

# Key Largo Wastewater Treatment District Board of Commissioners Meeting Agenda Item Summary

Meeting Date:

June 18, 2024

Agenda Item Number: M-2

Action Required:

Yes

Department:

Capital Projects

Sponsor:

Steve Suggs

Subject:

## **FDEP Sea Level Rise Resilience Program**

Summary of Discussion:

The Sea Level Rise Resilient Florida Program and KLWTD's eligibility for funding will be presented.

### Reviewed / Approved

Operations: \_\_\_\_\_

Administration: \_\_\_\_\_

Finance: \_\_\_\_\_

District Counsel: \_\_\_\_\_

District Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

Engineering: \_\_\_\_\_

### Financial Impact

\$

Funding Source:

Grant(s)

Budgeted:

N/A

### Attachments

1. Sea Level Rise Resilient Florida Program: Funding Opportunities for KLWTD

Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_

General Manager

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

6/13/2024



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Peter Rosasco, KLWTD General Manager

**From:** Steve J. Suggs, P.E.

**Date:** June 18, 2024

**Re:** Sea Level Rise Resilient Florida Program: Funding Opportunities for KLWTD

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### Overview of the Sea Level Rise Resilient Florida Program

The Sea Level Rise Resilient Florida Program, established under Senate Bill 1954 and signed into law on May 12, 2021, marks a significant step towards enhancing Florida's coastal and inland resilience. This legislation represents the largest investment in Florida's history dedicated to preparing communities for the impacts of sea level rise, intensified storms, and flooding.

### Funding Opportunities

The Resilient Florida Program offers a variety of grants to support resilience efforts. Eligible entities, including counties, municipalities, special districts, and regional resilience entities, may receive funding for:

- **Vulnerability Analysis and Planning:** Funds to identify and assess vulnerabilities related to sea level rise and flooding.
- **Adaptation and Mitigation Projects:** Funds to implement projects designed to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of sea level rise and related phenomena.

### KLWTD's Eligibility and Potential Projects

Following discussion with the Florida Department of Environmental Protections (FDEP) coordinator for the Resilient Florida Program and an extensive review of the eligibility criteria, Weiler Engineering has verified with FDEP that the KLWTD qualifies as a "special district." As such, KLWTD is eligible to apply for funding under the program for the following implementation projects:

1. Twin Lakes Sea Level Rise Pilot Project: Addressing the infrastructure adjustments needed to cope with the County's plan to incorporate swales in the Twin Lakes Neighborhood.
2. Stillwright Point Neighborhood Road and Stormwater Adaptation Project: Implementing necessary upgrades to wastewater infrastructure, such as vacuum pits, that will be impacted by the County's plan to raise the roadway over 1-ft in the Stillwright Point Neighborhood.
3. Future Sea Level Rise Projects incorporated in Monroe County's plans

Eligible projects submitted by eligible entities should meet a minimum of 50 percent cost share.

### **Next Steps**

To leverage the opportunities provided by the Sea Level Rise Resilient Florida Program, we recommend the following action:

1. Review Past Applications and Reviewers' Comments: FDEP provides access to previous applications and reviewer's comments. WEC has inquired about past application packages for Stillwright Point (applied for FY 22-23 and 24-25) and Twin Lakes (applied for FY 2022-23). WEC is told we can expect to receive them by 6/12. Reviewing these applications may give KLWTD insight on how to best approach the application process.
2. Conduct a Vulnerability Assessment: Undertake a thorough vulnerability assessment to evaluate how sea level rise will impact KLWTD infrastructure. Monroe County's existing vulnerability assessments for Twin Lakes and Stillwright Point do not currently list KLWTD as a provider of wastewater services, but rather FKAA. Efforts are underway to ensure that the County's future vulnerability assessments include KLWTD and its infrastructure. The County has completed 0% of their vulnerability assessment as of last quarter, so FDEP encourages KLWTD to work with the County to include KLWTD infrastructure in their vulnerability assessment. A statewide vulnerability assessment is to be completed by the end of June and can be utilized if the KLWTD infrastructure is in areas included in the assessment.
3. Prepare a Comprehensive Funding Application: Develop and submit a detailed application outlining the specific needs, objectives, and expected outcomes for the Twin Lakes and Stillwright Point projects. Applications open July 1, 2024, and must be submitted to the Department by 11:59 PM on September 1, 2024, to be considered for funding. FDEP's online application portal contains the Project Proposal Application Form to collect information from eligible project sponsors about implementation projects.

By securing funding through the Resilient Florida Program, KLWTD can significantly enhance its wastewater infrastructure's resilience, ensuring long-term sustainability and protection for the community.