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## MEETING NOTICE

# MIDDLE AND LOWER SUWANNEE RIVER AND WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER TASK FORCE

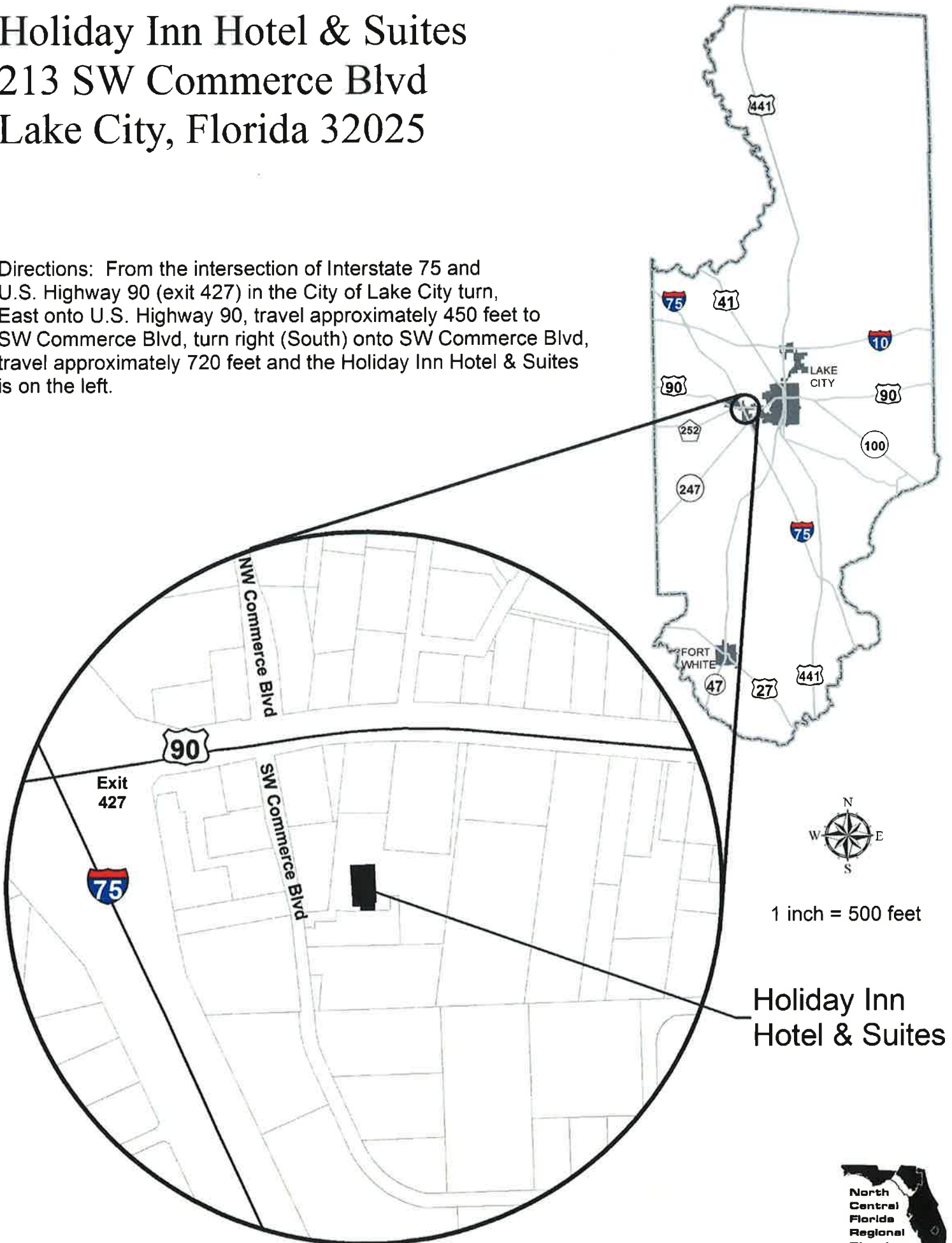
There will be a meeting of the Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacochee River Task Force on **January 24, 2019**. The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, 213 Southwest Commerce Boulevard, Lake City, Florida, at 4:00 p.m.

(Location Map on Back)

# Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites

213 SW Commerce Blvd  
Lake City, Florida 32025

Directions: From the intersection of Interstate 75 and U.S. Highway 90 (exit 427) in the City of Lake City turn, East onto U.S. Highway 90, travel approximately 450 feet to SW Commerce Blvd, turn right (South) onto SW Commerce Blvd, travel approximately 720 feet and the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites is on the left.





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## AGENDA

### MIDDLE AND LOWER SUWANNEE RIVER AND WITHLACOCHEE RIVER TASK FORCE

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites  
213 Southwest Commerce Boulevard  
Lake City, Florida

January 24, 2019  
4:00 p.m.

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\* See Attachments

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MIDDLE AND LOWER SUWANNEE RIVER AND WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER TASK FORCE  
MINUTES

Madison County Extension Office  
Madison, Florida

December 12, 2018  
2:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Beth Burnam, Hamilton County, Vice-Chair  
Ken Cornell, Alachua County  
Rick Davis, Madison County, Chair  
Thomas Demps, Taylor County  
Don Hale, Suwannee County  
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County

MEMBER PRESENT VIA TELEPHONE

Daniel Riddick, Bradford County

MEMBERS ABSENT

Anthony Adams, Lafayette County  
Gene Higginbotham, Dixie County  
John Meeks, Levy County  
James Tallman, Union County  
Ronald Williams, Columbia County

STAFF PRESENT

Scott Koons

OTHERS PRESENT

Kimberly Allbritton, Florida Department of Health  
Wilbur Dean, Levy County Coordinator  
Dan Fenneman, Madison County Extension Agent  
Ben Glass, Suwannee River  
Water Management District  
Louie Goodin, Hamilton County Coordinator  
Bart Hayes, Citizen  
Brian Kauffman, Madison County Coordinator  
David Kraus, Columbia County  
Assistant County Manager  
Alex Mahon, Florida Department of Health  
Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson, Our Santa Fe River  
Thomas Moffses, Florida Department of Health  
Thomas Mirti, Suwannee River  
Water Management District  
John Quaterman, Withlacoochee, Alapaha, Little and  
Suwannee River Watershed Coalition  
Savannah Reams, Greene Publishing, Inc.  
Robert Vincent, Florida Department of Health  
Matthew Weldon, Levy County Parks Department  
Lester Wetherington, Citizen  
Phyllis, Williams, Madison County  
Chamber of Commerce and Tourism

I. INVOCATION

Chair Rick Davis called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. with an invocation given by Commissioner Burnam.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Task Force members and guests pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

III. INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Davis stated there was a quorum of the Task Force and welcomed and introduced Kimberly Allbritton, Florida Department of Health; Wilbur Dean, Levy County Coordinator; Dan Fenneman, Madison County Extension Agent; Ben Glass, Suwannee River Water Management District; Louie Goodin, Hamilton County Coordinator; Bart Hayes, Citizen; Brian Kauffman, Madison County Coordinator; David Kraus, Columbia County Assistant County Manager; Alex Mahon, Florida Department of Health; Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson, Our Santa Fe River; Thomas Moffses, Florida Department of Health; Thomas Mirti, Suwannee River Water Management District; John Quaterman,

Withlacoochee, Alapaha, Little and Suwannee River Watershed Coalition; Savannah Reams, Greene Publishing Inc.; Robert Vincent, Florida Department of Health; Matthew Weldon, Levy County Parks Department; Lester Wetherington, Citizen and Phyllis Williams, Madison County Chamber of Commerce and Tourism.

IV. VALDOSTA SEWAGE SPILLS

The Task Force received a presentation from Council staff concerning the history of raw sewage spills by the City of Valdosta into the Withlacoochee River, the consent order between the City and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division and ongoing raw sewage spills.

The Task Force also heard a report from the Florida Department of Health concerning the most recent raw sewage spill which occurred on December 2, 2018.

V. IDENTIFY NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF VALDOSTA SEWAGE SPILLS

The Task Force identified public health, environmental, economic development and tourism as negative impacts of the spills.

VI. IDENTIFY STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS IMPACTS

The Task Force identified several strategies including contacting federal and state officials, adopting resolutions, sending letters, meeting with the Valdosta Mayor and City Council and engaging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

VII. IDENTIFY LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL PARTNERS/ORGANIZATIONS TO ASSIST IN IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIES


The Task Force identified the following local, state and federal partners/organizations Advent Christian Village, canoe/kayak outfitters, chambers of commerce, fisherman/bait shops, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida State Parks, Georgia Environmental Protection Division, municipalities, Nestle Water Bottling Company, realtor associations, Suwannee River Water Management District, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Valdosta citizens and Visit Florida/tourist development councils.

Chair Davis informed the Task Force that the next meeting will be held on January 24, 2019 prior to the next Council meeting at the Holiday Inn and Suites in Lake City.


The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rick Davis, Chair

1/24/19  
Date





North Central Florida  
Regional Planning Council



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## Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force

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### Overview



- ❑ History of Spills
- ❑ Consent Order
- ❑ Ongoing Spills
- ❑ River Task Force
- ❑ Summary

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### Valdosta Wastewater

- ❑ Withlacoochee Plant
- ❑ Mud Creek Plant
- ❑ National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits
- ❑ Permits authorize discharge of treated wastewater per effluent limitations to surface waters

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### Valdosta Wastewater



- ❑ Excessive major raw sewage spills to waters of State - 1/1/08 to 7/31/13
- ❑ Major spill greater than 10,000 gallons
- ❑ Two fish kills downstream - 11/18/09 & 2/21/13




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### Valdosta Wastewater

- ❑ Withlacoochee Plant major raw sewage spill 50,300,000 gallons - 3/31/09
- ❑ Mud Creek Plant major raw sewage spill 5,500,000 gallons - 12/8/09 to 12/13/09
- ❑ City commits to Georgia Environmental Protection Division to address sanitary sewer system issues - 1/5/10

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## Valdosta Wastewater

- ❑ Mud Creek Plant renovation & expansion completed - April 2012
- ❑ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requests information from City concerning its wastewater system - 10/23/12
- ❑ City meets with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency & requests to be allowed to work with Georgia Environmental Protection Division on corrective action plan - 2/28/13



## Valdosta Wastewater

- ❑ Withlacoochee Plant major raw sewage spill 19,150,000 gallons - 2/28/13 to 3/3/13
- ❑ City expended \$49,453,784 on sanitary sewer system improvements - 2009 - 2013
- ❑ Mayor & City Council adopts action plan to address sanitary sewer system issues - 4/25/13



## Valdosta Wastewater

### City Action Plan

- ❑ Relocate/construct 22,500,000-gallon Withlacoochee Plant
- ❑ Construct 6.2-mile new force main to Withlacoochee Plant
- ❑ Construct 6,000,000-gallon equalization basin
- ❑ Construct new headworks at Withlacoochee Plant
- ❑ Inspect all manholes & sanitary sewer lines
- ❑ Make short-term improvements to Withlacoochee Plant



## Valdosta Wastewater

- ❑ Withlacoochee Plant major raw sewage spill (plant flooded) nearly 8,000,000 gallons - 7/25/13
- ❑ Consent Order requiring implementation of action plan executed by City - 9/23/13
- ❑ City expended \$59,000,000 on sanitary sewer improvements on Withlacoochee Plant (\$23,000,000) & force main (\$36,000,000) - 7/12/16



## Valdosta Wastewater

- ❑ Withlacoochee Plant major raw sewage/storm water spill (equalization basin leak) 500,000 gallons - 1/24/17
- ❑ Withlacoochee Plant major raw sewage/storm water spill (bar screen malfunction) 300,000 gallons - 6/26/18



## Valdosta Wastewater

- ❑ Mud Creek Plant major secondary clarifier effluent spill (clarifier malfunction) 135,000 gallons - 8/14/18
- ❑ Withlacoochee Plant major raw sewage/storm water spill (rainfall infiltration) gallons unknown - 12/2/18





## Valdosta Wastewater

- ❑ Withlacoochee Plant peak capacity 22,500,000 gallons per day
- ❑ Withlacoochee Plant normal capacity 13,500,00 gallons per day
- ❑ Withlacoochee Plant average flow 3,500,000 gallons per day
- ❑ Withlacoochee Plant flow on 12/2/18 - 32,000,000 gallons



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## Valdosta Wastewater

### City Press Release

- ❑ "The City continues its ongoing efforts to improve the infrastructure of the sewer system to eliminate these issues in the future."
- ❑ "Improving our sewer system has and will continue to be a main priority."



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## River Task Force

- ❑ Madison County Board of County Commissioners requests North Central Florida Regional Planning Council to convene impacted counties - 8/22/18
- ❑ Representatives from impacted counties request Council establish Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force - 9/19/18
- ❑ Council appoints county commissioners from 12 counties in north central Florida region to River Task Force - 10/25/18



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## River Task Force

### Task Force Members

Ken Cornell, Alachua County  
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County  
Ronald Williams, Columbia County  
Gene Higginbotham, Dixie County  
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County  
Beth Burnam, Hamilton County, Vice-Chair  
Anthony Adams, Lafayette County  
John Meeks, Levy County  
Rick Davis, Madison County, Chair  
Don Hale, Suwannee County  
Thomas Demps, Taylor County  
James Tallman, Union County



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## River Task Force

- ❑ Identify negative impacts from spills
- ❑ Identify strategies to address impacts
- ❑ Identify local, state & federal partners/organizations to assist in implementing strategies



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## Summary

- ❑ History of spills
- ❑ Consent Order
- ❑ Ongoing spills
- ❑ River Task Force
- ❑ Strategic Action Plan



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North Central Florida Regional Planning Council

2009 NW 67th Place  
Gainesville, FL 32653-1603  
352.955.2200  
[www.ncfrc.org](http://www.ncfrc.org)



Capital Project	Prior Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total
CP-1 Emergency Generators		158,000				30,000	1,250,000	1,250,000	35,000	35,000	1,500,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	4,398,000
CP-2 Withlacoochee Force Main, Pump Stations, Headworks			14,500,000	24,177,329												38,677,329
CP-3 Withlacoochee Plant			13,000,000	10,455,742			2,500,000.00									25,955,742
CP-3 Withlacoochee Plant	2,500,000															2,500,000
CP-62 EPD Sewer Collection System Requirements		500,000	1,000,000	6,000,000	10,000,000											17,500,000
CP-62 EPD Sewer Collection System Requirements						2,500,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	750,000	750,000	750,000	750,000		9,500,000
CP-5 Lift Station Replacement GEFA		1,650,000				500,000										2,150,000
CP-5 Lift Station Replacement UF		1,611,668	1,650,000	1,650,000	200,000											5,111,668
CP-5 Lift Station Replacement VIII							500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000		500,000	500,000	4,000,000
CP-6 Sewer Collection Smoke Testing VII		-	39,188	259,385												298,573
CP-6 Sewer Collection Smoke Testing UF	122,920	122,920	87,420													333,260
CP-6 Sewer Collection Smoke Testing VIII							50,000			50,000			50,000			150,000
CP-63 Manhole Rehab - Liner/Replacement	200,000		564,832	1,129,441	158,092	500,000	300,000	247,635								3,100,000
CP-63 Manhole Rehab - Liner/Replacement							300,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	3,100,000
CP-13 Belt Press Cover			50,000													50,000
CP-14 Gate Valves @ Withlacoochee			48,000													48,000
Treatment Plant Basin Resurfacing								150,000		150,000	150,000					450,000
CP-18 Mud Creek Equip Repi	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	1,475,000
CP-20 Instal Sewer Serv and Manhole	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000		75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000		75,000	730,000
CP-21 Sewer Extensions	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	3,750,000
CP-22 Withl Equipment Repl	85,000	80,000	80,000	80,000		50,000	75,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	1,450,000
Mudcreek SEP Parsons											20,000,000					20,000,000
Withlacoochee SEP Parsons									500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	3,500,000
CP-64 Emergency Sewer Repairs -Overpass Repairs	800,000	200,000														1,000,000
CP-65 GEFA Debt Repayment	30,651				5,303,028	4,545,456	2,651,516									12,530,651
	<b>4,103,571</b>	<b>4,687,588</b>	<b>31,384,440</b>	<b>44,116,897</b>	<b>16,026,120</b>	<b>8,490,456</b>	<b>8,991,516</b>	<b>3,947,635</b>	<b>2,910,000</b>	<b>3,110,000</b>	<b>24,275,000</b>	<b>2,710,000</b>	<b>2,310,000</b>	<b>2,685,000</b>	<b>2,010,000</b>	<b>161,758,223</b>