

# STAFF REPORT UTILITY MEETING

**AGENDA DATE:** October 29, 2024

**DEPARTMENT:** Electric Utility

**TITLE:**

The US Department of Energy grant funding for the U.S. Ocean Current Marine Energy Test Facility Feasibility Assessment

**SUMMARY:**

City's Electric Utility is seeking approval to proceed with the Department of Energy (DOE) grant to participate in U.S. Ocean Current Marine Energy Test Facility Feasibility Assessment.

**BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION:**

The City of Lake Worth Beach Electric Utility has been chosen to receive a \$50,000 share of an \$800,000 federal grant awarded to Florida Atlantic University (FAU) by the U.S. Department of Energy. The grant is designated for the "U.S. Ocean Current Marine Energy Test Facility Feasibility Assessment" project ("Project").

The City has been working collaboratively with the Southeast National Marine Renewable Energy Center (SNMREC) at FAU for nearly a decade, including sponsoring an independent study of the potential regional economic benefits of establishing a "blue energy" innovation cluster in southeast Florida for ocean current energy.

The City's Electric Utility's role in the project is to provide consultation for the system requirements including establishing a grid connection for ocean current energy, engineering support for the specification of submarine cabling systems and for turbine testing for future connections and for shoreside facilities, specification of the project's grid interconnection compatibility, contracting for power deliveries, infrastructure, and associated facilities.

No physical modifications to existing facilities, ground disturbance, or changes to the use, mission, or operations of existing facilities would be required at this time. No additional permits or authorizations would be required.

**MOTION:**

Move to approve/disapprove the City's participation in the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) grant related to the U.S. Ocean Current Marine Energy Test Facility Feasibility Assessment Project.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

Fiscal Impact Analysis  
Fishkind Report - Blue Ocean Energy Economic Impact Analysis  
City Commission Presentation  
Florida Atlantic University Concept Paper

**FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS**

Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

<b>Fiscal Years</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>
<b>Inflows/Revenues</b>					
Appropriated (Budgeted)	0	0	0	0	0
Program Income	0	0	0	0	0
Grants	\$50,000	0	0	0	0
In Kind	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Outflows/Expenditures</b>					
Appropriated (Budgeted)	0	0	0	0	0
Operating	0	0	0	0	0
Capital	\$50,000	0	0	0	0
<b>Net Fiscal Impact</b> <i>(If not budgeted)</i>	\$50,000	0	0	0	0
<b>No. of Addn'l Full-Time</b> <b>Employee Positions</b>	0	0	0	0	0

<b>New Appropriation (Not Budgeted) Fiscal Impact:</b>		
	<b>Revenue Source</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>
<b>Department</b>	Electric Utility	Electric Capital
<b>Division</b>	N/A	Administration
<b>GL Description</b>	Federal Grants / Electric Supply System	Professional Services / Other
<b>GL Account Number</b>	421-0000-331.32-00	421-6010-531-31-90
<b>Project Number</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>Requested Funds</b>	\$50,000	50,000
<b>Remaining Balance</b>	N/A	N/A