



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

October 28, 2026

Kenneth W. Kellum
Sustainable Water Infrastructure Group, LLC
51 Knight Boxx Road
Orange Park, Florida 32065

Subject: Unsolicited Proposal No. 6000001738
Project Title: Innovative Nutrient Reduction Project for the
Caloosahatchee River

Dear Mr. Kellum:

You are hereby notified that the South Florida Water Management District (District) will evaluate Sustainable Water Infrastructure Group, LLC's unsolicited proposal pursuant to Section 255.065, Florida Statutes. The District has determined that it will not solicit additional proposals.

The District will not be requiring additional funds to evaluate this unsolicited proposal. The District will contact you to coordinate the first duly noticed public meeting in accordance with Section 255.065, Florida Statutes.

Please review the enclosed Evaluation Criteria and provide the updated and complete proposal with sufficient time in order to coordinate your presentation of your proposal at the initial public meeting to affected entities and the public.

Please direct all questions concerning this matter to José Esquivel, who may be reached at (561) 682-2119, or by email at jesquive@sfwmd.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JEsquivel", is written over a blue horizontal line.

José Esquivel, Section Leader - Contracts
Procurement Bureau

JLE/jle

Enclosure: Unsolicited Proposal No. 6000001738 Evaluation Criteria

c: Jewelene Harris, SFWMD

UNSOLICITED PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA CHECKLIST

Statutory review and references are to the 2026 Florida Statutes, §255.065 (Online Sunshine). The highlighting distinguishes statutory requirements from supplemental technical evaluation criteria and is not intended to replace legal review.

No.	General Evaluation Criterion	Description
1	Public Need or Benefit REQUIRED BY §255.065 <i>§255.065(3)(c)1; (5)(d); (5)(e)1</i>	The proposal identifies a problem and demonstrates that there is a public need for, or benefit derived from, the qualifying project. For example, if the qualifying project is a water nutrient removal project, the proposal describes how the nutrient removal technology advances applicable SFWMD water-quality, nutrient-reduction, or watershed objective. • Public need and anticipated public benefit are clearly identified to be in the public interest. • Project improves public environmental outcomes (water quality). • Project provides innovative, scalable nutrient-reduction technology. • Pilot provides insights into future regional treatment approaches. • Environmental benefits outweigh risks, costs, and administrative burden. The technology's potential supports public investment in pilots.
2	Feasibility and Implementation REQUIRED / EXPANDED <i>§255.065(4)(a); see also (3)(a)5</i>	The proposal includes a description of the qualifying project, including a conceptual design of the facilities or a conceptual plan for the provision of services. Conceptual plan is appropriate and proven for the project type. Details are well-stated and comprehensive for executing and managing the qualifying project. The ease or difficulty of implementing the qualifying project considers the following factors, as appropriate: • Technical feasibility including: • Technical difficulties and unknowns associated with the construction and operation of the qualifying project. • Proven effectiveness and reliability of the project's technology(s) for water resource management and/or ecosystem restoration. • Ease of undertaking additional capacity to the qualifying project or other facilities serving similar predominately public purposes. • Ability to monitor the effectiveness of the project. • Availability of services and materials including the following: - Necessary equipment and materials are readily available, including provisions to ensure availability of any necessary specialty, specialist and additional resources. - Availability of prospective technologies including, but not limited to, conventional and/or innovative techniques.
3	Cost Effectiveness & Financing Plan	The proposal includes a description of cost or budget estimates with detail beyond a conceptual level of and general plans for financing the qualifying project. All estimated costs are justified, relevant, and necessary. The estimated cost

	REQUIRED BY §255.065 §255.065(3)(c)2; (3)(g); (4)(c), (e); (5)(d), (e)2	relative to the value that the qualifying project provides is reasonable in relation to similar facilities, accounting for the costs of design and construction as well as long-term costs to operate and maintain the qualifying project. The financing plan describes the financial structure of and economic efficiencies achieved by the qualifying project, including sources of the private entity's funds and the identity of any dedicated revenue source or proposed debt or equity investment on behalf of the private entity, as applicable. Pricing or terms included in the proposal are specific to when the pricing or terms expire. • General financing plan and sources of funding are identified. • Financial capacity to perform the proposed obligations is demonstrated. • Financial risk allocation is reasonable and protects the SFWMD. • Complete costs are provided for design, permitting, construction, startup, operations, monitoring, maintenance, and closeout. • Cost-effectiveness can be evaluated using metrics such as \$/lb TN removed and \$/lb TP removed. • Project/Pilot lifecycle cost and comparison with reasonable alternative projects/methods are addressed. This information is required for SFWMD to perform the independent cost-effectiveness/public-benefit analysis required by §255.065(5)(d) and considers whether estimated project cost is reasonable under §255.065(5)(e)2.
4	Qualifications & Experience REQUIRED BY §255.065 §255.065(3)(c)3; (4)(d); (5)(a)	The private entity(s), or applicable party or parties of the private entity's team, that submitted the proposal must meet the minimum standards contained in the SFWMDs guidelines for qualifying professional services and contracts for traditional procurement projects. The qualifying project includes the name and addresses of a person(s) who may be contacted for additional information concerning the proposal. • Relevant technical, engineering, environmental, construction, and operational experience is demonstrated. • Proposer has experience with the proposed proprietary technology and comparable successful projects/installations are documented. • Proposer has adequate organizational and financial capacity to construct, install, and monitor project progress.
5	Project Compatibility/ Strategic Alignment REQUIRED IF USING §255.065(3)(c) OPT-OUT §255.065(3)(c)4	The qualifying project is compatible with existing or planned District infrastructure and operations used for ecosystem restoration, flood control, water supply, water quality improvement, land management, resiliency, and other District projects and programs; thereby, it aims to supplement or complement District infrastructure and operations. • Environmental/public benefits are specific, measurable, and aligned with SFWMD priorities. • Proposal demonstrates benefit beyond testing or validating a proprietary technology. Proposal explains advantages related to difficult nutrient fractions, footprint, hydrologic flexibility, cost, or performance. • Successful pilot project could provide useful regional or programmatic value. Technology offers potential applicability at other locations or watersheds. • Pilot results can reasonably result in larger-scale implementation.

6	Real Estate & Project Ownership REQUIRED BY §255.065 <i>§255.065(3)(f)2, 5; (4)(b)</i>	The proposal includes a description of the method by which the private entity proposes to secure the necessary property interests that are required for the qualifying project. The SFWMD must determine that the qualifying project is owned by the SFWMD or ownership will be conveyed to the SFWMD within 10 years after initial public operation begins. If the District uses the solicitation process, the project must be owned by the SFWMD upon completion, expiration, or termination of the comprehensive agreement and upon payment of the amounts financed. If the SFWMD opts out of the solicitation process, then the private entity must identify and state the public benefits apart from ownership if ownership will not be conveyed to the SFWMD within 10 years after initial public operation begins. • Necessary property interests, access, easements, leases, or other site-control needs are identified. ➤ Landowner authorization and required property interests are documented. ➤ SFWMD has adequate inspection, monitoring, and oversight access. ➤ Lease, access, restoration, and reversion responsibilities are clearly established.
7	Stakeholder Coordination & Area of Impact PARTIALLY / CONDITIONALLY REQUIRED <i>§255.065(3)(c)5 (public comments)</i>	The proposal provides evidence of coordination or proposed coordination with tribal entities, existing legal water users, landowners, residents, etc., as needed. The qualifying project takes into consideration reasonable and cumulative impacts (e.g., social, environmental, economic) to the public and/or changes to the human environment.
8	Permitting & Compliance STATUTORY-RELATED / EXPANDED <i>§255.065(10)(b) (compliance requirement);</i>	The private entity has defined applicable regulatory policy and permits required to construct the qualifying project, including activities needed to coordinate with other agencies and stakeholders, and the ability and time required to obtain any necessary approvals and permits from federal, state, and local agencies. The qualifying project has and/or will implement safeguards for environmental protection and management (e.g., State water quality standards, Phase 1 and/or Phase 2 Environmental Site Assessment) in accordance with applicable permit regulations, such as federal, state, and local policy and restoration plans. Safety or effects of proprietary filter media have been documented and will not result in water quality or environmental degradation.
9	Timeliness REQUIRED BY §255.065 <i>§255.065(4)(a); (5)(e)3</i>	The proposal includes a schedule from the initiation to the completion of the qualifying project. The private entity's plans will result in the timely acquisition, design, construction, improvement, renovation, expansion, equipping, operation, and maintenance of the qualifying project and the overall timeline is reasonable. Schedule risks and delivery are identified.

10	Risk Assessment STATUTORY-RELATED / EXPANDED §255.065(3)(f)3-4; (5)(b); (7)(a)1, 4, 7	• Effect of proprietary technology on procurement processes, limitations on competitive bidding, requirements for intellectual property disclosure, potential long-term vendor dependency versus operational independence, considerations for sole-source procurement, and the SFWMD's ability to access essential technical information needed for permitting, operation, and future scalability. • Design, permitting, construction, performance, cost-overflow, and schedule risks are clearly allocated. • Define responsibility for design or construction defects, permitting delays, underperformance, cost overruns, system failure, environmental impacts, default, and termination. • Consequences and remedies for failure to meet performance requirements are defined. • Insurance, liability, indemnification, security, default, and termination protections are adequate.
No.	Technical Evaluation Criterion	Description
11	Source Water Availability SFWMD / PROJECT-SPECIFIC	The proposal includes analysis and/or modeling that quantifies source water availability. The qualifying project must demonstrate that the project uses water that is not allocated to other existing legal water users. The means and methods to estimate project performance, including all relevant assumptions, must be documented and valid. • Source water is reasonably available across wet- and dry-season conditions for project operation. • Intake elevation being installed two feet below the average dry season elevation and pumping assumptions are supported by documented hydrologic conditions and technical information (i.e. DBHydro, regional modeling data, etc.). • Planned suspension of operations to simulate a range of hydrologic conditions (i.e. low flow/drought simulations) are technically appropriate and will generate useful information.
12	Surface Water Quality (Nutrient Removal) SFWMD / PROJECT-SPECIFIC	The proposal aims to remove and retain excess nitrogen and/or other pollutants (i.e., TP) from water. In some cases, nutrient reduction aims to meet applicable federal and state standards. Project performance estimates include both pre-project (baseline) and post-project (with project condition) information to determine the project's net nutrient reduction benefits. The means and methods used to estimate project performance, including all relevant assumptions, are documented and valid. • Provides supporting data and assumptions for claimed nutrient-removal efficiencies and clarify expected removal of total nitrogen, dissolved organic, dissolved inorganic, refractory organic, and particulate nitrogen fractions. Calculations are reproducible. • Baseline water-quality concentrations and nutrient fractions are representative of project conditions.

		• Clear performance targets and criteria for determining pilot success are established. Establish minimum TN/TP performance targets, monitoring duration, acceptable variability, and criteria for determining pilot success or failure.
13	Design & Constructability SFWMD / PROJECT-SPECIFIC <i>Related to professional design/construction review under §255.065(3)(a)5</i>	• Technology and treatment mechanisms are technically sound and supported by relevant evidence. • Hydraulic loading, residence time, treatment footprint, and operating assumptions are defensible. • Site preparation, berms, pumping, piping, underdrain, electrical, and telemetry elements are adequately defined. • Construction minimizes operational, environmental, and private-property impacts. • The proposal addresses geotechnical considerations, including but not limited to slope stability, groundwater seepage, and sufficient buffer distance between neighboring natural and/or built infrastructure, e.g., lowering of groundwater (e.g., drying of wetlands and ponds), the rise of groundwater (e.g., flooding of adjoining properties, access roads, and septic drain fields), in accordance with applicable regulations, best management practices and/or industry standards.
14	Lifecycle STATUTORY-RELATED / EXPANDED <i>§255.065(3)(f)2, 5; (7)(a)7</i>	• Ownership during the project and any transfer conditions at pilot completion are clearly defined regarding acceptance of pumps, valves, controls, media, or other assets. • Transferred assets have defined condition, remaining useful life, and O&M responsibilities. • Decommissioning and restoration responsibilities and costs are clearly assigned if assets are not accepted. Define decommissioning, disposal, site restoration, reversion standards, schedule, cost responsibility, and financial assurance.
15	Monitoring/O&M STATUTORY-RELATED / EXPANDED <i>§255.065(7)(a)5; (8)(b); (10)(a)2 requires public-entity monitoring of maintenance practices in the comprehensive agreement</i>	• Monitoring covers influent/effluent quality, flow, hydraulic function, reliability, and operational conditions. • Sampling frequency, parameters, QA/QC, and data-management requirements are sufficient to verify performance. • Reporting is compatible with agency protocols and supports independent evaluation. • O&M requirements, staffing & resources, maintenance frequency, media replacement, and lifecycle needs are clearly defined. • Supporting information to demonstrate that the system can be operated and maintained safely and reliably. • Operational knowledge and maintenance protocols are transferable to SFWMD staff if the agency accepts the assets.