
CITY OF OCALA

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

Council Meeting Date: 09/28/21

Subject: SJRWMD Lower Floridan Aquifer Conversion Phase 3 - Grant #37150

Submitted By: Rusella Bowes-Johnson

Department: Water & Sewer

STAFF RECOMMENDATION (Motion Ready): Approve Agenda Item (ID # 16026) cost-share agreement No. 37150 with St. Johns River Water Management District for Lower Floridan Aquifer Conversion Phase 3 project in the amount of \$1,102,850

OCALA'S RELEVANT STRATEGIC GOALS: Quality of Place

PROOF OF PUBLICATION: N/A

BACKGROUND:

This project will reduce the amount of water withdrawal from the Upper Floridan Aquifer (UFA) and move to the Lower Floridan Aquifer (LFA) which is a suitable alternative water supply. By moving towards the LFA as a source of potable drinking water, the City would be limiting the amount of water being withdrawn from the UFA, which feeds Silver Springs. This new source will decrease the negative flow impact on the Silver Springs and dramatically increase the springs' water levels.

The project consists of constructing one two-million gallon storage tank, drilling an UFA well for blending with a LFA well water and the purchase of a motor, pump, and control panel with a variable frequency drive. Located at Water Treatment Plant (WTP) #2, the proposed LFA wellfield is approximately four miles farther from Silver Springs than the existing wellfield at WTP#1.

The total estimated cost of the project is \$4,411,400. The City will provide funding in the amount of \$2,205,700. The St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) Governing Board approved grant funding for the project in the amount of \$1,102,850. These funds will be eligible for work performed on or after October 1, 2021 and will expire September 30, 2023. Approval is pending from Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to cover the additional \$1,102,850.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

Acceptance of the grant will allow the City to construct one two-million gallon storage tank, drill an UFA well for blending with the LFA well water and the purchase of a motor, pump, and control panel with a variable frequency drive.

Staff recommends approval.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The total estimated cost of the project is \$4,411,400. The St. Johns River Water Management District agrees to reimburse the City in the amount not to exceed \$1,102,850 in account 308-337-000-000-07-33743 and the City's estimated share is \$2,205,700. The City anticipates FDEP will provide an additional \$1,102,850 toward the cost of the project. The City's matching funds are available in FY 2021 Water Resources account 308-030-335-533-69-65010. A budget resolution will be presented to Council at a later date when the FDEP contract is approved.

PROCUREMENT REVIEW:

N/A

LEGAL REVIEW:

The agreement has been reviewed and approved for form and legality by the City Attorney, Robert W. Batsel, Jr.

ALTERNATIVE:

- Deny
- Table
- Direct Staff Otherwise

SUPPORT MATERIALS:

3752_001 (PDF)

37150 City of Ocala PB 8.26.21 (PDF)