



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
COMMISSIONER NICOLE "NIKKI" FRIED

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

October 14, 2022

Chris Spencer, Director
Office of Policy and Budget
Executive Office of the Governor
1702 Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

Dear Mr. Spencer:

The Agency Capital Improvements Program for Fiscal Year 2023-24 through Fiscal Year 2027-28 for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is submitted and has been posted to the Florida Fiscal Portal, following the instructions dated July 2022. The information provided electronically is a true and accurate presentation of our proposed Fixed Capital Outlay Legislative Budget Request of \$61,590,233 for Fiscal Year 2023-24.

The department's request includes \$15 million for critical 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.

As federal funding continues to be directed to state agencies through numerous relief acts and new grant opportunities, this request includes \$27.8 million for U.S. Department of Energy grants and \$3.9 million for U.S. Department of Agriculture grants.

Also included are numerous maintenance and repair and code correction projects totaling approximately \$14.8 million across the department's various divisions and offices, including road and bridge repairs, maintenance and construction at our state forests and state farmers markets. These projects help ensure the safety of the department's employees as well as the individuals who access the department's facilities and state forests.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues. If you have any questions, feel free to call me or my staff at (850) 617-7700.

Sincerely,

Nicole Fried
Commissioner of Agriculture