

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED CDBG DISASTER RECOVERY MITIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS FOR THE CEDAR KEY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

The Cedar Key Water and Sewer District anticipates applying for Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to support long-term restoration, facility hardening and mitigation efforts following the 2023-2024 storms. This program is administered by the Florida Commerce Department through the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program. A total of Nine Hundred Twenty-five Million Three Hundred Ninety-four Thousand Dollars (\$925,394,000.00) has been allocated to the State of Florida for the 2023 and 2024 Storm Events. Four Hundred Million Dollars (\$400,000,000.00) of that amount has been allocated, by Florida Commerce, to fund infrastructure restoration, hardening and mitigation projects in communities impacted by the 2023 and 2024 storms. The minimum allowable amount a community can request is seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000.00). Applications are due to Florida Commerce on or before September 29, 2025. Eligible types of projects are those that demonstrate increased community resiliency. Examples of some of the types of projects encouraged by Florida Commerce are as follows:

- Restoration of critical infrastructure (such as water and sewer facilities, streets, removal of debris, drainage, bridges, etc.)
- Re-nourishment of protective coastal dune systems and state beaches
- Building or fortifying buildings that are essential to the health, safety and welfare of a community (this can include shelters, police stations, fire stations, parks and recreational centers, community and senior centers, hospitals, clinics, schools and educational facilities and other public properties)
- Rehabilitation or construction of stormwater management systems
- Improvements to drainage facilities
- Reconstruction of lift stations and sewage treatment plants
- Road repair and improvement and bridge strengthening
- Upgrading of communications, energy, transportation and health and medical resources and systems
- Development of mitigation standards, regulations, policies and programs
- Dam safety programs, seawalls and levee systems;
- Acquisition of flood prone and environmentally sensitive lands;
- Retrofitting/hardening/elevating structures and critical facilities
- Relocation of structures, infrastructure and facilities out of vulnerable areas;
- Permanent relocation of residential housing and businesses located in high-risk areas through voluntary buyback programs and rebuilding in low-risk areas
- Public awareness/education campaigns
- Improvement of warning and evacuation systems

Activities that are typically eligible for funding under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program as well as specific additional activities as outlined in the State of Florida CDBG-DR Action Plan for the program are eligible projects if no other funding is available to meet the need.

The Cedar Key Water and Sewer District anticipate submitting two applications for a total of eleven million four hundred seventy-three thousand two hundred ninety-seven dollars (\$11,473,297.00) in funding. The project synopsis and budget for the two (2) applications being submitted are as follows:

Application #1 – Cedar Key Water and Sewer District Sanitary Sewer Plant Hardening Project: The project involves hardening of the Cedar Key Water and District's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The CKWSD serves the City of Cedar Key, which is in Census Tract 9704 and includes Block Group #1. Based upon the Census information, the City of Cedar Key is not Low Moderate Income. Therefore, based upon the significant flooding and other damage the City of Cedar Key sustained resulting from the 2024 storm events, this application is being submitted as an Urgent Need project.

The proposed project includes the following activities:

1. Installation of an elevated waterproof electrical service, including the control panels, and the associated circuitry.
2. The installation of an elevated permanent emergency electrical generator with sufficient capacity to serve the entire wastewater treatment plant.
3. Replacement of the walkways and stairs with storm-rated, saltwater resistant components designed to resist high winds, storm surge, and saltwater damage, improving operational access to elevated components of the WWTP, and provide personnel safety in the preparation, response, and recovery for storm events.
4. Relocation of chlorination and dechlorination systems to a flood and wind resistant structure to protect chemical storage, dosing equipment, and associated controls from saltwater exposure and structural damage.
5. Replacement of primary flowmeters at the headworks and other vulnerable meters throughout the WWTP with weatherproof, storm-hardened systems that ensure accurate monitoring and regulatory compliance under extreme weather conditions.
6. Replacement of two damaged clarifier gearboxes with energy-efficient, corrosion-resistant models designed for saltwater and high-wind exposure, ensuring uninterrupted service.
7. Replacement of deteriorated PVC yard piping sections and vulnerable valves with hardened, saltwater-resistant materials to maintain operational integrity and prevent leaks or failures during storm surge and associated wind and wave action.
8. Replacement of the existing headworks hoist system with a hardened model capable of withstanding high winds, salt spray, and moisture intrusion, improving reliability for solids handling in the preparation, response and recovery for storm events.

The proposed budget for the Cedar Key Water and Sewer District Sanitary Sewer Plant Hardening Project is as follows:

Structure Name	Project Address or Description	CDBG-DR Funding	Matching Funds	Total Project Costs
Project Administration	N/A	\$ 196,381.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 196,381.00
Project Engineering Design, Permitting, Bidding and Award Services	N/A	\$ 381,232.80	\$ 0.00	\$ 381,232.80
Project Engineering Services During Construction	N/A	\$ 254,155.20	\$ 0.00	\$ 254,155.20
Completion of the HUD Environmental Review	N/A	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 20,000.00
Davis Bacon and Section 3 Oversight During Construction	N/A	\$ 95,308.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 95,308.00
Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements	Harden the Wastewater Treatment Plant to Enable the Plant to Sustain Operation during and immediately after significant storm events	\$3,176,940.00	\$ 0.00	\$3,176,940.00
Totals		\$4,124,017.00		\$4,124,017.00

Application #2 – Cedar Key Water and Sewer District Potable Water System Hardening Project:

The Cedar Key Water and District (CKWSD) serves the City of Cedar Key which is in Census Tract 9704 and includes Block Group #1. Based upon the Census information, the City of Cedar Key is not Low Moderate Income. Therefore, based upon the significant flooding and other damage the City of Cedar Key sustained from the 2024 storm events, this application is being submitted as an Urgent Need project.

The project involves hardening the Cedar Key Water and Sewer District's Potable Water System. The Cedar Key Potable Water System operates out of three separate locations, as follows:

- The CKWSD office and water testing laboratory is currently located in a temporary Conex box facility at 510 Third street in the City of Cedar Key. In the past two years, the office has been flooded twice. The first time, during Hurricane Milton and again during Hurricane Helene. The office building is currently vacant and has been unusable for 18 out of the last 24 months. As part of this request for funds, the CKWSD is requesting funding to construct a hardened building with emergency back-up power, above the FEMA flood zones at the existing well field site to be used for the preparation, response, and recovery from storms as well as the long-term operational needs of the District. The well field site is approximately three miles east of Cedar Key, is not in a flood plain and has not flooded during any of the recent storm events.
- The second site, which is east of the City of Cedar Key, contains the CKWSD's Water Treatment Plant. The water plant site is located at GIS Coordinates Latitude: 29.181211°, Longitude: 83.021577°. A portion of the funding requested in the application will be used to harden the Water Treatment Plant.
- The third site is the location of the CKWSP well fields. The well field site is approximately two and a half miles east of the water treatment plant site and is the only one of the three sites which is not in a floodplain. The CKWSD is requesting a portion of the funding being requested in this application to relocate the CKWSD Operations Center to the Well Field site.
- The fourth activity included in the CKWSD application is the replacement of the water meters serving individual properties in the City of Cedar Key. The corrosive effects of saltwater intrusion from Hurricane Helene and previous storms have damaged and made inoperable water meters damaged by recent Hurricanes. This activity will prevent interruption of the water distribution system operation in the event of a flood. Proposed work will include:
 - Replacing approximately 1,000 water meters with hardened, saltwater-resistant meters. This will include the 300+ meters currently nonfunctional due to the effects of Hurricane Helene.
 - Restore reliability in the water distribution system. This component will significantly improve regulatory compliance, system-wide public safety and help facilitate the faster recovery from future storms

This project will implement essential resiliency and hardening improvements at the Cedar Key Water and Sewer District's (CKWSD's) Water Treatment Plant (WTP), inland wellfield site, and across the city-wide water distribution system. These improvements are designed to correct severe vulnerabilities and damage resulting from the impacts of Hurricane Helene. These impacts included catastrophic flooding, power loss, and operational disruption exposed during Hurricane Helene, which caused catastrophic flooding, power loss, and operational disruption.

The proposed budget for the Cedar Key Water Potable Water System Improvements are as follows:

Structure Name	Project Address or Description	CDBG-DR Funding	Matching Funds	Total Project Costs
Project Administration	N/A	\$ 349,965.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 349,965.00
Project Engineering Design, Permitting, Bidding and Award Services	N/A	\$ 680,908.80	\$ 0.00	\$ 680,908.80
Project Engineering Services During Construction	N/A	\$ 453,939.20	\$ 0.00	\$ 453,939.20
Completion of the HUD Environmental Review	N/A	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 20,000.00
Davis Bacon and Section 3 Oversight During Construction	N/A	\$ 170,227.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 170,227.00
Water Treatment Plant Improvements	Harden the Existing Water Distribution System	\$3,685,240.00	\$ 0.00	\$3,685,240.00
Water Meter Replacement	Replacement of all Water Meters serving the City of Cedar Key	\$1,989,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$1,989,000.00
Totals		\$7,349,280.00		\$7,349,280.00

Any resident wishing to know more about the proposed project or submit any public comment on the proposed projects should contact Mr. John Rittenhouse, General Manager, Cedar Key Water and Sewer District at (352) 543-5285 or by email at jrittenhouse@ckwater.org. Comments from the public concerning these projects will be received from September 15, 2025, and must be received by the CKWSD no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 26, 2025. All comments will be considered, and proposed changes will be submitted to Florida Commerce. Information relating to the proposed project and application is available for review between 8:00am - 12:00pm and 1:00pm - 5:00pm, Monday through Friday at the Cedar Key Water and Sewer District Office located at 510 3rd Street, Cedar Key, Florida 32625.

Any non-English speaking person wishing to comment on the proposed project should contact Mr. Rittenhouse at (352) 543-5285 or by e-mail at jrittenhouse@ckwater.org and a language interpreter will be provided. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1(800)955-8771 (TDD) or 1(800)955- 8770 (Voice).

The Cedar Key Water and Sewer District is a Fair Housing/Equal Opportunity/Handicap Accessible Agency.