



Interoffice Memorandum

July 21, 2014

DELETED

TO: Mayor Teresa Jacobs
and Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Raymond E. Hanson, P. E., Director
Utilities Department *(RDH) R.E.H.*

**SUBJECT: BCC AGENDA ITEM – Discussion Agenda
August 5, 2014 BCC Meeting
Wekiwa Springs Area Septic Tank Retrofit Project
Contact Person: Jason D. Herrick, P. E., Deputy Director
Utilities Department
407-254-9700**

In the past few years, there has been a coordinated effort among state and regional agencies, local governments, the public, and other stakeholders to restore and protect the Wekiwa basin ecosystem. State agencies have identified septic tanks in subdivisions adjacent to and within the five year capture zone of Wekiwa Springs as a significant source of nutrient contribution to the Wekiwa springshed.

The St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) has funding available to assist with projects that support springshed improvement. SJRWMD asked Orange County to apply for a grant to replace septic tanks with a central wastewater system in several subdivisions adjacent to Wekiwa Springs. Orange County Utilities submitted an application requesting 100% funding for the installation of wastewater infrastructure and the abandonment of septic tanks in four subdivisions adjacent to Wekiwa Springs. SJRWMD, in conjunction with Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), has tentatively offered to fund 75% of the project costs for this area, which includes the Palms Sections 1 and 2, Wekiwa Highlands and Sweetwater West subdivisions (a total of 380 residential lots).

The preliminary cost estimate for the project is \$6.65M. At 75% funding, the county would contribute up to \$1.66M, with SJRWMD and FDEP contributing \$4.99M. A community meeting is scheduled for July 30, 2014 to discuss the proposed project with residents.

Action Requested: **Acceptance of the grant between St. Johns River Water Management District and Florida Department of Environmental Protection which will commit Orange County to a maximum of 25% of the cost of a project to convert septic to sewer for four subdivisions in the Wekiwa area; and selection of a payment method for capital charges.**

District 2.