

April 12, 2009

The Honorable Charlie Crist
State of Florida
PL-05 The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: Stimulus Finances for Independent Water Control Districts

Dear Governor Crist:

I am writing on behalf of the Ranger Drainage District, a Water Control District located on the eastern side of Orange County. The District provides flood control for an area of 10,000 acres having a population of approximately 5,000 residents. The District was established in 1970 shortly after the development of this metro Orlando / Space Coast community began. The area is known as Wedgefield and was formerly known as Rocket City. The Ranger Drainage District is the local government provider of these services for the citizens residing in the District. The District budget is \$ 1,458,350.00 for 2009 for the ongoing maintenance and emergency infrastructure repairs, as we have experienced as recently as Tropical Storm Fay.

This money is collected exclusively from the residents and tax payers living within the District and goes to maintain and operate the Water Control District's facilities that serve not only the citizens of the District but the citizens of the entire County. At a summery level, the system

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was designed, permitted and continues to operate by collecting storm water within the District, slowing it down, and discharging directly into the Econlockhatchee River via sheet flow. We value the importance of this body of water known as Class 3 Waters Of The State and work diligently with St. John's Water Management District and Orange County EPD to monitor and maintain our discharge. That said, our 40 year old infrastructure is in need of considerable repair due to its age and comes at a time when our residents are struggling as most are in the State.

Our District has been working for 2 years on our Proposed Third Amended Water Control Plan. We have spent several hundred thousand dollars in engineering and other professional services and have enlisted District Staff and hundreds of community volunteer hours to examine the entirety of our system to determine what work needs to be done. This is not 'yet another' opportunistic request for "shovel ready" money; we truly do have projects ready to go. We have several projects that have been designed, permitted and are ready for implementation at this time.

Unfortunately, the District does not have all of the finances necessary to implement the project. If the projects are fully financed, they can be accomplished within one to two years and will employ at least one hundred people who will perform the work. Additionally, and perhaps more importantly, it will relieve a considerable unbudgeted burden from more than 5,000 residents while also preserving an ecologic treasure, the 'Econ' river.

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I do believe that our projects reflect those that you have been a champion for. They also have been described as desirable types of projects to be funded by our Federal Government and our President related to the use of stimulus monies if available.

On behalf of our Board, I sincerely appreciate your consideration for what I will call an application for stimulus money. The grant of any stimulus will serve the public, and could include local matching funds... and is now ready to go. We have included a detailed description with costs of the projects for your information.

Our Board and citizens of our District do very much appreciate your serious consideration our humble request to help us implement this most important infrastructure repair projects.

If I may be of service to you, please contact me at the following address and phone number. I will be available at your earliest convenience.

Again, on behalf of our Board and citizens of Wedgefield, thank you for your consideration of this request.

Very Sincerely,

David Mauck
President
Ranger Drainage District
19950 Nugent Street
Orlando, FL 32833
407-568-5502

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Enclosure

- c. Secretary Thomas G. Pelham, AICP – Florida Department of Community Affairs
Secretary Michael W. Sole – Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Secretary Stephanie C. Kopelousos – Florida Department of Transportation
Members of County Commission
Individual House and Senate Members of County Legislative Delegation