

September 7, 2023

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection
2600 Blaire Stone Road MS 235
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400

Re: Letter of Support for Gainesville Regional Utilities Sweetwater Branch Bank Stabilization
Project 2023 Resilient Florida – Project Implementation Grant Application

Dear Sirs/Madams:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Gainesville City Commission to support the Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) Sweetwater Branch Bank Stabilization Project 2023 Resilient Florida – Project Implementation Grant Application.

The project is needed to address creek bank erosion which is occurring adjacent to the GRU Main Street Water Reclamation Facility (MSWRF). The MSWRF is a regionally significant critical asset that receives, treats, and reuses domestic wastewater from a population of approximately 65,000 people in the Gainesville area. The project will stabilize approximately 1,200 ft of creek bank of Sweetwater Branch which will protect MSWRF from being undermined due to on-going erosion and/or major storm events and protect the safety of GRU and regulatory staff by providing safe access to the creek. The project will also reduce the release of sediment which smothers downstream creek habitat and results in accumulation of sediment at the Sweetwater Wetlands Park downstream.

The GRU capital budget, which has been approved by the City Commission has funding to provide the 50 percent local match required for the grant.

We appreciate the ongoing partnership with FDEP in protecting public health and safety and our natural environment.

Sincerely,

Harvey Ward
Mayor, City of Gainesville