



## City of Punta Gorda 2024 Legislative Agenda

### 1. Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements

Project costs and requests identify the total funding gap. The project can be phased into multi-year funding opportunities should this be more amenable to legislators.

#### Project

- The City of Punta Gorda (City) is making improvements and additions to the Punta Gorda Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) located at 30999 Bermont Road in Punta Gorda. The Punta Gorda Wastewater Treatment Plant is located on approximately 884 acres of leased property owned by the Florida Fish and Wildlife. For this project, the City has obtained their FDEP Environmental Resource permit for Stormwater improvements and their FDEP permit for the plant improvements.

#### Existing Capacity

- The current WwTP has a permitted capacity of 4 million gallons per day (MGD) to serve the citizens of Punta Gorda as well as the surrounding area within the City Utility franchise area.

#### Project Necessity

- The City had a plant evaluation study performed which identified significant hydraulic and infrastructure limitations in the plants ability to achieve the permitted plant capacity. It was determined in the study that there is a possibility that the current infrastructure cannot pass high sewage flows without backing up over the upstream weirs without the use of on-site effluent pond.

#### Recommended Improvements

- New aeration basins, new clarifier's, add a second sand filter, upgrade the effluent pump station and replace all electrical components.

#### Total Budget

- \$78 million

#### Alternative Funding Requests

- State Waste Water Revolving Loan
- Grant Application State Water Quality Improvement Grant Application \$10 million

### 2024 Legislative Request

- **\$10 million for Construction**



## City of Punta Gorda 2024 Legislative Agenda

### 2. Septic to Sewer

Project costs and requests identify the total funding gap. The project can be phased into multi-year funding opportunities should this be more amenable to legislators.

#### 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 million**



## City of Punta Gorda 2024 Legislative Agenda

### 3. Hurricane Ian Seawall Replacement and Mitigation

Project costs and requests identify the total funding gap. The project can be phased into multi-year funding opportunities should this be more amenable to legislators.

#### Project

- The Punta Gorda canal system suffered near catastrophic level seawall failures as a result of Hurricane Ian. The staff has inspected and prioritized repairs in both Burnt Store Isles (BSI) and Punta Gorda Isles (PGI) neighborhoods. 3/4 of a mile in BSI and over 6 1/2 miles in PGI suffered some sort of seawall damage and affected approximately 582 parcels. The project includes replacement of the damaged seawalls and future mitigation.

#### Existing Conditions

- There are 20 projects in Punta Gorda Isles under construction with 17 projects completed, and seven projects under construction with three completed in Burnt Store Isles.

#### Project Necessity

- Seawalls help prevent the introduction of pollutants from coastal development and runoff, thus improving water quality. Clean water benefits marine ecosystems. Reduce coastal flooding because seawalls are effective in reducing the impacts of coastal flooding, which can damage homes and infrastructure, causing environmental harm through pollution and habitat disruption.

#### Recommended Improvements

- Install seawall panels, repair seawall panels and mitigation.

#### Total Budget

- \$37,927,935

#### Alternative Funding Requests

- FEMA \$33,186,943

#### 2024 Legislative Request

- **\$4,740,992**