

WEKIWA SPRINGS SEPTIC TO SEWER PROJECT PHASE 7B – LAKE MENDELIN ESTATES & PHASE 7C – LAKE CORTEZ WOODS DISTRICT 2 TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024

PRESENTED BY:

David S. Arms, P.E. Chief Engineer Orange County Utilities

Agenda

- Welcome
- Background
- Septic-to-Sewer Program
- Phase 7B and 7C Project Details
- Balloting Process
- Summary
- Questions and Answers



Welcome



District 2 Commissioner Christine Moore District2@ocfl.net



Welcome

- Orange County Utilities
 - Wastewater services for a population of 1,046,000
 - Four Regional Wastewater Plants
 - 1,421 miles of gravity mains and 641 miles of force mains
 - 823 pump stations
 - Ranked #1 in Customer Satisfaction for Midsize Water Utilities in the South by J.D. Power





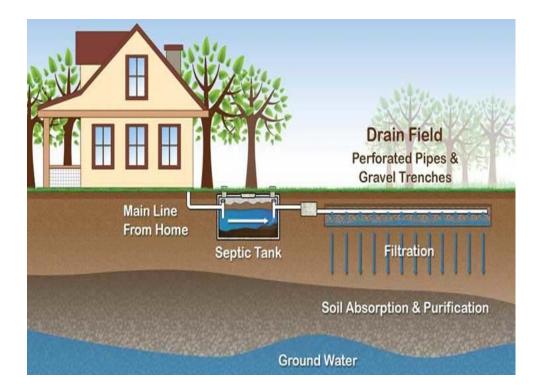


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- Onsite Sewage Treatment & Disposal System (OSTDS)
 - Collect wastewater in a water-tight tank
 - Solids settle to the bottom
 - Liquid (effluent) exits the tank to a drain field
- Drain field
 - Spreads effluent into unsaturated soil, where it is filtered and treated
 - Water is discharged into the groundwater
 - Some nutrients remain in the treated water

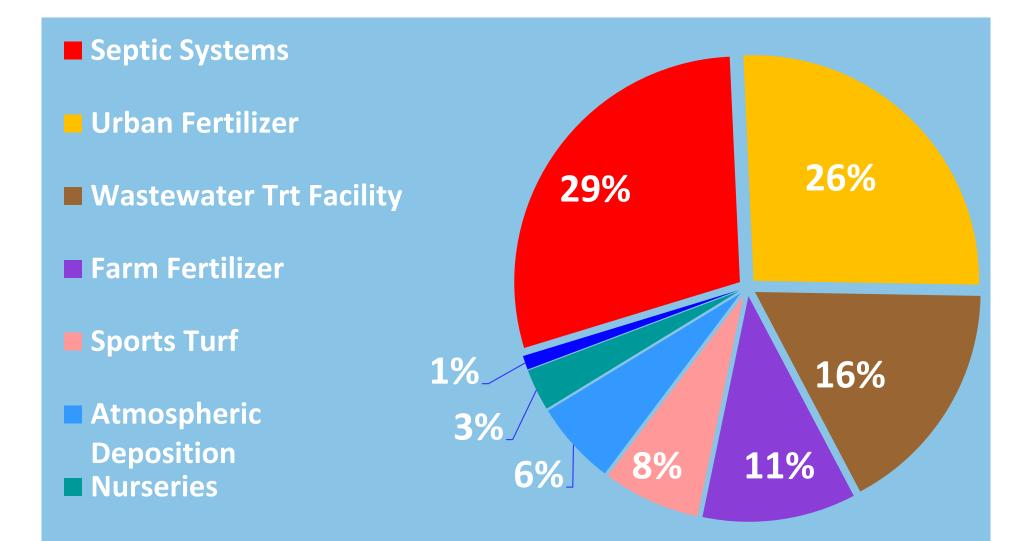




- The Wekiwa River and Rock Springs Run are impaired by nutrients:
 - Phosphorous
 - Nitrogen
- Excess nutrients cause overabundance of algae
 - Reduce diversity of plants and animals
 - Cause fish kills









- Spring protection initiatives have been ramping up for more than 15 years
- Wekiwa Spring and Rock Springs Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP)
 - Became effective in 2021
 - Creates Priority Focus Area (PFA) Boundary
 - Identifies septic tanks as the source of 29% of nitrogen in the springs
 - Requires treatment of septic loads
 - Establishes 5-, 10- and 15-year milestones for nutrient reductions
- Effective 1/1/2024, FDEP will begin enforcement moving forward for septic systems in the PFA for lots that are less than one acre
 - Connect to sanitary sewer
 - Upgrade to enhanced OSTDS that reduces nutrient loads
 - Estimated costs range from \$15,000 to \$25,000 per system



<u>BOTTOM LINE:</u> Homeowners in the PFA less than one acre will have to upgrade to an enhanced OSTDS or connect to sewer. This is true if/when repairs are needed or in 20 years for everyone. No exceptions!

What are your options?

Option 1: Enhanced Nutrient Treatment Septic Systems

- Similar to a Conventional Septic Tank:
 - Collects wastewater in a watertight tank
 - Liquid (effluent) exits to a drain field
- Enhanced Nutrient Reducing Features:
 - Uses aeration, recirculation, or other method to filter effluent
 - Reduces nutrients before filtered effluent seeps into the groundwater
 - Requires operation, maintenance, and power by homeowner





What are your options?

Option 2: Central Sewer System

- Components
 - Service laterals
 - Cleanouts
 - Gravity mains
 - Manholes
 - Pump stations
- Can maintain a minimum velocity, reducing the production of offensive odors, blockages, and pipe corrosion

Gradual slope

Sewer main

- Do not require onsite pre-treatment or storage of residential wastewater before it is discharged
- Can handle grit and solids in sanitary sewage



Comparison of Septic Tanks & Sewer Systems

SEPTIC TANK

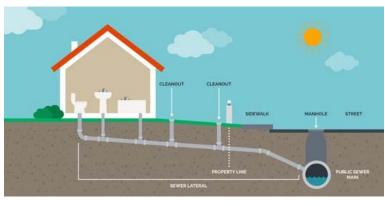
BENEFITS:

- Sunk Cost
- Independence

CONCERNS

- High Repair/ Replacement Cost
- Frequent Clogs
- Environmental Regulations/ Inspections
- Maintenance by Homeowner





CENTRAL SEWER SYSTEM

BENEFITS:

- Higher Capacity
- Passive Operation
- No Septic Backups
- Less Odors
- No Dampness & Seepage
- Maintenance by Orange County

CONCERNS

- Connection Cost
- New Construction/Site

POTENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH BENEFITS Connecting to the sanitary sewer:



- Water ProtectionNitrate Control
 - **Reduced Diseases**
 - **Reduced Insects**

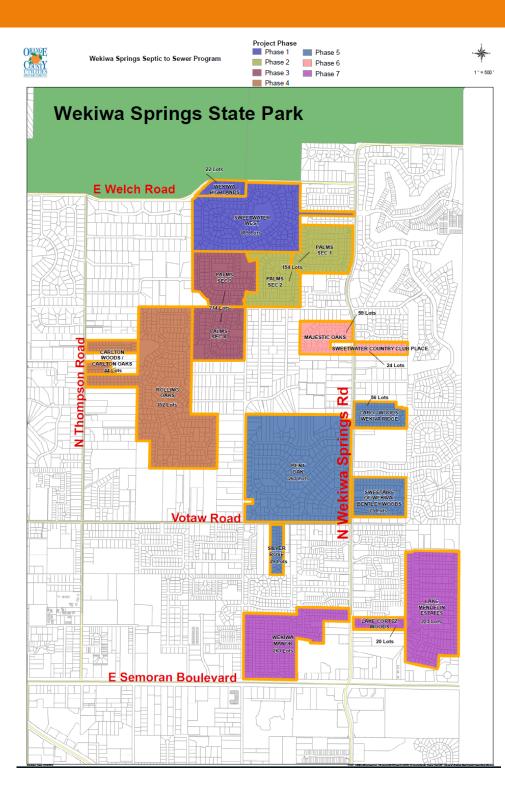
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- Eliminate septic tanks in 20 neighborhoods closest to Wekiwa Springs
 - Multi-year plan
 - 2,009 septic tanks
 - \$140 million
- Phase 1 complete
- Phase 2 & Phase 3 under construction
- Phases 4, 5 & 6 in design phase
- Phase 7 in balloting phase

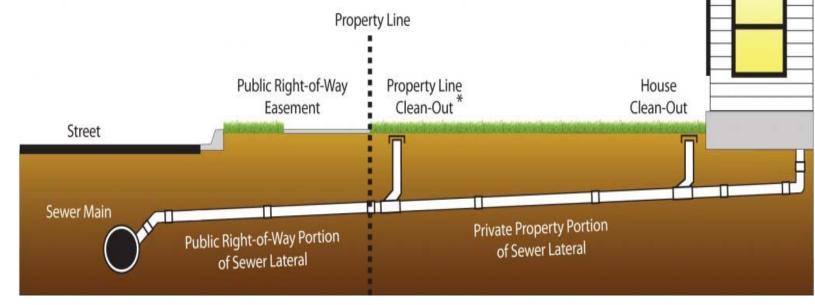




- Project Considerations
 - Partial public funding is secured for all septic-to-sewer connections in the program
 - Phase 7B and 7C (Lake Mendelin Estates and Lake Cortez Woods) is included (243 homes)
 - Community buy-in needed prior to design
- Project Objectives
 - Construct a gravity sewer system
 - Eliminate septic tanks to reduce nutrient loading of the springs
- Project Requirements
 - MSBU ballot
 - Design and construction
 - Connection to gravity sewer system required by County Code

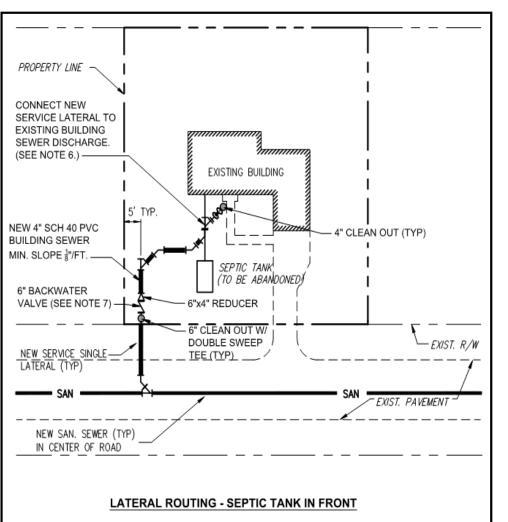


- Construction of new gravity sewer system in the right-of-way
- Ensure reasonable efforts to maintain access to each home at the end of the day
- Install service lateral from home property line
- Abandon existing septic tank and drain field
- Replacement of asphalt pavement from curb-to-curb



Home

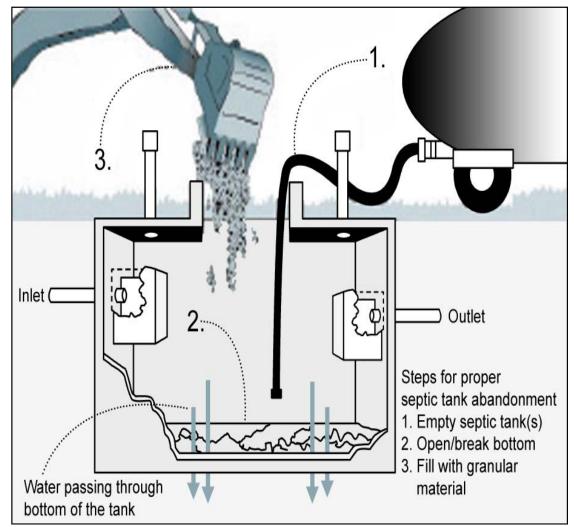






- Install new 4-inch sewer lateral and connect at existing discharge point
- Includes connection of each home to central sewer by the OCU contractor upon receiving authorization from the homeowner via license agreement
- Septic tanks will be abandoned in place in accordance with law: remove liquids and sludge, break up the bottom and sides to 12 inches below grade, backfill, and restore with sod
- Any impacts to existing driveways, sidewalks, sod, irrigation, etc. will be fixed by the OCU contractor
- All of this work is included in the project; there will be no additional costs to the homeowner

• Septic Tank Abandonment



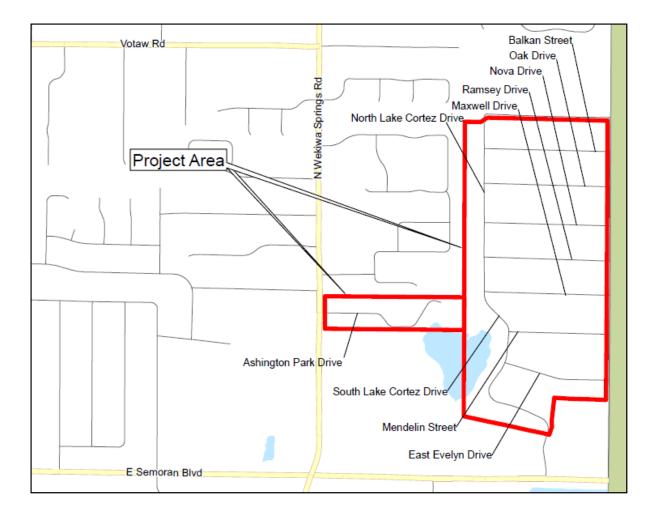


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- Lake Mendelin Estates and Lake Cortez Woods
 - 243 parcels
 - \$75,000 per parcel
 - \$18.225 million





Phase 7B and 7C Project Details

Cost Summary for Phase 7B – 223 parcels

	Current Estimate
 Design 	\$ 1,500,000
 Other (preconstruction) 	\$ 375,000
 Construction 	\$ 13,300,000
 Other (post-construction) 	\$ 1,550,000
 TOTAL 	\$ 16,725,000

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DRANGE COUNTY

- Cost Summary for Phase 7C 20 parcels
 - **Current Estimate** Design \$ 135,000
 - Other (preconstruction)
 - Construction
 - Other (post-construction)
 - TOTAL

\$ 130,000

1,200,000

35,000

\$

\$

1,500,000 \$

Phase 7B and 7C Project Details

• Average Cost Per Parcel for Phase 7B and 7C – 243 parcels

Current EstimatePublic Utility System\$ 54,750Capital Charges, Meters, etc.\$ 5,250Individual Site Work & Restoration\$ 7,350

- Septic Tank Abandonment
- TOTAL

- \$ 7,650
- \$ 75,000

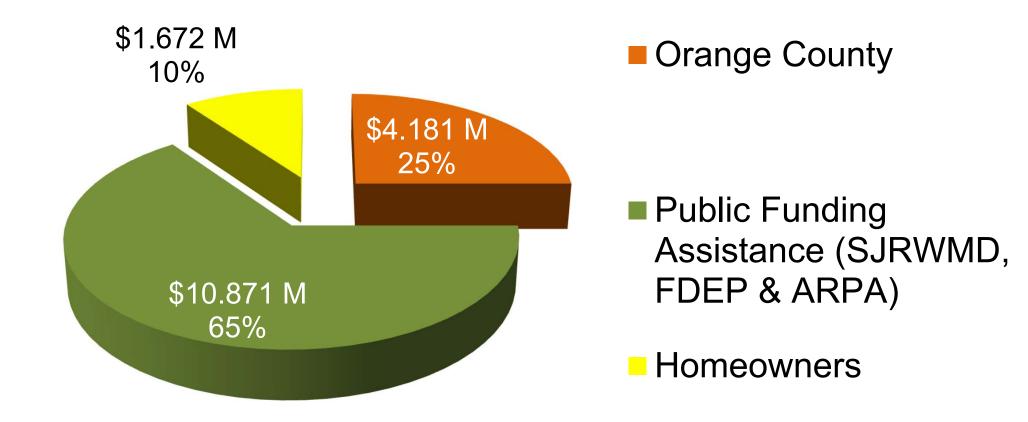


Phase 7B and 7C Project Details

- Orange County Utilities Contribution (25%)
 - \$4,181,250 Lake Mendelin Estates
 - \$375,000 Lake Cortez Woods
- SJRWMD Cost Share Program/FDEP Springs Restoration Program
 - ±\$3,000,000 (will be applied for in future cycle)
- FDEP Funding Assistance
 - Water Protection Grant Program
 - Orange County was notified of a multi-phase, multi-year grant in the amount of \$16,000,000; approx. 50% to be used of Phase 7B & 7C
- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding
 - Orange County received funding through ARPA for Wekiwa Septic to Sewer program
- Phase 7B and 7C Homeowners (10%) \$7,500 each
 - Lake Mendelin Estates= \$1,672,500
 Lake Cortez Woods = \$150,000

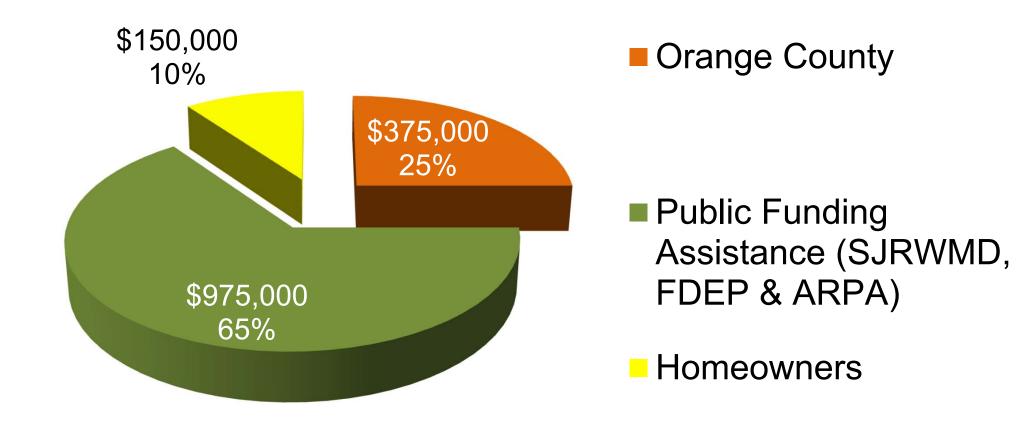


Phase 7B Project Details – Funding Breakdown





Phase 7C Project Details – Funding Breakdown





Phase 7B and 7C Project Details – Schedule

- Following dates are approximated
- Design

•	30% Design	08/31/2024
•	90% Design	12/31/2024
•	100% Design	03/31/2025
Bid		
•	Advertise	04/01/2025
•	BCC Award	08/01/2025
Construction		
•	Start	10/01/2025

Completion

04/01/2023



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Balloting Process (Comptroller's Office)

- The Orange County Comptroller will mail ballots to establish a Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU)
- Ballots must be returned to the Comptroller to be counted
- Ballots must be returned/postmarked within 30 days
- 67% of <u>returned</u> ballots "In Favor" of project required
- If ballot passes, each homeowner will be responsible for \$7,500
 - Financed over a 10-year period or may be paid up front
 - If financed, homeowner will pay annually included with property taxes
 - Interest rate and \$2.50 annual admin fee applied
 - Balance may be paid at any time during the 10-year period
- If the home is sold, the MSBU remains with the property, not the individual
- Once connection to sewer is established, residents will receive bill revised to include wastewater fees. Typical monthly charge is ± \$50.00.

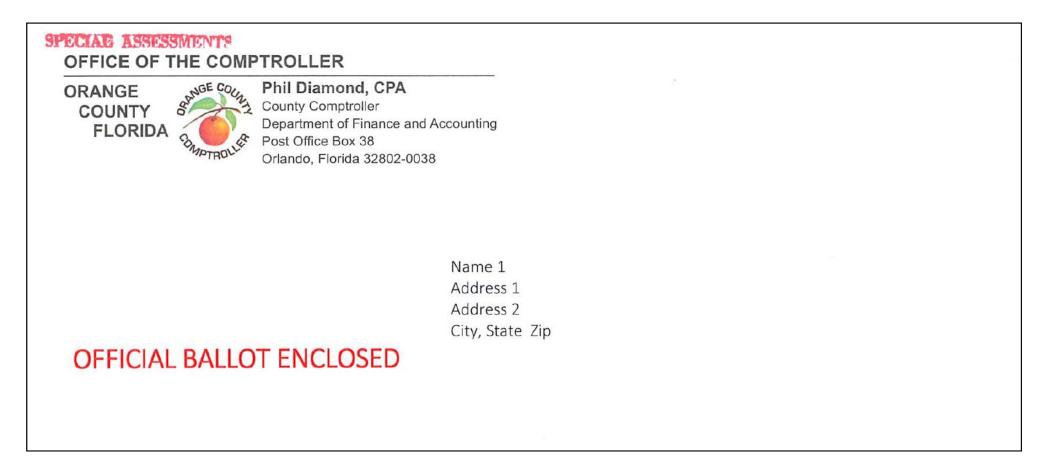
Previous ballots/voting to gauge commitment levels



(straw polls) or for land acquisition (pump station) did not provide the basis for assessing an MSBU and proceeding with the sewer project. That is what this ballot will do.

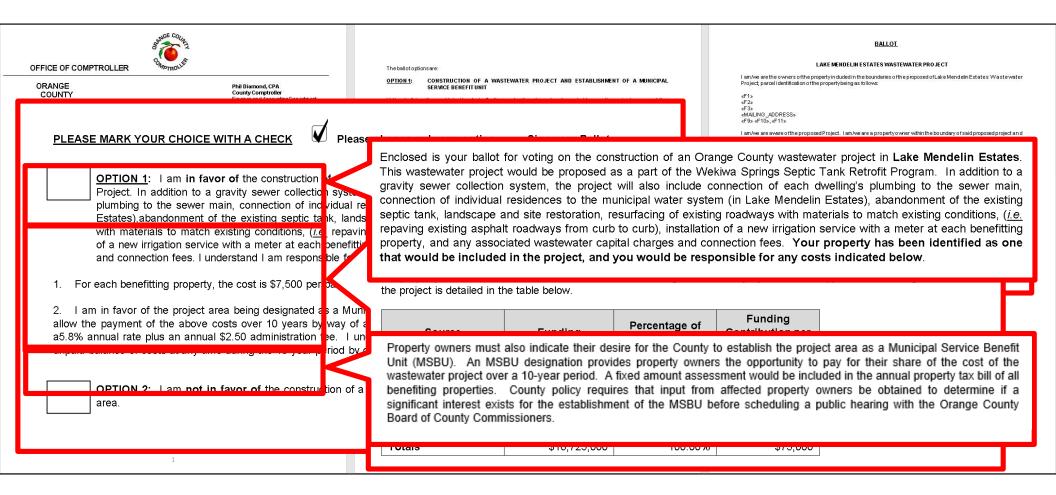
Sample Ballot

The ballot will arrive in an envelope from the Orange County Comptroller



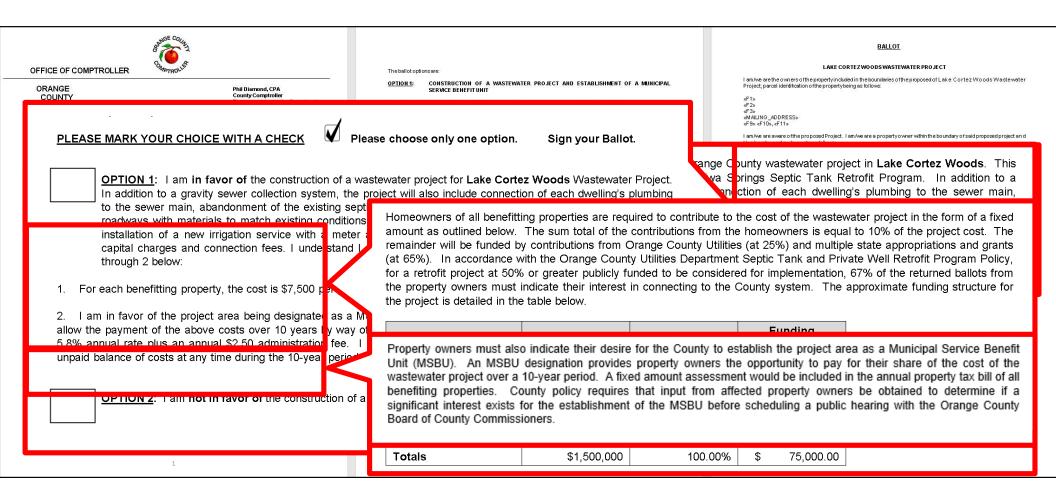


Sample Ballot & Cover Letter phase 7B



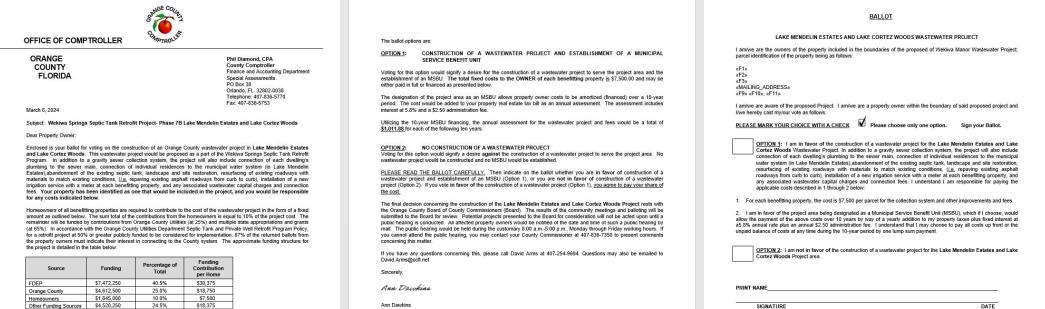


Sample Ballot & Cover Letter phase 7C





Sample Ballot & Cover Letter



Property owners must also indicate their desire for the County to establish the project area as a Municipal Service Benefit Property owners index also indicate their design to the county to establish the project area as a multicipal Service benefit. Unit (MSSU), An MSBU designation provides property owners the opportunity to pay for their share of the cost of the wastewater project over a 10-year period. A fixed amount assessment would be included in the annual property tax bill of all benefiting properties. County policy requires that input from affected property owners be obtained to determine if a significant interest exists for the establishment of the MSBU before scheduling a public hearing with the Orange County Board of County Commissioners

\$75,000

Your vote is to be indicated on the enclosed ballot. Please read the following and the enclosed ballot carefully

100.0%

\$18,450,000

Totals

Ann Dawkins MSBU Supervisor, Special Assessments

Enclosures

www.OrangeCountyFL.net Para más información, por favor llame al Departamento de Utilidades del Condado de Orange y pida hablar con un representante en español. El número de teléfono es 407-836-7000.

2

SIGNATURE

PRINT NAME

SIGNATURE

Owners of the property described above should sign exactly as their names appear on the property deed. Please note that only one property owner's signature per household is necessary. Please return this ballot in the self-addressed return envelope provided. It must be postmarked April 5, 2024, to be counted in the tabulation of ballots.

3

DATE



Balloting Process (Comptroller's Office)

- IMPORTANT: If you do not receive your ballot or you lose your ballot, Contact the Orange County Comptroller Special Assessments Office
 - Phone number: (407) 836-5770
 - Email: special.assessments@occompt.com
 - In person: 201 S. Rosalind Avenue, 4th Floor





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Summary

- Wekiwa BMAP requires reduction of conventional septic tanks
- Phase 7B consists of 223 homes in Lake Mendelin Estates and Phase 7C consists of 20 homes Lake Cortez Woods. Public funding available for ~ 90% of cost
 - Goal to complete project by April 2027
- Community commitment is essential
 - 67% of responding homeowners must vote to pay for ~10% of the cost



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Questions & Answers

