



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

REQUEST FOR INCLUSION ON THE DRINKING WATER PRIORITY LIST

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program
Douglas Building, 3900 Commonwealth Blvd, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

The information contained in this Request for Inclusion (RFI) application is used to determine project eligibility and priority scoring. The priority score is used to rank projects for placement on the State Revolving Fund (SRF) priority list. Only projects placed on the fundable portion of the priority list receive consideration for a loan. Please note that costs incurred before the adoption of the project on the fundable portion of the priority list at a public meeting are not eligible for reimbursement. The loan service fee, based on a percentage of the loan amount, will be determined in accordance with 62-552.200(18), F.A.C.

Please Note: This application must be completed in its entirety before it can be processed to determine sponsor eligibility.

1. Applicant's Name and Address.

Project Sponsor: Okeechobee Utility Authority Contact Person: John Hayford, P.E. Title: Executive Director
100 SW 5th Avenue

(street address)

Okeechobee

(city)

(863) 763 -9460

(telephone)

118

(ext.)

Okeechobee

(county)

jhayford@ouafl.com

(e-mail)

34974

(zip code)

Contact Person Address (if different):

(street address)

(city)

(state) (zip code)

2. Name and Address of Applicant's Consultant (if any).

Firm: Holtz Consulting Engineers, Inc. Contact Person: Christine Miranda, P.E. Title: Principal Engineer
270 S. Central Blvd., Suite 207

(street address)

Jupiter

(city)

(561) 575 -2005

(telephone)

(ext.)

33458

(zip code)

christine.miranda@holtzconsulting.com

(e-mail)

3. Type of Loan Requested in this Application. Select only one loan category.

Planning Loan <input type="checkbox"/>	Design Loan <input type="checkbox"/>	Planning and Design Loan <input type="checkbox"/>	Construction Loan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Select Type of Project: Design/Bid/Build ☒ Design/Build (D/B) ☐ Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) ☐

Eligibility for a Loan. In order to be considered for a priority listing, the following conditions must be met:

- The respondent to this solicitation must qualify as a "project sponsor" as defined in 62-552.200(26), F.A.C.;
- The minimum construction loan amount is \$75,000;
- The project sponsor must agree to submit biddable plans and specifications within 1-year after being placed on the fundable portion of the priority list to qualify for a combined planning and design loan; and

REQUEST FOR INCLUSION ON THE DRINKING WATER PRIORITY LIST

- The project is part of a public water system as defined in 62-552.200(27), F.A.C., and may include drinking water supply, storage, transmission, treatment, disinfection, distribution, residuals management, and appurtenant facilities.

4. Principal Forgiveness Percentage (PF%). Is project sponsor eligible for a loan with principal forgiveness? Yes ☒ No ☐
(see eligibility requirements below). All applicants must complete a. and b. below.

- a. Is project sponsor applying for a planning and/or design loan with principal forgiveness? Yes ☐ No ☒. If yes, then PF 50%.
Only a sponsor that directly qualifies as a financially disadvantaged small community is eligible for a planning and/or design loan with principal forgiveness.
- b. Is project sponsor applying for a construction loan with principal forgiveness? Yes ☒ No ☐. If yes, then calculate PF% using the formula: $PF\% = 1760/9 - 160 \times (MHI/SMHI) - 7/4500 \times P$. All applicants must complete 1. through 5. below.
 1. Median household income (MHI): \$41,760 (per recent ACS 5-yr estimate U.S. Census Bureau or verifiable estimates)
 2. State median household income (SMHI): \$55,660 (per recent ACS 5-year estimate U.S. Census Bureau)
 3. Population (P) served: 23,923 (no. of service connections x persons/connection, include proposed connections)
 4. Calculated PF% for a construction loan: 20%
20% principal forgiveness if MHI < SMHI and P > 10,000 or 0% if MHI > SMHI, unless sponsor is specifically exempted. A maximum of 50% principal forgiveness if the sponsor is connecting a disadvantaged community or has a separate water system as defined below.
 5. Select Type of Project Sponsor:
Disadvantaged/Small ☐ Disadvantaged Only ☒ Separate or Connecting Disadvantaged/Small ☐ Other ☐

Please note that the calculated PF% is an estimate and the actual percentage will be determined by the Department. The maximum principal forgiveness percentage for a construction loan is 90% and the minimum is 20%. A qualifying sponsor is eligible to receive a maximum 50% principal forgiveness for the costs to complete an asset management plan in accordance with 62-552.700(7), F.A.C., if part of a construction loan. The amount of loan available with principal forgiveness for a project is dependent upon allocated funds for the fiscal year.

Eligibility for a loan with principal forgiveness. In order to be considered for a loan with principal forgiveness, the following conditions must be met:

- The project sponsor must qualify as a financially disadvantaged small community public water system as defined in Rule 62-552.200, F.A.C., unless the sponsor is specifically exempted from this requirement.
- The median household income (MHI) of the sponsor's service area must be less than the state median household income (SMHI) as reported from the most recent census data or from verifiable estimates, unless the sponsor is specifically exempted from this requirement.
- The population (P) of the sponsor's service area must be less than 10,000 (including future connections proposed by the project), unless the sponsor is specifically exempted from this requirement.
- The project sponsor shall have only one open loan with principal forgiveness. A loan shall be considered open until the final disbursement has been paid by the department.
- A sponsor that connects less than 250 residential private wells or connects an existing public water system with less than 250 service connections is eligible for a construction loan with principal forgiveness up to a maximum of 50% if the connected community qualifies as financially disadvantaged.
- A sponsor that owns and operates a separate, non-interconnected, public water system that qualifies as a financially disadvantaged small community, regardless of the number of systems owned and operated by the sponsor, is eligible for a construction loan with principal forgiveness for that system up to a maximum of 50%.
- A financially disadvantaged community with a population of 10,000 or more is eligible for a construction loan with 20% principal forgiveness if dollars are available after funding all eligible financially disadvantaged small community systems.

5. Interest Rate Percentage.

The interest rate for a loan with the Department is determined using the formula:

$$\% \text{ of MR} = 40 \times (MHI/SMHI) + 15$$

$$\% \text{ of MR} = \text{Percentage of Market Rate.}$$

Calculate and complete the % of MR below:

$$\% \text{ of MR for a loan: } 45\%$$

$$(35\% \leq \% \text{ of MR} \leq 75\%)$$

Please note that the calculated % of MR is an estimate and the actual interest rate will be determined by the Department. The market rate shall be established using the Thomson Publishing Corporation's "Bond Buyer" 20-Bond GO Index. Projects with a drinking water supply component as defined in 403.8532(9)(a), F.S. or a water conservation component per 62-552.300(1)(e)1.d.;

REQUEST FOR INCLUSION ON THE DRINKING WATER PRIORITY LIST

and sponsors with an accepted/implemented asset management plan may qualify for additional interest rate reductions in accordance with 62-552.300(6)(b), F.A.C. Interest rate reductions are also available for implementation of EPA's Davis-Bacon (DB) and American Iron & Steel (AIS) requirements. The interest rate for a loan shall not be less than zero percent.

- 6. Base Priority Score.** Each project shall receive a base priority score (BPS) dependent on the weighted average of its components. The BPS shall be determined using the below formula where CPS means the component priority score and CCC means component construction cost.

$$BPS = [CPS_1 \times CCC_1 + \dots + CPS_n \times CCC_n] / \text{Total Construction Cost}$$

Select each component and component score in Table 1 below that applies to the project, fill in the estimated construction cost, and calculate the base priority score.

- Component priority scores that are based on contaminant levels must be justified by sample analytical data (see exception in notes at bottom of Table 1). The date that samples were collected must be less than 24-months from the date of submittal of a Request for Inclusion. The sampling data must show an ongoing and current problem with a drinking water quality standard.
- The project sponsor must provide documentation demonstrating that contaminant levels (e.g. disinfection byproducts) cannot be reduced by adjusting system operations, if applicable.
- A compliance-1 category component score of 400 points, if selected in Table 1, must be supported by documentation demonstrating the need for the project; otherwise, a component score of 300 points shall be assigned.

Table 1

Project Component (Check all items that apply)	Component Priority Score	Component Construction Cost
Acute Public Health Risk <input type="checkbox"/> 1a. E-Coli or Fecal Coliform Exceed MCL (62-550.310(5), F.A.C.) <input type="checkbox"/> 1b. Nitrate, Nitrite, or Total Nitrogen Exceed MCL (62-550.310(1), F.A.C., Table 1) <input type="checkbox"/> 1c. Lead or Copper Exceed Action Level (62-550.800, F.A.C.) <input type="checkbox"/> 1d. Surface Water Filtration and Disinfection Noncompliance (62-550.817(2), F.A.C.)	800 points <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Potential Acute Public Health Risk <input type="checkbox"/> 2a. Nitrate, Nitrite, or Total Nitrogen 50% of MCL (62-550.310(1), F.A.C., Table 1) <input type="checkbox"/> 2b. Microbiologicals Exceed MCL (62-550.310(5), F.A.C.) <input type="checkbox"/> 2c. Surface Water Enhanced Filtration and Disinfect. Noncompliance (62-550.817(3), F.A.C.) <input type="checkbox"/> 2d. State Health Certification of Acute Health Risk, Unregulated Microbiological Contaminant <input type="checkbox"/> 2e. Violation of Disinfection Requirement (62-550.310(2), F.A.C., Table 2)	700 points <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Chronic Public Health Risk <input type="checkbox"/> 3a. Inorganic or Organic Contaminant Exceed MCL (62-550.310(1 & 4), F.A.C., Tables 1,4,5) <input type="checkbox"/> 3b. Disinfection Byproducts Exceed MCL (62-550.310(3), F.A.C., Table 3) <input type="checkbox"/> 3c. Radionuclides Exceed MCL (62-550.310(6), F.A.C.)	600 points <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Potential Chronic Public Health Risk <input type="checkbox"/> 4a. Inorganic or Organic Contaminant 50% of MCL (62-550.310(1 & 4), F.A.C., Tables 1,4,5) <input type="checkbox"/> 4b. Disinfection Byproducts 80% of MCL (62-550.310(3), F.A.C., Table 3) <input type="checkbox"/> 4c. State Health Certification of Chronic Health Risk, Unregulated Chemical Contaminant	500 points <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Compliance-1/System does not meet or requires the following: <input type="checkbox"/> 5a. Infrastructure upgrade to facilities undersized, exceed useful life, or with equipment failures <input type="checkbox"/> 5b. Insufficient water supply source, treatment capacity, or storage <input type="checkbox"/> 5c. Water distribution system pressure less than 20 psi <input type="checkbox"/> 5d. Eliminate dead ends and provide adequate looping in a distribution system <input type="checkbox"/> 5e. Replace distribution mains to correct continual leaks, pipe breaks, and water outages <input type="checkbox"/> 5f. New water system or extension of existing system to replace contaminated/low yield wells <input type="checkbox"/> 5g. Lack of significant safety measures (e.g. chemical containment) <input type="checkbox"/> 5h. Secondary Contaminant MCL Exceedance (62-550.320, F.A.C.) <input type="checkbox"/> 5i. Drinking water supply project as defined in 403.8532(9)(a), F.S.	400 points <input type="checkbox"/>	_____

REQUEST FOR INCLUSION ON THE DRINKING WATER PRIORITY LIST

Compliance-2/System does not meet or requires the following:

- ☐ **6a.** Treatment, Storage, Power, and Distribution Requirements (62-555.320, F.A.C)
- ☐ **6b.** Minimum Required Number of Wells (62-555.315(2), F.A.C)
- ☐ **6c.** Well Set-back and Construction Requirements (62-555.312 and 62-555.315, F.A.C)
- ☐ **6d.** Cross-Connection Control Requirements (62-555.360, F.A.C)
- ☐ **6e.** Physical Security Project Documented in a Vulnerability Analysis
- ☐ **6f.** Consolidation or regionalization of public water systems
- ☐ **6g.** Water/Energy Conservation Project

300 points

☐

All Other Projects

100 points

☒

\$100

Note: If item 2d. or 4c. of Table 1 is selected, then a State Health Officer must complete the form “Certification of a Public Health Risk”. If 50% or more of residential wells meet contaminant levels indicated in Table 1, then check the appropriate public health risk category that applies. Flooded wells and wells under the direct influence of surface water are considered an unregulated microbiological potential acute public health risk and require substantiated documentation of occurrence in lieu of sampling data.

- 7. Affordability Score.** The extent of affordability existing in a small community to be served by the project shall be reflected in the priority score. Points shall be awarded based upon two affordability criteria: namely, median household income (MHI) and service area population (P). These points are to be added to the base priority score. Calculate the affordability score using the following formula:

$$\text{Affordability Score} = (\text{MHI Score} + \text{Population Score})$$

$$\text{MHI Score} = 100 \times (1.00 - \text{MHI}/\text{SMHI})$$

$$\text{Zero} \leq \text{MHI score} \leq 75, \text{ rounded to nearest whole number}$$

$$\text{Population Score} = 50.0 - (P/200)$$

$$\text{Population score} \geq \text{zero, rounded to nearest whole number}$$

- 8. Water Conservation Score.** A project sponsor with a qualifying water conservation project is eligible to receive an additional 100 points added to their priority score if the sponsor provides a water conservation plan in accordance with EPA’s Water Conservation Plan Guidelines web site <https://www3.epa.gov/watersense/pubs/guide.html>, document number EPA-832-D-98-001. The sponsor must also demonstrate that the proposed project meets the objective of the conservation plan.

- 9. Total Priority Score.** The total priority score equals the base priority score plus the affordability score and water conservation score. Calculate and complete a. through d. below.

- a. Base priority score: 100 points.
- b. Affordability score: 25 points.
- c. Water conservation score: 100 points.
- d. Total priority score: 225 points (sum of items a. through c.)

- 10. Estimated Project Cost.** Complete a. through k. below, including loan amount requested.

(Indicate \$0 if activity is not applicable)

Project Activity

Cost

- a. Planning. _____
- b. Design (not applicable if a D/B project). _____
- c. Technical services per 62-552.300(3)(h), F.A.C., for planning and design. _____
- d. Administration before bid opening (only include if not part of procurement in ‘f’ below). _____
- e. Eligible land (necessary land divided by total land times purchase price). _____
- f. Constr., equip., material, demo. & related procurement (include design if D/B project). \$1,990,422
- g. Administration during construction and after bid opening. _____
- h. Construction contingency (10% of ‘f’, only applicable for Design/Bid/Build projects). \$199,042
- i. Technical services during construction and after bid opening. \$129,380

REQUEST FOR INCLUSION ON THE DRINKING WATER PRIORITY LIST

j. Asset management plan per 62-552.700(7), F.A.C. _____

k. Total project costs (sum of a. through j.). \$2,318,844

Loan amount requested by the sponsor in this RFI (assume no principal forgiveness). \$2,218,844

List all funding sources for this project: \$100,000 South Florida Water Management District Grant

11. Project Schedule. Complete a. through d. below.

<u>Project Activity</u>	<u>(M/D/YY)</u>
a. Submit planning documents.	<u>6/25/21</u>
b. Submit design/bid documents or RFQ/RFP for CMAR & D/B projects.	<u>7/15/21</u>
c. Start construction.	<u>10/1/21</u>
d. Complete construction.	<u>10/1/22</u>

12. Project Information. Provide the following information, if applicable.

(Check all items that are attached to this RFI)

- ☒ Project description, location with lat/long (degrees), water system PWS ID, and project need (*this is a required attachment*).
- ☒ Map of city/county limits, existing/proposed service area, and project area (*this is a required attachment*).
- ☐ Lab data, lab data w/operational records, or substantiated documentation in lieu of lab data for public health risk projects.
- ☐ The form "Certification of a Public Health Risk" completed by a State Health Officer.
- ☐ Supporting documentation for projects identified under the compliance-1 categories of Table 1.
- ☐ DWSRF business plan for a design or construction loan, not a planning or combined planning/design loan.
- ☐ Detailed project schedule showing plans/specs completion in 1-year of loan execution for a combined planning/design loan.
- ☐ MHI supporting documentation if MHI not taken from the most recent ACS 5-yr estimate of the U.S. Census Bureau.
- ☐ Water Conservation Plan, including demonstration that project meets plan objectives.

13. Certification by an Authorized Representative. I certify that this form and attachments have been completed by me or at my direction and that the information presented herein is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate and true.

John Hayford

DN: cn=John Hayford, o=Okeechobee Utility
Authority, ou=Executive Director,
email=jhayford@ouafl.com, c=US
Date: 2021.06.24 13:27:50 -04'00'

06/24/2021

jhayford@ouafl.com

(signature)

(date)

(e-mail)

John Hayford, P.E.

Executive Director

(print name)

(print title)

Email the completed RFI form with attachments to SRF_Reporting@dep.state.fl.us or mail to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, State Revolving Fund Program, 3900 Commonwealth Blvd, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000.

For DEP Use Only	Project Number	Total Priority Score	Total Project Cost	Pop	MHI	SMHI	PF%	% of MR	Attachments Complete?	RFI Complete?
	DW								Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
	DEP Comments:									

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Description and Need

Okeechobee Utility Authority (OUA) plans to install an Advance Metering Information (AMI) System on potable water meters throughout OUA's water system. The AMI system will include approximately 9,330 5/8" x3/4" through 1" water meters to serve OUA customers within OUA's service area. The project will also include the items listed below.

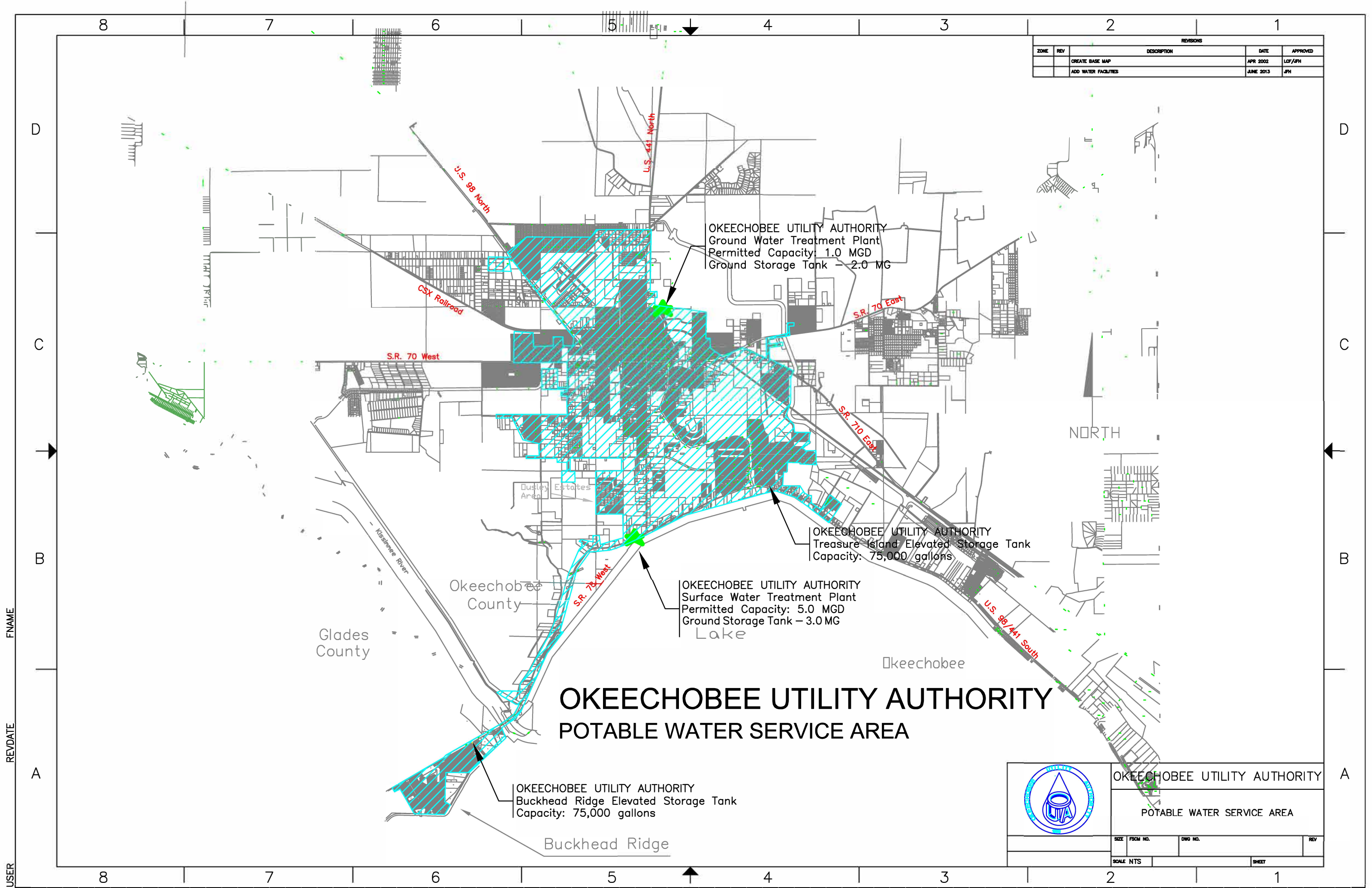
The AMI system will include:

- Water Meters.
- Radio transponders with two-way communication (MIU).
- A fixed base data collection system to collect reading and other information from the meter modules and transmit to a central location.
- Server, local or remote, to receive and host, and software to interface with OUA's customer billing system.
- Equipment, training and implementation to migrate from the current system to the fixed base system.
- Software – One (1) complete system including installation, data conversion, and training.
- First Year Software Maintenance & Support.

OUA will support the installation of the interconnects within its existing water rate schedule. The project cost for the proposed facilities is estimated at \$2,318,844 and is requesting a \$2,218,844 loan from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection State Revolving Fund Program to fund the project.


An AMI system will allow for remote collection of customer consumption data, improving data collection at inaccessible or hazardous locations, improved data manipulation for early detection of leaks and meter tampering and/or meter misreads. Remote meter reading provides reduction in OUA's cost per meter read by reducing the labor and vehicle costs required to manually read meters and disconnect and reconnect of service, reduction in leak write-offs or credits issued to customers due to advanced notification of leaks or excessive usage, and enhanced maintenance operations with integration of meter alerts.

Customer support is also enhanced with online access to detailed and up to date water usage and bill calculations providing the ability to identify leaks or excessive usage, ability to set usage or spending goals and track budget, email or text notifications, ability to set out of town alerts and receive email notification of unauthorized usage or damaged fixtures within the home, and an online message center providing information about all meter alerts and messages. Utilities typically realize cost savings from reduced billing complaints and cost of dispute resolution. The system should eliminate field verifications for customer complaints, missed meter reads, and final meter reads associated with start and stop of services.



REVISIONS				
ZONE	REV	DESCRIPTION	DATE	APPROVED
		CREATE BASE MAP	APR 2002	LCF/JPH
		ADD WATER FACILITIES	JUNE 2013	JPH

OKEECHOBEE UTILITY AUTHORITY
POTABLE WATER SERVICE AREA



OKEECHOBEE UTILITY AUTHORITY
POTABLE WATER SERVICE AREA

SIZE	FSOM NO.	DWG NO.	REV
SCALE NTS		SHEET	