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June 15, 2023

TO: Council Members
FROM: Scott Koons, AICP, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Rural Infrastructure Fund Grants

On May 31, 2023, more than \$15 million was awarded to five rural communities through the Rural Infrastructure Fund program to support community economic development projects that will strengthen public infrastructure and expand job opportunities for residents.

Administered by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, the Rural Infrastructure Fund program facilitates the planning, preparing and financing of infrastructure projects in rural communities. Funded projects encourage job creation, capital investment and the strengthening and diversification of rural economies.

During Fiscal Year 2022-23, \$32.5 million has been awarded to rural communities through the Rural Infrastructure Fund program. On October 27, 2022, nearly \$5 million was awarded for infrastructure in rural communities. On December 20, 2022, more than \$7.1 million was awarded to support rural communities through the Rural Infrastructure Fund program. On March 28, 2023, more than \$5.4 million was awarded to four small and rural communities.

Strategic investments in small and rural communities through programs like the Rural Infrastructure Fund and the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund provide regional benefits that are critical to strengthening communities for generations to come.

A total of \$9,600,000 in funding was awarded to the following local government in the north central Florida region through the Rural Infrastructure Fund program.

- **Suwannee County (\$9,600,000)** - to construct a wastewater treatment plant and install collection lines to create 269 jobs. The Suwannee County award through the Rural Infrastructure Fund program is in conjunction with the more than \$1.9 million awarded last year to Suwannee County through the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund for infrastructure expansion in August 2022, and more than \$760,000 awarded to Suwannee County through Rural Infrastructure Fund in December 2022 for infrastructure to support economic development opportunities.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.