

*1. Administrative Details*

**Proposal Name: Restoration of Water Quality in the Impaired Waters of Charlotte Harbor**

**by Agency: Charlotte County, Florida**

**Locations: FL**

**POC Name:**

**POC Phone:**

**POC Email:**

**Date Submitted: 09/23/2015**

**Confirmation Number: cf647ccb-94ce-436d-ac97-9a30df211545**

*Supporting Documents*

<b>File Name</b>	<b>Date Uploaded</b>
Restoration of Water Quality in the Impaired Waters of Charlotte Harbor.pdf	09/23/2015

*2. Provide the name of the primary sponsor and all non-Federal interests that have contributed or are expected to contribute toward the non-Federal share of the proposed feasibility study or modification.*

Sponsor	Letter of Support
Charlotte County, Florida(Primary)	Charlotte County strongly supports the Restoration of Water Quality in the Impaired Waters of Charlotte Harbor project modification request.

*3. State if this proposal is for a feasibility study, a modification to an authorized USACE feasibility study or a modification to an authorized USACE project. If it is a proposal for a modification, provide the authorized water resources development feasibility study or project name.*

[x] Modification to an Authorized USACE Project : Restoration of Water Quality in the Impaired Waters of Charlotte Harbor

***4. Clearly articulate the specific project purpose(s) of the proposed study or modification. Demonstrate that the proposal is related to USACE mission and authorities and specifically address why additional or new authorization is needed.***

This proposal suggests a modification to an existing authority contained in Section 5158 of P.L. 110-114, also known as the Water Resources Development Act of 2007. Specifically, a portion of the aforementioned section includes the following:

(121) CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA.-\$3,000,000 for water supply infrastructure, Charlotte County, Florida.

We propose a modification of the authorization to the following: (121) CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA.-\$16,000,000 for waste water infrastructure, Charlotte County, Florida.

Charlotte County proposes to amend its Corps of Engineers authority to address the Restoration of Water Quality in the Impaired Waters of Charlotte Harbor project, which is a large-scale initiative that transitions onsite sewage treatment & disposal systems (OSTDS) throughout the County to central sewer systems and also implements significant stormwater system improvements. The project will substantially restore and protect the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast ecosystem. Specifically, the project will improve the health of the Charlotte Harbor estuary, the second largest in Florida, which ultimately will improve the health of the Gulf of Mexico. Water quality improvements will provide important benefits for the wildlife ecosystem of the Gulf, which will benefit flora and fauna such as seagrasses, mangroves, shellfish, sea turtles, and other marine life. The project includes removal of thousands of OSTDS, constructing a central sewer system and stormwater improvements, and an educational program on Best Management Practices. These efforts will reduce the non-point source pollutant load and mitigate the resulting ecological impacts that are currently impairing the receiving water bodies of Charlotte Harbor and the Gulf of Mexico.

*5. To the extent practicable, provide an estimate of the total cost, and the Federal and non-Federal share of those costs, of the proposed study and, separately, an estimate of the cost of construction or modification.*

	<b>Federal</b>	<b>Non-Federal</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Study</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Construction</b>	\$16,000,000	\$400,000,000	\$416,000,000

**Explanation (if necessary)**

Charlotte County began developing the Restoration of Water Quality in the Impaired Waters of Charlotte Harbor project in 2009 with the prioritization of areas within Charlotte County that were not on central wastewater disposal. Prioritization was based on the following criteria: proximity to impaired water bodies, OSTDS failures, population density, frequency of beach closures due to bacteria, proximity of existing central wastewater disposal infrastructure and projected road paving projects. Four areas were identified with a total construction cost upwards of \$400 million by project completion. This initial request for \$16,000,000 will eliminate approximately 2,600 existing OSTDS that are negatively affecting water quality to the receiving waters of Charlotte Harbor and the Gulf of Mexico.

***6. To the extent practicable, describe the anticipated monetary and nonmonetary benefits of the proposal including benefits to the protection of human life and property; improvement to transportation; the national economy; the environment; or the national security interests of the United States.***

Charlotte County is laying the foundation upon which habitat restoration and the replenishment of living coastal and marine resources can occur and be effective. With pollutants still entering the water bodies, nutrient and bacteria loads will continue to degrade the water quality needed to revitalize and sustain the Gulf's ecosystem and economy. According to the results shown by an EPA approved watershed model for a pilot septic replacement and stormwater improvement project in the North Shore area of Charlotte Harbor, total nitrogen, total phosphorus, and organics are anticipated to be reduced on average by 87% upon project completion. As a result of the project, bacteria levels are also anticipated to decrease. The entire multi-phased project will eliminate over 18,200 OSTDS and improve the functioning of stormwater swales throughout the prioritized areas. The project also provides economic benefits through jobs created during implementation and raises land value due to the availability of central water and sewer. Reducing pollutants entering the water bodies also translates into less beach closures thereby enhancing the quality of life for residents and tourists to the area's shorelines. It is anticipated that the economic benefit resulting from improving water quality in Charlotte Harbor through these types of improvements is in the hundreds of millions of dollars. The project promotes stewardship of the environment through education on potential pollutants as a result of household cleaning and landscaping, and demonstrates how alternatives such as rain gardens, organic fertilizing and other "Florida Friendly" practices can help restore and sustain the natural resources for future generations.

**7. Does local support exist? If ‘Yes’, describe the local support for the proposal.**

Yes

### **Local Support Description**

The Restoration of Water Quality in the Impaired Waters of Charlotte Harbor project is in alignment with existing local, regional, and non-profit cooperating partner goals and objectives. More specifically, the project addresses goals and objectives outlined in the County’s Comprehensive Plan and in Priority Actions that are outlined in the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP) Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), the Joint Florida Gulf National Estuary Programs Southwest Florida Regional Ecosystem Restoration Plan, and Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Plan. The project is also supported locally through assessments to property owners for improvements.

**8. Does the primary sponsor named in (2.) above have the financial ability to provide for the required cost share?**

Yes

# Primary Sponsor Letter of Support

(As uploaded)

**Restoration of Water Quality in the Impaired Waters of Charlotte  
Harbor.pdf**



September 23, 2015

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
441 G Street NW  
Washington, DC 20314-1000

Re: Restoration of Water Quality in the Impaired Waters of Charlotte Harbor project modification

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to resubmit the Restoration of Water Quality in the Impaired Waters of Charlotte Harbor project modification for consideration via the process created by Section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) of 2014.

The Charlotte County, Florida Board of County Commissioners strongly supports the resubmittal of our project modification request and has the financial ability to provide the required cost share. The health of the Charlotte Harbor estuary is critical to the future of our community and the Gulf of Mexico.

We submitted this project modification for consideration last year. Unfortunately, the Administration deemed that our project did not meet a "core" mission of the Corps of Engineers. However, in resubmitting our project modification, we remind the Corps that Congress, in Section 7001 of WRRDA 2014, said "the Secretary shall include...only those...proposed modifications...that are *related to the missions and authorities* of the Corps of Engineers" (emphasis added). Clearly, ecosystem restoration, as we propose under our project modification, is related to the missions and authorities of the Corps.

Thank you for your attention to our request.

Sincerely,

William G. Truex, Chairman  
Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners