Creek System," Capece said. "Whenever you constrain a flood plain, you have the potential to enhance flooding that will occur in other areas."

Even with the existing

level of development, flooding along Shingle Creek during Hurricane Ian in 2022 rendered more than 500 homes uninhabitable in the Good Samaritan retirement community at Kissimmee Village.

Adding to Capece's concern, climate change has made previous flood maps outdated and extreme rainfall events more common, he said. A 2022 study Capece was involved with researching for the South Florida Water Management District estimated that extreme rainfall events would increase by roughly 60% regionwide, including in Orange County, from 2020 through 2059.

"It's a huge amount," Capece said. "And it'll generate even more than 60% runoff or flooding because much of the initial rainfall is stored in various parts of wetlands...therefore every acre of wetland, every acre of storage potential becomes more critical."

Capece said the county or developer should be required to do computer modeling of flooding. State agencies in charge of over-

seeing multiple counties have become lax, he said.

Tuscana is just the latest illustration of the pressures growth is placing on environmentally sensitive areas in Central Florida. Once protected, Split Oak Forest soon will have a highway slice through a portion of it despite fierce community opposition.

There may be more stringent guidelines in the future. Hull said Orange County's new updated code increases environmental protections. While Tuscana is being considered under the earlier codes, the Board of County Commissioners has the ultimate say as it balances growth with conserving land. The project is scheduled to be presented to the board on May 20.

Gordon Spears formerly sat on the planning and zoning advisory board of Orange County. He said not only will the development increase flood risk but the area lacks urban infrastructure.

"It may pass the development review committee but it wouldn't surprise me if the board of county commissioners don't pass it," Spears said.

The Shingle Creek basin not only offers wetlands that store water to mitigate flooding but trails and bike paths that are close to the heart of many in the region.

A mother of five, Lauren Allen brought two of her children to the development committee meeting where she spoke against Tuscana. Allen said her kids, who range in age from 7 to 18, enjoy the creek and are worried the development will destroy a treasured play spot.

"One of the things my daughter said is she was very concerned that they were not going to be any more beautyberries because when she had been hiking on one of the trails with her grandma they found them," Allen said. "Her grandma said next time we'll make some beautyberry jam but now she's worried she'll never get to make beautyberry jam."

ENGLEWOOD WATER DISTRICT

EWD looks internally for new chief

Utility’s board considers Keith Ledford Jr. a top candidate for administrator position

JESS ORLANDO
Staff Writer

ENGLEWOOD — Since Englewood Water District Administrator Mike Collard abruptly retired in November, Technical Support Manager Keith Ledford Jr. has been acting as interim administrator.

Ledford was also the interim administrator after Ray Burroughs retired in March, 2024.

It’s the top administrative position in the district, and paid an annual salary of \$145,000, according to Collard’s contract.

The water district’s elected board members discussed opening up the search for a new administrator once again, but said Ledford would be an ideal candidate.

“I think that Keith is doing a wonderful job, and I’d very much like to see him take the position,” Chair Lani Gaver said at the board meeting. “I feel like he has the balance of knowing all the staff and I have no doubt that he can do the job, but he just



SUN PHOTOS BY JESS ORLANDO

EWD Technical Support Manager Keith Ledford Jr. poses next to the plaque outside of V-1 memorializing its significance as the first ever vacuum station in Englewood during the late 90s.

can implement, I think, what we need to have done and have it be harmonious.”

Board member Tony Babington agreed.

“I think he already knows everything that’s going on and the challenges that the district faces,” Babington said.

Board member Taylor Meals said Collard, the last administrator, was someone who came from outside the district.

“If we look on the outside, the problem becomes, I think, every month that goes by, it’s too long,” Meals said, talking about the hiring process. “The district has issues.”

Meals said one of the problems with Collard was he looked at the district’s problems from a different viewpoint, and there was a lot of pushback.

“As a district, we are going to have to make changes, whether it’s with technology, how we operate, we need to become more efficient,” Meals said.

Looking for an administrator who comes from the outside poses challenges, and explaining the district complexities takes time.

“We don’t have time on our side,” Meals said. “Somebody could come in and bring outside experience — and they may have skills to do that — but the problem becomes for them to



EWD Technical Support Manager Keith Ledford Jr., left, thanks the community for attending a celebratory debt-free lunch. Executive Assistant Teresa Herzog, right, helped make the event happen.

understand what this real situation is with the water district.”

Since Ledford has been working at EWD as the technical support nanager for years, he’s aware of the main issues.

“I think that Keith would do a very good job as the administrator, as long as this board supports the efforts of being able to give guidance to Keith and giving the ability to hire a consultant where we’re going to need help,” Meals said. “I think moving forward that we as a board need to get defined goals and objectives of what we want to see accomplished.”

Gaver said you’ll never find a perfect person for the job, but

she said finding solutions to problems should always include respect for the district’s employees.

“He (Ledford) saw a lot of the same things that Mike saw, but going forward, I feel like the way Keith would handle things is with respect for employees,” Gaver said.

Ledford said he is interested in the position, but before moving forward he’d like to meet with one-on-one with each board member.

“I think it’s important that you understand where I’m at, and I understand where you’re at,” Ledford said. “I appreciate the vote of confidence.”

Charlotte Sun March 17, 2025

OPINIONS

Inspect septic systems to help prevent harmful algal blooms

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission recently found red tide blooms



HOWARD L. SIMON

lurking off the coast of Southwest Florida from Pinellas to Lee counties, reminding us that we have unfinished business to protect Florida's waterways.

The reports are of generally low concentrations, though medium concentrations have been reported in Charlotte County and in Lee County around Sanibel Island. Some folks residing closer to the beaches of Sarasota, Lee and Collier counties have reported respiratory discomfort.

Red tide concentrations now usually mean fish kills later. But if these red tide blooms increase in intensity and come closer to our shores, and especially if we see rotting and putrid fish on beaches again, there will be finger pointing about what could and should have been done.

But why wait for another calamity?

With the Legislature convening for its annual session in March, policymakers should not lose the opportunity to protect public health and our waterways. They can use what we know about the interplay between blue-green algae in freshwater and red tide in the saltwater of the Gulf — specifically, how the former feeds the growth of the latter.

In 2019, after Florida was hit hard by the outbreak of both harmful blue-green algae and red tide, newly elected Gov. Ron DeSantis appointed a Blue-Green Algae Task Force consisting of the state's leading environmental scientists who, in October of that year, issued eight recommendations addressing water quality and public health.

One recommendation addressed the 2.5 million (their estimate) unregulated and unin-



spected "onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems," commonly called septic tanks, which are scattered throughout the state.

The governor's task force noted that although septic systems are "designed to manage human health risks associated with the introduction of pathogens to the environment," they are "also a well-known and substantial source of nutrients to groundwater and surface waters ... (and that) nutrients in the effluent from these systems contributes to the development and maintenance of harmful blue-green algae blooms."

They recommended "broader regulatory oversight of onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems to ensure that those systems function properly, protect the environment against nutrient pollution and are protective of human health."

Science led to policy recommendations. The task force called for "the development and implementation of a septic system inspection and monitoring program with the goal of identifying improperly functioning and/or failing systems so that corrective action can be taken to reduce nutrient pollution, negative environmental impacts and preserve human health."

Homes relying on septic systems eventually need to be connected to a sewage treatment facility, but until then inspections and repairs will have to suffice.

Some context is necessary: Fifteen years ago, the Legislature recognized the serious threat to water quality and public health by requiring that septic systems be inspected and, if necessary, repaired every five years.

But, in 2012, before the program began, the Legislature repealed the requirement with the approval of then-Gov. Rick Scott. That regrettable decision has left Florida with no requirement that, following their installation, septic systems be inspected. We now have millions

of possibly leaking septic tanks along the shores and banks of our lakes, rivers and streams.

So, instead of a seemingly arbitrary timetable for inspections, let's require inspections of septic systems, as other states do, when a property changes hands.

And so that we don't let cost stand in the way of protecting the environment and public health, the Legislature should create a grant program to cover the cost of inspections (and if necessary, repairs) for low-income homeowners — just as was developed 15 years ago.

Inspections of septic systems differ from inspections that are recommended best practice for home buyers — the usual inspections of the roof, electrical system, heating and ventilation, and plumbing done by prospective home buyers.

Inspections of septic systems have wider social consequences beyond the buyer. There is an urgent societal need to retard the growth of harmful algae blooms that cause fish kills with disastrous consequences for our tourism economy, and to reduce the risk of liver cancer, respiratory illnesses and neurological diseases such as ALS and Alzheimer's through exposure to the blooms.

Requiring inspections (and repairs if necessary) when a property changes hands should secure broad support. Realtors have as much commitment to clean water in our communities as the most vociferous environmentalist.

The recommendations of the governor's Blue-Green Algae Task Force deserve the Legislature's attention.

Let's start with septic tanks.

Howard L. Simon, Ph.D., is president of the Clean Okeechobee Waters Foundation and a member of the Calusa Waterkeeper Advisory Committee. He served as executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida from 1997-2018. This opinion piece was distributed by The Invading Sea website (www.theinvadingsea.com), which publishes news and commentary on climate change and other environmental issues affecting

SARASOTA COUNTY

Some new stormwater options OK'd

Staff directed to flesh out proposals, bring back more information

BOB MUDGE Charlotte Sun
Senior Writer March 17, 2025

SARASOTA — Of 16 potential stormwater management regulatory changes presented by Sarasota County staff at a recent workshop, Sarasota County commissioners liked four, rejected seven and took a wait-and-see position on the remainder.

Stormwater management has been under review following flooding caused by voluminous rainfall brought by Tropical Storm Debby in August. It far exceeded the benchmark of 10 inches in 24 hours that the county's stormwater system is based upon.

The standard was developed by the Southwest Florida Water Management District, known as Swiftmud, in 1996. It represents expected rainfall from a 100-year storm event, which has a 1% chance of occurring each year.

The county also uses Swiftmud's rainfall "curve" of 8 inches in a one-day period for a 25-year storm and 7 inches in a 10-year event for planning.

"One day" means 24 hours, not a calendar day.

The county is already implementing some operational changes, such as increasing its maintenance cycles and acquiring properties that have suffered repetitive losses, for conversion to open space, Public Works Director Spencer Anderson said.

The commissioners were open to changes to the standards but held off on directing staff to raise them because Swiftmud's board will be considering its own increase, potentially adopting higher National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration benchmarks later this month.

Other changes that were put in the "maybe" category, depending on getting more information or action by another agency, included mandating low-impact development practices; increasing the distance the county requires between base flood elevation and the first floor in a building; and changes to lot drainage requirements and exemptions.

There was a consensus to move forward on mandatory side lot drainage easements of 5 feet or more; minimum culvert sizes; including a "safety factor" to be determined in



PHOTO PROVIDED

Volunteers with World Renew spent months helping Hurricane Ian victims. They will return to do a needs assessment in Sarasota County following Hurricane Debby.

stormwater system calculations; and prohibiting an increase in runoff from proposed developments.

Staff will do a "deep dive" into what's involved in making the changes and bring back proposals for further discussion before holding public workshops prior to the Commission considering whether to adopt them, Anderson said.

Whatever changes end up getting made wouldn't affect the municipalities that have their own stormwater management programs. And they would mainly apply to new development and redevelopment as retrofitting existing neighborhoods could impose a burden on property owners and the county.

That was a major reason some proposed changes were rejected.

Among them:

- Reducing the amount of flooding that affects a road's level of service. Currently, the county maximum for a neighborhood road or parking area is 1 foot, dropping to no water on evacuation routes.

In all cases there's to be no structure flooding above the finished floor level in the habitable part of dwellings.

The important thing isn't the extent of flooding but how quickly it's moved off the road, Commissioner Mark Smith said.

- Establishing a maximum of 50% impervious area on residential properties. There's currently only a limit on Siesta Key, Stormwater Manager Paul Semenec said, and it applies to structures, not driveways and such.

Smith, a resident of Siesta Key, said he would support the change for high-risk areas, and Commission

Chair Joe Neunder said he was a maybe, but the other three commissioners were opposed.

Commissioner Tom Knight said there would be confusion about which areas were subject to the limit and which weren't.

- Three options that might face a legal challenge. County Attorney Josh Moyer cautioned that prohibiting development in the special flood hazard area or community flood hazard area or high-risk floodplains or banning variances in coastal areas subject to erosion could be considered a violation of property rights and subject the county to liability.

The county could have tight variance rules in each instance, he said, but needed to have a process to request one to avoid an argument that its ordinances are the equivalent of a taking of a property.

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CLEARWATER, FLORIDA**

The Procurement Officer of Clearwater, Florida, will receive sealed proposals for the following solicitation until date/time specified:

RFP No. 07-25
SCADA System Software
Due: April 10, 2025.
Time: 10:00 A.M.

Solicitation documents may be obtained at www.myclearwater.com or contact the Procurement Division at (727)562-4630, 1255 Cleveland St, or PO Box 4748, Clearwater, FL 33758.

03/12/25 27121b

**INVITATION TO BID
CLEARWATER, FLORIDA**

The Procurement Officer of Clearwater, Florida, will receive sealed bids for the following solicitation until date/time specified:

ITB No. 15-25
Clarifier Maintenance and Services
Due: April 03, 2025,
Time: 10:00 A.M.

Solicitation documents may be obtained at www.myclearwater.com or contact the Procurement Division at (727)562-4630, 1255 Cleveland St, or PO Box 4748, Clearwater, FL 33758.

03/12/25 27122b

ITB 24-25-124 MK Furnish and Delivery of Liquid Aluminum Sulfate

The City of West Palm Beach ("City") and the City as agent for the East Central Regional Wastewater Facilities Operations Board (ECR) is soliciting bids from responsible and qualified suppliers to furnish and deliver liquid aluminum sulfate at a fixed price, on a routine basis. Solicitation documents may be acquired electronically and free of charge by registering and logging onto the City's third party website, DemandStar at: <https://network.demandstar.com/for-business> or by contacting Monica Keel at mrekeel@wpb.org or by calling (561) 494-1055. Bids due March 27, 2025 by 3:00 pm EST

March 14 2025
LSAR0258227

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FLORIDA

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids will be received at the Purchasing Department, 2300 Virginia Avenue, Fort Pierce, FL 34982, until 3:00 P.M. local time on April 16, 2025 for the following:

BID No. 25-039
RELOCATE RUNWAY 10R
SAFETY AREA DITCH

A PRE-BID CONFERENCE will be held at the Treasure Coast International Airport, Maintenance Building, 4801 Airfield Drive, Ft. Pierce, Florida, 34946, on March 31, 2025 at 10:00 A.M., followed by a site visit.

All Bidders are required to submit a five percent (5%) Bid Bond with the Bid Form or their bid shall be rejected as non-responsive. A one hundred percent (100%) Public Construction Bond is required upon notification of St. Lucie County's intention to award the contract to the apparent successful bidder.

A 1.83% DBE participation is required for this bid, if the total proposed DBE participation is less than the established DBE goal, Bidder must provide written documentation of the good faith efforts as required by 49 CFR Part 26, or their bid shall be rejected as non-responsive.

Treasure Coast International Airport is a member of the Unified Certification Program (UCP) in the State of Florida. The Treasure Coast International Airport will only accept DBE Firms that are certified under the Unified Certification Program. The UCP Directory is found at: <http://www3b.dot.state.fl.us/EqualOpportunityOfficeBusinessDirectory/Home.aspx>

Bid documents may be obtained via download from www.DemandStar.com or by

contacting the Office of the Purchasing Department at 2300 Virginia Avenue, Fort Pierce, Florida, 34982, Telephone number (772) 462-1700.

Bids may be mailed or hand delivered to the St Lucie County Purchasing Department, 2300 Virginia Avenue, 2nd Floor Rm. 228, Fort Pierce, FL 34982. Any bids received after the above stated time shall be returned to the bidder unopened.

Bidders shall submit ONE (1) MARKED ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) PHOTOCOPIES OF THE COMPLETED BID PACKAGE in a sealed envelope. The Project Name, Bid Number, and time and date of the Bid opening shall be clearly marked on the outside of the sealed envelope. Facsimile responses shall not be accepted.

CAUTION: It is the bidder's/proposer's responsibility to ensure that bids/proposals are received in the Purchasing Department prior to the date and time specified above. Receipt of a bid/proposal in any other County office does not satisfy this requirement.

Bidders may not withdraw their Bid for a period of one hundred and eighty (180) calendar days after the bid opening date.

The Board of County Commissioners reserves the right to waive any informalities or minor irregularities; reject any and all bids/proposals which are incomplete, conditional, obscure, or which contain additions not allowed for; accept or reject any proposal in whole or in part with or without cause; and accept the proposal which best serves the County.

St Lucie County is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Publish: Sunday, March 16, 2025
TCN11129568

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PALM BEACH COUNTY
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

3300 Forest Hill Boulevard, Suite A-323
West Palm Beach, FL 33406-5813
Telephone (561) 434-8306

NOTICE OF SOLICITATION (S)

No.
25C-005V

Title
Remediation & Support
Services for Disaster Recovery

Opening Date
April 10, 2025
@2:00PMEST

All questions and inquiries are due on March 28, 2025 by 5:00 P.M. All bid documents are available through BidNet Direct at www.bidnetdirect.com/palmbeachschools.

The School District of Palm Beach County is an Equal Education Opportunity Provider and Employer.

11056609 3/12/24

The City of Fort Myers (City) requests submittals from interested and qualified Consultant/Contractor to serve as the Engineer of Record for the City’s Water Treatment Plant. The firm would provide Engineering Services on an as needed basis specific to the Water Treatment Plant and other related assets. 25-052-RSQ

1.2. Background

The City of Fort Myers (the “City”), established in 1886, is located on the southern west coast of Florida. It is the cultural and trade center for Lee County and the surrounding area. The City was built on the site of Fort Harvie and was named for Colonel Abraham Charles Myers, then Chief Quartermaster of Florida. The City has approximately 1,000 employees serving a population of approximately 96,755 full time permanent residents with a population growth of 12% between 2020 and 2022. According to the Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau, nearly 4.5 million people visit Fort Myers each year and spend over \$4 billion dollars while in the area. Fort Myers has experienced unprecedented growth in its tax base, as the past (3), year over year percentage increases, were double digit. The City added a total of \$5.0 billion to its tax base over the past five years, or 75.6%.

The City is situated between Tampa and Miami along scenic U.S. Highway 41, also known as Tamiami Trail. Recent accolades for the City of Fort Myers include top ranking for best places to live, to retire, and to start a new business, safest cities in America, #4 college town in Florida, and most recently the 3rd fastest growing place by U.S News and World Report.

The City of Fort Myers is committed to providing exceptional municipal services to residents, businesses and visitors in a fiscally responsible manner while preserving the City’s rich history, diverse culture, and charming lifestyle.

1.3. OpenGov Portal

The City uses OPENGOV (<https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/cityftmyers>) to administer the competitive solicitation process, including but not limited to soliciting responses, issuing addenda, posting results and issuing notification of an intended decision. There is no charge to register and download the solicitation from OPENGOV. Consultant/Contractors are strongly encouraged to read the various Guides and Tutorials available in OPENGOV well in advance of their intention of submitting a response to ensure familiarity with the use of OPENGOV. The City shall not be responsible for a Consultant/Contractor’s inability to submit a response by the end date and time for any reason, including issues arising from the use of OPENGOV.

Procurement Representative Name
Kirk Zimmerman, NIGP-CPP, CPPB, Senior Procurement Specialist
2200 Second Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901
Email: kzimmerman@fortmyers.gov

Phone: (239) 321-7241

Requesting Department:
Engineering, Utilities

Solicitation Advertise & Release Date:	March 14, 2025
Pre-Submittal Meeting (Non-Mandatory):	March 24, 2025, 1:00pm
	Virtually: https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YTdkNTdIMmYtZjA0ZC00ODBiLWI2NWItNTQ4NDhmOGQzYzIz%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2235ab3971-4a9a-45d4-8ad1-ac170528b885%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2283ef1c43-5533-4d59-a153-a3a170fcb6e1%22%7d

	<div>Meeting ID: 217 229 065 07</div> <div>Passcode: m46Ys9PS</div> <div>Dial in by phone</div> <div>+1 239-205-3327, 949842381# United States, Cape Coral</div> <div>Find a local number</div> <div>Phone conference ID: 949 842 381#</div>
Question Submission Deadline:	March 31, 2025, 4:00pm
Submission Deadline:	April 17, 2025, 2:00pm
	<div>Virtual:</div> <div>https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YWFkMWQxMjktNTUxNC00M2JkLTg4ZDAtZmE0MTdkZTFhMzA3%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2235ab3971-4a9a-45d4-8ad1-ac170528b885%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2283ef1c43-5533-4d59-a153-a3a170fcb6e1%22%7d</div> <div>Meeting ID: 253 222 401 859</div> <div>Passcode: 4kr9aH6c</div> <div>Dial in by phone</div> <div>+1 239-205-3327, 167964692# United States, Cape Coral</div> <div>Find a local number</div> <div>Phone conference ID: 167 964 692#</div>

Selection Committee Meeting:	<div>April 24, 2025, 1:00pm</div> <div>Fort Myers City Hall - Finance West Conference Room</div> <div>2200 Second Street, Fort Myers FL 33901 or virtually</div> <div>https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_Y2Y0NzUwMmEtZGQ1Ni00YTE5LTljMTItZDlkN2RmOGVlODc5%40thead.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2235ab3971-4a9a-45d4-8ad1-ac170528b885%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2283ef1c43-5533-4d59-a153-a3a170fcb6e1%22%7d</div> <div>Meeting ID: 289 055 478 774</div> <div>Passcode: KY7e9pr6</div> <div>Dial in by phone</div> <div>+1 239-205-3327,,807184283# United States, Cape Coral</div> <div>Find a local number</div> <div>Phone conference ID: 807 184 283#</div>
Presentations (if desired by the committee):	May 9, 2025, 8:00am
Proposed City Council Approval Date:	June 2, 2025

3.3. SCOPE OF WORK

The City is seeking a qualified and licensed engineering firm to serve as the Engineer of Record for the City's Water Treatment Plant. The firm would provide Engineering Services on an as needed basis specific to the Water Treatment Plant and other related assets. It is essential that the Engineer of Record be regularly engaged and well-staffed in the following, but not limited to, engineering and professional disciplines:

- Civil Engineer
- Mechanical Engineer
- Electrical Engineer
- Control Systems Engineer
- Environmental Engineer
- Licensed Operator

Tasks may consist of but not be limited to project meetings, interviews, audits, planning, engineering investigations, engineering analysis, feasibility studies, present worth analysis, modeling, pilot testing, surveying, soft dig investigations, geotechnical, conceptual design, preliminary designs, detailed design including 100% construction plans and specifications, cost estimating, permitting assistance, regulatory support, bidding services, post design services,

construction administration services, resident project representation, operational training and support services, energy optimization consulting, and various studies and testing as required. It is suggested that the Engineer of Record have considerable experience in the following types of projects and ongoing consultation services:

- Consultation on permit requests and renewals, regulatory filings, and other tasks involving various governmental regulatory agencies
- System modeling and other related studies
- RO membrane and associated equipment improvements
- Ground Storage tank, Water Storage Facility and Booster Pump Station, including legacy assets
- HVAC, scrubber, degasifier, odor control and other related systems
- SCADA, PLC, HMI and instrumentation
- General building and process equipment structural improvements
- Plantwide and site emergency generator replacements
- Chemical systems improvements
- Corrosion control studies and compliance

INVITATION TO BID
ITB 25-110

SMALL COUNTY OUTREACH PROGRAM (SCOP) RESURFACING PROJECT FOR N. DELTONA BLVD FROM W. HOMEWAY LOOP TO COUNTY ROAD (CR) 491 (S. LECANTO HWY)

Solicitation Overview

Citrus County, Florida ("County") invites interested parties to submit a Bid/Quote for ITB 25-110 Holder Industrial Park Force Main Extension Construction Project to provide a wastewater line extension to serve Holder Industrial Park

NON-MANDATORY Pre-Bid Conference/ Site Visit will be held on March 27, 2025, at 10:00 AM via Microsoft Teams, information is listed in the Solicitation Document found on OpenGov.

SEALED Bids are to be submitted on or before April 16, 2025, at 2:00 pm. It is the sole responsibility of the Bidder to ensure that their Bid response is submitted through OpenGov no later than the time and date specified in the Solicitation or subsequent addenda.

County has partnered with OpenGov Procurement, a web-based eProcurement service. Current bid solicitations and associated addenda, notices of recommended bid award, and current bid awards will be posted at <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/citrusfl>.

Electronic Bids shall be opened and read aloud publicly on April 16, 2025, at 2:15 PM. via Microsoft Teams, information is listed in the Solicitation Document found on OpenGov.

Si necesita un traductor de español por favor haga arreglos con el Condado dentro de dos días de la notificación de la publicación 352-527-5370

English Translation: (If you need a Spanish Translator, please make arrangements with the County by telephone within two days of the publication notice at 352-527-5370)

To obtain a copy of the Solicitation Document for this announcement, please visit the Citrus County Website at www.citrusbocc.com and select "Departments-drop down," "Management & Budget," "Purchasing. Copies can also be obtained by calling the Department of Management & Budget/Purchasing at (352) 527-5457.

CITRUS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Rebecca Bays, Chairman
Published March 15, 2025.

INVITATION TO BID
MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC
WORKS - REBID
ITB NO. 25-404/PA

The Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County (AUTHORITY) requests interested parties to submit sealed Bids for the purpose of establishing a contract and obtaining firm fixed prices to perform Miscellaneous Public Works Services in conjunction with the specifications within this solicitation.

The proposed work consists of all labor, materials, equipment and incidentals required for experienced and qualified Contractors to provide miscellaneous public works services to include preventative maintenance, repairs, replacements, and/or installations of municipal infrastructure. Services may include, but are not limited to, pump stations, miscellaneous plumbing and piping, minor electrical, concrete and asphalt, pavement and curbing repair/replacement, leachate and wastewater collection and conveyance systems, sitework, grading, and stormwater improvements over a three (3) year period.

The AUTHORITY only accepts bids and proposals electronically through Bonfire. Interested parties may obtain the Bid documents by downloading from the AUTHORITY's website at www.swa.org or through Bonfire at <https://swa.bonfirehub.com/>. Bids must be received by the AUTHORITY no later than 2:00 pm EST time, April 16, 2025, through Bonfire. If you are new to Bonfire, please register your company for access to this and other solicitation opportunities.

Please be advised that paper and emailed bid submittals will not be accepted. Bids must be submitted through Periscope at the time and date specified.

For any additional information, contact Patricia Armstrong, Procurement Manager, via e-mail at: parmstrong@swa.org.

*****S/M/WBE firms are encouraged to participate *****
March 15, 16, 17, 2025 #11126761

25R086864DJ

RFQs for CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT AT RISK SERVICES for Trailer Estates Gravity Sewer & Roadway Improvements. Work Includes, But is Not Limited to, the Relocation of the Existing Gravity Sanitary Sewer From the Private Property to the Public Right-of-Way at the Front of the Properties to Mitigate Infiltration & Inflow the System Currently Experiences, Replace Aging Infrastructure, & Provide Improved Access for Future Maintenance. The New Gravity Sanitary Sewer System Will Flow to the Nearby Exist-

ing Lift Station 312A. Work Will Include the Relocation of the Sanitary Sewer Service of Each Structure, the Abandoning of the Existing Sanitary sewer System in Place, & All Other Appurtenances.

Due April 11, 2025 at 11 am

Contact: Dave Janney - 941/749-3056
dave.janney@mymanatee.org

MANATEE COUNTY COMMISSION, BRADENTON
- 941/749-3014 FAX: 941/749-3034 purchasing@mymanatee.org

INVITATION FOR BID
IFB##25-105 Emergency Utility
Repairs for Water, Wastewater and
Stormwater

The City of Lake Worth Beach is soliciting bids from responsible and experienced entities to provide repairs to the City's water utility infrastructure immediately after a hurricane, other disaster, or as needed by the City on an emergency basis. The objective of the Invitation for Bid ("IFB") and subsequent contracting activity is to secure the services of an experienced contractor(s) who is capable of efficiently repairing water infrastructure systems in a timely and cost-effective manner.

This is an acknowledgement that FEMA financial assistance may be used to fund the resulting contract. The CONTRACTOR shall perform all work in compliance with all applicable federal law, regulations, executive orders, FEMA policies, procedures, and directives in order to maximize recovery of reimbursable expenses. This shall include the provision of audit quality documentation as required by and acceptable to FEMA for all work accomplished. The City's complete scope of services is attached as Exhibit "A" and incorporated into this IFB.

This Invitation for Bid (IFB) may be downloaded at lakeworthbeachfl.bidsandtenders.net or www.lakeworthbeachfl.gov. All Bidders shall

have a Bidding System Vendor account and be registered as a Plan Taker for this Bid opportunity, which will enable the Bidders to download the Bid Call Document, to receive Addenda email notifications and download all documents without the watermark "preview" on them.

To ensure receipt of the latest information and updates via email regarding this bid, or if a Bidder has obtained this Bid Document from a third party, the onus is on the Bidder to create a Bidding System Vendor account and be register as a Plan Taker for the bid opportunity. Copies of this IFB may also be acquired by contacting purchasing1@lakeworthbeachfl.gov.

Time is of the essence and any bid received after 3:00 p.m., April 17, 2025, whether by mail or otherwise shall be rejected by the City. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock located in the Financial Services Office. Bids shall be placed in a sealed envelope, marked with the bid number, title, date, and hour bids are scheduled to be received. The City offices have limited access to the public at this time. Courier deliveries SHALL NOT require signature for the receipt. Bidders may deliver bids directly to City Hall during regular business hours 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. If bids are delivered in person, visitors shall ring the bell at the City Hall front

entrance and wait for assistance or by contacting the Procurement Division at (561) 586 – 1770 in advance. Bidders are responsible for ensuring that their bid is stamped by office personnel by the deadline indicated. Bidders are responsible for ensuring that their bid is stamped by office personnel by the deadline indicated.

All persons or entities responding to the IFB (hereafter "Bidders") are responsible for ensuring that their bid is received by the City at its' designated office address by the deadline indicated in the IFB. The City will in no way be responsible for delays caused by any occurrence. Bids shall not be submitted and will not be accepted in by e-mail, telephone, telegram, facsimile or any other City's address except as notified below. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock in Financial Services Department.

All bids must be mailed or delivered to:
City of Lake Worth Beach, City Hall
Financial Services Office - Procurement
7 North Dixie Hwy. 2nd floor
Lake Worth Beach, FL 33460

ENVELOPES CONTAINING BIDS
MUST BE IDENTIFIED AS IFB
#25-105 Emergency Utility Repairs
for Water, Wastewater and Stormwater
March 16 2025
LSAR0258339

REQUEST FOR BID (RFB)
NO. 6000001610
S65A C38 MAINTENANCE REPAIR
PROJECT, POLK COUNTY,
FLORIDA

The Procurement Bureau of the South Florida Water Management District, B-1 Building, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, Florida 33406, will receive sealed bids up to April 17, 2025 @ 2:30 p.m. opening time for S65A C38 MAINTENANCE REPAIR PROJECT, POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA.

The project includes, but is not limited to, all the necessary labor, materials, transport and installation of riprap, hauling from pit to project site and equipment for the scour repair on the downstream side of the S65A Gated Spillway Structure located on the C-38 Canal. An OPTIONAL PRE-BID CONFERENCE will be held on March 25, 2025 @ 10:00 a.m. at the C38 Canal in Polk County, Florida, GPS Coordinates: 27.659531°N 81.134379°W. An Optional site visit will immediately follow. For directions call Nathaniel at (407) 891-3562.

All bids must conform to the instructions in the RFB. Interested respondents may obtain a copy of the complete RFB by downloading the solicitation from our website at www.sfwmd.gov/procurement. **Further information on the status of this solicitation can be obtained on our web site - www.sfwmd.gov or by calling 561-682-2011.**

IFBC # 25- TA005869RB
SATELLITE LIFT STATION R&R -
2025 GROUP 1&2

Manatee County will receive sealed proposals at 1112 Manatee Avenue West, Suite 705, Bradenton, FL

Solicitation Opening

5/8/2025 at 1:00 PM

Information Conference: None

Address: None

MyManatee.org

IPL0222800

REQUEST FOR BID
(RFB) 2025-3669
Martin County Board of
County Commissioners
Attn: Purchasing Division
2401 SE Monterey Road
Stuart, FL 34996
pur_div@martin.fl.us
www.martin.fl.us

The Board of County Commissioners, Martin County, Florida, will receive sealed bids for:
PORT SALERNO / NEW
MONROVIA NEIGHBORHOOD
RESTORATION

Martin County is requesting bids from licensed contractors for driveway demolition and replacement, swale grading, installation of drainage culverts and structures,

sidewalk construction, and other concrete work in the Port Salerno North, Port Salerno South, and New Monrovia neighborhoods. Sealed bids will be received by the Information Desk on the 1st Floor at the address above or via DemandStar until 2:30 PM local time, on Wednesday, April 16, 2025. The complete bid document may be downloaded from www.demandstar.com (online bidding site). Martin County is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. By order of the Board of County Commissioners of Martin County, Florida.
Publish: The Stuart News (March 14, 2025 and March 21, 2025) #11117692

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT
INVITATION TO OFFERORS
Submit responses via OpenGov until 3:00 p.m. on the bid/proposal due date for the following:
Solicitation No.: 25-B-701F
Solicitation Title: HURRICANE NICOLE SEAWALL EXTENSIONS AND REPAIRS FOR 14TH, 15TH, AND 29TH AVENUES IN NEW SMYRNA BEACH
Due Date: 4/10/25
A pre-bid meeting will be held on Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 2:30 p.m. at the Beach Safety Lifeguard Headquarters, Third Floor Conference Room, 515 S. Atlantic Avenue, Daytona Beach, Florida 32118.
To view solicitation information, go to OpenGov at: <https://procurement.opengov.com/signup>.
Paper bids are no longer accepted.
Purchasing & Contracts
County of Volusia, FL

The School Board of Brevard County requests interested parties to submit formal sealed proposals for Environmental Engineering Services, RFQ 25-0714-Q-HD package can be downloaded from OpenGov at <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/brevardschools>.
Submittal Due Date: Proposals must be received by The School Board's Office of Procurement Services through OpenGov at <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/brevardschools>, no later than 2:00 p.m., local time, on April 10, 2025. Proposals received after this time will not be considered.
ALL PROSPECTIVE RESPONDENTS ARE HEREBY CAUTIONED NOT TO CONTACT ANY MEMBER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BREVARD COUNTY STAFF OR OFFICIALS OTHER THAN THE SPECIFIED PROCUREMENT REPRESENTATIVE; Heidi Dotson, SPA at (321) 633-1000 Ext. 11107 or dotson.heidi@brevardschools.org.

Invitation to Bid – ITB 2025.05 Locklin Lake Restoration - Maintenance Dredge Project
The City of Milton will receive sealed proposals until 2:00 p.m. (CST) on Wednesday, April 16, 2025, at City Hall, 6738 Dixon Street, Milton, FL 32570 for 2025.05 ITB Locklin Lake Restoration - Maintenance Dredge Project.
Documents and description may be obtained at the City of Milton's website at <https://MILTONFL.org/322/Purchasing-Bids>; from the Florida Purchase Alliance at www.BIDNETDIRECT.com; www.DemandStar.com and Office of Supplier Diversity.
For additional information, e-mail the City of Milton Purchasing Department, Michele Williams at mwilliams@miltonfl.org. Please be advised that the City Council reserves the right to accept the best submission for the city or reject all submissions.
11118680 3/13 3/16/25

PALM BEACH COUNTY
NOTICE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DESIGN PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING SERVICES
PROJECT NAME: OCEAN INLET PARK COASTAL RESILIENCY RESTORATION
PROJECT #2024-027761
Pursuant to Florida Statutes 287.055 and County PPM# CW-O-048, notice is hereby given that Palm Beach County requires design professional services for the following project:
Architectural/Engineering services for the design, permitting and construction administration for the development of the OCEAN INLET PARK COASTAL RESILIENCY RESTORATION project located at 6990 North Ocean Boulevard, Boynton Beach, Florida 33435. This project encompass full range of the project scope including but not limited to ; replacement seawalls at higher elevation, existing sea wall removal, ADA compliance, site lighting, improved restroom facilities, re-align parking, and upland park improvements.
The Request for Proposals (RFP) may be downloaded from the County's online Vendor SelfService (VSS) system at: <https://pbcvssp.pbc.gov/vssprd/Advantage4>. Or, interested parties may obtain a copy of the RFP for this solicitation by emailing EDO-CID-Bids@pbc.gov or by phone (561) 233-0261. Include the words "OCEAN INLET PARK COASTAL RESILIENCY RESTORATION" in the subject line of any e-mail regarding this solicitation.
Proposals are due by 3:00 P.M. on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at the Palm Beach County Facilities Development & Operations Department, 2633 Vista Parkway, West Palm Beach, FL 33411-5604.
Non-Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference. *Proposers are invited to attend a non-mandatory preproposal conference to be held on April 3, 2025, at 10:00 AM. at the following location: 2633 Vista Parkway, West Palm Beach - 1st Floor, Training Room 1W-55. Attendance at this preproposal conference is strongly recommended and encouraged*
Responses will be evaluated based on the selection criteria set out in the RFP including the Affirmative Procurement Initiatives (APIs) determined by the County's Goal Setting Committee. The APIs for this solicitation are:
Up to 15 points shall be awarded based on the level of SBE dollar participation committed to on the prime respondent's team (contracts \$500,000 and greater)
The SBE goal for this project is a mandatory minimum of 20% participation.
A mandatory SBE and/or MBE goal applies to this solicitation, so any proposal that fails to comply with the required goal shall be deemed non-responsive after the period allowed for waiver requests has lapsed. If a proposer is unable to comply with a required goal, such proposer shall submit a request for a waiver or partial waiver at least 7 days prior to the proposal due date. If a proposer requests a waiver from a goal from the Office of EBO at least 7 days prior to the proposal due date, then the proposal due date will be extended pending the outcome of a waiver request. Additionally if the waiver is granted the solicitation will be amended accordingly and the due date extended again. Fillable pdfs of all EBO forms can be found on the OEBO website at <http://discover.pbcgov.org/oebo/Pages/Compliance-Programs.aspx>. Also, see the EBO Ordinance and Countywide PPM CW-O-043 for further information on the County's EBO Program.
Prior to submission of a proposal, any firm or individual, as prime consultant or as a subconsultant, desiring to provide architectural, engineering, landscape architectural, or surveying and mapping professional services to Palm Beach County must first be CCNA certified by the County's Engineering and Public Works Department as qualified pursuant to law, and in accordance with the most recent administrative procedures for awarding of design professional consulting contracts adopted by Palm Beach County. Information regarding the design consultant certification process may be obtained at: <http://discover.pbcgov.org/engineering/roadwayproduction/Pages/CCNA.aspx>
Palm Beach County reserves the right to waive any irregularities or reject any and all proposals.
ATTEST:
JOSEPH ABRUZZO, CLERK
& COMPTROLLER
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA
3/16, 3/23/25 #11130563

PD 23-23.157 <u>PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANT SERVICES to Renew the LAARS East Army Corps of Engineers Artificial Reef Site Permit.</u> <u>Due April 7, 2025 at 8 am</u> Questions Due: 5:00 pm, 4/3/25. Contact: Kindall Butler – 850/490-	1029 kmbutler@myescambia.com ESCAMBIA COUNTY COMMISSION, PENSACOLA - 850/595-4980 FAX: 850/595-4805 purchasing@myescambia.com www.myescambia.com/our-services/purchasing
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

INVITATION TO BID

MIAMI SHORES VILLAGE
DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS ALONG NE 8TH AVENUE
FROM NE 90TH ST. AND NE 93RD ST.
ITB 2025-02-01

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: Miami Shores Village is soliciting bids from experienced, and licensed contractors to submit bids for the construction of drainage improvements along NE 8th Avenue from NE 90th Street and NE 93rd Street as further described in "ITB 2025-02-01 Drainage Improvements along NE 8th Avenue from NE 90th St. and NE 93rd Street." Bids must be submitted on or before the deadline of 2:30 p.m., April 23, 2025. Interested firms may secure the solicitation package by visiting the Village website <https://www.msvfl.gov/departments/procurement/CurrentSolicitations>

A portion of the project will be funded by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection grant.

A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held on Monday, March 24, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. at Village Hall, 10050 NE 2nd Ave, Miami Shores, FL 33138. Attendance is strongly encouraged. There is no scheduled visit to the site before or after the pre-bid meeting. Potential bidders are encouraged to conduct site visits on their own.

Bidders shall submit one (1) original, two (2) copies, and one (1) electronic copy on a USB drive, accompanied by a 5% bid bond. Bids must be sealed, clearly marked and delivered by mail or in person no later than Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at 2:30 p.m. to the following address: Village Clerk, Miami Shores Village, 10050 N.E. 2nd Avenue, Miami Shores, FL 33138. Facsimile or emailed bids will. Any submittals received after the due date and time specified will not be considered.

Pursuant to subsection (t) "Cone of Silence," of Section 2-11.1 of Miami-Dade County, public notice is hereby given that a "Cone of Silence" is imposed concerning this competitive purchasing process, which generally prohibits communications concerning the ITB until such time as the Village Manager makes a written recommendation to the Village Council.

Ysabely Rodriguez, Village Clerk

Notice is hereby given that St. Johns County is soliciting sealed bids under Invitation for Bids No: 2282; Roadway and Infrastructure Improvements – Regalo Road. Interested and qualified Bidders may submit sealed bids in accordance with the requirements provided in the Bid Document, to the St. Johns County Purchasing Department located at 500 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, FL 32084. All sealed bids must be submitted by or before 2:00PM EDT on Wednesday, April 16, 2025, or as otherwise stated in an addendum. Sealed bids delivered to or received by the SJC Purchasing Department after the above submittal deadline shall not be considered and shall be returned unopened to the addressee. The purpose of this IFB is for a Contractor to provide all labor, materials, equipment, and transportation necessary to complete all work to construct roadway, sidewalk, drainage, and utility improvements along the Regalo Road corridor. The existing roadway will be milled and resurfaced from US 1 to the Palencia Elementary School driveway and include a sidewalk and drainage improvements. The existing roadway will be reconstructed from the Palencia Elementary School driveway to Palencia Village Drive with curb-and-gutter,

new parking spaces, a raised crosswalk, sidewalk, drainage improvements, and utility improvements. A new piped stormwater system and multiple stormwater enhancements are incorporated within the design plans and roadway stormwater will outfall to an existing stormwater pond. The stormwater pond will need the outfall structure modified per the plans. Signing and pavement markings are also included within the design plans. Bidders must obtain and review the Bid Documents, including all Attachments and Exhibits, as well as any issued addenda, for full details and instructions regarding submittal format, full scope of services, minimum qualifications and all other information related to this Bid. Bid Documents are available for downloading from DemandStar, Inc., at their website www.demandstar.com, or from the SJC Purchasing Department upon written request to the Designated Point of Contact. BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA BRANDON J. PATTY, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT & COMPTROLLER BY: CRYSTAL SMITH, DEPUTY CLERK Pub: 03/13/25 03/20/25 #11113150

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT
Request for Qualification (RFQ)
No. 2025-03-PW Engineering,
Design, Permitting, and
Construction Phase Services For
Wastewater Effluent Forcemain
Replacement Project

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of DeFuniak Springs is soliciting sealed qualifications for Engineering, Design, Permitting, and Construction Phase Services For Wastewater Effluent Forcemain Replacement Project. Sealed RFQs will be received in the City Clerk's Office, City of DeFuniak Springs, 1350 Baldwin Avenue, PO Box 685, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435 on or by April 14, 2025, no later than 2:00 P.M. (local time). Bids will be opened immediately thereafter in CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 1350 Baldwin Avenue, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435. To be considered, Firm/Team must submit one (1) original on thumb drive along with one (1) hard copy of Statement of Qualifications in a sealed envelope or package, clearly marked with the Firm/Team's name and address, and the words "RFQ NO: 2025-03-PW ENGINEERING, DESIGN, PERMITTING, AND CONSTRUCTION PHASE SERVICES FOR WASTEWATER EFFLUENT FORCEMAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT" addressed to: Rafael Ali, City Clerk 1350 Baldwin Ave DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435 850-892-8500. All RFQs will be publicly opened and only the names of the Respondents will be disclosed. RFQs received after the assigned date and time will NOT be considered. ATTENTION ALL INTERESTED RESPONDENTS: Prospective respondents should contact the City Clerk's Office to obtain either an electronic or paper version of the RFQ documents by calling 850-892-8500, ext. 1103 or email cityclerk@defuniaksprings.net. NO CONTACT CLAUSE: All prospective Respondents are hereby instructed NOT to contact any member of the City of DeFuniak Springs, City Council, City Manager, or City of DeFuniak Springs staff member other than the authorized City contact person identified in this solicitation, or the City's designated procurement staff member, regarding this solicitation package, or the Respondent's submittal package, City's Intent to Award, or City's Intent to Reject (if applicable) at any time prior to the FORMAL AWARD for this project. Any such contact may be cause for rejection of your submittal. Any questions relative to any item or portion(s) of this solicitation should be directed to the City Clerk's Office at 850-892-8500, ext. 1103. Office Hours: MONDAY-FRIDAY, 8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M. or email at cityclerk@defuniaksprings.net. The City of DeFuniak Springs reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, waive any informality, and award in the best interest of the City of DeFuniak Springs. The City of DeFuniak Springs is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity/ADA Employer and a Drug-Free Workplace. CITY OF DEFUNIAK SPRINGS KOBAY TOWNSEND CITY MANAGER #11107289; 03/12/2025

REQUEST FOR BIDS
#25008
ST. AUGUSTINE MUNICIPAL MARINA & LIGHTHOUSE PARK BOAT RAMP DOCK REPAIRS

The City of St. Augustine is soliciting BIDS for the ST. AUGUSTINE MUNICIPAL MARINA & LIGHTHOUSE PARK BOAT RAMP DOCK REPAIRS. The docks require demolition and replacement of wood walers, thru-rods and floating concrete finger piers after being severely damaged because of Hurricane Milton.

NON-MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING
MARCH 26, 2025, AT 10:00 A.M.
ST. AUGUSTINE MUNICIPAL MARINA
111 AVENIDA MENENDEZ
ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA 32084

Electronic bids may be submitted through OpenGov. Sealed bids may be submitted into the General Services Department; Lobby D, 4th Floor, City Hall; 75 King Street; St. Augustine, Florida 32084. All bids must be submitted by 2:00 PM EDT on April 23, 2025. Any bids submitted after the time and date for receipt of bids will be rejected and/or returned unopened. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud promptly at 2:00 PM EDT. The sealed bids shall be mailed or delivered in person to:

Mailing Address
City of St. Augustine
General Services Department
Attn: Sharon Whitener
P.O. Box 210
St. Augustine, FL 32085-0210

Physical Address
City of St. Augustine
General Services Department
Attn: Sharon Whitener
75 King Street, Lobby D, 4th Floor
St. Augustine, FL 32084

Request for Bid documents may be obtained from: City of St. Augustine; General Services Department; 75 King Street, 4th Floor, Lobby "D", St. Augustine, Florida 32084 or by contacting Sharon Whitener, Procurement Manager at swhitener@citystaug.com. Vendors registered with OpenGov can download RFB Package No. 25008 at no cost from the website <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/staugustine>. The City of St. Augustine reserves the right, which is understood and agreed to by all respondents, to waive any informality in or to reject any or all of responses if deemed to be in its best interest. The City also reserves the right to award a contract on such material(s) as the City deems will best serve its interests. The City of St. Augustine is committed to the opportunity for diversity in the performance of all City of St. Augustine projects. All respondents are encouraged to make good faith efforts to ensure that women- and minority-owned businesses are given the opportunity for maximum participation in the supply and/or construction of the response components.

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES
SHARON WHITENER, CPPO, PROCUREMENT MANAGER

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the individual or agency sending notice not later than seven (7) days prior to the proceeding at the address given on notice. Sharon Whitener (904)209-4305; or 1-800-955-8771 (TDD) or 1-800-955-8770 (V), via Florida Relay Service.

Pub: March 14, 2025 #

SARASOTA COUNTY GOVERNMENT. Invitation For Bids Construction 252694MR: Transmission Main & Pump Station #3 Improvements

DESCRIPTION: Installing an extension to a 30-inch potable water transmission main along Ashton Rd to the County's portable water Pump Station #3 site. PS #3 work will include improvements to control the refill of the water storage tanks, SCADA controls, piping configurations, limited paving & minor site improvements as stated herein.

NON-MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING DATE/TIME: 3/25/2025 9:00 AM

LOCATION: Sarasota County Operations Center 1001 Sarasota Center Blvd. Sarasota, FL 34240

SUBMITTAL DUE DATE: 04/23/2025 at 02:30PM via OpenGov Procurement.

Solicitation documents are available at <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/scgov>. Bidders must be registered as a vendor in OpenGov Procurement prior to submitting a bid. Sarasota County is not responsible for the accuracy of solicitation documents and information obtained from any source other than OpenGov. Sarasota County prohibits discrimination in all services, programs, or activities. View the complete policy at scgov.net (keywords ADA compliance). Pub: 3/15/25; #11125341

Request for Quotes
-Water Meters-
Town of Campbellton
2345 Highway 2
Campbellton, FL 32426 (Owner)

Sealed QUOTES for the purchase of new water meters and components for the Town of Campbellton Water Meter Replacement Project will be received in the office of the Owner until 2:00 p.m., Local Time on April 7, 2025, at which time QUOTES will be opened and read aloud. The project consists of: The purchase of a new remote/electronic reading monitoring water meter system, including all new meter boxes, lids, and contents, and other service tubing/line and/or components as required to reconnect to the existing service tubing/line on the customer and utility side(s) of the meter. The Owner reserves the right to accept or reject any or all QUOTES, to waive any QUOTE informalities, and to re-advertise for QUOTES when deemed in their best interest. Questions should be directed in writing to Danny Taylor, at Town of Campbellton, de-taylor671@outlook.com. March 12 2025 LSAR0253508

RPS-25-00116 Professional ENGINEERING SERVICES for the South County Drinking Water Facility Project (Est. \$10,000,000).

Due March 28, 2025 at 2 pm Contact: Jacinta (JC) Pinckney - pinckneyj@hillsboroughcounty.org <https://hillsboroughcounty.bonfirehub.com/opportunities/169469>

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY COMMISSION, TAMPA - 813/272-5790 FAX: 813/272-6290 procurementservices@hcfllgov.net <https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/government>

SOLICITATION NOTIFICATION

City of Newberry
Finance Department
25440 W. Newberry Road
PO Box 369
Newberry, FL 32669

City of Newberry, Florida requests interested parties to submit formal sealed bids/proposals for the below referenced solicitation.

BID NUMBER: 2025-09

BID TITLE: BID EXPRESS: RFB 2025-09, Environmental Park Master Stormwater Basin

BID OPENING DUE DATE/TIME:

4/3/2025 at 2:00 PM, Local Time, Newberry, FL

PRE-BID/PROPOSAL CONFERENCE:
Non-Mandatory
Newberry City Hall 25440 W Newberry Road
Newberry FL 32669
2/27/2025 at 9:00 AM, Local Time, Newberry, FL

INSURANCE REQUIRED: No BID BOND: No

PURCHASING AGENT: Stephanie Puhalla (SPuhalla@NewberryFL.gov) 352 4722161

TO DOWNLOAD THIS SOLICITATION:

Suppliers must create a VendorLink account by registering directly at <https://www.myvendorlink.com>.

**Community Action Stops Abuse, Inc. (CASA)
CASA Emergency Shelter Improvements
#25249
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**

The Project consists of purchase and installation of two new water heaters for CASA's emergency shelter. Bids will be received for a single prime Contract. Bids shall be on a lump sum and unit price basis, with additive alternate bid items as indicated in the Bid Form. If you are interested, please contact Jill Flansburg at 727.895.4912 x116 or jflansburg@casapinellas.org to arrange for a pre-bid site visit, get photos of the current appliances, and scope of work. Sealed bids will be due at our headquarters at 1019 Arlington Avenue North, St. Petersburg before 9 a.m. on Thursday, March 27, 2025. A public bid opening will take place immediately following the receipt of the sealed bids at 9:01 a.m.

Davis Bacon Act: This project is federally funded through the Community Development Block grant Program (CDBG). The project is subject to the Federal labor Standards under the Davis-Bacon and related Acts. The current Wage Determination for this type of project is provided in the Bidding Documents. If the United State Department of Labor issues a new Wage Determination before the first bid is received, an updated Wage Determination will be issued for this project and notification will be provided of the change. These are the minimum wage/fringe rates established for each category of employee working on this project.

BABA Act: Contractor and subcontractor(s) must comply with the requirements of the Build America, Buy America (BABA) Act, 41 USC 8301 note, and all applicable rules and notices, as may be amended, if applicable to the Grantee's infrastructure project. Pursuant to HUD's Notice, "Public Interest Phased Implementation Waiver for FY 2022 and 2023 of Build America, Buy America Provisions as Applied to Recipients of HUD Federal Financial Assistance" (88 FR 17001), any funds obligated by HUD on or after the applicable listed effective dates, are subject to BABA requirements, unless excepted by a waiver.

City staff will review Davis-Bacon and Section 3 requirements and answer project questions. Please contact Sheera Greene at (727) 586-7489 X7216 or sgreene@largo.com with any Section 3 or Davis-Bacon questions.

Bid security shall be furnished in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.
03/16/25 28406b

**BAY HAVEN CHARTER
ACADEMY, INC.
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
FOR CONTINUING CIVIL
ENGINEERING SERVICES
CONTRACT**

(RFQ-CIVIL ENGINEERING-2025)
Bay Haven Charter Academy, Inc., is requesting Statements of Qualification from qualified firms to provide Civil Engineering Services. Services are needed at both Bay Haven Charter Academy, Inc., campuses and sports facilities for site planning and development, stormwater management and design, parking lot design, environmental permitting and compliance, construction administration and inspections for projects to include, but not be limited to, new construction, additions, renovations, restoration, maintenance and repair of all facilities and general consulting services as needed. The continuing services contracts will be for three (3) years.

The Request for Qualifications documents may be obtained free of charge by visiting <https://havenschools.org> or contacting Laura Adams, CFO, at swindlt@bayhaven.org or (850)248-3500 ext 112.

Responses should be mailed or hand-delivered to Bay Haven Charter Academy, Inc., 2501 Hawks Landing Blvd., Panama City, FL 32405, and must be received no later than 3:00 p.m., Central Time, Friday, March 28, 2025. The exterior of the package shall be clearly marked in bold, 12 point font, "RFQ-CIVIL ENGINEERING-2025", contain the name of the firm or person submitting the response and the package shall be sealed.

Bay Haven Charter Academy, Inc., reserves the right to reject any or all responses in whole or in part, to waive informalities in the process, to obtain new submittals, or to postpone the opening of the responses. Bay Haven Charter Academy, Inc., is an Equal Opportunity Employer. LAURA ADAMS, CFO
BAY HAVEN CHARTER ACADEMY, INC.
Pub: 3/16/25 3/19/25 3/23/25 #11131642

INVITATION FOR BID
Sealed Bids will be received by the City of Punta Gorda, Procurement Office, 126 Harvey St, Punta Gorda, FL, 33950 until 3:00 P.M. ET on April 14, 2025 for Solicitation #F2024108/CONS-CHEMSYSTEM/1620 Construction improvements to the Chemical Feed Systems located at the Shell Creek, Water Treatment Plant, Punta Gorda. Location for the opening is City Hall Annex, 2nd Floor, 126 Harvey Street, Punta Gorda, FL 33950. Solicitation information, including documents, is available on the City's website at www.pgorda.com or call (941) 575-3350. A Pre-Submittal Meeting is scheduled for March 27, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the City Hall Annex - 2nd Floor Conference Room, 126 Harvey St, Punta Gorda, FL. Bidders may attend this meeting via Internet Webinar. Mandatory Site Visits have been scheduled for March 27, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. and March 31, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. Bidders must attend one of the scheduled site visits.

In accordance with the

Americans with Disabilities Act and Florida Statute 286.26, the location of meetings related to this solicitation is accessible to persons with disabilities. If you are a person with disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this meeting, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Interpreters for the hearing impaired (TTY 941-575-5013) or non-English speaking citizens and any other special accommodations can be requested by contacting the Human Resources Manager/Non-Discrimination Coordinator whose address is 326 W. Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda, FL 33950, whose telephone number is (941) 575-3308, and whose email address is humres@pgorda.us, at least two (2) calendars days prior to the meeting.

/s/
Julie Rogan-Sutter, NIGP-CPP, CPPB
Senior Purchasing Agent
Publish: 03/13/25
102469 3954903

DB250125DWJ
Long Term Lift Station Recovery & Hardening Phase 2 & 3A
Request for Proposal (CCNA)
Lee County Procurement Management will receive sealed proposals in the Office of the Procurement Management Director, 2115 Second Street 1st Floor, Fort Myers, FL 33901 prior to 2:30 pm on Tuesday, April 15, 2025 from companies wishing to provide these goods/services to the County. A NON-Mandatory Pre-solicitation meeting is scheduled for 10:00 AM March 27, 2025 2115 Second St., 1 st Fl, Fort Myers, FL 33901. Solicitation documents and instructions may be secured from the website: www.leegov.com/procurement or by calling Procurement Management at (239) 533-8881.
March 14,2025 11113753

CITY OF LIGHTHOUSE POINT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Sealed bids will be received until Thursday, April 10, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. local time in the Office of the City Clerk, located in the Lighthouse Point City Hall, 2200 N.E. 38th Street, Lighthouse Point, Florida 33064. Subject to Florida's public records laws, proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud immediately thereafter in the Office of the City Clerk for:

"NE 21st Ave & NE 38th Street Drainage and Roadway Improvements Project"

RFP No. 2025-003

The selected firm will supply all labor, materials, equipment, and debris removal and disposal for the drainage and roadway improvements along NE 21st Ave & NE 38th Street in the City of Lighthouse Point. This project consists of paving and drainage, and its purpose is to eliminate standing water within the City right-of-way and the adjacent properties. The scope of work for this project includes, but is not limited to, the installation of a new drainage system and resurfacing of existing roadway.

It will be the sole responsibility of the Proposer to clearly mark proposal as such, and ensure that the proposal reaches the City prior to the proposal opening date and time listed. One (1) original and three (3) copies, and a flash drive, must be submitted in sealed packaging and clearly marked "NE 21st Ave & NE 38th Street Drainage and Roadway Improvements Project- RFP 2025-003" on all packaging, including any outer shipping package or envelope. Any uncertainty regarding the time a proposal is received will be resolved against the Proposer.

Bidding blanks, filing instructions, and specification may be obtained in the Office of the City Clerk. Bids will not be accepted from anyone who obtains the bid documents from any other party. The bid is advertised on www.demandstar.com and the Sun Sentinel newspaper.

A Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on March 21, 2025 at 10:00 a.m., local time, in the City Commission Chambers, 2200 NE 38th Street, Lighthouse Point, Florida, 33064. Although attendance is not mandatory, it is strongly encouraged.

A certified check, cashier's check, bank officer's check, or bid bond for the sum of TEN PERCENT (10%) of the bid amount, made payable to the City of Lighthouse Point, Florida, must accompany each Proposal as evidence of the good faith and responsibility of the Proposer.

Pursuant to Florida law, all responses to this Request for Proposals are exempt public records until thirty (30) days after opening, or award of proposal, whichever is sooner. In the event presentations are conducted, all responders will be required to exit the room during the presentations of the other responders as portions of selection committee meetings at which presentations are made are exempt from Florida's public meeting laws.

The City of Lighthouse Point reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, to waive any and all informalities and irregularities, and to accept or reject all or any part of any proposal as they deem to be in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Lighthouse Point, or the City may reject proposals and re-advertise.

Contact the Office of the City Clerk's Office, at 954-943-6500 or lhadmin@lighthousepoint.com with any questions concerning this Request for Qualifications.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HAMILTON COUNTY WILL RECEIVE BIDS FOR THE FOLLOWING:
GIBSON PARK BOARDING PIER IMROVEMENTS - PHASE ONE
NORTH FLORIDA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, INC.
PROJECT NO.: L210412HAM

Date & Time for Receiving Bids: 2:00 PM, LOCAL TIME
Monday, April 14, 2025
Late bids will not be considered.

Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting: 10:30AM, LOCAL TIME
Monday, March 24, 2025 Hamilton County Board Room 207 NE First Street
Jasper, FL 32052

Deadline for Questions: Friday, April 4, 2025, 5:00 PM

Date & Time for Bid Opening: Monday, April 14, 2025, 2:00 PM

Place for Receiving Bids: Hamilton County Clerk of Courts
207 NE First Street Jasper, FL 32052
(386) 792-1288

Bid Documents Available from: NORTH FLORIDA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, INC.
NFPS website at <https://nfps.net/bid-opportunities/>
P.O. Box 3823
Lake City, Florida 32056
(386) 752-4675, FAX (386) 752-4674
Contact: Debbie Motes (dmotes@nfps.net)

Deposit for Bid Documents: Payment of \$200.00 per paper set with a two (2) set maximum or the bidding documents may be retrieved at no cost to the Contractor via the NFPS website at <https://nfps.net/bid-opportunities/>
Payments from Contractors are non-refundable. Bidders using partial sets of Documents are fully responsible for any errors or omissions made due to not reviewing the entire set of Construction Documents.

Project Description: This project consists of improving the existing floating boarding pier by constructing six (6) steel piles and an additional forty (40) feet of floating boarding pier to secure a total of one hundred twenty (120) feet of floating boarding pier. The floating boarding pier will be secured to the steel piles with pile hoops. Also included are modifications to the existing gangway to allow the system to float freely up and down the steel piles. Minor drainage improvements include stabilizing two (2) erosion areas with rip rap material and installing a drainage pipe with one (1) inlet to prevent future erosion. See the plan sheets and specifications for all details.

Date of Advertisement: March 12, 2025 & March 19, 2025.

HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
11109567 3/12,3/19/25

El Jobean Water Association, Inc.
Request for Qualifications
Engineering Services for

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING
SERVICES FOR THE PLANNING,
DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
OF THE WATER ASSOCIATION
BUILDING PROJECT

The El Jobean Water Association, Inc is requesting a statement of qualification proposals from firms interested in providing Planning, Design and Engineering services under the **USDA 2022 Disaster Recovery grant.** Proposals will be accepted until 12:00 p.m. EST on Friday, April 25, 2025, in the office of the El Jobean Water Association, Inc., located at 14410 Pambar Ave, Port Charlotte, FL 33953. Please Contact: Jennifer Barron, 941-625-5578 or eljowater@gmail.com for RFQ Packet.
Publish: 03/14/25
425798 3955165

2025-164-ND WET SCREEN HAULING SERVICES

Due April 17, 2025 at 3 pm

CITY OF MIAMI BEACH - 305/673-7490 procurement@miamibeachfl.gov <https://www.miamibeachfl.gov/city-hall/procurement/>

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION, MIAMI -
305/375-5773 FAX: 305/372-6184

PALM BEACH COUNTY
NOTICE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DESIGN PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING SERVICES
PROJECT NAME: OCEAN INLET PARK COASTAL RESILIENCY RESTORATION
PROJECT #2024-027761
Pursuant to Florida Statutes 287.055 and County PPM# CW-O-048, notice is hereby given that Palm Beach County requires design professional services for the following project:
Architectural/Engineering services for the design, permitting and construction administration for the development of the OCEAN INLET PARK COASTAL RESILIENCY RESTORATION project located at 6990 North Ocean Boulevard, Boynton Beach, Florida 33435. This project encompass full range of the project scope including but not limited to ; replacement seawalls at higher elevation, existing sea wall removal, ADA compliance, site lighting, improved restroom facilities, re-align parking, and upland park improvements. The Request for Proposals (RFP) may be downloaded from the Countys on-line Vendor SelfService (VSS) system at: <https://pbcvssp.pbc.gov/vssprd/Advantage4>. Or, interested parties may obtain a copy of the RFP for this solicitation by emailing FDO-CID-Bids@pbc.gov or by phone (561) 233-0261. Include the words OCEAN INLET PARK COASTAL RESILIENCY RESTORATION in the subject line of any e-mail regarding this solicitation.

Proposals are due by 3:00 P.M. on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at the Palm Beach County Facilities Development & Operations Department, 2633 Vista Parkway, West Palm Beach, FL 33411-5604.
Non-Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference.
Proposers are invited to attend a non-mandatory preproposal conference to be held on April 3, 2025, at 10:00 AM. at the following location: 2633 Vista Parkway, West Palm Beach - 1st Floor, Training Room 1W-55. Attendance at this preproposal conference is strongly recommended and encouraged Responses will be evaluated based on the selection criteria set out in the RFP including the Affirmative Procurement Initiatives (APIs) determined by the Countys Goal Setting Committee. The APIs for this solicitation are: Up to 15 points shall be awarded based on the level of SBE dollar participation committed to on the prime respondent team (contracts \$500,000 and greater) The SBE goal for this project is a mandatory minimum of 20% participation. A mandatory SBE and/or MBE goal applies to this solicitation, so any proposal that fails to comply with the required goal shall be deemed non-responsive after the period allowed for waiver requests has lapsed. If a proposer is unable to comply with a required goal, such proposer shall submit a request for a waiver or partial waiver at least 7 days prior to the proposal due date. If a proposer requests a waiver from a goal from the Office of EBO at least 7 days prior to the proposal due date, then the proposal due date will be

extended pending the outcome of a waiver request. Additionally if the waiver is granted the solicitation will be amended accordingly and the due date extended again. Fillable pdfs of all EBO forms can be found on the OEBO website at <http://discover.pbcgov.org/oebo/Pages/Compliance-Programs.aspx>. Also, see the EBOOrdinance and Countywide PPM CW-O-043 for further information on the Countys EBO Program.
Prior to submission of a proposal, any firm or individual, as prime consultant or as a sub-consultant, desiring to provide architectural, engineering, landscape architectural, or surveying and mapping professional services to Palm Beach County must first be CCNA certified by the Countys Engineering and Public Works Department as qualified pursuant to law, and in accordance with the most recent administrative procedures for awarding of design professional consulting contracts adopted by Palm Beach County. Information regarding the design consultant certification process may be obtained at: <http://discover.pbcgov.org/engineering/roadwayproduction/Pages/CCNA.aspx>
Palm Beach County reserves the right to waive any irregularities or reject any and all proposals.
ATTEST:
JOSEPH ABRUZZO, CLERK
& COMPTROLLER
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

NOTICE TO RECEIVE SEALED BIDS
Date of Publication for this bid notice: March 14, 2025
The Town of Penney Farms will receive sealed bids from any qualified person, company or corporation interested in constructing the following project:
Town of Penney Farms Water Line Replacement Project
This project will include replacing four (4) segments of water lines and related components that total over 1,600 LF, including sidewalk replacement and new ADA-compliance sidewalk ramps. This project will be funded by a Community Development Block Grant and is subject to State and Federal regulations as indicated in the specification package (Grant # 23DB-N14).
TO OBTAIN SPECIFICATIONS/ DRAWINGS/PLANS (BID PACKAGE):
Interested parties should send an email to Michael.schofield@ice-eng.com to request an electronic copy of the bid package.
NON MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING: A NON mandatory Virtual Pre-Bid Meeting, will be held on **March 26, 2025, at 10:00 AM local time.** Interested parties should check the City of Penney Farms website for the Teams meeting link and information. The link will also be provided to those parties requesting a bid package. **LAST DAY FOR QUESTIONS:** Any questions are to be submitted via email to Michael.schofield@ice-eng.com no later than **April 4, 2025.** Answers to questions received will be released via addendum. Changes, if any, to the scope of the services or bid procedures will be transmitted only via written addendum and will be sent to those that requested a bid package and to others upon request.
BIDS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED TO: Anita Cooper, Town Clerk, 4100 Clark Avenue, Penney Farms, Florida 32079. Bids shall be delivered by USPS or other mail delivery method, or in-person (electronic bid submissions will not be accepted). Bids must be submitted no later than **10:00 A.M on April 21, 2025** local time. Bids received after this time and date will be considered nonresponsive. Submit one original and two copies of your bid in a sealed envelope with the words **"Sealed Bid for Penney Farms Water Line Replacement Project #23DB-N14"** written on the outside of the envelope.
BID OPENING: On **April 21, 2025, at 11:00 AM.** The Town will open bids at the Town Council Chambers at 4100 Clark Avenue, Penney Farms, Florida 32079.
The bid must conform to Section 287.133(3) Florida Statutes, on public entity crimes. Also, the completion date for this project will be **120 days** from the date of the Notice to Proceed presented to the successful bidder.
The Town of Penney Farms reserves the right to waive informalities in any bid, to accept and/or reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid that in their judgment will be in the best interest of the Town.
STATEMENT REGARDING RESPONSIBLE VENDOR DETERMINATION: Respondent is hereby notified that Section 287.05701, Florida Statutes, requires that the Town may not request documentation of or consider a vendor's social, political, or ideological interests when determining if the vendor is a responsible vendor.

Fair Housing, Handicap Access,
Equal Opportunity Jurisdiction

March 14, 2025

INVITATION TO BID
PROJECT NAME: N. St. Clair Abrams Treatment Pond
OWNER/BID NO: CITY OF TAVARES / 2025-0006
LOCATION OF PROJECT: City of Tavares
DESCRIPTION OF WORK: **Construction of a new Stormwater Treatment Pond, Parking Lot, Pedestrian Walkways, and Covered Pavilions at Eagle Park in Tavares, Florida**
MANDATORY PRE-BID CONFERENCE:
Tuesday, March 25, 2025, 10:00 am at Tavares City Hall, 201 East Main St, Tavares 32778
RECEIPT OF BIDS:
Sealed bids for the work described herein shall be received by: **2 P.M. Thursday April 10, 2025** at Tavares City Hall, 201 E. Main Street, Tavares, Florida 32778, and then at 2:05 P.M. the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.
ALL BIDS MUST BE CLEARLY MARKED "SEALED BIDS" AND WHETHER HAND DELIVERED OR MAILED MUST BE AT THE PURCHASING DEPARTMENT, CITY OF TAVARES, BEFORE THE ABOVE STATED DEADLINE TO BE CONSIDERED. Please provide one (1) original, two (2) copies of bid and one Digital copy preferably in PDF.
INFORMATION REGARDING BIDDING MATERIAL, ETC:
Complete plans and specifications may be downloaded from the City of Tavares website <https://www.tavares.org/bids.aspx> or <https://demandstar.com>, or a hardcopy review at the City of Tavares, contact Alex Patton, Purchasing Manager; e-mail: alex.patton@tavaresfl.gov. All requests for further information should also be addressed to Alex Patton (contact info listed above).
3/16/2025 7783209

CITY OF PALM COAST
INVITATION TO BID
ITB-UT-25-39

2025 SEWER GRAVITY MAIN REPAIR 2: UTAH PLACE

SCOPE OF SERVICES: The City of Palm Coast is soliciting bids from qualified companies to provide construction services to replace 30ft of 8-inch sewer pipe on Utah PL. that is approximately 7ft deep. This project will take place on a road with one way in and out. Bid to include replacing road base with OPTIONAL BASE, BASE GROUP 09 and pavement with Asphalt Concrete Friction Course, Traffic C, FC - 9.5, PG 76-22, 1.5". The contractor must hold a valid General Contractor's license and Florida Underground certification and provide all necessary equipment, personnel, and tools while meeting city roadway standards. Responsibilities include restriping resurfaced areas, obtaining required permits, and furnishing a Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) plan per FDOT standards. The contractor is liable for any damage to the city's right-of-way, road surfaces, or private properties and must secure the construction site per city codes to ensure public safety.

CONTRACT TIME: Total construction time to achieve Substantial Completion on both sites is thirty (30) consecutive calendar days from the date of the "Notice to Proceed," with an additional thirty (30) consecutive calendar days to achieve Final Completion.

DOCUMENT, AVAILABILITY, SUBMISSION, OTHER INFORMATION: Bid documents are available at no-cost through the City's Procurement Portal at (<https://palmcoastgov.bonfirehub.com/portal>). Bid submittals shall be received electronically through the City's Procurement Portal by the specified time and date. No other method of submission will be allowed or considered (i.e. mailed, emailed, or hand delivered). **CONTACT:** All prospective Bidders are hereby instructed not to contact any member of the City of Palm Coast City Council, City Manager, or City of Palm Coast staff members other than the noted contact person(s) regarding this bid/request at any time prior to the bid/request having been formally presented to, and voted on by, the City Council. Any such contact shall be cause for rejection of your bid/request submittal.

QUESTIONS: Any questions concerning the intent, meaning and interpretations of the bid documents including the draft agreement, shall be requested in writing through the City's Procurement Portal Web Page (<https://palmcoastgov.bonfirehub.com/portal>) at least seven (7) calendar days prior to the due date.

ADDENDA: Should revisions to the bid documents become necessary; the City shall post addenda information on the City's Procurement Portal Web Page (<https://palmcoastgov.bonfirehub.com/portal>). All Bidders should check the City's Procurement Portal Web Page at least three (3) calendar days before the date fixed to verify information regarding Addenda. Bidder shall sign, date, and return all addenda with their bid submittal. *Failure to do so shall result in rejection of the bid submittal as unresponsive.*

BID SECURITY/BID BOND: A Bid Bond shall accompany each Bid if the Bid amount is one-hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) or greater. The Bid Bond shall be for an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the Bid price and shall be made payable to the City as a guarantee that the Bidder will not withdraw his/her Bid for a period of one hundred twenty (120) days after the Bid closing time. **PERFORMANCE, PAYMENT, & MATERIAL AND WORKMANSHIP BONDS:** In the event the Contract is awarded to the Successful Bidder and will enter into a written Agreement with the City and furnish a Payment Bond and Performance Bond in an amount equal to the Contract Price. The Material and Workmanship Bond shall be in an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the Contract Price as adjusted on the Final Application for Payment. The Bidder will forfeit their Bid Security if they fail to do so. All Bonds shall be secured from or countersigned by an agency or surety company recognized in good standing and authorized to do business in the State of Florida. **AWARD OF CONTRACT:** All submittals will be evaluated by City staff in accordance with the criteria set forth in the bid documents. The City reserves the right to reject all bids/submittals, and to solicit and re-advertise for new bids, or to abandon the project in its entirety at any time during the process including, but not limited to, after the Notice of Intent to Award. Pursuant to Florida Statutes § 287.05701, the City will not will not give preference to or request documentation of or consider a vendor's social, political, or ideological interests when determining the vendor's qualifications.

MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING: N/A

QUESTION DEADLINE: March 19, 2025 at 2:00 PM

QUALIFICATIONS AND BID DEADLINE: March 28, 2025 at 2:00 PM

PUBLIC OPENING: The public opening shall take place March 28, 2025 at 2:00 PM, or shortly thereafter, at the City of Palm Coast City Hall, located at 160 Lake Avenue, Palm Coast, FL 32164.

ADA INFORMATION: Persons with disabilities needing assistance to participate in any of the proceedings should contact the Human Resources Office ADA Coordinator at 386-986-2570 at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the public opening, pre-bid meeting, or any other proceeding related to this bid.

FOR PUBLICATION ON WEDNESDAY, March 12, 2025

CITY OF PALM COAST BUDGET AND PROCUREMENT OFFICE
160 LAKE AVENUE, PALM COAST, FL 32164
www.palmcoastgov.com
(386) 986-3730

NT#11105061 3/12/2025 11

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF BID
SPECIFICATIONS

REQUEST FOR BIDS
CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA

The County of Charlotte will be receiving sealed bids at the Purchasing Division, Suite 344, Charlotte County Administration Center, 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, FL 33948-1094, for:

BID NO. 20250328
HURRICANE IAN REPAIRS AT
VARIOUS VACUUM STATIONS

It is the intent of Charlotte County to secure the services of a licensed Contractor to provide services to remove, repair, and/or replace damages to three (3) vacuum stations on various lands owned or maintained by the County, due to Hurricane Ian.

Local licenses required:
Certified/Registered General or
Certified/Registered Building

PRE-BID CONFERENCE:
9:00 a.m.. March 25, 2025
LS #59 SKYLARK VAC
STATION
We will visit each site.

BID OPENING: 2:00 p.m.,
April 9, 2025
PURCHASING DIVISION
CONFERENCE ROOM

Bid Documents may be obtained by accessing the Charlotte County Purchasing Division's website at <https://purchasingbids.charlotte-countyfl.gov> under "Purchasing Bids Online", document number 253282. Any questions can be answered by contacting Mike Gallagher, Contract Specialist at 941.743.1377 or email: michael.gallagher@charlottecountyfl.gov.

OPTIONAL ELECTRONIC BID SUBMISSIONS: If your firm would like to submit your bid electronically, please visit <http://bit.ly/3TYAyKa> and follow given instructions.
Publish: 03/17/25
163352 3955265

VERONA WALK COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
NOTICE OF REQUEST
FOR DISTRICT ENGINEER
QUALIFICATIONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Verona Walk Community Development District ("District") is soliciting Professional Service Proposals from Engineering Firms for their service in the role as the Engineer for the District. Any qualified Engineering Firm interested in providing services must submit a proposal pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth herein and in the hereinafter referenced Proposal Packet.

It is the District's intent to select one (1) District Engineer pursuant to the provisions of Section 287.055, Florida Statutes, (the "Consultant's Competitive Negotiations Act").

The services to be provided by the District Engineer may include but are not limited to: Engineering Services on behalf of the District's Board of Supervisors pursuant to applicable provisions of Chapter 189 and 190, Florida Statutes, (the District's enabling legislation); attendance at one or more monthly District Board of Supervisor public meetings and various Staff meetings in order to coordinate, consult and provide professional engineering advice on an "as needed" basis; preparation and provision of engineering studies, environmental studies, permitting, required annual reports, facility maintenance programs, Public Facility Reports, Plans of Improvement and related Reports of Engineer; design, bidding and construction phase services for such construction activity as is needed in order to implement a Plan of Improvement or Report of Engineer and the provision of assistance, review and recommendation services regarding construction payments, change orders and certifications of completions of construction activities; provision of and consultation on technical engineering standards and specifications; technical representations before and with other governmental agencies and entities and the provision of such other engineering services as may be authorized by the District's Board of Supervisors.

Engineering Firms interested in submitting a proposal shall contact Kathleen Meneely via e-mail: kmeneely@sdsinc.org or by telephone at 561-630-4922, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, to obtain an electronic Proposal Packet and if there are any questions regarding this matter.

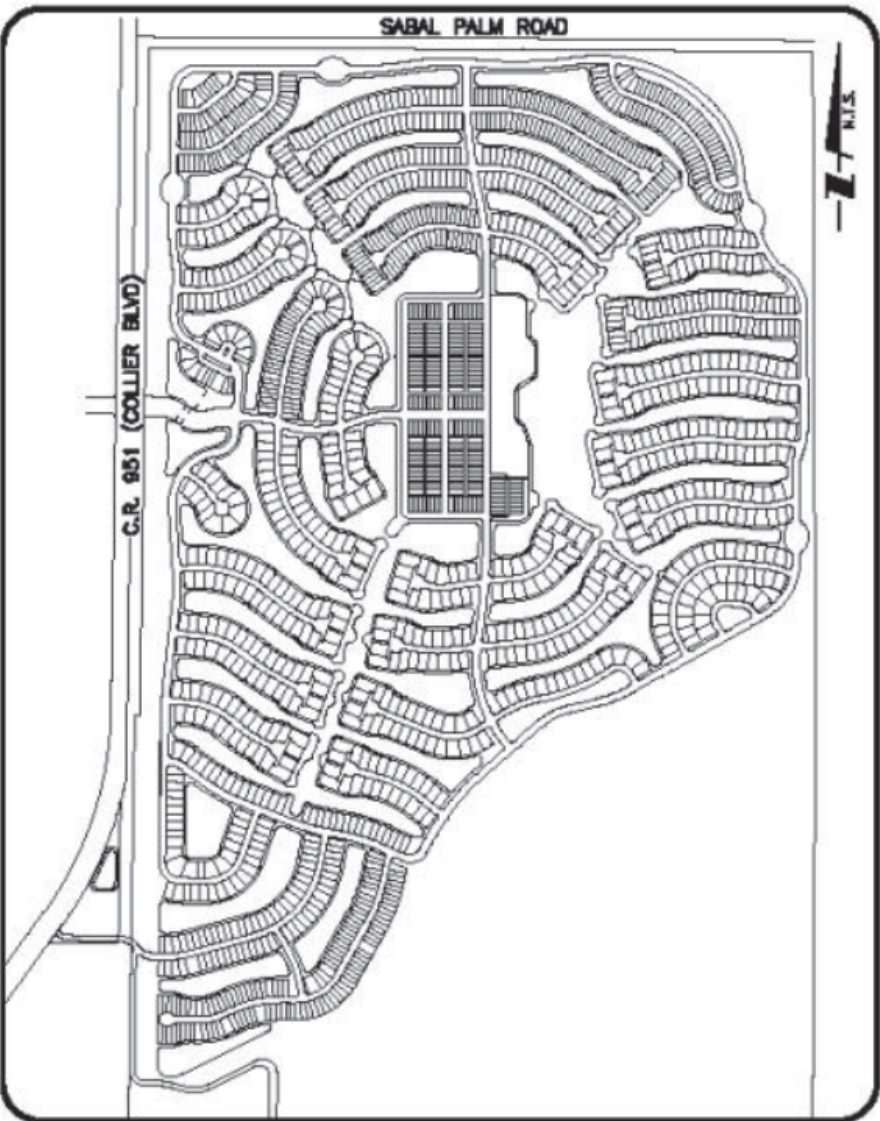
Proposals are required to be delivered to the office of the Verona Walk Community Development District, c/o Special District Services, Inc., 2501A Burns Rd., Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410, by no later than Noon, EST, on Friday, April 11, 2025. A person or affiliate who has been placed on the convicted vendor list following a conviction for a public entity crime may not submit a Bid on a Contract to provide any goods or services to a public entity, may not submit a Bid on a Contract with a public entity for the construction or repair of a public building or public work, may not be awarded or perform work as a Contractor, Supplier, Subcontractor, or Consultant under a Contract with any public entity, and may not transact business with any public entity in excess of the threshold amount provided in Section 287.017, Florida Statutes, for Category Two for a period of 36 months from the date of being placed on the convicted vendor list.

The District reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive informalities and to re-advertise. There will be no fees paid to any firm for answering this RFQ.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
VERONA WALK COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

PUBLISH: NAPLES DAILY NEWS 03/14/25

VERONA WALK COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT



SITE MAP

ND-41433317

Perdido Estates Stormwater Improvements

Invitation To Bid Purchasing 91187, 91200, 91339, 91345, 91350, 96873

Project ID: PD 24-25.068

Due Date: Thursday, April 3, 2025 10:00am

Perdido Estates Subdivision is located within Escambia County and consists of a stormwater network and two ponds discharging to the wetlands on the north side of the subdivision. The existing ponds are not functioning as intended based on the design plans dated August 2003. The purpose of this project is to improve conveyance and reduce the flooding within the neighborhood. The proposed design includes a replacement and upgrade of the existing stormwater conveyance system to reduce existing flooding in this area. These proposed improvements to the stormwater system include de-silting and restoration of the existing pond bottoms, upsizing existing storm-drain, and the addition of inlets and storm-drain.

1.2. Background

Perdido Estates Subdivision has a drainage system in disrepair, and two non functioning stormwater ponds.

1.3. Contact Information

Travis Simmons

Purchasing Specialist

213 Palafox Place

Pensacola, FL 32502-5822

Email: rtsimmons@myescambia.com

Phone: (850) 595-4918

Department:

Question Submission Deadline: March 28, 2025, 12:00pm

Bid Opening: April 3, 2025, 10:00am

https://teams.microsoft.com/j/!meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YjQwMzgxCjYtZDBjYS00NDJiLTJhNWQtdNzNiMjk1MTE2ZGU0%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%222c937adb-d946-4b31-90cc-a32f7d460fcd%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%225d570b26-f7b8-4755-a254-bfa07774eb30%22%7d

Meeting ID: 267 569 546 069

Passcode: RZ7hF6is

Dial in by phone

+1 863-333-5817,,750712146# United States, Lakeland

Find a local number

Phone conference ID: 750 712 146#

Purchasing Sm Conference Room

221 Palafox PI, 32502

Pensacola, FI

2nd Floor

RFP 25-308

RFPs for Professional CEI SERVICES for Roads & Drainage Construction. Due April 9, 2025 at 2 pm Questions Due: 4:00 pm, 3/31/25. Contact: Ken Brush - kenbrush@polk-county.net

POLK COUNTY COMMISSION, BARTOW - 863/534-6757 procurement@polk-county.net

SEWER REHABILITATION & MAINTENANCE AND INFILTRATION AND INFLOW REDUCTION PROGRAM

BID No. 25-37-03-MS

THE CITY OF SUNRISE, FLORIDA (hereinafter "the City") will receive, open, and publicly read aloud bids for the above-referenced matter at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 17, 2025, at City Hall, First Floor, 10770 W. Oakland Park Blvd., Sunrise, Florida 33351. A description of the Project is as follows:

Scope of Work: The Work for this project consists of, but is not limited to, furnishing all tools, equipment, materials, supplies, manufactured articles, and for furnishing all transportation and services, including fuel, power, water, and essential communications, and for the performance of all labor, work necessary for performing sanitary sewer repairs, and/or other operations, in accordance with the Bid Documents. The work will occur within the City of Sunrise Utilities service area and will be performed on an as needed basis utilizing work orders.

The principal features of the Work to be performed under this Contract include the following sewer system rehabilitation "Groups", which include, but are not limited to, the primary tasks listed below:

Group "A" - Excavated Point Repairs: Excavated point repairs, cleanout installation, bypass pumping, surface restoration, and television survey.

Group "B" - Manhole Rehabilitation: Replacing manhole frames and covers and performing other miscellaneous manhole repairs, installing cementitious and epoxy manhole liners, replacing entire manholes, and bypass pumping.

Group "C" - Mainline and Lateral Lining: Cured-in-place pipelining for gravity mains, cured-in-place pipelining for laterals, chemical grouting of mainline joints and mainline/lateral connections, and associated work such as cleaning and preparation, television survey, lateral reinstatement, cleanout installation, and bypass pumping; fold and form lining. NASSCO MACP Manhole Inspections, Level 1 and Level 2.

Group "D" - Smoke Testing: Smoke Testing of lift station basin areas to identify sources of direct stormwater runoff ("direct inflow") to the sanitary sewer system, and potential illicit discharges into the system.

Location: The work will occur within the City of Sunrise Utilities service area and be performed on an as needed basis.

Qualification Requirement: The vendor shall have a valid State of Florida General Contractor's License or Underground Utility Contractor's License and shall have successfully completed at least five (5) projects of similar size, type, and complexity in the State of Florida within the last five (5) years. Where bidder proposes to subcontract any of the specialty tasks, submittals shall be made for qualified subcontractors as specified in the bid documents. The City shall be the sole and final judge in determining if the Contractor meets the Qualification Requirement.

Drawings, specifications and other Contract documents may be examined at the Sunrise Purchasing Division, 3rd Floor, City Hall, 10770 W. Oakland Park Blvd., Sunrise, FL 33351.

This bid may be obtained at [www.de-](http://www.de-mandstar.com)

[mandstar.com](http://www.de-mandstar.com).

Special accommodation: If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based F.S.S. 286.0105.

The City does not tolerate discrimination in any of its programs, services or activities; and will not exclude participation in, deny the benefits of, or subject to discrimination anyone on the grounds of real or perceived race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability/handicap, religion, family or income status. In compliance with the ADA and F.S.S. 286.26, any individual with a disability requesting a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in a public meeting should contact the City's ADA Coordinator at least 48 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting. Requests can be directed via e mail to hr@sunrisefl.gov or via telephone to (954) 838-4522; Florida Relay: 711; Florida Relay (TIY/VCO): 1-800-955-8771; Florida Relay (Voice): 1-800-955 8770. Every reasonable effort will be made to allow for meeting participation.

After any Bid is opened, any information concerning the solicitation shall be available only through the City Attorney, Procurement Manager or an individual specifically named in the solicitation. See City of Sunrise Ordinance No. 486, as amended, for details.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS EXTENDED SUBMISSION PERIOD

FOR CONSTRUCTION SERVICES LAUREL ROAD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA LAUREL ROAD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (DISTRICT) requests Qualifications Submittals from firms interested in providing civil/site construction services. Upcoming projects include construction of roadway improvements, stormwater management facilities, utilities, landscaping, irrigation, street lighting, and certain other infrastructure in Sarasota County, Florida.

To be eligible to submit qualifications, firms must hold all required applicable state licenses in good standing, hold all required applicable federal licenses in good standing, and be authorized to do business in the State of Florida.

Applicants may request a Qualifications Submittal Package via email

from AM Engineering, LLC (District Engineer). (Email echilders@amengfl.com for package) Applicants must submit the Qualifications Submittal Package by 1:00 PM on the extended deadline date of Monday, March 24, 2025. Only electronic submissions will be accepted. Please submit everything electronically to Bobbi R. Claybrooke, PE at bclaybrooke@amengfl.com and cc Erin Childers at echilders@amengfl.com.

Qualified firms will be selected based on experience, qualifications of personnel, and ability to perform construction services. Packages will be reviewed and rated by a qualifications committee. At that time, all qualified firms will be assigned a project and aggregate dollar limit for potential work under contract. All applicants will be promptly notified after the construction firms are selected. The pre qualification decisions of the Board of Supervisors shall be valid for a period of three

(3) years.

Qualified firms will be eligible to bid or propose on construction projects subject to the firms' project and aggregate limits. Failure to pre-qualify may preclude LAUREL ROAD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT from awarding construction contracts to any non-prequalified firm. All firms interested in bidding on construction contracts to be let by the DISTRICT are strongly encouraged to submit for pre-qualification. However, the DISTRICT is not obligated to select prequalified firms, and at its sole discretion reserves the right to solicit bids or proposals from non-prequalified contractors for specific projects in the best interests of the DISTRICT.

Applicants may contact the District Engineer, Bobbi R. Claybrooke, P.E., AM Engineering, LLC. at bclaybrooke@amengfl.com until the qualifications' submittal deadline for further information. Pub: 03/17/25 #11126975

**PALM COAST 145 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR MASS GRADING PROJECT**

Notice is hereby given that the Palm Coast 145 Community Development District ("District") will receive proposals for the following project ("Project"):

RFP FOR COMPREHENSIVE SITE DEVELOPMENT:

**EARTHWORK, ROADWAY CONSTRUCTION, STORMWATER MANAGEMENT,
AND UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEMS**

The Project will require contractors to provide for the construction, labor, materials, and equipment necessary to construct all work, or a portion thereof, necessary for the Mass Grading Project portion of the District's Capital Improvement Plan, as more particularly described in the Project Manual (defined herein) and in accordance with the plans and specifications therein.

The Project Manual, consisting of the proposal package and other materials, will be available for public inspection and may be obtained beginning **March 14, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.** by email request only from Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC (the "**District Manager**") at kantarzhia@whhassociates.com. The District reserves the right in its sole discretion to make changes to the Project Manual up until the Response Deadline (defined herein), and to provide notice of such changes only to those respondents who have provided their contact information to the District Manager via e-mail at kantarzhia@whhassociates.com.

Proposals will be evaluated in accordance with the criteria included in the Project Manual. The District reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, make modifications to the work, award the contract in whole or in part with or without cause, provide for the delivery of the project in phases, and waive minor or technical irregularities in any proposal if it determines in its discretion that it is in the District's best interests to do so. Any protest of the Project Manual, including the terms and specifications, must be filed with the District within 72 hours of receiving the Project Manual, together with a protest bond in a form acceptable to the District and in the amount of \$10,000.00. In the event the protest is successful, the protest bond shall be refunded to the protestor. In the event the protest is unsuccessful, the protest bond shall be applied towards the District's costs, expenses and attorney's fees associated with hearing and defending the protest. Failure to timely file a protest will result in a waiver of proceedings under Chapter 190, Florida Statutes, and other law.

Firms desiring to respond to the District's request for proposals for the Project must submit five (3) bound hardcopies and one (1) electronic copy on a flash drive of the firm's proposal no later than **12:00 p.m. on April 16, 2025**, to the offices of Wrathell, Hunt, and Associates - 2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W, Boca Raton, Florida 33431 ("the **Response Deadline**"). Proposals must be in the form provided in the Project Manual and submitted in a sealed envelope, marked with "RESPONSE TO RFP - PALM COAST 145 CDD." The District reserves the right to return unopened to a respondent any proposal received after the Response Deadline. Each proposal must remain binding for a minimum of one hundred twenty (120) days after the Response Deadline.

Proposals are required to include a Proposal Guaranty in the amount of ten-thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) as specified in the Project Manual.

The District Manager will conduct a special public meeting immediately after the Response Deadline at the same location to publicly open the proposals. No official action will be taken at the meeting. The meeting is open to the public and will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Florida law including but not limited to Chapter 190, Florida Statutes. The meeting may be continued in progress without additional notice to a time, date, and location stated on the record. Pursuant to provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting is asked to advise the District Office at least forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting by contacting the District Manager at (561) 571-0010, or at 2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W, Boca Raton, FL 33431. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 1 (800) 955-8770, who can aid you in contacting the District Office.

The successful Proposer will be required upon award to furnish a payment and performance bond for one hundred percent (100%) of the value of the contract, with a Surety acceptable to the District, in accordance with section 255.05, Florida Statutes.

All questions regarding the Project Manual or this project shall be directed in writing via email only to the District Manager (kantarzhia@whhassociates.com) with email copies to Jonathan Johnson (District Counsel) at Jonathan.johnson@kutakrock.com. No phone inquiries will be accepted. All questions must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 11, 2025, to be considered.

March 13, 2025

25-00072G

LEGAL NOTICE
ITB 25-ES-01

“PARK AVE BOOSTER STATION REHAB AND DEMO”

Notice is hereby given that the City of Edgewater is accepting Sealed Bids via the City’s e-Procurement Portal, OpenGov for Park Ave. Booster Station Rehab and Demo, located at 2605 West Park Ave, (Latitude / Longitude: 28°58’58.29”N, 80°55’56.60”W). Bids will be received until 10:00 am, on Wednesday, April 30, 2025.

ITB 25-ES-01 “Park Ave. Booster Station Rehab and Demo.”

The City of Edgewater has issued this Invitation to Bid (hereinafter, “ITB”) with the sole purpose and intent of obtaining bids from qualified and licensed State of Florida Contractors to provide all permits, insurance, manpower, material and supervision for the Park Ave. Booster Station Rehab and Demo., in accordance with the terms and conditions herein. The successful bidder will hereinafter be referred to as the “Contractor”.

This project is funded by the EPA. Proposers must meet all State and Federal requirements.

A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, commencing promptly at 10:00 am, and will be held in person as well as via Zoom.

PLEASE NOTE - an onsite visit will occur immediately after the Pre-Bid conference. This visit will NOT be available via Zoom. A submission of a bid by the Contractor is considered a representation that the Contractor has visited the site and has carefully examined the site and is satisfied as to the conditions to be encountered in performing the work.

All required documents shall be completed and submitted through the City’s e-Procurement Portal.

City of Edgewater does not discriminate based on age, race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability or marital status.

This Public Notice has been posted on the City’s e-Procurement Portal, on the City of Edgewater Finance website: www.cityofedgewater.org, and in the Lobby of City Hall on Monday, March 17, 2025.

The following projected timetable should be used as a working guide for planning purposes only. The City reserves the right to adjust this timetable as required during the course of the ITB process.

Invitation to Bid Notice	March 17, 2025	
Pre-Bid Conference (non-mandatory)	March 26, 2025	10:00 am
Last Date for Receipt of Written Questions	April 7, 2025	2:00 pm
Addendum Issues (If Applicable)	April 16, 2025	4:30 pm
Bid Due / Opening Date	April 30, 2025	10:00 am
Notice of Recommendation	May 12, 2025	
City Council Hearing Date	June 2, 2025	6:00 pm

All related bid documents including links to Zoom meetings can be found via the City’s e-Procurement Portal: <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/edgewater/projects/139805>

March 17 2025

LDTB0256841

15-25 Comprehensive CLARIFIER MAINTENANCE Service at (3) Water Reclamation Facilities. Due April 3, 2025 at 10 am

CITY OF CLEARWATER - 727/562-4630 FAX: 727/562-4635

Questions Due: 10:00 am, 3/24/25. Contact: Lori Vogel – lori.vogel@myclearwater.com

2025022 Indian River Drive DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS – Culvert Replacement. Due April 1, 2025 at 2 pm

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY COMMISSION, VERO BEACH - 772/226-1416 FAX: 772/770-5140 purchasing@indianriver.gov

25-TA005858LP RFPs for SCADA SYSTEM MAINTENANCE & Repair Services. Due April 4, 2025 at 2 pm Contact: Leslie Peer - 941/749-0362 leslie.peer@mymanatee.org

MANATEE COUNTY COMMISSION, BRADENTON - 941/749-3014 FAX: 941/749-3034 purchasing@mymanatee.org

B250180JJB DREDGING of Sheffield Canal. Due April 2, 2025 at 2:30 pm Contact: Jake Bond - 239/533-8898 jbond@leegov.com

LEE COUNTY COMMISSION, FORT MYERS - 239/533-8881 FAX: 239/485-8383

ITB-25-17 GRAVITY MAIN LINING, Annual Contract. Due April 1, 2025 at 2 pm

CITY OF WINTER HAVEN - 863/298-5556 FAX: 863/297-3027 procurement@mywinterhaven.com

Questions Due: 2:00 pm, 3/21/25.

252687CG PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANT SERVICES to Aid the Utility With CMOM (Capacity, Management, Operation, & Maintenance) Program Enhancement & Continuous Improvement. Due April 9, 2025 at 2 pm

Questions Due: 2:30 pm, 3/28/25. Contact: Carmen Gomez - 941/363-1547 cgomez@scgov.net

SARASOTA COUNTY COMMISSION, SARASOTA - 941/861-5266 FAX: 941/861-5129

N257500MG

EMERGENCY RESPONSE, DISASTER RECOVERY, RESTORATION & REMEDIATION.

Due April 2, 2025 at 2 pm Contact: Melissa Gross – melissarg@leeschools.net <https://leeschools.bonfirehub.com/opportunities/174313>

LEE COUNTY SCHOOLS, FORT MYERS - 239/337-8180 FAX: 239/337-8200

Number BPW2530KMR (Hancock Bridge Parkway Storm Drain Improvement Project)

Close Date & Time 4/16/2025 03:00:00 PM (ET)

Question Cut Off Date 3/27/2025 03:00:00 PM (ET)

Time Left 34 days 9 hours 43 minutes 26 seconds

Notes The City of Cape Coral will receive bids for Hancock Bridge Parkway Storm Drain Improvement Project, BPW2530KMR. Detailed specifications may be obtained in this bid listing. Bids will be publicly opened at Cape Coral City Hall, 1015 Cultural Park Blvd, Cape Coral, FL 33990. The location of the bid opening, for those wanting to attend in person, can be found in this solicitation, under the "Activities" tab. Responses to this bid will be accepted via electronic submission only.

Contact Information

Name Kelsey Reed Procurement Specialist

Address 1015 Cultural Park Blvd

City Hall - 2nd Floor/Finance-Procurement

Cape Coral, FL 33990 USA

Phone

Fax

Email kreed@capecoral.gov

QQ-2025-014 Quote for Reclaimed Water GROUND STORAGE TANK CLEANING & INSPECTION, Including Site Mobilization, Staging & Demobilization, at Various Locations. Due March 26 2025 at 12 pm Questions Due: 2:00 pm, 3/24/25. <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/collier-county-fl/projects/145743>

COLLIER COUNTY COMMISSION, NAPLES - 239/774-8407 <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/collier-county-fl>

Y24-1051 **GREASE TRAPS & LIFT STATION MAINTENANCE With Septic Tank Pump-Outs for Facilities Management Division.**

Due April 3, 2025 at 4 pm

ORANGE COUNTY COMMISSION, ORLANDO - 407/836-5635 procurement@ocfl.net

Y25-759-EB **Moss Park WASTEWATER TREAT-
MENT PLANT UPGRADES (Est. \$1,825,000). Due April 8, 2025 at 4 pm** Questions Due: 5:00 pm, 3/21/25.

Contact: Elia Batista - 407/836-5635

elia.batista@ocfl.net

ORANGE COUNTY COMMISSION, ORLANDO - 407/836-5635 procurement@ocfl.net

INVITATION TO BID
NO. PW 01-00-03-25
CITY OF OKEECHOBEE TAYLOR CREEK SE 8TH AVENUE STORMWATER CONVEYANCE IMPROVEMENTS PHASE II
FDEP AGREEMENT NO. LPA0350
Mandatory Pre-Bid: March 26, 2025, 10:00 AM EST
Opening Date and Time: April 9, 2025, 3:00 PM EST
The City of Okeechobee, Florida (City) is currently soliciting Bids to provide construction services needed to replace drainage pipe and inlets along approximately 1,000 linear feet of SE 8th Avenue from SE 6th Court to SE 3rd Street with associated replacement of asphalt pavement, valley gutter, and concrete sidewalks as required. Sealed bids must be received within the General Services Department at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Avenue, Rm 101, Okeechobee, FL 34974, no later than 3:00 PM EST on or before Wednesday, April 9, 2025. All responses received by the deadline will be opened and recorded in the presence of one or more witnesses within the Council Chambers, Rm 200, at the address listed above. Any bids received after the above noted date and time will not

be opened or considered. Facsimile or emailed bids will not be accepted. A MANDATORY Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 10:00 AM EST in the Council Chambers, Rm 200, at the address listed above. Bidders MUST attend this meeting to submit for this bid. Product specifications are available in the Bid Packets that may be obtained on the City's website: www.cityofokeechobee.com/contracting-opportunities.html, or from the General Services Department at City Hall during normal office hours, Mon-Fri, 8 AM-4:30 PM, except holidays, or by contacting Patty Burnette, 863.763.9820, or via email at pburnette@cityofokeechobee.com. Direct questions concerning the scope of work in writing no later than 4:00 PM EST, on April 2, 2025, to Contracts Manager Andres Rodriguez, contract-manager@cityofokeechobee.com. NOTE: Bonding Requirements Apply to this Bid Opportunity. Bid submittals must be within a sealed envelope and contain two (2) clearly identified originals and one (1) copy of the bid, with the outside of the envelope clearly labeled BID NO. PW 01-00-03-25 CITY OF OKEECHOBEE TAYLOR CREEK SE 8TH AVENUE STORMWATER CONVEYANCE IMPROVE-

MENTS PHASE II 4-9-2025, 3:00 PM with the SUBMITTING COMPANY NAME, AND RETURN ADDRESS. Bids may be mailed, hand delivered and/or express mailed to the address listed above. Firms properly registered in the State of Florida are encouraged to submit their bid for consideration. It is the sole responsibility of the Bidder to deliver personally or by mail, their bid to the General Services Department on or before the closing hour and date for the receipt of bids as noted above. This solicitation does not commit the City of Okeechobee to award any contracts, to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of a response to this bid, or to contract for any services. The City Council reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive informalities and to accept or reject all or part of any bid, as they may deem to be in the best interests of the City of Okeechobee. Responses to this bid, upon receipt by the General Services Department, will become public records subject to provisions of Florida Statute Chapter 119 Florida Public Records Law. Date Issued: March 14, 2025 Pub: March 14, 2025 TCN11117452

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
PROCUREMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT
REQUESTS FOR BIDS AND/OR PROPOSALS
Hillsborough County will receive sealed bids and/or proposals for the following, until the stated date and time when they will be publicly opened.
April 18, 2025 2:00 PM
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NO. 25-00132
TITLE: RENEWABLE NATURAL GAS SOUTHEAST

COUNTY LANDFILL

Information on these and other Requests for Bids, along with Bid/Proposal results may be accessed at <http://www.hcflgov.net/vendors> Minority and women owned firms will be afforded a full opportunity to participate in these matters and will not be subject to discrimination on the

basis of race, sex, color or national origin. Questions regarding the above projects may be directed to Hillsborough County Board of Commissioners, Procurement Services Department, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd., 25th Fl., County Center, Tampa Florida, 33602, (813) 272-5790, during regular business hours. 03/16/2025 28624

REQUEST FOR BID (RFB)
NO. 6000001610
S65A C38 MAINTENANCE REPAIR PROJECT, POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA
The Procurement Bureau of the South Florida Water Management District, B-1 Building, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, Florida 33406, will receive sealed bids up to **April 17, 2025 @ 2:30 p.m.** opening time for S65A C38 MAINTENANCE REPAIR PROJECT, POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA. The project includes, but is not limited to, all the

necessary labor, materials, transport and installation of riprap, hauling from pit to project site and equipment for the scour repair on the downstream side of the S65A Gated Spillway Structure located on the C-38 Canal.
An OPTIONAL PRE-BID CONFERENCE will be held on March 25, 2025 @ 10:00 a.m. at the C38 Canal in Polk County, Florida, GPS Coordinates: 27.659531N 81.134379W. An Optional site visit will immediately follow. For directions call Nathaniel at (407) 891-3562.

All bids must conform to the instructions in the RFB. Interested respondents may obtain a copy of the complete RFB by downloading the solicitation from our website at www.sfwmd.gov/procurement. Further information on the status of this solicitation can be obtained on our web site - www.sfwmd.gov. or by calling 561-682-2011.

City of Brooksville
RFP-DWP-2025-0006
Cortez Blvd/SR 50 Pump Station Replacement Project
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Brooksville is advertising a Request for Proposals for RFP-DWP-2025-0006 Cortez Blvd/ SR 50 Pump Station Replacement Project. The bid will be released on Friday, March 14, 2025. Specifications will be posted on the City of Brooksville's website and on BidNetDirect (www.bidnetdirect.com). A link to the Florida Bid System (www.bidnetdirect.com) is also provided on the City's Website. Sealed responses must include all required documents contained in the request as well as the Bid Form.

Sealed and properly identified bid packets will be received by the City up to and including **10:00 a.m., Thursday, April 17, 2025** with the bid opening held immediately thereafter. The bid packets must be mailed or delivered to the City of Brooksville's Procurement Division, 201 Howell Ave., Brooksville, FL 34601. The Bid Opening will be held in the Joseph E. Johnston, III, Council Chambers (City Hall), 201 Howell Ave., Brooksville, FL 34601. **A Mandatory pre-bid conference will be held Thursday, April 3, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at the above location.** This will be followed by a site-visit. Questions must be submitted by Thursday, April 10, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. to BidNetDirect or [\[ment@cityofbrooksville.us\]\(mailto:ment@cityofbrooksville.us\). The Bid Evaluation Meeting will be held Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at the above location. The City reserves the right to reject, waive technicalities, and/or negotiate any or all qualifications and procedures. Packets not received for any reason by the due date/time will not be accepted. s/Jennifer J. Battista
City Clerk
Published: March 14, 2025](mailto:procure-</p></div><div data-bbox=)