Proposal in Response to:

City of Augusta, GA Augusta Utilities Department

Waterway Debris Removal

March 26, 2025



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6371 Business Boulevard Suite 100 Sarasota, Florida 34240

Ceres Environmental Services, Inc.						
Waterway Debris Removal Price Proposal						
Description	Unit	Price				
Removal of debris currently in the canal and other specified waterways in Augusta/Richmond County, GA		\$38.78				

WATERWAY DEBRIS REMOVAL

1 Capabilities and Experience

Ceres Environmental Services, Inc. is one of the nation's leading disaster recovery contractors. deploying from its disaster response facilities in Florida, Louisiana, Minnesota, California, Puerto Rico, Texas, the Virgin Islands and Christchurch, New Zealand. Since its founding in 1976, Ceres has been awarded over \$2.5 billion in FEMA-funded disaster recovery projects across the United States. While under contract for one billion dollars, Ceres was able to complete the work for about half that amount, saving hundreds of millions of dollars for the Government. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officially evaluated Ceres' overall performance during the Katrina cleanup as "Outstanding", the highest rating available at that time. Ceres was specifically noted for the use of local contractors; guality, efficiency, and swiftness of performance; and cooperation while managing a changing and evolving work scope for the single largest geographic area of operation post Katrina.

Waterway Debris Removal Experience

Ceres has extensive experience removing debris from waterways. Ceres cleared rivers, streams, waterways, and canals following such disasters as the 2016 Louisiana Floods and Hurricane Katrina. Our team successfully completed debris removal projects nationwide, serving clients such as Livingston Parish, St. Tammany Parish, the City of Savannah, GA; Merced County, CA; Linn County, IA, among others.

In 2023, Ceres worked in St. Tammany Parish, LA, clearing 381,333 linear feet of waterway within the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. This project was funded by NRCS.

In 2022-2023, Ceres removed vegetative and nonvegetative debris from the City of Cape Coral canals. The scope of this project included collecting, chipping, and disposing of 750,000 cubic yards of vegetative debris and collecting and disposing of 800 cubic yards of C&D, covering over 400 miles of both saltwater and freshwater canals.

In 2018-2023, Ceres provided Livingston Parish, LA



Ceres collected over 750,000 CY of waterway debris for the City of Cape Coral



Ceres working in Livingston Parish, LA

stream debris removal services for waterways in an effort to mitigate local flood risks and enhance scenic waterways and wildlife under the NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Program. Ceres completed 3,554,683 linear feet of waterways, reducing flooding and removing obstructions from over 600 miles of bayous, creeks, rivers, and ditches.

During the project, Ceres regularly met with Livingston Parish, NRCS and USACE partners to conduct site visits of ongoing work. Ceres project management staff also met weekly with superintendents and foreman to discuss the USACE permits including the drawings and specifications within the permits. All permits and ROE information are provided to the superintendents and permits using DropBox accounts for ease of reference and sorted by lateral.



With this experience, Ceres understands how to work with federal, state and local agencies to include U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, The Natural Resource Conservation Service and The United States Fish and Wildlife Agency. Ceres knows how to work with NRCS and the U.S. Corps of Engineers to secure Section 404 permits.

Specialized Equipment

In addition to traditional waterway debris removal equipment, Ceres owns advanced material handlers, Sennebogens, which can be particularly effective for waterway debris removal projects. Sennebogen tree & material handlers are low pressure ground pieces of equipment with grapple saws that allow to remove debris safely and efficiently. These versatile machines are essential for lifting, cutting, and sorting large storm-damaged materials, such as fallen trees and tangled vegetation, that may obstruct natural water flow. With 68 feet of down slope reach, the grapple saw allows the operator to safely and precisely cut through large logs and branches in difficult-to-access areas, such as steep embankments and flood zones. The combination of lifting power and cutting precision ensures efficient debris removal.

Past Similar Projects

Ceres Environmental Services, Inc. has been working actively in the disaster recovery business since our founding in 1976, completing over 350 FEMA-reimbursed projects. Below are a few examples of our past projects that involved waterway debris removal; additional details on our past performance are available upon request.

Owner	Title of Work	Value	Amount	Time Period	Description
East Feliciana Parish, LA	NRCS Waterway Debris Removal	\$2,271,873	70,819 LF	March – July 2024	Removal of debris obstructing waterways
Cape Coral, FL	NRCS Waterway Debris Removal	\$201,620	3,300 LF	December 2023 – February 2024	Removal and reduction of Waterway Debris following Hurricane lan
Cape Coral, FL	Emergency Disaster Assistance and Debris Removal- FEMA Waterway Debris Removal	\$64,888,996	2.7 million CY of debris-including 750,000 CY of Waterway Debris	September 2022 – February 2024	Removal of Debris Following Hurricane Ian. Ceres removed extensive amount of debris from canals.
Merced County, CA	Agreement for Special Services – Flood Debris Removal	\$1,665,420	48,663 CY of waterway debris	July 2023 – January 2024	Removal and reduction of debris following flood event, including waterway debris removal
St. Tammany Parish, LA	Waterway Debris Removal	\$8,400,000	381,333 LF	September 2022 - September 2023	Removal of debris from waterways throughout the Parish.
Livingston Parish, LA	Vegetative Debris Removal from Parish Waterways	\$65,467,989	3,306,224 LF	May 2018 – September 2023	Removal of waterway debris as part of the NRCS funded Emergency Watershed Protection Project
Linn County, IA	Derecho Storm Debris Removal from Waterways	\$16,228,927	1,160,165 CY including 3,284 CY of waterway debris	June-August 2021	Removal of waterway debris following the 2020 Derecho in lowa
Savannah, GA	Storm Debris Removal Services	\$11,934,438	449,873 CY	October 2016 – June 2017	Debris removal after Hurricane Matthew, removal and reduction of vegetative debris, trees and stumps. Ceres also removed almost 50,000 CY of waterway debris.
Livingston Parish, LA	Waterway Debris Removal	\$606,874.58	8,538 CY, 144 Boats	October – December 2015	FEMA approved debris removal project of vegetative, C&D, and white good debris removal from waterways in Livingston Parish



2 Project Approach

Main goals and objectives:

- Safely and efficiently remove waterway debris from the Augusta Canal
- Ensure the integrity of the City of Augusta Water Works System levee and its intake system
- Preserve water quality, as the Augusta Canal is a major source of Augusta's drinking water

The work will involve clearing vegetative debris from designated channel areas by removing and disposing of vegetative debris from the channel.

Mobilization and Project Timeline

Crews will begin work within 6 calendar days of NTP or according to Augusta's priorities and the removal schedule coordinated with Augusta Utilities.

Daily meetings will be conducted at 7:00 AM between Augusta Utilities representatives and Ceres authorized project representatives. Progress will be updated and reported by Ceres at the close of business each day.

A final report will be submitted to the Augusta representatives upon project closeout. Ceres will prepare and submit a detailed description of all debris management activities including production rates, final disposal locations, and total cost of the project invoiced to Augusta. Ceres will also supply additional information upon request and understands that final project reconciliation must be approved by Authorized Representatives of the City of Augusta/Augusta Utilities. Following reconciliation of the records, a final invoice will be delivered to Augusta.

Levee Integrity

Work will be conducted from the waterway and levee system. The condition of the levee will be monitored by Ceres Representatives for any changes in structural integrity throughout the operation.

Ceres may utilize its Sennebogen equipment to remove waterway debris from the channel, specifically in areas where it will not compromise the integrity of the levee. For instance, Sennebogen machines may be utilized to clear trees that may obstruct the intake system.

Crews:

A crew may consist of any combination of the following types and quantities of equipment.

• 1 Amphibious (Marsh Excavator) operating in the waterway



One of Ceres' Sennebogen machines mobilized to Augusta, ready to clear debris from the canal.

- Shallow draft work platforms with Hydraulic Excavators and Grapples
- 1 17-foot utility work boats with 25hp out-board motor or Airboats dependent on access
- 1 Cable Skidders or Tractor Dozers with Winches- laborers will attach the cables to the debris.
- 4-6 Laborers

Available Equipment:

- Barges
- Marsh buggies
- Sennebogens
- Track Excavators
- Maruko Tracked Trucks
- Skid Steers with Winches and Cables

Removal of Debris

Scope of Work

All woody debris within the work limits shall be removed. Typically, Vegetative debris longer than 18 inches or having a diameter greater than 4 inches (or other mutually determined debris size) within the work limits



will be is removed. This is to include, but is not limited to all debris (trees, which have been displaced, etc.) that is a part of the debris within the work limits. Leaning trees, (those which are leaning over the channel and are identified for removal), shall be cut off at the ground line leaving the root mass in place. If the root mass of such tree is outside the work limits, the tree shall be cut off at the root mass and the root mass shall remain.

Flow obstructions shall be removed by method including, but not limited to, sawing, cabling, winching, lifting, or dragging.

The following guidelines shall be utilized to determine which trees, stumps, and brush to remove.

- All downed trees, brush, limbs, tops, vines, and other washed-in woody vegetative materials lying completely or partially within the stream banks shall be removed.
- Stumps of downed trees within the channel banks shall not be removed unless less than 30% of the stump is in direct contact with soil.
- All building materials, manufactured items, and other loose foreign debris lying completely or partially within the limits of designated areas shall be removed and disposed of to the appropriate landfill or facility.

Transportation and Disposal of the Debris

All vegetative debris removed from the Augusta Canal will be transported to the ROW. Further, it will be transported to the Augusta Eisenhower Park Debris Management Site for temporary disposal, reduction with mulch hauled to an approved final resting spot. Canal debris loading, hauling, reduction by grinding, hauling and disposal at final resting spot will be compensated under pay items included in the City of Augusta debris removal contract with Ceres Environmental.

No sediment shall be placed on improved property except were directed or allowed by the City of Augusta Utilities authorized representatives to fill stump holes, ruts, and other local depressions.

Bridges

When debris removal is required at bridge and culvert locations, the work limits shall be the distance necessary to remove all floating and submerged accumulated debris. At bridges and culverts, both sides of the channel may be used as work sides if conditions warrant.

Ceres may request to temporarily lower the water levels to create additional clearance for the barge with debris to navigate under bridges. This will be performed in coordination with City of Augusta Utilities authorized representatives. A clearance of at least 12 feet will be required for safe operation of marsh buggies and barges.

Tree Rootballs

The root mass of any tree, within the work limits, designated for removal, shall only be left in place if 30% or more of the root mass is still in direct contact with the soil. Root masses of trees, within the work limits, that are designated for removal, and which are less than 30% in contact with the soil shall be removed.

Ceres will remove tree rootballs only with permission from the levee authorities.

Spill Prevention

As mentioned earlier, the Augusta Canal is a major source of Augusta's drinking water. Ceres will implement spill prevention measures to mitigate hydraulic hose failures and potential oil spills from machinery.

Mitigating Intake System Blockages

Sennebogens may be utilized to clear trees that may obstruct the intake system. Sennebogens may hold, cut, and remove entire trees directly from the waterway.

Volume Reduction by Grinding

The wheel loader with rake will push material designated for reduction to the grinder. Great care should be taken to keep the debris free of dirt before processing with a grinder/chipper; this both maintains the value of the product and reduces the cost of grinding. If the mulch produced from grinding is to remain on site for



more than four weeks, the mulch piles will then be stacked no higher than 12 feet to minimize the potential for spontaneous combustion.



Horizontal grinders, having a predominately closed grinding chamber, can operate with a minimal exclusion zone projecting out at a 45-degree angle at a distance of 250 feet from each corner of the in-feed conveyor. Tub grinders, if used, will operate with an exclusion zone of 300 feet on the "kick" side of the grinder and 50 feet on the "non-kick" side. Grinders will be shut down in full tub conditions to minimize debris ejection. The Dust Control plan will be implemented to ensure dust from the grinder does not impact the adjacent properties. Lockout/tagout procedures will be used on grinders and strictly enforced. All equipment in the vicinity of the grinders will be equipped with fully enclosed cabs.

Safety

Ceres Site Managers are responsible for ensuring safe and healthy work environments during all operational phases. The Site Manager's specific daily Health and Safety and Operations responsibilities include:

- Ensuring safe operation of their specific area of responsibility using the proper tools and in accordance with the safety procedures and guidelines outlined in EM 385-1-1 and CFR 29 Par 1929 and 1910.
- Enforcing the use of proper guards, controls, and work practices. Monitoring each feature of work for human, situational, and environmental factors that could cause accidents.
- Locating compiling contact information for area medical facilities. Crew Leaders will be equipped with a cellular phone in case of emergency.
- Supervising and evaluating overall worker performance, including safety.

Crew Leaders document daily production to monitor and ensure the most efficient operations. The information they are to record includes: Cycle Times of Trucks, Loads per Hour, and Production.

Crew leaders are required to make sure that safety gear is provided and that it is adequate for the hazards involved. They must also enforce the proper use and wearing of protective gear. Accidents will be recorded and reported on the Supervisor's Accident/Incident Investigation Report by the Crew Leaders.

Daily records submitted up the chain of command to the Project Manager will include: Subcontractor/Employee Name, Equipment Number, Type of Equipment and the hourly equipment documentation, downtime, lost time, and sick time.

All accident/incident reports are forwarded through the Health and Safety Manager to the Health and Safety Officer (HSO). The HSO notifies the PM, who in turn informs the City Operations Manager and implements all procedures as set forth in the Ceres Health and Safety Program.

Project Manager

The Project Manager (PM) will serve as the principal point of contact between Ceres and the «Jurisdiction» Operations Manager. The assigned PM will be knowledgeable about all facets of Ceres' assigned tasks and will have executive project responsibilities. The PM will have written authority to sign for the corporation in matters relating to this project and Augusta.



Upon receipt of a Notice to Proceed, the PM will be on call 24 hours per day, seven days per week, and will have electronic linkage capability for transmitting and receiving relevant contractual information. This linkage will provide immediate contact availability via cell phone and fax machine and have Internet capabilities. The PM will participate in daily After-Action Reviews and disaster exercises, functioning as a source to provide essential element information. The PM will report to the Augusta Operations Manager on an "on call basis" and be capable of responding within one hour of notification.



The PM will ensure that all Augusta event goals and priorities are accomplished and is authorized to make executive decisions regarding the project. The PM will work out of a Ceres local disaster office and will meet with his support staff and crew leaders at the end of each day to review progress and set goals and priorities for the following day.

3 References

Ceres Environmental Services, Inc. has a long record of successful contract performance. Our customers have provided formal evaluations or letters of recommendation that attest to our strong performance and record of customer service and satisfaction. These letters are provided on the following pages. The following table contains a selection of our references from relevant projects completed in the past five (5) years.

Event	Contract Activity	Government Entity	Amount	Contract Period			
Hurricane lan	Emergency Disaster Assistance and	Cape Coral, FL	\$64,888,996	October 2022 -			
	Debris Removal & Waterway Debris		2,707,047 CY including	May 2023			
	Removal		over 750,000 CY of				
			waterway debris				
	Point of Contact: Terry B. Schweitzer, Solid Waste Manager; P.O. Box 150027, Cape Coral, Florida 33915-						
	0027, Tel: 239-573-3136; tschweitzer@capecoral.gov						
Waterway	Waterway Debris Removal	St Tammany Parish,	\$8,381,699	September 2022			
Cleanup		LA	381,333 Linear Feet	 September 			
				2023			
	Point of Contact: Holly O'Neal, Assistant Director of Public Works, Tel.: (985) 898-2557; honeal@stpgov.org						
Waterway	Waterway Debris Removal	Livingston Parish, LA	\$65,467,989	May 2018 –			
Cleanup			3,306,224 Linear Feet	September 2023			
	Point of Contact: Shannon Dyer, Deputy Director of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness; 2035						
	Government Boulevard, Livingston, LA 70754; Tel. (225) 247-8883; lohsep1@lpgov.com						





City of Cape Coral Public Works Department

April 27, 2023

Bryan Fike Regional Client Services Director Ceres Environmental Services, Inc. 6968 Professional Parkway East Sarasota, FL, 34240

Re: City of Cape Coral Hurricane Ian Debris Removal Project

Dear Bryan Fike:

I am writing to acknowledge and commend CERES Environmental Operations for the excellent performance related to disaster debris removal following Hurricane Ian's landfall in Cape Coral.

I offer sincere appreciation for their rapid recovery services during one of the most powerful and destructive storms to ever hit the United States. The project scope included over 127 square miles of land and 1,500 miles of roadway. Ever since we signed our contract, they have provided the highest quality of communications and responsiveness with even better customer service. Our deadlines were met earlier than expected, and they quickly resolved any issues that arose without reservation. Our recovery could not have been successful without them. The professional leadership of the field team to rapidly mobilize and ramp up with full-time personnel and numerous subcontractors is a testimony to the dedication of their staff. A positive relationship was built with all levels of the city's government, making them a reliable partner to us.

Immediately after the storm passed, CERES mobilized a large volume of equipment and personnel to conduct first push operation, began vegetative debris removal, set up and operated four separate debris management sites within city limits. The CERES team and their sub-contractors, were well equipped to, not only, meet the physical demand, but also, extremely familiar with the tedious requirements related to federal funding.

Public Works Department • City of Cape Coral, P.O. Box 150027 • Cape Coral, Florida 33915-0027 (239) 574-0701 • Fax (239) 574-0732 • <u>publicworks@capecoral.net</u>

Bryan Fike- City of Cape Coral Hurricane Ian Debris Removal Project April 27, 2023 Page 2 of 2

Key staff within the CERES organization provided excellent customer service and addressed all citizen concerns with a sense of urgency and professionalism. While Cape Coral's debris removal activities were being well maintained by CERES, City of Cape Coral Public Works staff were able to focus on different infrastructure recovery efforts.

At the 60-day mark of the declared disaster, Ceres had removed over 1,800,000 cubic yards of vegetation and C&D from city streets. At project completion, CERES collected, chipped, and disposed of 1,510,773 cubic yards of vegetative debris; and collected, staged and disposed of 454,308 cubic yards C&D both, in only 4 months. This included two weeklong holiday breaks.

In addition to the right-of-way removal, a unique facet to the recovery was Ceres also planned and successfully conducted both land-based and water-based debris removal of vegetation knocked down by lan, and non-vegetative debris blown into the canals or damaged by the storm surge.

The scope of this project included collecting, chipping, and disposing of 750,000 cubic yards of vegetative debris and 800 cubic yards of C&D from over 400 miles of both saltwater and freshwater canals, while supporting the City's efforts in protecting waterfowl, wading birds, migrant songbirds, gopher tortoises, and dolphins and reptiles. Cape Coral is home to the largest population of burrowing owls in Florida, and the canal system is so extensive that local ecology and tides have been affected. The system provides many residents with waterfront living access to the Gulf of Mexico via the broad Caloosahatchee River and Matlacha Pass.

The City of Cape Coral is honored to have completed a successful FEMA funded project with CERES, and I would whole-heartedly recommend the CERES team for emergency debris removal activities.

Sincerely,

Terry B. Schweitzer Solid Waste Manager City of Cape Coral

TS:jr



To Whom It May Concern:

Ceres Environmental Services has done an exceptional job clearing numerous waterways in St. Tammany Parish. In 2022 and 2023, we had the pleasure of collaborating with Ceres on an NRCS-funded project aimed at preventing flooding by removing debris from our extensive canals, channels, and various waterway systems. Their dedication, professionalism, and expertise were instrumental in the success of this project.

In total, Ceres cleared 381,333 linear feet of waterways, working within the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Ceres demonstrated efficiency, effectiveness, and high levels of expertise in their waterway debris removal efforts. They exhibited a profound understanding of the challenges posed by our waterways, requiring specialized knowledge and equipment to ensure project success while minimizing the environmental impact. They applied various debris removal techniques to tackle challenges such as the varying depth and width of the waterways, the limited availability of access points, and the presence of obstacles in the waterways.

Ceres complied with all applicable rules and regulations and provided thorough documentation to NRCS to ensure St. Tammany Parish's reimbursement eligibility.

I highly recommend Ceres for any future projects related to waterway debris removal and restoration. Their unwavering dedication to quality, safety, and efficiency sets them apart. We are grateful for their dedication, and we look forward to future collaborative efforts.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL B. COOPER Parish President



Livingston Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness 20355 Government Boulevard, Suite D Livingston, LA 70754



21 March 2024

I am writing this letter to show my appreciation for the work Ceres has completed for Livingston Parish over the course of the last six years. There are 1,548 miles of canals and ditches throughout the Parish, many of which become clogged with debris resulting from storms and hurricanes, posing a threat of flooding.

Between May 2018 and September 2023, Ceres covered over 600 miles of waterways, clearing 3,554,683 linear feet of various canals and rivers. Ceres used specialized waterway debris removal equipment in a safe and efficient manner, ensuring minimal environmental impact throughout their operations.

Ceres complied with all federal, state and local regulations and environmental protection laws. They provided accurate and compliant documentation critical to NRCS reimbursement. Their professionalism, expertise, and reliability make them an invaluable partner.

Based on their exceptional performance, I highly recommend Ceres for any waterway debris removal project.

Thank you,

Shannon Dyer, Deputy Director Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness 20355 Government Blvd. Livingston, LA 70754