

April 30, 2024

The Honorable Daniel Webster
U.S. House of Representatives
2184 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Community Project Funding request for increased capacity of Winter Garden Wastewater Treatment Facility

Dear Congressman Webster:

Founded in 1991 by local biologist Jim Thomas, the Friends of Lake Apopka (FOLA) is a citizen advocacy group that actively advocates for the continued restoration of Florida's 4th largest lake. As the headwaters of the Ocklawaha River Basin, Lake Apopka is a crucial water resource for the State of Florida.

FOLA strongly supports the City of Winter Garden in their pursuit of improving water quality by upgrading their Wastewater Treatment Facility on the south shore of Lake Apopka.

This \$5M project will improve effluent water quality, increase production of reclaimed water (which is beneficial for the Floridian Aquifer), protect source water (Lake Apopka), thereby providing greater nutrient removal which will minimize the growth of harmful algae. All of which will increase native aquatic vegetation, improve boat navigation, and enhance ecotourism revenues.

Thank you for your consideration of this project and for your effective representation of our region in Washington. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

JP Dunn Jr

Joe Dunn
Executive Director
Friends of Lake Apopka

joe.dunn@fola.org
(352) 433-6975



12184 WEST COLONIAL DRIVE
WINTER GARDEN, FL 34787
WOCHAMBER.COM
p: 407.656.1304

May 3, 2024

The Honorable Daniel Webster
U.S. House of Representatives
2184 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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PRESIDENT & CEO

Re: Community Project Funding request

Dear Congressman Webster,

On behalf of the West Orange Chamber, I am writing to express our support for the funding request to increase the capacity of the Winter Garden Wastewater Treatment facility. This vital project aligns with our chamber's commitment to fostering sustainable growth and enhancing the quality of life for our community members.

The Winter Garden Wastewater Treatment facility plays a crucial role in maintaining environmental sustainability and public health within our region. As our community continues to grow, it is imperative that we invest in infrastructure improvements to ensure that our wastewater treatment systems can effectively meet the increasing demands.

By expanding the capacity of the Winter Garden Wastewater Treatment facility, we can accommodate the growing population and businesses in our area while upholding stringent environmental standards. This investment will not only enhance the efficiency and reliability of our wastewater treatment processes but also contribute to the overall well-being and prosperity of our community.

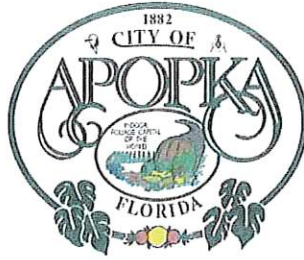
Thank you for your attention to this matter and consideration of this project. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information or assistance.

Stephen Lewis
President and CEO
West Orange Chamber of Commerce

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120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida 32703-5346
Phone: 407-703-1700
www.apopka.gov

May 7, 2024

The Honorable Daniel Webster
U.S. House of Representatives
2184 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Community Project Funding request for increased capacity of Winter Garden Wastewater Treatment Facility

Dear Congressman Webster:

As the headwaters of the Ocklawaha River Basin, Lake Apopka is a crucial water resource for the State of Florida. Cities and communities surrounding Lake Apopka continue to work toward its restoration. As Florida's 4th largest lake, Lake Apopka is home to the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive, which is a great ecotourism attraction drawing nearly 200,000 visitors each year. Projects that improve the water quality of the lake will further ecotourism in the area, which is a benefit to all the nearby cities.

As such, the City of Apopka strongly supports the City of Winter Garden in their pursuit of improving water quality by upgrading their Wastewater Treatment Facility on the south shore of Lake Apopka. This \$5M project will improve effluent water quality, increase production of reclaimed water (which is beneficial for the Floridian Aquifer), protect source water (Lake Apopka), thereby providing greater nutrient removal which will minimize the growth of harmful algae. All of which will increase native aquatic vegetation, improve boat navigation, and enhance ecotourism revenues.

Thank you for your consideration of this project and for your effective representation of our region in Washington. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Bryan Nelson
Mayor, City of Apopka

Mayor Bryan Nelson