



# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Protection

Southwest District Office  
13051 North Telecom Parkway #101  
Temple Terrace, Florida 33637-0926

**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

**Jeanette Nuñez**  
Lt. Governor

**Shawn Hamilton**  
Interim Secretary

August 2, 2021

Mr. Richard Gardner, Public Utilities Director  
City of Clearwater  
1650 N. Arcturas Ave., Building C  
Clearwater, FL 33765  
[Richard.Gardner@MyClearwater.com](mailto:Richard.Gardner@MyClearwater.com)

Re: Approval of In-Kind Project  
Executed Consent Order OGC File No 21-0522  
Facility ID No. FL0021857, FL0128937, FL0021865 and FL0186261  
Pinellas County

Dear Mr. Gardner:

Thank you for your letter dated July 29, 2021, requesting approval for an in-kind project to install ten manhole Smart Covers in the City's collection system.

Your request is approved. The proposed project provides a benefit to the environment and qualifies as an in-kind project in lieu of making a cash payment of penalties.

The Department appreciates your efforts to identify and participate in an environmental enhancement project. If you have any questions, please contact Margaret Dorge at (813) 470-5703 or via e-mail at [Margaret.Dorge@floridadep.gov](mailto:Margaret.Dorge@floridadep.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kelley", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

For Kelley M. Boatwright  
Southwest District Director  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Enclosure: In-Kind Project Proposal OGC File No. 21-0522

cc: Laurie Roughton, FDEP, [Laurie.Roughton@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:Laurie.Roughton@FloridaDEP.gov)  
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[www.FloridaDEP.gov](http://www.FloridaDEP.gov)

Charmaine Parchment, City of Clearwater, [Charmaine.Parchment@MyClearwater.com](mailto:Charmaine.Parchment@MyClearwater.com)



# City of Clearwater

Public Utilities Department, Post Office Box 4748, Clearwater, Florida 33758-4748  
1650 North Arcturas Avenue, Building C, Clearwater, Florida 33765-1945  
Telephone (727) 562-4960, Fax (727) 562-4961

July 29, 2021

Ms. Kelly Boatwright  
Southwest District Director  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Southwest District Office  
13501 North Telecom Parkway, Suite 101  
Temple Terrace, FL 336367-0926

Re: In-Kind Project Proposal  
Department of Environmental Protection V. City of Clearwater  
Long Form Consent Order: OGC File No. 21-0522  
City of Clearwater  
Facility ID No. FL0021857, FL0128937, FL0021865 and FL0186261  
Pinellas County

## Via Email Only

Dear Ms. Boatwright:

Per the above Consent Order, I hereby submit our proposal to complete an in-kind penalty project in-lieu of making a cash payment of \$27,624.93 in civil penalties as set forth in the Consent Order. The project we are proposing will be valued at a minimum of 1.5 times the amount of the civil penalties stated above, or \$41,437.40. The exact value will be determined when the project has been finalized.

As you are aware, one of the largest challenges that a Utility faces in preventing SSOs is that there are many causes that contribute to their development. Some of these causes include storm water induced hydraulic system overload, pipeline blockages due to grease/rag/detritus formation (fatbergs), and line blockages and/or collapse due to directional drilling contract activity. Therefore, there is no one action that can be taken to prevent or mitigates all SSOs. The location and timing of manhole overflows, and the resultant SSOs which occur, currently cannot be predicted effectively, therefore wastewater collection system operators must react to SSOs once they have occurred and been observed.

Because the unpredictable nature of SSOs, there are few, if any, actions that utility can take to prevent SSOs from occurring in the short-term. Long-term actions, to reduce inflow and infiltration (I/I), can be effective in controlling collection system overloads due to storm-induced hydraulic overload, but this work requires substantial time to complete.

Therefore, to effectively reduce the number and/or severity of SSOs in the short-term requires that some way of predicting impending manhole overflows be developed, relying on citizen observations and/or staff reconnaissance to locate SSOs is not effective. If sewer line and/or manhole wastewater levels could be remotely monitored in near real-time via electronic means such that impending overflows could be reported to utility staff before a SSO begins, the utility could dispatch vacuum trucks, pumper trucks, portable

Mark Bunker, Councilmember  
Kathleen Beckman, Councilmember

Frank Hibbard, Mayor



David Allbritton, Councilmember  
Hoyt Hamilton, Councilmember

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pumps and collection system workers to attempt to prevent the overflow from occurring, or at a minimum, greatly reduce the quantity of wastewater released onto the street and/or into nearby water bodies. We have become aware that there are companies which offer a manhole wastewater level monitoring system designed to provide such a near real-time level monitoring, alarm generation, reporting and data analysis/trend charting capabilities.

In February 2021, the city installed 17 monitors along with 4 rain gauges. Since installing, the city has reacted successfully to 10 alarms preventing SSO's. Additionally, high-water level alarms were monitored during Tropical Storm Elsa.

We propose to purchase 10 additional manhole level monitor systems complete with associated telemetry equipment plus the data communications service necessary to allow our collections system staff to be able to monitor manhole wastewater levels at 10 additional sites located at critical locations within our collections system. It is our hope that by providing our field staff this tool, it will help them continue to prevent, and/or reduce the severity of, SSOs in the monitored portions of our wastewater collection system going forward.

The monitoring/telemetry units will be installed in manholes that historically experience overflows and resultant SSOs. Once in operations, we will relocate the monitoring/telemetry units should it become apparent that alternative locations would result in greater reductions in SSOs.

I have provided this Web link (<https://smartcoversystems.com/>) where you will find basic information about one monitoring/telemetry system (Smart Cover) as an example of the technology we are proposing to implement. The units are provided by Tencarva Machinery doing business as Hudson Pump. They are the authorized vendor for our area. This purchase will require approval from City Council which can increase the time required to make the purchase. Regardless, the value of the project will be at least \$41,437.40 as required by the Consent Order.

Once we receive your approval of this in-kind project proposal, we will begin the process of procuring the necessary monitoring systems.

I have attached an executed In-Kind Project Certification Form as required by our Consent Order, Exhibit A.

We wait your approval of this in-kind project proposal, if you have any questions or require any additional information please contact me.

Thank you for all the assistance you, your staff and the Department have provided us in helping us resolve this issue.

Sincerely Yours,



Richard Gardner, PE, CPM  
Public Utilities Director  
City of Clearwater, Florida

Mark Bunker, Councilmember  
Kathleen Beckman, Councilmember

Frank Hibbard, Mayor



David Allbritton, Councilmember  
Hoyt Hamilton, Councilmember

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Reference: SMART Cover- example system basic information: <https://smartcoversystems.com/>

Attachment: In-Kind Project Proposal Certification

Cc: Kelly Boatwright, FDEP, via email only  
Erica Peck, FDEP, via email only  
Margaret Dorge, FDEP, via email only  
Lance Kautz, FDEP, via email only  
Micah Maxwell, City, via email only  
Jay Ravens, City, via email only  
Owen Kohler, City, via email only  
Lori Vogel, City, via email only  
Charmain Parchment, City, via email only  
Jason Jennings, City, via email only  
Michael Flanigan, City, via email only  
Glenn Daniel, City, via email only

Bill Jonson, Councilmember  
Paul Gibson, Councilmember

George N. Cretekos, Mayor



Jay Polglaze, Councilmember  
Doreen Hock-Dipolito, Councilmember

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**From:** [Flanigan, Michael](#)  
**To:** [Boatwright, Kelley M.](#)  
**Cc:** [Peck, Erica](#); [Dorge, Margaret](#); [Kautz, Lance](#); [Maxwell, Micah](#); [Ravins, Jay](#); [Kohler, Owen](#); [Vogel, Lori](#); [Parchment, Charmaine](#); [Jennings, Jason](#); [Daniel, Glenn](#)  
**Subject:** In-Kind Project Proposal for LFCO No. 21-0522  
**Date:** Thursday, July 29, 2021 9:14:38 AM  
**Attachments:** [In-Kind Project Proposal OGC File No. 21-0522.pdf](#)  
[Proposal Certification Form - 7-28-2021.pdf](#)

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Good Morning,

Attached is the City of Clearwater's In-Kind Project Proposal and the Proposal Certification Form. Please share any questions or concerns.

Warm Regards,  
Michael Flanigan

Public Utilities Assistant Manager  
Public Utilities Department  
City of Clearwater  
1605 Harbor Drive.  
Clearwater, FL 33755

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