



120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida 32703-5346

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[www.apopka.gov](http://www.apopka.gov)

March 4, 2025

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.

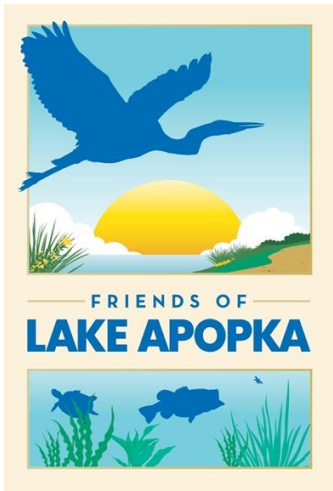
As such, the City of Apopka strongly supports the City of Winter Garden in their pursuit of improving water quality by upgrading their Wastewater Treatment Facility on the south shore of Lake Apopka. This \$5M project will improve effluent water quality, increase production of reclaimed water (which 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*



March 1, 2025

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  
Board of Directors  
Friends of Lake Apopka

[joe.dunn@fola.org](mailto:joe.dunn@fola.org)  
(352) 433-6975



March 6, 2025

The Honorable Daniel Webster  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2814 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Webster:

I am writing to express my strong support for the City of Winter Garden's Community Project Funding request for their Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Project. This investment will help meet the needs of a rapidly growing population while ensuring the continued restoration and protection of Lake Apopka—one of Orange County's most vital natural resources.

Lake Apopka has faced decades of environmental challenges due to nutrient pollution and urban runoff. However, thanks to dedicated efforts from local governments, environmental organizations, and state agencies, we have made substantial progress in improving water quality and restoring critical habitats. Additionally, a cleaner, healthier lake benefits not only our local environment but also our economy—supporting ecotourism, outdoor recreation, and the overall quality of life for my communities of Winter Garden and Oakland. The proposed expansion of Winter Garden's Wastewater Treatment Plant is an essential next step in this effort, as it will enhance nutrient removal, reduce pollutants entering the lake, and increase the production of high-quality reclaimed water.

Investing in this infrastructure project aligns with our county's commitment to responsible growth and environmental protection. As such, I urge you to prioritize funding for this project, as it is essential for both the environmental and economic well-being of Orange County and the surrounding region.

Thank you for your consideration of this project and for your leadership in Washington.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nicole Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nicole" and last name "Wilson" clearly distinguishable.

Commissioner Nicole Wilson  
Orange County Commissioner, District 1



*From the Desk of*

**Mayor Rusty Johnson**

City of Ocoee, 1 North Bluford Avenue, Ocoee, Florida 34761

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March 7, 2025

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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Ocoee 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 if have any questions.

Sincerely,

  
Rusty Johnson  
Mayor





March 3, 2025

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

Re: Support of Community Project Funding Request for City of Winter Garden Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Project

Dear Representative Webster,

On behalf of the Town of Oakland, I am writing to express my strong support for the City of Winter Garden's Community Project Funding request for the expansion of its Wastewater Treatment Plant. This critical infrastructure project will play a vital role in improving regional water quality, particularly in Lake Apopka, and ensuring sustainable growth in West Orange County.

Lake Apopka, Florida's 4<sup>th</sup> largest lake, has long suffered from nutrient pollution and water quality degradation. As a neighboring community, the Town of Oakland is deeply invested in ongoing restoration efforts to improve the lake's health and ecological balance. The expansion of the City of Winter Garden's Wastewater Treatment Plant will enhance wastewater treatment capacity, reduce nutrient loading into the watershed, and support the broader restoration initiatives aimed at revitalizing Lake Apopka.

Furthermore, this project aligns with regional efforts to promote responsible growth while preserving our natural resources. By increasing treatment capacity, the expansion will allow for improved wastewater management, reducing the risk of excess nutrients entering the lake and supporting continued environmental recovery. As West Orange County experiences population growth, it is essential to invest in infrastructure that protects our shared water resources while accommodating future development.

I urge your full support for this funding request, as it represents a crucial step toward sustainable environmental stewardship and regional water quality improvements. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued leadership in advocating for critical infrastructure investments in our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shane Taylor', written over a horizontal line.

Shane Taylor  
Mayor, Town of Oakland



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

March 4, 2025

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

Re: Community Project Funding request

Dear Congressman Webster,

On behalf of the West Orange Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express our support for the Community Project Funding request to expand the capacity of the Winter Garden Wastewater Treatment Plant. This infrastructure investment aligns with the Chamber's commitment to fostering sustainable economic growth while ensuring the health and well-being of our community.

The Winter Garden Wastewater Treatment Plant plays a vital role in maintaining environmental sustainability and public health in our region. As our community experiences continued growth, it is essential that we invest in expanding and modernizing wastewater treatment infrastructure to meet increasing demand, protect natural resources, and support economic development.

By funding the expansion of the Winter Garden Wastewater Treatment Plant, we can ensure that local businesses, residents, and future development projects have access to reliable and efficient wastewater treatment services. This investment will not only enhance system capacity and resilience but also reinforce our commitment to maintaining high environmental standards and supporting the long-term prosperity of our region.

We appreciate your leadership and consideration of this important project. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any additional information or assistance.

Sincerely,

Stephen Lewis  
President & CEO  
West Orange Chamber of Commerce

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

##### BETSY VANDERLEY

CHAIR

The Continuum Collaborative

##### PAM THOMAS

CHAIR-ELECT

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Lynn Walker Wright, P.A.

##### STEPHEN LEWIS

PRESIDENT & CEO

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