

PALM BEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: July 2, 2024

Consent Regular
Public Hearing

Department: Water Utilities Department

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to:

A.) authorize the Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department (PBCWUD) to pursue funding from Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Resilient Florida Program for four (4) projects:

- 1) Project No. 21-059R (FDEP Agreement No. 22FRP75) Wastewater Lift Station LS 637 Hardening Improvements (LS 637) seeks additional funding for approximately \$500,000;
- 2) Project No. 22-012 (FDEP Agreement No. 22FRP71) Western Region Wastewater Treatment Facility (WRWWTF) Operations Building Replacement seeks additional funding for approximately \$10,000,000 (WRWWTF Ops Building);
- 3) Project No. 19-035 Western Region North Wastewater Treatment Facility and Wet Weather Improvements (WRNWWTF Project) seeks funding support for approximately \$7,300,000; and
- 4) Future Project WRWWTF Electrical Building Replacement (WRWWTF Electrical) seeks funding support for approximately \$10,000,000.

B.) delegate authority to the County Administrator, or her designee which in this case shall be the Director of PBCWUD, to sign all grant application forms and supporting documents and complete all registration requirements that do not substantially change the scope of work, terms, or conditions; and

C.) delegate authority to the County Administrator, or her designee which in this case shall be the Director of PBCWUD, to execute the forthcoming grant agreement and all future time extensions, task assignments, certifications, and other forms associated with the forthcoming grant agreement and any necessary minor amendments that do not substantially change the scope of work, terms, or conditions of the forthcoming grant agreement.

Summary: FDEP offers the Resilient Florida Program to enhance state efforts to prepare local communities with critical public infrastructures for the impact of sea level rise, intensified storms and flooding. On February 7, 2023, the Board of County Commissioners approved the Grant Agreement for LS 637 (R2023-0170) and WRWWTF Ops Building (R2023-0169) Projects. The LS 637 and WRWWTF Ops Building Projects were awarded in Fiscal Year 2021 of the Resilient Grant Program and are eligible for additional funding because of the rising construction costs. WRNWWTF Project and WRWWTF Electrical Projects will be new applications to further harden and mitigate PBCWUD critical assets and provide reliable service. **The grants for LS 0637, WRWWTF Ops, and WRWWTF Electrical Projects require a 50% match which will be funded from a one-time expenditure from Water Utilities user fees, connection fees and balance brought forward. The WRNWWTF Project requires no match. Districts 3 & 6 (MWJ)**

Background and Justification: On May 12, 2021, Governor Ron DeSantis signed Senate Bill 1954 into law that allocates funding to support a coordinated approach to Florida's coastal and inland resiliency. The Resilient Florida Program aids efforts to protect inland waterways, coastlines and shores, which serve as natural defenses against sea level rise, as well as, prepare communities for the impacts of climate change – including sea level rise, intensified storms, flooding, and inland mitigation.

Attachments:

- 1. FDEP Resilient Florida Program available notice

Recommended By:	<u>Kristin BBA Ar</u> Department Director	5-30-2024 Date
Approved By:	<u>Zel J. Blum</u> Assistant County Administrator	6/11/24 Date



Resilient Florida Grants

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[Apply for a Grant](#)

[Awards List](#)

[Current Grantee](#)

Virtual Office Hours: April-June 2024

Beginning **April 1, 2024**, the Program will hold Virtual Office Hours to offer assistance to current grantees and prospective grant applicants. The virtual office hours will be held twice weekly via Microsoft Teams (times and links to join below).

- **Current Grantee Assistance:** Throughout **April**, current grantees are encouraged to join the virtual office hours to ask questions related to their grant and to connect with Program staff from the Grants, Budget, Technical Support, and GIS sections. Questions may be related to your grant requirements such as quarterly progress reports (Exhibit A), deliverables, site visits, and payment requests (Exhibit C).
- **Pre-Application Assistance:** During these virtual office hours, the Planning & Policy staff will be available to assist with pre-application support including eligibility checks, draft application review, and requests for GIS assistance. The pre-application assistance office hours will be available from **April 1 until June 15, 2024**.

How to Attend the Virtual Office Hours:

WHEN: Tuesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m. EDT, [Join online](#)

Thursdays, 2:00-4:00 p.m. EDT, [Join online](#)

Please contact ResilientFloridaGrants@FloridaDEP.gov if technical assistance is needed with joining the office hours.

Please contact ResilientFloridaGrants@FloridaDEP.gov with any grant questions.

The Resilient Florida Program includes a selection of grants that are available to counties, municipalities, special districts with specific responsibilities and regional resilience entities. To effectively address the impacts of flooding and sea level rise that the state faces, eligible applicants may receive funding assistance to analyze and plan for vulnerabilities, as well as implement projects for adaptation and mitigation.

Please refer to [section 380.093, Florida Statutes](#), for more information on the eligible project and grant types and the requirements to apply.

Applications submitted for funding consideration require a comprehensive evaluation to ensure that funds are allocated timely and appropriately and pursuant to Florida Statute. Additional funding awards will be provided when they become available.

Sign up for general grant updates through the [Protecting Florida Together](#) grant portal.

Apply for a Grant

Visit the [Grant Application Portal](#) to submit an application to the Resilient Florida Program.

Planning projects: Applications accepted July 1 - Sept. 1, 2024.

- Communities that have yet to perform a vulnerability assessment pursuant to statutory requirements will be prioritized for funding.
- Projects will be funded with Fiscal Year 2024-25 funds.

Implementation projects to be included in the Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience

Plan: Applications accepted July 1 - Sept. 1, 2024.

- Local governments are eligible to apply for implementation project funding after conducting a vulnerability assessment, evaluation, report, or other similar document that demonstrates a risk of flooding or risks due to sea level rise to a critical asset or the project area.
- Projects will be funded with Fiscal Year 2025-26 funds.

Regional resilience entities: please contact Resilience@FloridaDEP.gov for more information on how to apply.

Projects Awarded under the Resilient Florida Grant Program

Visit the [Resilient Florida Grants Dashboard](#) to see all projects currently awarded (login not required).

- Grant files for awarded projects can be accessed via the "Oculus Documents Link" on a project's Grants Information page.

Fiscal Year 2021-22

- [Resilient Florida Grant Program Awards](#).
 - Implementation projects funded by the [Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds](#).
- [Regional Resilience Entity Projects](#).
- [Planning Projects](#).

Fiscal Year 2022-23

- [Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan Projects](#).
 - Implementation projects funded by the State Legislature.
- [Resilient Florida Grant Program Awards](#).
 - Implementation projects funded by the [Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds](#).