

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

Meeting Date:

April 15, 2025

Agenda Item Number: G-2

Action Required:

No

Department:

General Manager

Sponsor:

Peter Rosasco

Subject:

Stewardship Update

Summary:

Mr. Rosasco will discuss Stewardship Funding.

Reviewed / Approved

Operations: _____

Administration: _____

Finance: _____

District Counsel: _____

District Clerk: _____

Engineering: _____

Financial Impact

\$

Funding Source:

N/A

Budgeted:

N/A

Attachments

1. State Funding ILA
2. Notice of Award

Approved By: _____

General Manager

Date: 04/10/2025

SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT TO THE STATE WASTEWATER FUNDING AGREEMENT FOR “YEAR TWO OF FOUR”

The parties below entered into an *Interlocal Agreement* on February 20, 2013, which was subsequently amended by an Agreement entitled, *Amendment to the State Wastewater Funding Agreement for “Year Two of Four”* dated September 17, 2013 (collectively, the “ILA”). The purpose of the ILA was to equitably allocate the Mayfield Grant Funds given by the State of Florida to the parties listed below. This *Second Amendment* will be referred to as the “Extension Agreement.”

The parties desire to enter into this Extension Agreement to provide clarity to the State of Florida as to the distribution of funds received under the *Florida Keys Stewardship Act* for the next five years.

This Extension Agreement amends the ILA as follows:

1. The terms within the two previous Agreements remain in full force and effect except as amended herein.
2. The **Whereas** clauses are reiterated as though set forth fully and at length herein.
3. The parties remain as stated in the ILA:
 - A. The City of Key Colony Beach
 - B. The City of Key West
 - C. The City of Marathon
 - D. Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority
 - E. Key Largo Wastewater Treatment District
 - F. Islamorada, Village of Islands
 - G. Monroe County, Florida
4. Since 2012, the Florida legislature has allocated \$214,333,333.00 to fund wastewater treatment infrastructure projects in the Florida Keys. An initial fifty million (\$50,000,000.00) was allocated to the Cudjoe Regional Wastewater Project and to Islamorada, Village of Islands. Thereafter, the funds were allocated pursuant to the terms of paragraph 5 in the ILA entitled, *Distribution of Funds*.
5. The parties agree that future funds received, pursuant to the Florida Keys Stewardship Act, shall be distributed according to the following schedule:

<u>Entity</u>	<u>Allocation</u>
The City of Key Colony Beach	
The City of Key West	
The City of Marathon	
Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority	
Key Largo Wastewater Treatment District	
Islamorada, Village of Islands	
Monroe County, Florida	

6. As the parties have done in the previous years, each party to the ILA and this Extension Agreement is authorized to reallocate their respective shares of funds, upon mutual agreement of the specifically impacted parties. Such reallocation shall be evidenced in writing and executed by the impacted parties.
7. Each party agrees to work cooperatively to advocate to the Legislature each year to distribute the Florida Keys Stewardship Act funding in accordance with the proviso that has been utilized for a majority of the budgets adopted. The language provides:

Funds in Specific Appropriation ____ are provided to the Department of Environmental Protection for the purpose of entering into financial assistance agreements with local governments located in the Florida Keys Area of Critical State Concern and City of Key West Area of Critical State Concern, to be distributed in accordance with the existing interlocal agreement amongst the City of Key West, City of Marathon, City of Key Colony Beach, Islamorada, Village of Islands, Key Largo Wastewater Treatment District, Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority, and Monroe County, to finance or refinance the cost of constructing sewage collection, treatment, and disposal facilities, building projects that protect, restore, or enhance nearshore water quality and fisheries, such as stormwater or canal restoration projects and projects to protect water resources available to the Florida Keys, or for the purpose of land acquisition within the Florida Keys Area of Critical Concern as authorized pursuant to section 259.045, Florida Statutes, with increased priority given these acquisitions that achieve a combination of conservation goals, including protecting Florida's water resources and natural groundwater recharge.

8. It is the intent of the parties that this Extension Agreement shall govern for the next five years, or the legislative approval and distribution of an additional \$300 million.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused these presents to be executed by their Authorized Officers and have affixed their Corporate Seals hereon.

SIGNATURES ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES:



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 27, 2025

CONTACT: DEP Press Office, 850-245-2112, DEPNews@FloridaDEP.gov

DEP Awards Over \$9 Million to Improve Water Quality and Ecosystems in the Florida Keys

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has awarded an additional \$9.3 million through the Florida Keys Area of Critical State Concern Grant Program to support seven projects that will improve water quality, restore natural resources and enhance environmental resilience. These investments will help Florida Keys communities tackle wastewater management, stormwater treatment and canal restoration projects to protect the region's renowned marine ecosystem.

"The Florida Keys are a national treasure, home to one of the most unique and ecologically significant marine environments in the world," **said DEP Secretary Alexis A. Lambert.** "With a local economy built on the health of these waters, protecting this area is not just an environmental priority, it's an economic and cultural necessity."

The selected projects protect, restore or enhance nearshore water quality and fisheries and are estimated to address approximately 10,000 pounds of Total Nitrogen and 6,000 pounds of Total Phosphorous annually. Projects include:

- \$1.2 million for the Key Largo Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades to enhance capacity during large flow events and improve treatment efficiency.
- \$1.5 million for the Marathon Service Area 3 Wastewater Treatment Facility Expansion Project to increase treatment capacity by 66% ensuring wastewater receives proper treatment.
- \$1.3 million to Monroe County for its canal restoration efforts to enhance water quality and restore aquatic ecosystems in the canal and nearshore waters.

Designated as an Area of Critical State Concern, the Florida Keys support approximately 80,000 residents and attract millions of visitors each year. The region's economy relies heavily on its waters, with 60% of economic activity driven by marine industries such as fishing, boating, diving and wildlife tourism.

Since 2019, Florida has provided \$80 million in grant funding through the Florida Keys Area of Critical State Concern Grant Program to support projects resulting in significant reductions in nutrient pollution and bolstering environmental resilience.

Governor DeSantis has included an additional \$20 million in his [*Focus on Fiscal Responsibility Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26*](#) to further strengthen Florida's dedication to safeguarding the Keys and preserving the long-term health of its waters.

For a full list of Florida Keys Area of Critical State Concern Grant projects selected for Fiscal Year 2024-25 funding, visit ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov/Grants.