INDIAN RIVER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS 1801 27th Street, Vero Beach, FL 32960-3388



January 16, 2018

Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program (FY 2018-2019) Category 1: Restoration Project

Subject: <u>Letter of Intent</u> to apply for a restoration projects grant for the West Wabasso Phase II Septic to Sewer Project

Dear Mr. Frank Sakuma,

Indian River County Department of Utility Services (IRCDUS) is pleased to submit a letter of intent for the above mentioned project to be considered for funding for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 under the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program (IRLNEP).

Requesting Organization Name and Contact Information for Project Lead

Requesting Entity/Organization:

Project Manager: Email Address: Phone: Indian River County Department of Utility Services (IRCDUS) Arjuna Weragoda, P.E. <u>aweragoda@ircgov.com</u> 772-226-1821

Participating Organizations or Institutions

Potential: St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) Florida Legislature

Summary of the Project and its Benefits to the Indian River Lagoon

The project proposes to construct a new 8" Gravity Sewer Collection System within The Whitfield Subdivision of West Wabasso. The Project design is 100% complete (shovel ready), and the Project has secured the following agency permits:

- Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Wastewater Collection Permit
- Indian River County (IRC) Right-of-way Permit

Benefit of constructing a public sewer system include not only the removal and cleanup of numerous existing and antiquated septic systems but also the prevention of additional new systems. These septic systems can leach nutrients into groundwater, contaminating the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) when it merges with the estuary's base flow (where the underground water table meets the sea surface). Another benefit

is preventing stormwater pollution from leaching from topsoil's into estuarine water during major rain events. The project would yield a positive benefit to the Lagoon by reducing an estimated amount of 3,131 pounds/year of total nitrogen and 505 pounds/year pounds of total phosphorus from being leached into the Lagoon.

This project supports the adopted Central IRL Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP), the allocated Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), the Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Plan and IRL Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). It directly supports the effort to achieve total nitrogen and total phosphorus required reductions set forth for the County in the Central IRL BMAP. It supports the IRLNEP economic study (Hazen and Sawyer, P.C., 2008) that estimates the total value of the lagoon's benefits to residents and visitors was estimated at \$3.725 billion. It further supports the action plans put forth in the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program Comprehensive Conservation & Management Plan (2012). Finally, it supports the SWIM Plan (2002) that conducted surveys in all the IRL basins and concluded in general that the soils were not suitable for onsite sewage treatment disposal systems (OSTDS), particularly at densities of two or more units per acre.

Project Funding

The West Wabasso Phase II septic to sewer project will convert approximately fifty seven (57) existing septic tanks to centralized sewer. The project will construct a gravity sewer system to service an area that has a mixed land use designation of primarily residential and a few commercial properties on septic for a total project cost of \$2,250,984 and a construction cost of \$2,100,000. As part of the project, sewer stubouts will be constructed to forty four (44) vacant parcels for future connection. The Indian River County Board of County Commissioners on January 16, 2018, committed up to \$1,000,000 of Indian River County matching funds to support the successful completion of this project. The remainder \$1.1 million will be requested through the SJRWMD Cost-Share grant program and the Local Funding Initiative FY 18-19 through the Florida Legislature.

Funding Requested through IRLNEP: \$200,000.00

We sincerely look forward to our project to be considered in the Fiscal Year 2018–2019 IRLNEP Funding Program. If you have any questions or need any additional information to facilitate your decision please do not hesitate to contact me at (772) 226-1821.

Sincerel

Arjuna ₩eragoda, P.E. Capital Project Manager