



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES COMMISSIONER ADAM H. PUTNAM

October 15, 2018

Ms. Cynthia Kelly, Director
Office of Policy and Budget
Executive Office of the Governor
The Capitol, Room 1702
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

Dear Ms. Kelly:

Enclosed is the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for FY 2019-20 through FY 2023-24, which will be posted to the Florida Fiscal Portal, following the instructions dated July 2018. The information provided electronically is a true and accurate presentation of our proposed Fixed Capital Outlay Legislative Budget Request of \$125.9 million for the 2019-20 fiscal year.

This proposal reflects the department's commitment to foster continued growth and ensure the long-term sustainability of Florida's agriculture industry, as well as serve as a good steward of the state's natural resources, help ensure the safety and wholesomeness of food and protect consumers from fraud and deceptive business practices.

Agricultural water policies are among the most critical issues facing the state. Recognizing the importance of this issue, the department's proposal includes \$25 million for nutrient reduction and water retention projects in the Lake Okeechobee, St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee River watersheds, as well as other sensitive areas across the state. These projects have the potential to result in significant reductions in nutrient loads reaching sensitive water bodies.

Maintaining Florida's agricultural land base is another critically important issue within the state. Florida's agriculture industry is a pillar of the state's economy, generating \$137 billion in annual economic impact. This industry relies on available agricultural lands to grow and remain strong. The department's proposal includes \$75 million for the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program, which seeks to prevent development through the acquisition of perpetual conservation easements, thereby allowing agricultural operations to continue, protecting natural resources and providing critical wildlife habitat. To date, more than 46 partnerships with Florida families have preserved more than 53,000 acres of precious landscape from future development.

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The department's proposal also includes several maintenance and repair and code correction projects, totaling approximately \$20.9 million across the department's various divisions and offices. These projects include roof and HVAC replacements, as well as road and bridge repairs, and maintenance and small construction at our state forests and state farmer's markets. These projects are important to ensure the safety of the department's employees, as well as the individuals that access the department's facilities and state forests.

Finally, this proposal includes one additional request totaling approximately \$5 million for Grants and Aids to Local Governments for United States Department of Energy Grants.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues. If you have any questions, feel free to call me or my staff at (850) 410-2280.

Sincerely,



Adam H. Putnam
Commissioner of Agriculture

Enclosure