

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **The Rebuild Florida Critical Facility Hardening Program**

**PUBLIC NOTICE** to provide 14-day comment period

June 30, 2020

#### **Gainesville Regional Utilities**

Gainesville Regional Utilities anticipates applying for the Rebuild Florida Critical Facility Hardening Program (CFHP) funding provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to support long-term mitigation efforts by assisting the State of Florida and its local governments in minimizing or eliminating the risks and reducing losses from future disasters. This program is being administered by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) thru the Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Program. A total of seventy-five million dollars (\$75,000,000.00) in funding has been allocated by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) for the Rebuild Florida Critical Facility Hardening Program. DEO has identified the following types of structures as critical facilities:

- Potable water facilities
- Wastewater facilities
- Police departments
- Fire departments
- Hospitals
- Emergency operation centers
- Emergency shelters

Gainesville Regional Utilities is applying for a total of \$50,000 in funding through the CDBG-MIT Critical Facility Hardening Program. The requested funding will be used to install a permanent generator for a lift station that serves a portion of the eastern side of Gainesville, including an emergency shelter, Eastside High School. The total cost of the generator is \$60,000, GRU will provide \$10,000 in matching funds. This permanent generator would allow continuing function of the lift station in the event of a power outage during extreme weather.

The installment of a permanent generator would mitigate the risk of malfunction due to power outage in the case of a natural disaster and would increase the reliability of sewer service in the surrounding area and prevent sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs). The lift station allows for

wastewater to be pumped from a lower elevation to a higher elevation in order for sewage to be transported to Main Street Water Reclamation Facility for treatment, which is crucial in preventing waterborne illnesses, maintaining community health and sanitation, and ensuring environmental safety. Lift stations are particularly important during times of natural disasters because they transport a greater flow due to inflow and infiltration of wet weather into the sewer system. During severe weather, lift stations have the potential to lose power, which can lead to loss of wastewater services and cause SSOs. SSOs can cause property damage, contaminate waterways, and jeopardize community and environmental health. This project will enhance community resilience by ensuring lift station power to maintain sewer service and prevent SSOs during times of natural disasters.

Activities that are typically eligible for funding under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, as well as specific additional activities as outlined in the State of Florida CDBG-MIT Action Plan for the program, are eligible projects if no other funding is available to meet the need. Applications are due in DEO no later than June 30, 2020

**Gainesville Regional Utilities intends to submit application for the following:**

**Application 1:**

Gainesville Regional Utilities

Located at 4747 N Main Street, Gainesville Florida

\$50,000 for a permanent lift station generator.

Public Comments:

The 14-day public comment period begins on June 30, 2020 and will end on July 14, 2020. Submit all comments and inquires to the Gainesville Regional Utilities, Brittany Oliver at 352-393-1611 or OliverBI@gru.com. Comments from the public must be received no later than 2:00 PM on Friday, July, 14, 2020. All comments will be considered, and proposed changes will be submitted to DEO.