

## Cooperative Funding Initiative — FY 2013 Flood Protection

The following is provided as guidance for cooperators wanting to participate in the District's Cooperative Funding Initiative in the area of **Flood Protection**. The guidelines focus solely on projects associated with flood protection beyond the "local system" level, which is defined below. The District may, however, consider cooperative participation in flood protection projects that involve the local system, if the project incorporates significant water quality, natural systems or water supply benefits. You should refer to the guidelines for water quality, natural systems and water supply for guidance.

Watershed Management and Stormwater Improvement — Flood Protection projects funded by the District represent a wide variety of issues in water resource management that require evaluation, analysis, reporting, mapping, surveying, preliminary engineering, engineering design, permitting, production of construction documents, land and easement acquisition, and construction. The District's cooperative funding program seeks to leverage funds available at local governments to address flood protection issues on a watershed basis, above the local system level.

*What is considered a "local system?"*:

The best way to define local systems is to view it from the standpoint of ownership (the infrastructure itself and the land it sits upon) and/or the purpose the system serves either in its entirety or its components.

The examples below will provide guidance as it relates to ownership of the infrastructure itself, ownership or control of the land on which the infrastructure sits, and the system purpose. Before proceeding, a definition of infrastructure is appropriate. For the purposes of this guideline, the definition of "Works" found in Chapter 373 F.S., Part IV, section 373.403 (5) is adequate. "Works" are defined as, "all artificial structures including, but not limited to, ditches, canals, conduits, channels, culverts, pipes and other construction that connects to, draws water from, drains water into, or is placed in or across the waters in the state."

*A project is local when:*

- *works* are under the ownership of private entities such as homeowners associations, businesses or individuals.
- *works* are under the ownership of local governments and the systems primary purpose is to provide flood protection for maintaining the level of service for roads (how much rainfall can fall and still allow for safe vehicular access).
- *works* are not located on sovereign lands or connect to jurisdictional waters.
- activities involving *Works* don't require alteration of the receiving natural or altered water course (creek, slough, river, channel, etc.).
- the system's primary purpose is to provide flood protection for a defined private subdivision, industrial park, business district, etc.
- the system's primary purpose is to provide flood protection for a road system, either under private, local or state control.

For the design and construction of stormwater improvement projects, the District's consideration of cooperative funding begins at the intermediate system level. While most intermediate flood protection projects involve *Works* associated with local systems, the difference is that intermediate systems involve activities that require construction in waters of the state. Not just the final outfall that discharges to those waters, but the construction of *Works* or improvements to the conveyance and storage capacity of the associated waters.

### *What types of projects will we consider for funding?*

1) Watershed Evaluation: The watershed evaluation provides information used for management decisions and regulatory review. Information gathered is used to define costs for future elements of the watershed management program. It includes:

- Aerial topographic mapping
- GIS inventory of wetlands, water bodies and infrastructure
- GIS Coverages to SWFWMD Data Standards for soils, land use, sub-basins and storage
- Survey of identified stormwater infrastructure elements and control points
- Preliminary Link-Node Watershed Connectivity Map

2) Immediate Maintenance of Intermediate Level Systems

3) Watershed Management Plans: The watershed management plan provides an understanding of the capacity of the watershed, its level of service and an alternative analysis to address deficiencies. It includes:

- Development of a watershed model
- Floodplain analysis. The watershed model is used to project response of watershed's storage and conveyance elements to storm events
- Peer review of preliminary floodplain results
- Public meeting with review and comment period
- Board approval to submit floodplain results to FEMA
- Final floodplain results
- Level of Service (LOS) determination
- Alternative analysis of best management practices (BMPs) — Preliminary design, probable construction costs, alternative cost/benefit and permit analysis

4) Implementation of Stormwater Improvements: Implementation of BMPs for flood protection is addressed through structural and non-structural methods. It includes:

- Design and permitting
- Land acquisition and easements — NOTE: District may recognize land costs incurred by local government as match
- Construction of BMPs
- Construction engineering and inspection

5) Data Management of Watershed Parameters and Updates to Watershed Models: It includes:

- Updated digital terrain model
- Update of GIS parameters (soils, land use, digital Ortho Quads and national wetlands inventory)
- Infrastructure changes

6) Stormwater Utilities: The District will assist local governments in establishing a dedicated funding source to manage their stormwater infrastructure.

All cooperative funding applications should include the following information:

- Project Concept — Brief project narrative describing how the project will protect, enhance and/or restore flood protection related benefits
- Schedule and Budget — Develop a schedule and budget for the project, which will become more refined as the project steps are accomplished
- Project area — Identify the study area required and any analysis performed addressing economic feasibility and permissibility
- Identify any previous work completed. When, what and with whom
- Identification of system scale — Address criteria provided for local system designation

If there are any questions contact your Community Affairs program manager.