

**Attachment A:**  
**Letter of Interest**



**MARTIN COUNTY**  
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**UTILITIES & SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT**  
**PO Box 9000 Stuart, FL 34995-9000**

**DOUG SMITH**  
**STACEY HETHERINGTON**  
**HAROLD E. JENKINS II**  
**SARAH HEARD**  
**EDWARD V. CIAMPI**

Commissioner, District 1  
Commissioner, District 2  
Commissioner, District 3  
Commissioner, District 4  
Commissioner, District 5

**TARYN KRYZDA, CPM** County Administrator  
**SARAH W. WOODS** County Attorney

**TELEPHONE** (772) 288-5400  
**WEBSITE** [www.martin.fl.us](http://www.martin.fl.us)

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**April 29, 2020**

**Emily Forinash**  
**VIA: [Emily.Forinash@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Emily.Forinash@dep.state.fl.us)**  
**Nonpoint Source Management Program**  
**Division of Water Restoration Assistance**  
**3900 Commonwealth Blvd. MS 3570**  
**Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000**

**RE: Florida Department of Environmental Protection**  
**FY2021 319h Grant Application**

**Martin County is pleased to submit the enclosed FY2021 319h Grant Application.**

**In December of 2018, the Martin County Board of County Commissioners adopted a robust 10-Year Septic to Sewer Program that will provide for the elimination of over 10,000 on-site septic systems. The program will consist of two alternative sewer systems. The Vacuum Assisted Gravity Sewer System funded by special assessment will serve large communities and the voluntary Grinder Sewer System funded by the Utilities Department will serve the smaller communities.**

**In March of 2019, the Board adopted the policies and rate structure for the voluntary "Connect to Protect" Grinder Sewer System. This program consists of the installation of small diameter sewage force mains within the road right-of-way.**

**The grinder sewer system consists of a pump, tank, electrical panel located on the customers property and service lateral to the main located in the street. Upon completion of construction of the infrastructure in a community, letters are sent to each resident notifying them that service is available along with grinder sewer system information, connection cost and frequently asked questions (FAQ). The cost to the customer is \$11,400 and the county provides for the complete installation of the system, abandonment of the septic tank, and maintains the system in perpetuity. To incentivize early connections, customers that open a sewer account**

and make payment within 365 days of the date of the letter (the "Sign Up and Save" period) will receive a discount of \$3,400.

Our request for financial assistance in the amount of \$750,000 will provide a discount of \$1,000 to 500 Vacuum Sewer customers to incentivize early connection of the home to the county system and abandonment of the on-site septic system. It will also provide an additional discount of \$1,000 to 250 Grinder Sewer customers to further incentivize early connection and abandonment of on-site septic systems.

Sincerely,



Samuel T. Amerson, PE  
Utilities & Solid Waste Director

SA/cb

C: Amanda Peck, FDEP  
Maria Gorniewicz, Martin County  
Brian Stahl, Infrastructure Systems Solutions  
Phil Keathley, Martin County