



LEE COUNTY
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

John E. Manning
District One

October 25, 2013

Cecil L. Pendergrass
District Two

Larry Kiker
District Three

Vacant
District Four

Frank Mann
District Five

Roger Desjarlais
County Manager

Andrea R. Fraser
Interim County Attorney

Donna Marie Collins
Hearing Examiner

The Honorable Rick Scott
Office of the Governor
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

Subject: Cape Coral/Fort Myers Reclaimed Water Interconnect - \$900,000
(Budget Section 56)

Dear Governor Scott:

As you review the items included in the State of Florida's FY 2014-15 Budget for projects needed throughout the State, my colleagues and I on the Lee County Board of County Commissioners, would like to reiterate the importance of a particular project to this region. The following water project funding request appeared in the State of Florida's 2013 General Government Appropriations Act: Cape Coral/Fort Myers Reclaimed Water Interconnect in the amount of \$900,000. This project remains very important to the City of Cape Coral, City of Fort Myers and the entire Southwest Florida Region.

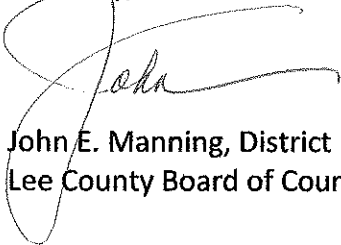
This project is supported by the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (see attached letter), the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council and the City of Fort Myers. We respectfully request that the funding remain in your budget, as it is vital to the health of our fragile estuary environment and local waterways including the Caloosahatchee River which is a federally listed impaired waterway.

This project would provide regional benefits to Southwest Florida. The project would eliminate the discharge of wastewater effluent into the Caloosahatchee River which terminates in the Gulf of Mexico along the beaches of Sanibel and Captiva Island. Finally, this project will support one of the largest reclaimed water systems in the United States by providing the additional reclaimed water needed by the City of Cape Coral to supplement the current supply. I have attached a short fact sheet on the project which lists the public policy importance of the project, job creation, and public safety benefits as well.

The Honorable Rick Scott
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My colleagues and I on the Lee County Board of County Commissioners would like to urge your favorable consideration of funding for this project. If you wish to discuss this further with me, please feel free to contact me at (239) 533-2224.

Sincerely,

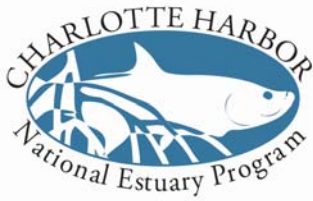


John E. Manning, District 1 Commissioner
Lee County Board of County Commissioners

cc: Lee County Board of County Commissioners District #1, #3, #4 & #5
Honorable Trey Radel, U.S. Congress
Honorable Dane Eagle, Florida House of Representatives
Honorable Lizbeth Benacquisto, Florida Senate
Roger Desjarlais, County Manager
Glen Salyer, Assistant County Manager
Holly Schwartz, Assistant County Manager
Pete Winton, Assistant County Manager
Doug Meurer, Assistant County Manager/Public Works Director
Honorable John Sullivan, Mayor, City of Cape Coral
John Szerlag, City Manager, City of Cape Coral

JM/cs

Attachments



CHARLOTTE HARBOR NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM
1926 Victoria Avenue, Fort Myers, Florida 33901
239/338-2556, Fax 239/338-2560, www.chnep.org

October 8, 2013

Jeffrey L. Pearson
Utilities Director, City of Cape Coral

RE: Cities of Cape Coral Fort Myers Shared Reclaimed Water Main

Dear Mr. Pearson:

The Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP) supports the City of Cape Coral – City of Fort Myers Reclaimed Water Main project. This project will connect the City of Ft. Myers wastewater treatment facility to the City of Cape Coral's Everest Water Reclamation Facility in order to transmit up to 24 million gallons a day of reclaimed water from Fort Myers to Cape Coral. The project will eliminate the City of Fort Myers need for its NPDES permit, will increase the availability of reclaimed water for irrigation purposes in Cape Coral saving home owners considerable expense, and will decrease the load of nutrient being discharged to the Caloosahatchee River.

The CHNEP is a partnership program, created by Section 320 of the Clean Water Act, to protect and preserve the Charlotte Harbor estuary, recognized as an estuary of national significance and one of the most productive estuaries in Florida. Long term management, preservation and restoration activities within the CHNEP are guided by our *Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) 2008*, developed and implemented by our partners. The CCMP lists four priority problems, accompanied by more specific quantifiable objectives and priority actions relating to improving water quality, hydrology, fish and wildlife habitat, and stewardship throughout the Charlotte Harbor watershed.

The CHNEP is committed to highlighting this project on our website www.chnep.org, on the Charlotte Harbor Water Atlas and in our quarterly newsletter *Harbor Happenings*.

This project implements the CHNEP's CCMP; specifically the project will implement the following Priority Actions:

WQ-1: Maintain or improve water quality from year 2000 levels

WQ-E: Implement projects to restore or protect water quality to offset anthropogenic impacts.

SG-J: Identify and showcase accomplishments and excellent examples.

Funding the Cities Shared Reclaimed Water Main project will benefit the two municipalities through cost savings and will improve the water quality of the Caloosahatchee River, and Charlotte Harbor estuary and will have a positive impact on the downstream communities of Fort Myers Beach, Sanibel and Bonita Springs. Please contact me at lbeever@swfrpc.org if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Beever". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa Beever, AICP, PhD
Director



Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council

Serving Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee and Sarasota Counties

1926 Victoria Ave, Fort Myers, Florida 33901-3414 (239) 338-2550 FAX (239) 338-2560 www.swfrpc.org

October 9, 2013

Mr. Jeffrey L. Pearson
Utilities Director, City of Cape Coral
1015 Cultural Park Boulevard
Cape Coral, FL 33990

RE: Cities of Cape Coral-Fort Myers shared Reclaimed Water Main

Dear Mr. Pearson:

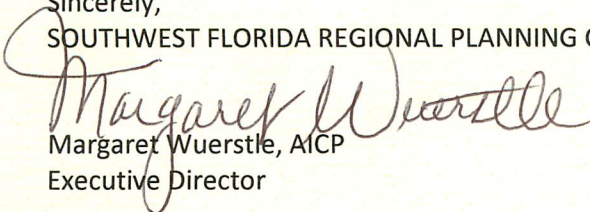
The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (the Council) supports the City of Cape Coral-Fort Myers Reclaimed Water Main project. This project will connect the City of Fort Myers wastewater treatment facility to the City of Cape Coral's Everest Water Reclamation Facility in order to transmit up to 24 million gallons a day of reclaimed water from Fort Myers to Cape Coral. The project will eliminate the City of Fort Myers need for its NPDES permit, will increase the availability of reclaimed water for irrigation purposes in Cape Coral saving home owners considerable expense, and will decrease the load of nutrient being discharged to the Caloosahatchee River.

The Council's mission is to work together across neighboring communities to consistently protect and improve the unique and relatively unspoiled character of the physical, economic and social worlds we share ... for the benefit of our future generations.

The reclaimed water main project implements the Council's Strategic Regional Policy Plan for the six county region: Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, Collier, Glades and Hendry Counties. Specifically, the project supports the Economic Development Element and the Natural Resources Element of the Regional Plan.

Funding the cities reclaimed water main project will benefit the two municipalities through cost savings, will improve the water quality of the Caloosahatchee River and Charlotte Harbor estuary and will have a positive impact on the downstream communities of Fort Myers Beach, Sanibel and Bonita Springs. Please contact me at mwuerstle@swfrpc.org if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL


Margaret Wuerstle, AICP
Executive Director

/nlg

