

Marion County Board of County Commissioners

Administration

601 SE 25th Ave. Ocala, FL 34471 Phone: 352-438-2300

Fax: 352-438-2324

July 18, 2025

Bureau of Community Planning and Growth Division of Community Development FloridaCommerce 107 East Madison Street, MSC 160 Tallahassee, FL 32399-4120

Re: Letter of Support for Application for One Water Grant

Dear Review Committee,

Please accept this letter of support from Marion County, for the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council (ECFRPC)'s FloridaCommerce Technical Assistance Grant Proposal "One Water Strategic Plan". The ECFRPC, through collaboration with regional and state stakeholders, is seeking to secure a sustainable water future for the region despite the challenges posed by growth and other stressors. The "One Water" approach being proposed by the ECFRPC involves the integrated management of all aspects of water systems, including potable water, wastewater, stormwater, groundwater, surface water and reclaimed waters, as a single interconnected resource. This approach works to advance the ECFRPC's Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP) as well as a strategic approach identified through the recently completed Military Installation Readiness Review.

The grant would start with the formation of a steering committee and a roundtable discussion with the committee formed. This would lead to a Strategic Plan for a regional One Water initiative, including responsibilities for those involved in economic and community development, the region's long-term development, and our nation's national security interests.

Marion County is fully supportive of this grant proposal as it moves the region forward towards implementing the SRPP and a sustainable and resilient future for the region.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Mounir Bouyounes, P.E. County Administrator