

Countywide Water Quality & Nutrient Reduction Program

Organization & Contact: Utilities Department – Ken Stecher 941.764.4323 Kenneth.Stecher@charlottecountyfl.gov and Administration (Water Quality Manager) – Brandon Moody, 941.743.1354 Brandon.Moody@charlottecountyfl.gov

Area: Countywide (Mid, West, South)

Location: Multiple locations throughout Charlotte County Utilities service area and connected waterways

Category: Infrastructure

Focus Area(s): Public Services, Infrastructure, Environmental Stewardship, Efficient & Effective Government

Need:

Charlotte County continues to face increasing regulatory requirements and environmental pressures related to nutrient loading and water quality, particularly within Charlotte Harbor and surrounding watershed areas. Aging utility infrastructure also increases the risk of system failures and nutrient discharges if not addressed. Coordination with ongoing water quality initiatives is important to maximize environmental benefits and protect sensitive water bodies.

Purpose:

Implement targeted capital maintenance and system improvements that align Utilities infrastructure upgrades with Countywide water quality goals and long-term environmental protection efforts. This program helps protect Charlotte County's waterways while maintaining reliable utility service for current and future residents.

Objectives:

Improve nutrient removal to reduce impacts to Charlotte Harbor; renew aging infrastructure; enhance system reliability and resiliency; reduce failures; and support ongoing water quality initiatives.

Project Cost Prior Funding: \$0

Project Cost Prior from Sales Tax: \$0

Total Project Cost: \$10,000,000.00

Project Cost Required New Sales Tax: \$10,000,000.00

Annual Operating Cost: \$100,000-\$200,000, primarily associated with increased monitoring, maintenance of upgraded equipment, and system optimization activities. Over time, the program is expected to offset or reduce net operating costs through improved system performance and reliability.

Will the project impact public health and safety? If so, how?

Yes. Improves system reliability and reduces the risk of overflows or discharges that could impact public health and local waterways.

Will the project foster economic development and create long-term jobs? If so, how?

Yes. Supports sustainable growth and helps protect natural resources such as Charlotte Harbor that are important to the local economy, including tourism and recreation.

Will the project result in decreased, increased, or no operation and maintenance (O&M) costs?

Yes. Expected to decrease over time through planned maintenance and improved system efficiency.

Will sales tax allow for application of grant funds from another entity?

Yes. Coordination with water quality initiatives improves eligibility for environmental grants and provides local match for state and federal funding opportunities.

Will the project enable furtherance of phased projects from 2014 sales tax extension?

Yes. Builds on prior infrastructure investments and supports continued phased improvements.

Is this a joint project with another entity?

No formal partnership: however, the project will be coordinated with Water Quality and Environmental programs.

Project to be funded by the 1% Local Option Sales Tax Extension if passed by the voters of Charlotte County

Will the project meet a community obligation to serve a special needs segment of the County's population, such as: low-income, aged, or minorities?

Yes. Protects water quality and public health for all residents.

Is the project included in a Master Plan, Comprehensive Plan, or Capital Needs Assessment?

Yes. Consistent with the Utilities Capital Needs Assessment and long-term planning efforts.

Will the project impact environmental quality of Charlotte County? If so, how?

Yes. Reduces nutrient loading and improves water quality in Charlotte Harbor and surrounding waterways, helping protect sensitive ecosystems.

Will the project improve quality of life in Charlotte County?

Yes. Enhances environmental protection, recreation, and overall community well-being.

Is the project state or federally mandated?

Yes. Partially due to regulatory requirements.

Is the project dependent upon or connected with the completion of another project?

No. Standalone program that supports broader utility and environmental initiatives.