



## Septic to Sewer

### Project

- Construction of central sewer collection system to improve water quality. This area is not in the City, but is in a sensitive area that contributes pollution to the estuary and Harbor.

### Existing Conditions

- 1379 septic systems are in the City of Punta Gorda Utility Service area. The increasing levels of nitrogen, fecal coliform, and chlorophyll-a reveal that the level of treatment provided by septic systems is not sufficient to protect the water quality of receiving water bodies. The combination of unsuitable soils, seasonally high groundwater tables, and aging septic systems allows minimally treated sewage to percolate through the soil and enter the groundwater where it is conveyed to canals, rivers, creeks, and estuarine shorelines. This results in high levels of nitrogen, phosphorus, fecal microbes, and organic wastewater contaminants being transported to the Harbor.

### Project Necessity

- The project would eliminate septic systems by providing wastewater collection and treatment services to Charlotte Park and increase water quality in Charlotte Harbor by reducing nitrogen, phosphorus and chlorophyll flows into Charlotte Harbor.

### Recommended Improvements

- Installation of a conventional vacuum system, in addition to some existing gravity sewer extensions, was determined to be the most cost effective and least disruptive solution.

### Total Budget

- \$30,600,000

### Alternative Funding Requests

- 2023 Legislative Appropriation \$5.5 million Florida Department of Environmental Protection is currently drafting the contract.
- Water Quality Improvement Grant Application \$9,800,000
- 2024 Legislative request \$15,000,000