



# STAFF REPORT

## CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

**TO:** City Council Regular Session **MEETING DATE:** July 15, 2025

**FROM:** Scott Schultz, Asst. Water Utilities Director

**SUBJECT:** City Council discussion and approval for staff to submit three Requests for Inclusion (RFI) to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) for funding in the following amounts / projects.

- \$4,537,000 for the Harbor Road WWTF Phase III (Pine Avenue Force Main – mothball of the South WWTF).
- \$24,245,000 for construction of the Magnolia Point Reclaimed Water System
- \$27,646,000.00 (combined) for construction of the Magnolia Point Reclaimed Water System and Harbor Road WWTF Phase III. *Scott Schultz*

### BACKGROUND

#### Harbor Road Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility, Phase III:

In 2015 the city developed a master plan for wastewater treatment infrastructure, which included building an advance wastewater treatment plant at the Harbor Road location. Included in that plan was consolidating all wastewater treatment at the Harbor Road site. This would mean pumping the waste from the City's South Wastewater Treatment Facility, located in Reynolds Industrial Park, to Harbor Road. In addition, the city wanted to increase its use of reclaimed water and the growth in the city was taking place in the northern areas. Little did we know how important this was since the Florida Legislature has now passed senate Bill 64, the Surface Water Discharge Elimination Act.

Staff broke these projects into three phases to maximize grant funding. The phases are outlined below.

#### Phase I:

- Install reclaimed water facilities at the Harbor Road WWTF.
- Upgrade the electrical (including backup generator) to the point that it would support full buildout of the city's wastewater infrastructure (three 1.25 MGD plants).
- Rehabilitate the city's master lift stations #2 and #4. Lift station #2 will support Phase III (outlined below)

#### Phase II:

- Construct a new 1.25 Million Gallon Per Day (MGD) advanced nutrient removal wastewater treatment facility.

#### Phase III:

- Construct a force main from Lift Station #2 (South dead end of Palmetto Avenue) to the Harbor Road site.
- Reverse the piping to pump all South Plant waste into Lift Station #2.

- “Mothball” the South Plant (keep permit active for potential future use)

### **Magnolia Point Reclaimed Water:**

On February 21, 2023, Council approved for staff to submit a Request for Inclusion (RFI) to the FDEP Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for design services for the Magnolia Point Reclaimed Water Improvements. This project is in preparation for compliance with the Surface Water Discharge Elimination Act (Senate Bill 64). On June 6, 2023, Council approved adding the design of the Reynolds Water System Improvements to the RFI.

On August 9, 2023, the FDEP-SRF Program approved DW10044 in the amount of \$2,171,400.

On May 7, 2024, Council approved a Consulting Engineers Services Agreement (CESA) with Mittauer & Associates in the amount of \$1,845,000 for permitting and design services for the Magnolia Point Reclaimed Water System. This project was completed in July of 2025.

Now that the design and permitting are complete, the proposed RFI is to begin the construction of a reclaimed water system throughout the Magnolia Point subdivision. This construction would allow the city to comply with Senate Bill 64 and reduce irrigation potable water withdrawals from the aquifer by approximately 80 million gallons per year.

### **Phasing / Grants:**

The original plan was for the city to implement the construction of the Magnolia Point Reclaimed Water in phases, as we did for the wastewater treatment plant. However, when the city’s population exceeds 10,000 people, which we are very close now, the city is no longer able to receive grant funds through SRF, only loans. Over the last nine years the city has invested \$25 million dollars in its wastewater infrastructure, and received \$12.3 million in grants, or 50%. This is our last best chance to receive SRF grant funding.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

\$4,537,000, or \$24,245,000, or \$27,646,000 from the Wastewater Capital Improvement Program Budget

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Approve staff to submit three Requests for Inclusion (RFI) to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) for funding the Harbor Road WWTF Phase III and / or construction of the Magnolia Point Reclaimed Water System.