



City of Tarpon Springs, Florida

324 E. PINE STREET
P.O. BOX 5004
TARPON SPRINGS, FL 34688-5004
(727) 938-3711

OFFICE OF
MAYOR CHRIS ALAHOUZOS

October 30, 2017

Ms. Cissy Proctor
Director, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
107 East Madison Street, Caldwell Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399-4120

Re: Addendum to Florida Job Growth Grant Fund Application – City of Tarpon Springs Anclote River Dredge Project

Dear Director Proctor:

Please accept this addendum to the City of Tarpon Springs Anclote River Dredge Project application to the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund. In a telephone call with Gabe Peters on Oct. 23, he indicated the City could provide additional information relative to job creation and the State's return on investment.

The marine commerce and tourism industries directly and indirectly employ 2,415 people as shown in the independent economic impact study previously provided. The City can expect to protect and retain these 2,415 jobs if the Anclote River is dredged. These jobs represent 21% of the City's workforce. Without the dredge, the City can expect to lose, at minimum, the 1,406 people who are directly employed, resulting in increased unemployment and the need for state training and relocation assistance. The loss of these jobs would also negatively impact the State's net job creation statistic.

Of the 56 marine commerce-related businesses located along the Anclote River, approximately 1/3 have indicated they would expand their business if the river were to be dredged. These include boat repair, building, marinas, and commercial fishing operations. The expansion of 20 businesses would result in the addition of about 100 new jobs.

In summary, the Anclote River Dredge Project protects and retains 2,415 jobs and will create up to 100 new jobs.

Regarding the return on the State's investment, please note that the requested funding amount of \$676,046 represents 13% of the \$5,076,046 estimated total project cost, with the remaining \$4,400,000 coming from City of Tarpon Springs, Pinellas County, and United States Government funds. For only \$676,046, the State would be getting a \$5M investment in a job-retention project that supports a vibrant marine commerce and tourism industry in Pinellas County and the Tampa Bay region.

Thank you for considering the City's application. Please contact me or my staff should you have any questions regarding the application or project.

Sincerely,



Chris Alahouzos
Mayor

C: Gabe Peters
State Sen. Latvala
State Rep. Chris Sprowls
Governor Rick Scott
US Congressman Gus Bilirakis
US Senator Bill Nelson