

Appropriations Project Request - Fiscal Year 2020-21

For projects meeting the Definition of House Rule 5.14

1. Title of Project: Ecosphere Restoration Institute Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Statewide Restoration and Aquaculture Program

2. Date of Submission: 10/03/2019

3. House Member Sponsor: Jackie Toledo

Members Copied:

4. DETAILS OF AMOUNT REQUESTED:

a. Has funding been provided in a previous state budget for this activity? No

If answer to 4a is "No" skip 4b and 4c and proceed to 4d, Col. E

b. What is the most recent fiscal year the project was funded?

c. Were the funds provided in the most recent fiscal year subsequently vetoed?

d. Complete the following Project Request Worksheet to develop your request:

FY:	Input Prior Year Appropriation for this project for FY 2019-20 (If appropriated in 2019-20 enter the appropriated amount, even if vetoed.)			Develop New Funds Request for FY 2020-21 (Requests for additional RECURRING funds are prohibited.)		
Column:	A	B	C	D	E	F
Funds Description:	Prior Year Recurring Funds	Prior Year Nonrecurring Funds	Total Funds Appropriated (Recurring plus Nonrecurring: column A + column B)	Recurring Base Budget (Will equal non- vetoed amounts provided in Column A)	Additional Nonrecurring Request	TOTAL Nonrecurring plus Recurring Base Funds (Will equal the amount from the Recurring base in Column D plus the Additional Nonrecurring Request in Column E.)
Input Amounts:					5,000,000	5,000,000

5. Are funds for this issue requested in a state agency's Legislative Budget Request submitted for FY 2020-21? No

5a. If yes, which state agency?

5b. If no, which is the most appropriate state agency to place an appropriation for the issue being requested? Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

5c. Has the appropriate state agency for administering the funding, if the request were appropriated, been contacted? No

5d. Describe penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures which the agency should provide in its contract to administer the funding if appropriated.

The Nursery and SAV will be inspected and certified by FDACS staff, any plants that fail certification or inspection will not be used for planting and not available as a pay item.

6. Requester:

- a. Name: Beau Williams
- b. Organization: AquaTech Eco Consultants
- c. Email: Beau@aquatecheco.com
- d. Phone #: (813)918-6169

7. Contact for questions about specific technical or financial details about the project:

- a. Name: Beau Williams
- b. Organization: AquaTech Eco Consultants
- c. Email: Beau@aquatecheco.com
- d. Phone #: (813)918-6169

8. Is there a registered lobbyist working to secure funding for this project?

- a. Name: None
- b. Firm: None
- c. Email:
- d. Phone #:

9. Organization or Name of entity receiving funds:

- a. Name: Ecosphere Restoration Institute
- b. County (County where funds are to be expended): Hillsborough
- c. Service Area (Counties being served by the service(s) provided with funding): Statewide

10. What type of organization is the entity that will receive the funds? (Select one)

- ☐ For Profit
- ☒ Non Profit 501(c) (3)
- ☐ Non Profit 501(c) (4)
- ☐ Local Government
- ☐ University or College

☐ Other (Please describe)

11. What is the specific purpose or goal that will be achieved by the funds being requested?

Create a sustainable fresh and saltwater Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Nursery and implement regional specific plantings along with creation of SAV habitat restoration grow plots in critical areas of need (NW Florida Panhandle, Springs, Caloosahatchee River Basin, and the Indian River Lagoon, Biscayne Bay and The Florida Keys). Projected 100 acres of plants grown and planted annually within critical areas of need. The program includes public-private partnerships, Universities, and 501c3.

12. Provide specific details on how funds will be spent. (Select all that apply)

Spending Category	Description	Nonrecurring (Should equal 4d, Col. E) Enter "0" if request is zero for the category
Administrative Costs:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a. Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Construction oversight and deliverables management/project and phase planning	100,000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> b. Other Salary and Benefits	Field staff for aquaculture center maintenance	300,000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> c. Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Admin Expenses and site inspections	100,000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> d. Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Aquaculture facility lease and maintenance	200,000
Operational Costs:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> e. Salaries and Benefits	Internships, monitoring, permitting and data collection	400,000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> f. Expenses/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	SAV plants, Exclusion Cages, Signage, and Education	2,000,000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> g. Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Installation, maintenance, observations and adjustments	1,900,000

Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
<input type="checkbox"/> h. Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
TOTAL		5,000,000

13. For the Fixed Capital Costs requested with this issue (In Question 12, category "h. Fixed Capital Outlay" was selected), what type of ownership will the facility be under when complete? (Select one correct option)

- ☐ For Profit
- ☐ Non Profit 501(c) (3)
- ☐ Non Profit 501(c) (4)
- ☐ Local Government (e.g., police, fire or local government buildings, local roads, etc.)
- ☐ State agency owned facility (For example: college or university facility, buildings for public schools, roads in the state transportation system, etc.)
- ☐ Other (Please describe)

14. Is the project request an information technology project?

No

15. Is there any documented show of support for the requested project in the community including public hearings, letters of support, major organizational backing, or other expressions of support?

Yes

15a. Please Describe:

There has been previous projects funded for similar work. The communities are behind restoration of valuable ecosystems for tourism and essential fish habitat.

16. Has the need for the funds been documented by a study, completed by an independent 3rd party, for the area to be served?

Yes

16a. Please Describe:

There has been over 10 years of documented studies, past projects, and funded projects showing success of restoration of essential fish habitat statewide on small scale. State agencies have documented decline in SAV for decades.

17. Will the requested funds be used directly for services to citizens?

Yes

17a. What are the activities and services that will be provided to meet the purpose of the funds?

SAV produced are available for research and SAV restoration activities. Visitors will be educated about the importance of SAV and restoration activities.

17b. Describe the direct services to be provided to the citizens by the funding requested.

High School and college students will assist with aquaculture activities. The general public relies on a healthy Florida SAV community for fisheries and

17c. Describe the target population to be served (i.e., "the majority of the funds requested will serve these target populations or groups.").

Select all that apply to the target population:

- ☐ Elderly persons
- ☐ Persons with poor mental health
- ☐ Persons with poor physical health
- ☐ Jobless persons
- ☐ Economically disadvantaged persons
- ☐ At-risk youth
- ☐ Homeless
- ☐ Developmentally disabled
- ☐ Physically disabled
- ☐ Drug users (in health services)
- ☐ Preschool students
- ☒ Grade school students
- ☒ High school students
- ☒ University/college students
- ☐ Currently or formerly incarcerated persons
- ☐ Drug offenders (in criminal Justice)
- ☐ Victims of crime
- ☒ General (The majority of the funds will benefit no specific group)
- ☐ Other (Please describe)

17d. How many in the target population are expected to be served?

- ☒ < 25
- ☐ 25-50
- ☐ 51-100

- 101-200
- 201-400
- 401-800
- >800

18. What benefits or outcomes will be realized by the expenditure of funds requested? (Select each Benefit/Outcome that applies)

Benefit or Outcome	Provide a specific measure of the benefit or outcome	Describe the method for measuring level of benefit
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve physical health		
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve mental health		
<input type="checkbox"/> Enrich cultural experience		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve agricultural production/promotion/education	The project will utilize existing Aquaculture techniques for cultivation of SAV for continued large scale SAV planting projects without damaging natural SAV communities.	Aquaculture facility and SAV will be certified by FDACS for use in restoration
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve quality of education	The project will utilize internships from State University students, will be featured in The Florida Aquarium, and provide future employment for students.	Benefits of education can be measured by questionnaires to interns, information gathered at The Florida Aquarium.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhance/preserve/improve environmental or fish and wildlife quality	Submerged Aquatic Vegetation provides critical habitat and nursery area for hundreds of species of aquatic life. The Aquaculture nursery will provide SAV for future restoration projects statewide.	Monitoring of restored areas will be published in accordance with permit requirements. All data will be documented and processed for review. Benefits will be measured by tracking quarterly production of SAV.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protect the general public from harm (environmental, criminal, etc.)	SAV can outcompete harmful algae for nutrients.	Monitoring of SAV and algae to show increase of SAV and decrease of harmful algae

<input type="checkbox"/> Improve transportation conditions		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase or improve economic activity	The project will improve water quality, therefore increasing tourism, Eco-tourism, and both recreational and commercial fisheries.	Monitoring will be conducted to show project goals and objectives are being met.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase tourism	SAV is vital to the states tourism. Tourist visit Florida to enjoy fishing, and the waterfront of the State. SAV is an important part of the fisheries essential habitat for nursery shelter.	SAV monitoring reports will include fish sampling to document species present in restoration area
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Create specific immediate job opportunities	The project will create immediate positions for marine biologist, environmental professionals, and restoration ecologist	Quarterly performance reviews will be administered to employee's. Standards of employment will be conducted and more staff can be added when needed.
<input type="checkbox"/> Enhance specific individual's economic self sufficiency		
<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce recidivism		
<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce substance abuse		
<input type="checkbox"/> Divert from Criminal/Juvenile justice system		
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve wastewater management		
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve stormwater management		
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve groundwater quality		
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve drinking water quality		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve surface water quality	SAV has been document to improve water quality by sequestering nutrients, oxygenate water, control	during each monitoring event and provided with reports.

	suspended sediments.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Please describe): Provide SAV for Large scale restoration projects	With the statewide decline in SAV, large scale restoration is critical for fisheries. Aquaculture of SAV allows for restoration without using donor SAV from existing seagrass meadows, and planting where SAV is not available as a donor.	Previous project completion and documented success will provide benefits.

19. Provide the total cost of the project for FY 2020-21 from all sources of funding (Enter "0" if amount is zero):

Type of Funding	Amount	Percent of Total	Are the other sources of funds guaranteed in writing?
1. Amount Requested from the State in this Appropriations Project Request:	5,000,000	100.0%	N/A
2. Federal:	0	0.0%	No
3. State: (Excluding the requested Total Amount in #4d, Column F)	0	0.0%	No
4. Local:	0	0.0%	No
5. Other:	0	0.0%	No
TOTAL	5,000,000	100%	

20. Is this a multi-year project requiring funding from the state for more than one year?

Yes

20a. How much state funding would be requested after 2020-21 over the next 5 years?

☐ <1M

☐ 1-3M

☒ >3-10M

☐ >10M

20b. How many additional years of state support do you expect to need for this project?

- ☐ 1 year
- ☐ 2 years
- ☐ 3 years
- ☒ 4 years
- ☐ >= 5 years

20c. What is the total project cost for all years including all federal, local, state, and any other funds? Select the single answer which best describes the total project cost. If funds requested are for ongoing services or for recurring activities, select "ongoing activity".

- ☒ ongoing activity – no total cost
- ☐ <1M
- ☐ 1-3M
- ☐ >3-10M
- ☐ >10M