

# OKEECHOBEE UTILITY AUTHORITY



Southwest Wastewater Service Area  
(SWSA)  
Project 2 Septic to Sewer Conversion

## Town Hall Meeting

May 5, 2026



## Southwest Service Area Project 2

### PROJECT PURPOSE

- Provide wastewater service to existing OUA water customers in the southwest section
- Some residences experience localized flooding of the septic tank drain fields
- All septic tank drain fields add to the nutrient loadings of ground waters as well potentially to surface waters that are near the drainfield



# Southwest Service Area Project 2

## Required To Connect

2025 Florida Statutes

SECTION 00655

Connection of existing onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems to central sewerage system; requirements.

381.00655 Connection of existing onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems to central sewerage system; requirements.

(1)(a) The owner of a properly functioning onsite sewage treatment and disposal system, excluding an approved onsite graywater system, must connect the system or the building's plumbing to an available publicly owned or investor-owned sewerage system within 365 days after written notification by the owner of the publicly owned or investor-owned sewerage system that the system is available for connection.



# Southwest Service Area Project 2

From the Okeechobee County Land  
Development Regulations

## 7.6.7 Utilities

- A. Public Central Potable Water and/or Sewage System [AMENDED BY ORDINANCE 05-12]
  - 2. Connection to a public supply potable system and/or a public supply sewer system shall be required when such system is available. A system is available when it is capable of being connected to the plumbing of a residence or establishment, is not under a moratorium, has adequate permitted capacity to provide the service



# Southwest Service Area Project (The “Big Picture”)

The SWSA project consist of three major projects

## Project 1:

- Master Pump Station
- Master Force Main
- SE-2 Diversion Force Main

## Project 2:

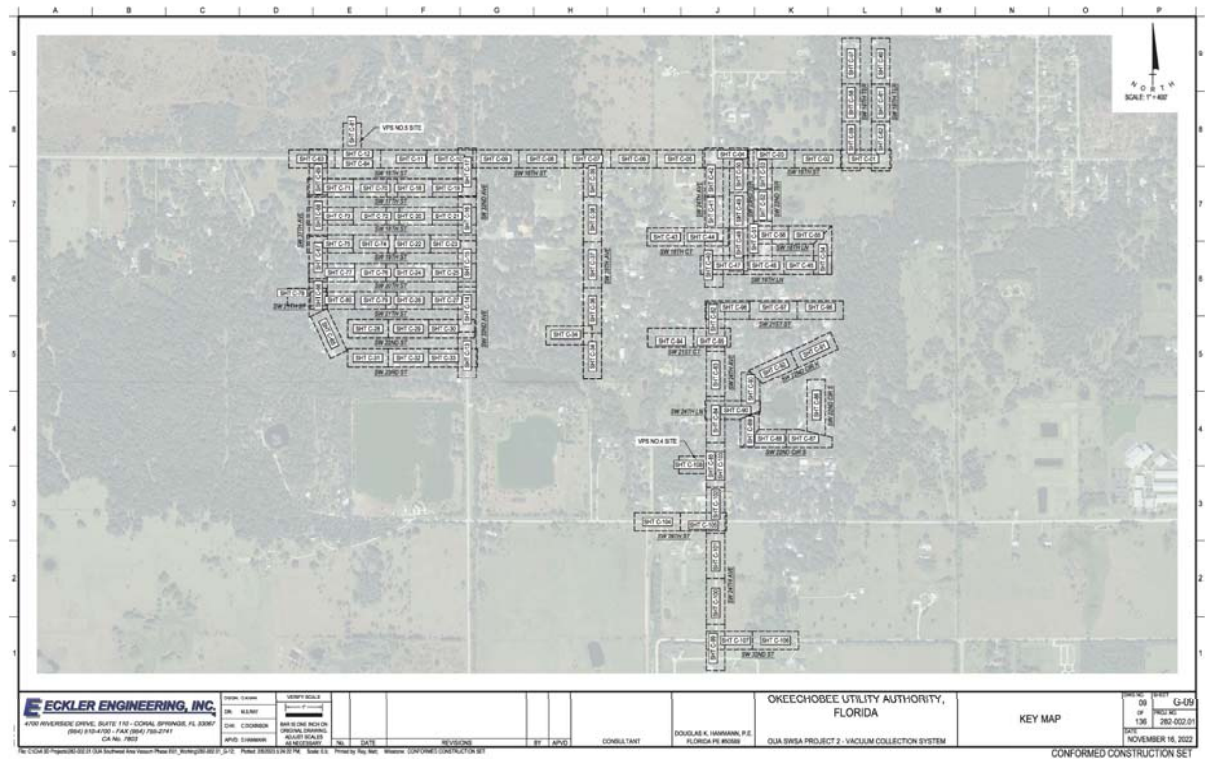
- SWSA Vacuum Collection System

## Project 3:

- Okee-Tantie Force Main / SR78 Corridor



# Southwest Service Area Project 2 Project Area



<b>ECKLER ENGINEERING, INC.</b> 4700 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, SUITE 110 - CORAL SPRING, FL 32907 (954) 870-4700 - FAX (954) 799-2747 CA No. 3602	PROJECT NO. 136	SHEET NO. G-09	OKEECHOBEE UTILITY AUTHORITY, FLORIDA DUA SWSA PROJECT 2 - VACUUM COLLECTION SYSTEM	KEY MAP NOVEMBER 16, 2022 CONFORMED CONSTRUCTION SET
	DATE 11/16/22	REVISIONS 1		



# Southwest Service Area – Project 2

- SWSA – Project 2 consists of the following components

- 1) Vacuum Station No. 4

This station will receive collected wastewater generated in the southern portion of the SWSA

- 2) Vacuum Station No. 5

This station will receive collected wastewater generated in the northern portion of the SWSA

- 3) SWSA Collection System

This is the piping system and vacuum pits for residential connection to the system



## Southwest Service Area – Project 2

- Total cost including engineering & construction
  - Approximately \$13,100,000
- Partially funded by FDEP Appropriation with the remainder from a USDA loan / grant
- Project Bids Received January 5, 2023
  - Selected Contractor was Hinterland Group, Inc. (HGI)
- Notice to Proceed issued March 29, 2023
- Construction begins May 2023
- Service provided to approximately 515 new connections
  - Removal of 6.7 tons of nitrogen per year
  - Removal of 1.6 tons of phosphorus per year



Southwest Service Area  
Project 2  
Project Economic Summary

- **Capital Cost to OUA**
  - Design, Permitting and Construction and Associated Costs to be covered by FDEP Appropriations and USDA Loan / Grant
- **Cost to Homeowners**
  - Costs associated with the abandonment of the septic tank and the installation of piping connecting the house to the streetside collection point by the property owner
  - OUA connection fees paid by the property owner



# Southwest Service Area Project 2 Project Economic Summary (cont.)

## Options to connect

- Property Owner can do the work themselves
- Property can hire a qualified contractor for the work
- OUA to bid the project with Property Owner authorizing the work and paying for the work

## OUA Bidding Process

- Develop bid packages, advertise for bids, receive bids and select bidder for the work
- Contact the property owner, share the bid price, property owner to sign agreement for the work, sign authorization for contractor to work on the property
  - Property owner to pay in full
  - Property owner to initiate payment agreement



# Southwest Service Area Project 2 Project Economic Summary (cont.)

## OUA Bidding Process (continued)

- The project area has been divided in to smaller projects to facilitate bidding by smaller firms (approximately 10-20 homes)
- In the back of the room, you can find the project area defining Vacuum Pump Stations #4 & #5. Within each VPS area, several smaller project areas are shown. Find the smaller project area for your house.
- Find the detail sheet which will list anticipated advertise date and start of construction

## Available Grant Money

WG105 - \$2,500,000

TMDL - \$ 750,000

Used - \$1,060,000

Available - \$2,190,000

Since contingency money is expected and future projects will be needed, the available per lot value was set at \$3,600.



# Southwest Service Area Project 2 Project Economic Summary (cont.)

## Construction Payment Plan

- Minimum 10% downpayment
- Minimum monthly payment of \$40.00; and
- Maximum period set at 60 months; and
- Interest rate at 3.5%, and
- Loan Processing fee of \$75.00.

## VPS #4

Group C – bids received

Groups A & B – bids due May 7<sup>th</sup>

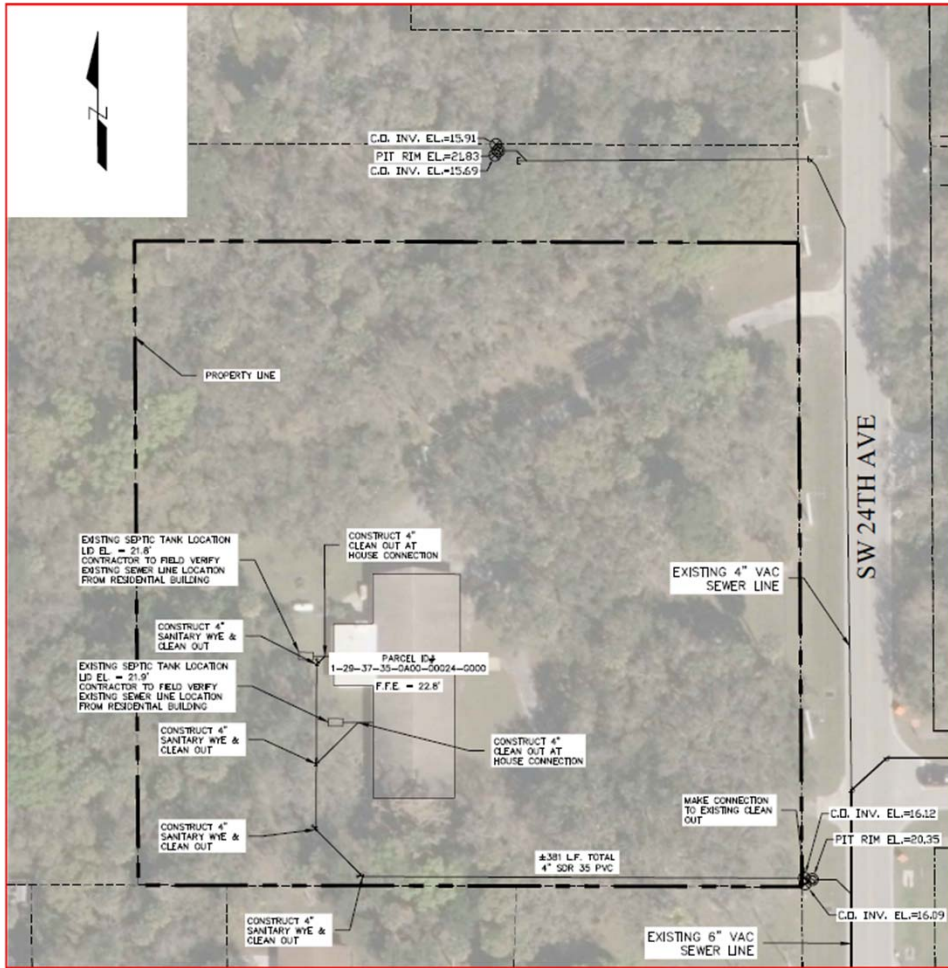
Group D, E & F – bids due May 14<sup>th</sup>

## VPS #5

Group G – bids received

Groups H & I – bids due May 14<sup>th</sup>





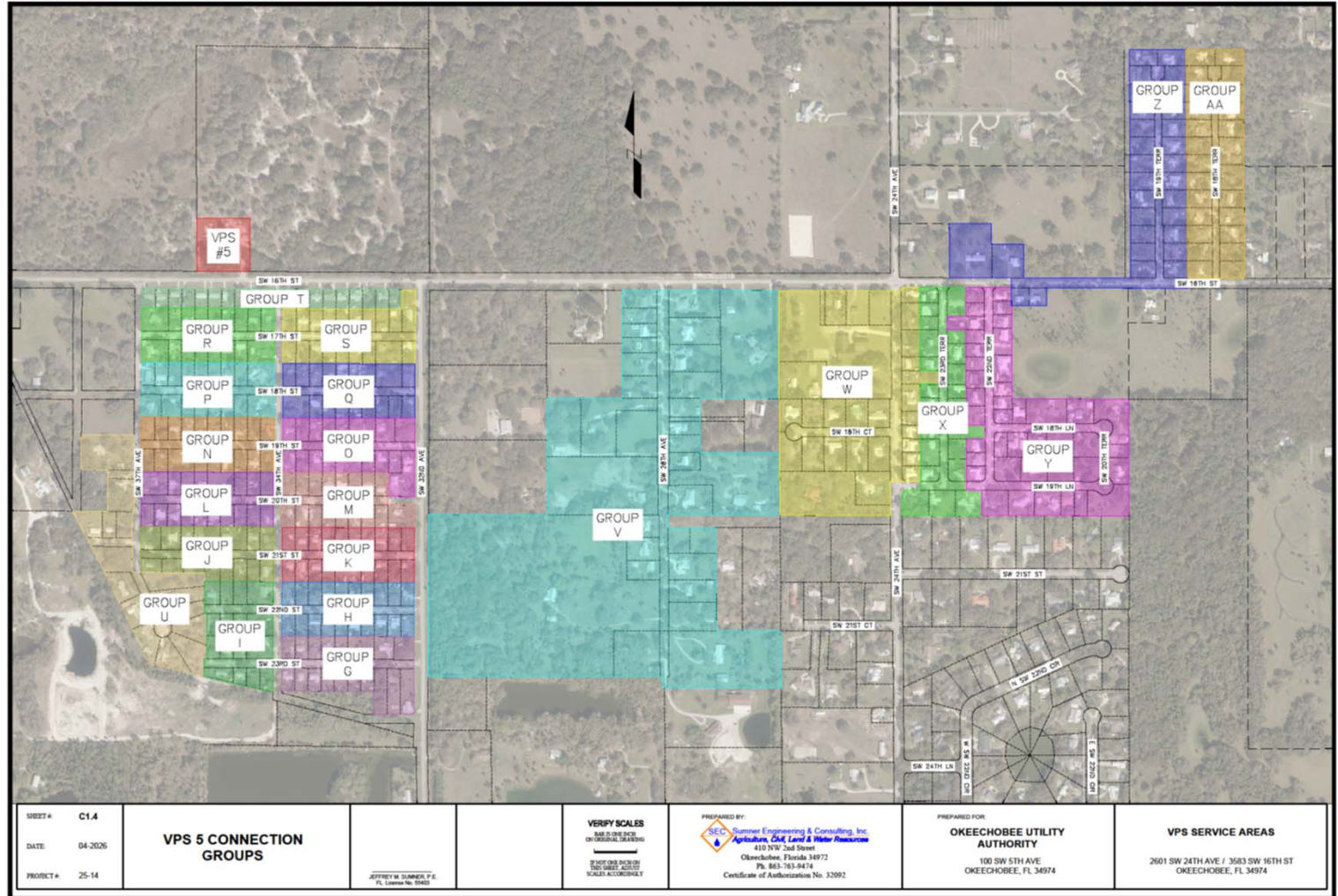
**INDIVIDUAL LOTS**

THE PRICE FOR EACH SERVICE CONNECTION CONSTRUCTION ITEM SHALL INCLUDE BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO ALL LABOR, EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS NECESSARY TO INSTALL AND CONSTRUCT THESE ITEMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH CURRENT PLUMBING CODE & THESE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS WHICH INCLUDE ALL EXCAVATION, SHEETING, DE-WATERING, PERMITS, DEMUCKING, PIPE, CONNECTION TO RIGHT OF WAY LATERAL AND EXISTING STRUCTURE PIPING, CLEANOUTS, SHUTOFF VALVES, DEFLECTION TO AVOID EXISTING UTILITIES OR OBSTRUCTIONS, BEDDING MATERIAL PLACEMENT, BACKFILL MATERIAL PLACEMENT AND COMPACTION, TESTING INSPECTIONS, REMOVAL OF DEBRIS, PROTECTION, STORAGE AND REINSTALLATION OF PRIVATELY OWNED DECORATIVE ELEMENTS, FENCING, LANDSCAPING, GRASS AND SPRINKLER SYSTEM EXISTING WITHIN THE WORK ZONE; AND ANY OTHER MISCELLANEOUS WORK TO INCLUDE COORDINATING WITH SITE OWNERS/TENANT DURING PROJECT AND SECURING RIGHT OF ENTRY. NO ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION SHALL BE MADE FOR CHANGES IN ALIGNMENT, CONNECTION OR GRADE TO AVOID EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE OR OBSTRUCTIONS.

HOUSE ADDRESS #		Bid Item 5(a)			
2067 SW 24 <sup>TH</sup> AVE					
ITEM NO	DESCRIPTION	QTY	UNIT	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
a	Concrete Driveway: At a minimum to include: 4" thick compacted shellrock base, concrete 6" thick with width and length to vary with conditions.	0	SY		
b	Asphalt driveway: At a minimum to include: 12" thick compacted subgrade, 6" thick compacted shellrock base, asphalt 1 1/2" thick with width and length to vary with conditions.	0	SY		
c	Pavers: At a minimum to include: compacting 4" to 6" of 3/4" road base in "layers, layering 1" sand setting bed, placing pavers and securing edges. Elevations and slope to match surrounding pavers	0	SY		
d	Gravel: At a minimum to include: 12" thick compacted subgrade, 8" thick gravel/rock fill with width and length to vary with conditions.	0	SY		
f	Sodding: At a minimum to include: 4' wide full solid sodding along trench path and all other areas disturbed by construction such as septic tank and piping connections areas.	0	SY		
g	Piping Lateral: To include at a minimum: all connections, piping, fittings and trenching to meet project and Building Department requirements.	0	LF		
h	Septic Tank Abandonment: To include at a minimum: removal of all septage, drilling/breaking holes in the bottom, crushing of top and sides and property backfilling to meet project and Health Department requirements.	2	LS		
	Miscellaneous	0	LS		
<b>Subtotal</b>					13



# VPS #5



QUESTIONS?

## CONTACT INFORMATION

John Hayford, Executive Director  
Okeechobee Utility Authority  
(863) 763-9460 X-109  
[jhayford@ouafl.com](mailto:jhayford@ouafl.com)

Greg Kennedy (X-115)  
[asstexecdir@ouafl.com](mailto:asstexecdir@ouafl.com)

Kristy Arnold (X-117)  
[officemanager@ouafl.com](mailto:officemanager@ouafl.com)

