

*Utilities Department*

# **Wekiwa Springs Septic to Sewer Project Update**

**October 13, 2020**



# Presentation Outline

- Objective
- Background
- Design Status
- Funding Status
- Next Steps



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- **Objective**
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# Objective

- **Provide background information on the Wekiwa Springs Septic to Sewer Project**
- **Discuss the status of the Phase 1 final design, grant applications and MSBU funding**



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# Background

- **The Wekiva River and Wekiwa Springs are impaired by nutrients**
  - Phosphorus
  - Nitrogen
- **Excess nutrients cause excess algae**
  - Fish kills
  - Reduction of diversity, plants and animals





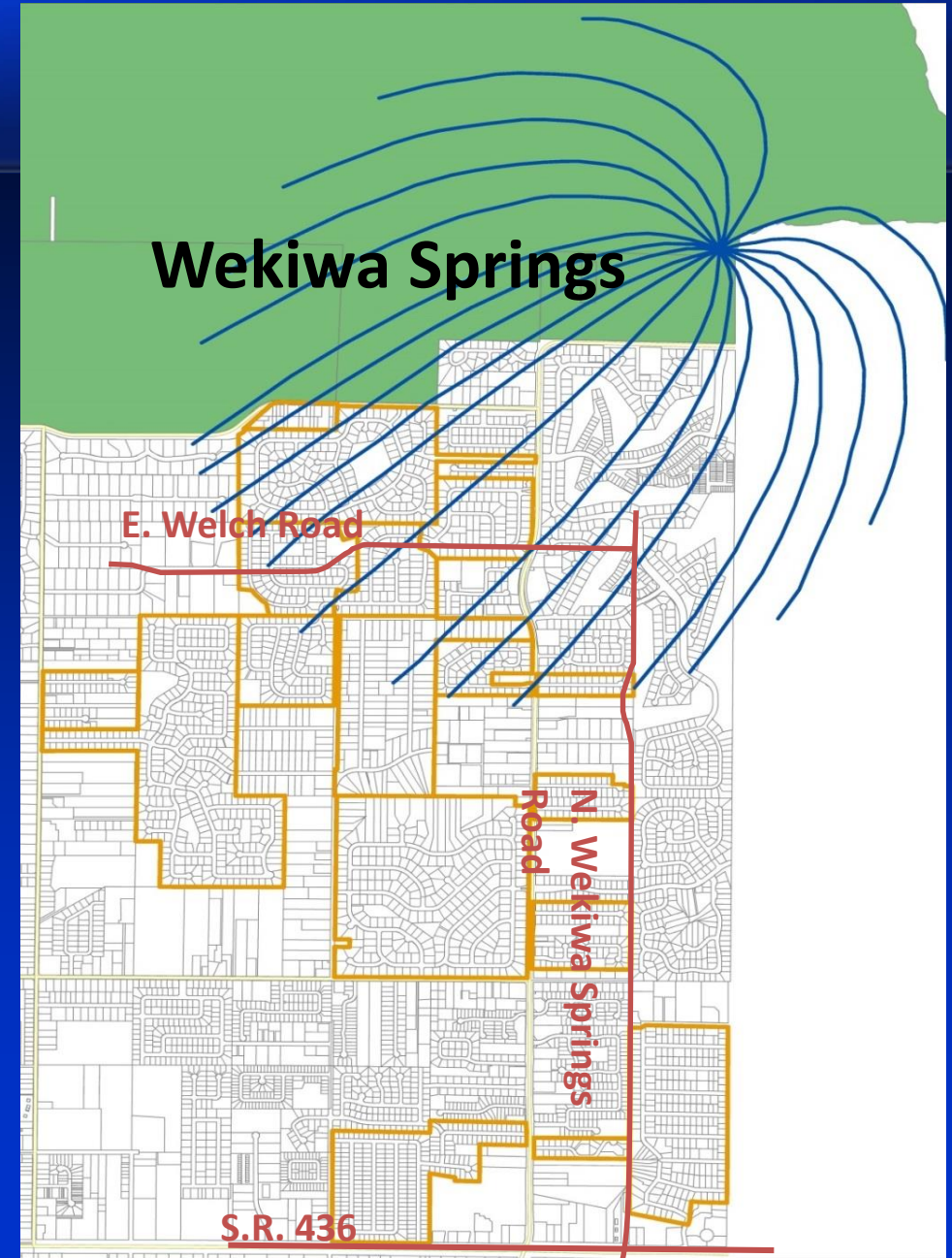
# Background

- **In 2016, the Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act required an update to the Wekiwa Springs and Rock Springs Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP)**
  - **Requires specific nutrient load reductions within 5, 10 and 15 years of BMAP**
    - **Identified septic tanks as the source of 29% of nitrogen in the springs**
    - **18,000 septic tanks within Orange County Utilities' service area inside the Priority Focus Area (PFA)**
- **Board of County Commissioners work session on 4/21/2020**
  - **Presented a 15 year program to replace septic tanks closest to Wekiwa Springs within the PFA**



# Background

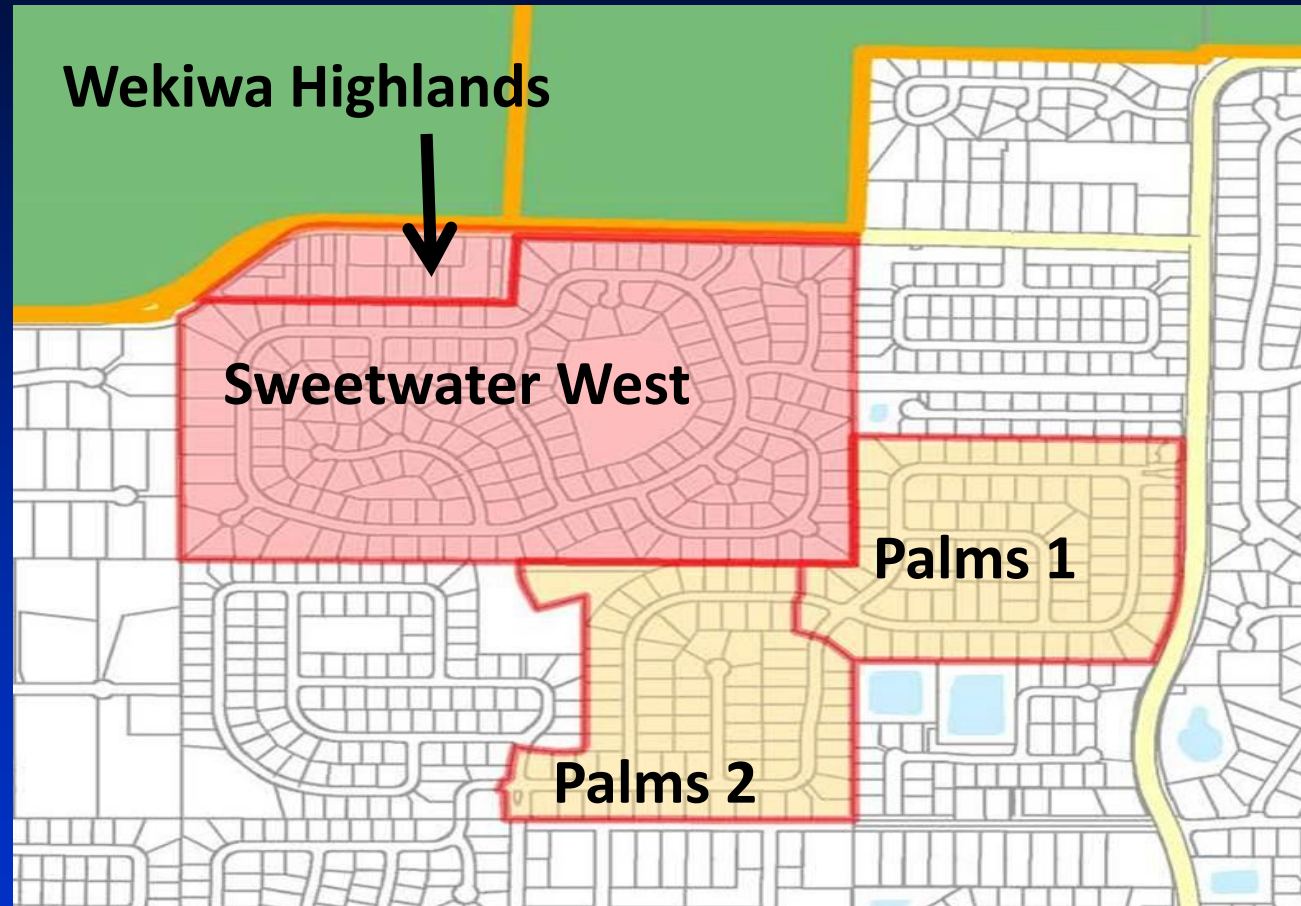
- Eliminate septic tanks in 17 neighborhoods closest to Wekiwa Springs
  - 2,057 septic tanks
  - 15 year plan
  - \$123 million







# Background



- Two neighborhoods closest to the Wekiwa Springs
- Phase 1 – 213 parcels
  - Wekiwa Highlands
  - Sweetwater West
- \$12.62 million
  - \$60,000 per parcel

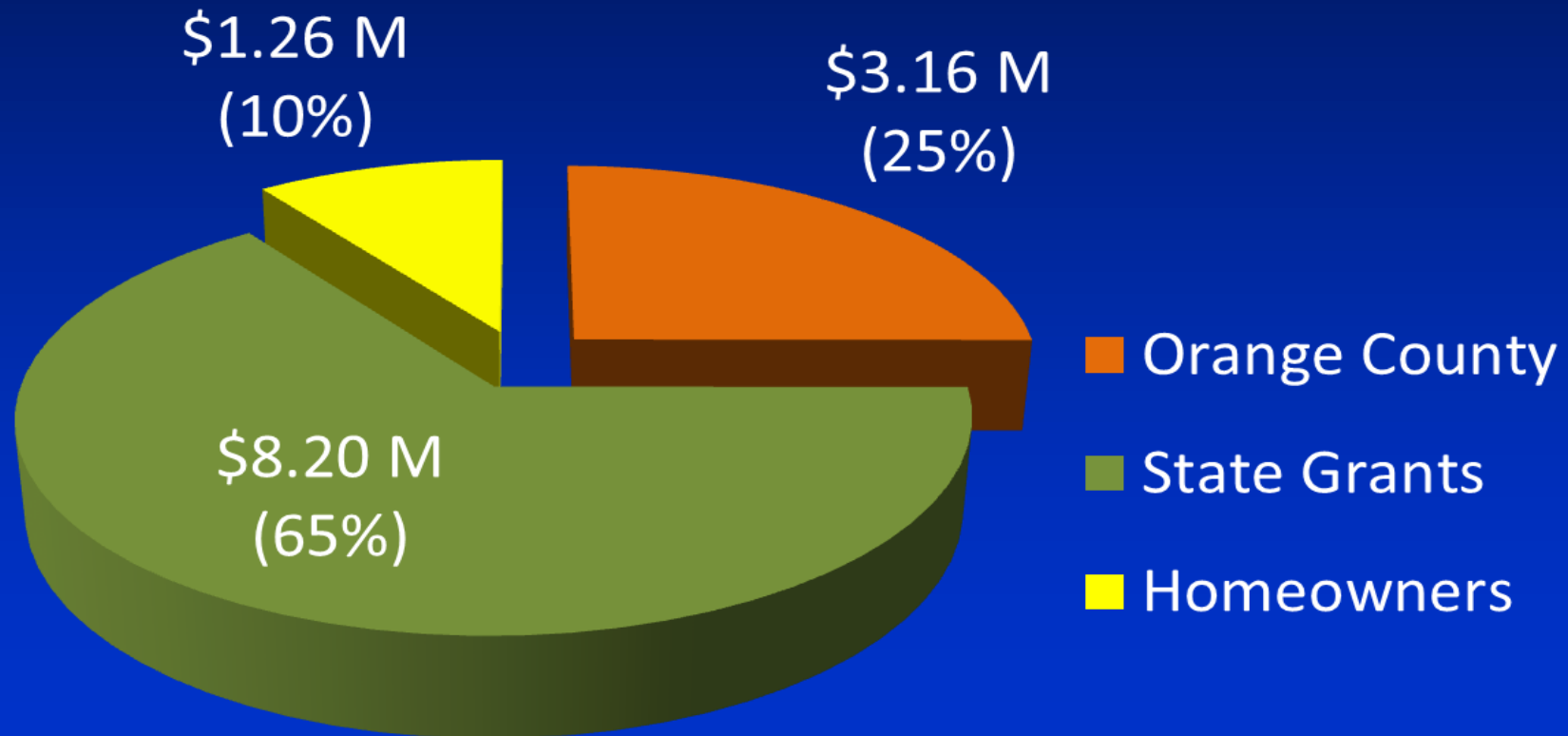
Phase 1

Phase 2



# Background

Phase 1 Project Cost is \$12.62 million





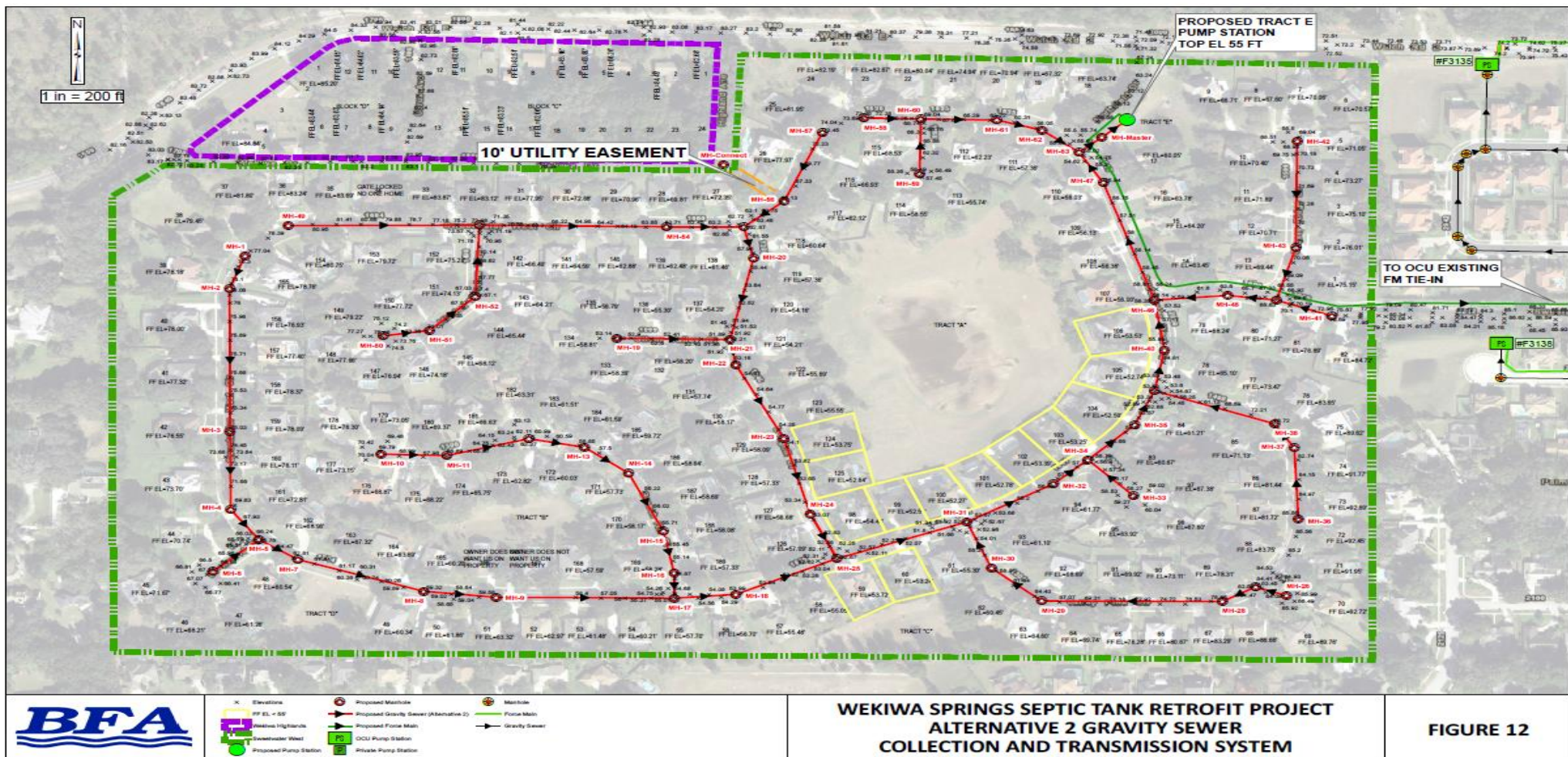
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# Design Status

## Phase 1 Central Sewer Layout





# Design Status

## ■ Design

- 30% Design
- 90% Design
- 100% Design

9/16/2020 – Done

10/30/2020 – On Schedule

12/04/2020 – On Schedule

## ■ Bid

- Advertise
- BCC Award

1/15/2021 – If 2020 funding is secured

4/15/2021 – If MSBU ballot passes

## ■ Construction

- Start
- Completion

6/15/2021 – Subject to State and MSBU funding

9/30/2022



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# Funding Status

- **State Funding Options**

- **State Budget Appropriations**

- **St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD)  
Cost-Share Program**

- **Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)  
Springs Protection Program & Protecting Florida Together Initiative**



# Funding Status

## ▪ State Budget Appropriations

- County worked with state legislators for overall program funding
  - Requested \$1.47 million each year for the next 10 years
- Obtained \$0.5 million this year despite COVID-19 challenges
- Program may be slowed down by funding challenges
- Funding balance expected to come from
  - Additional FDEP funding
  - Homeowners







# Funding Status

## ▪ SJRWMD Cost Share Program

- The maximum of \$1.5 million per year per project was obtained for our Phase 1 project
  - Classified as a “multiyear” project for later phases funding
- Construction of Phase 1 must start by 6/30/2021
- Funding beyond the first year’s \$1.5 million will go toward future phases due to limitations on funding per project
  - Applications for Phase 2 funding are due in February 2021





# Funding Status

## ▪ FDEP Springs Protection Program

– Projects were submitted to FDEP through SJRWMD

- SJRWMD scored our projects highly and submitted them as one of only two multiyear springs restoration projects in their district
- \$123 million over 12 years

– No new multiyear programs were funded this year

- Potential for single year and single project funding in the future
- Our large and ambitious program may have been affected by new budget challenges due to COVID-19

– Other funding sources may still be available this fiscal year





# Funding Status

## Phase 1 – State Agency Cash Flow

State Agency	FY2021	FY2022	Subtotal
State Budget Appropriations	\$0.50	0	\$0.50
SJRWMD Cost Share	\$1.50	0	\$1.50
FDEP Springs Restoration	\$2.39*	\$2.39*	\$4.78
FDEP Protecting Florida Together	0	\$1.42*	\$1.42
<b>PHASE 1 TOTALS (BY FISCAL YEAR)</b>	<b>\$4.39</b>	<b>\$3.81</b>	<b>\$8.20</b>

NOTE: All dollar values are in millions

- \* Shortage potential, therefore, additional funding needed from:
  - State Appropriation, Homeowners , or Orange County



# Funding Status

## ▪ Phase 1 Cost Progression

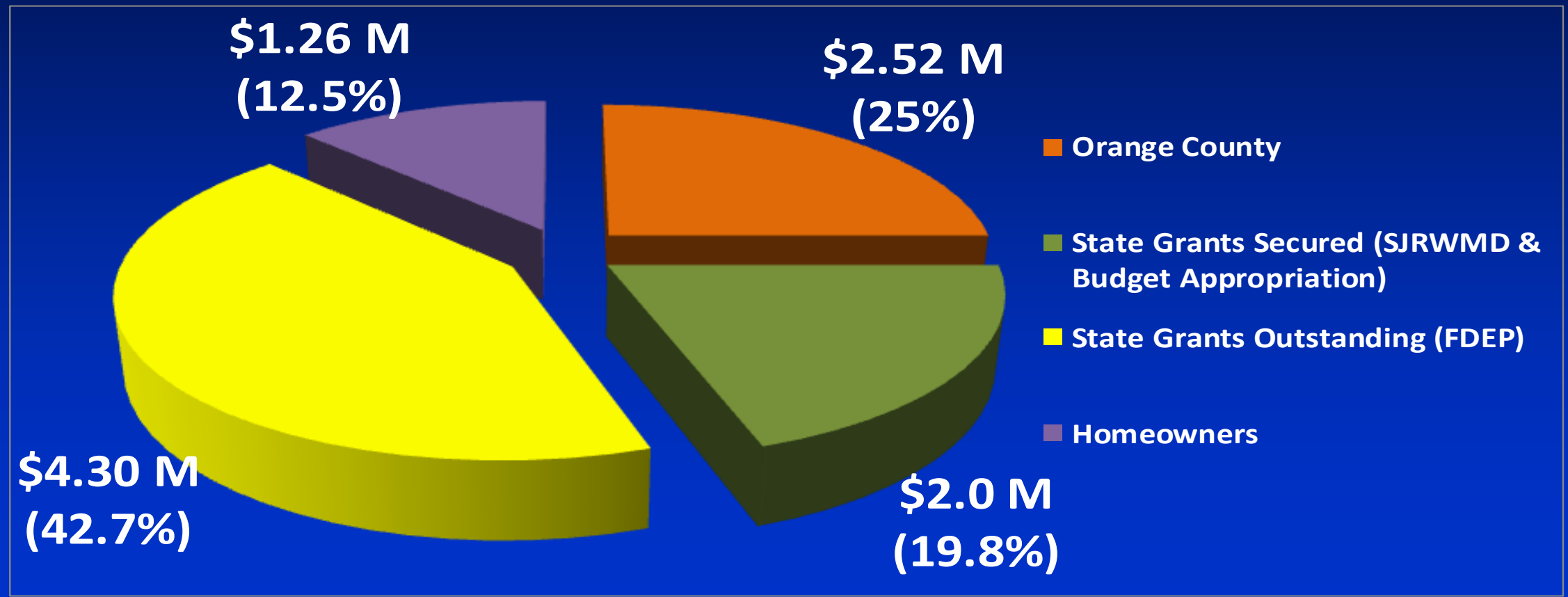
	Original Estimate	Current Estimate
–Design	\$ 1,210,000	\$ 708,000
–Other (pre-construction)	\$ 469,000	\$ 40,000
–Construction*	\$ 9,730,000	\$ 8,405,000
–Other (post-construction)	\$ 1,211,000	\$ 924,000
–TOTAL	\$12,620,000	\$10,077,000

\* 20% contingency included



# Funding Status

Phase 1 Latest Project Cost: \$10.08 Million





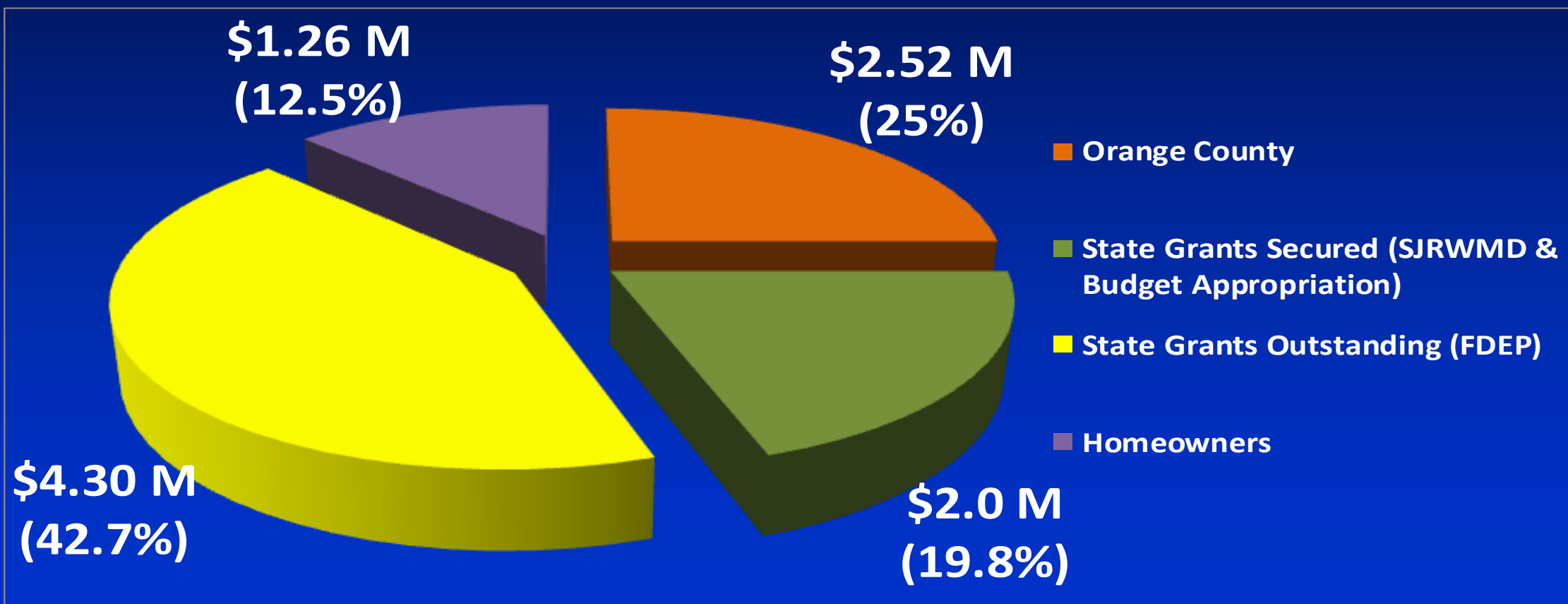
# Funding Status

- **County funding limited to 25% maximum per ordinance**
  - Therefore, the County's funding decreased from \$3.16 to \$2.52 million with overall project cost reduction
- **State funding of \$8.2 million (65%) was reduced to \$6.3 million (62.5%)**
  - \$2.0 (19.8%) million secured from appropriations and SJRWMD
  - \$4.3 (42.7%) million from FDEP needed over two fiscal years
  - The current fiscal year ask of \$2.4 million has not materialized yet
- **Homeowner's funding requires a ballot and an MSBU**
  - Remains at \$1.26 million amount, but increased percentage to 12.5%



# Funding Status

Phase 1 Latest Project Cost: \$10.08 Million





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# Next Steps

- **Complete design of Phase 1**
  - **Need to show local participation to secure additional grants**
  - **Design was included in our CIP budget and can be reused if construction is postponed until fully funded**
    - **\$0.5 million State Appropriation covered 62% of the design cost**
  - **Shovel-ready projects are more likely to obtain grant funding**



# Next Steps

- **MSBU ballot required prior to construction award**
  - Community Meeting – Confirm funding beyond 10%
  - Ballot will be sent while the initial FDEP funding is secured
  
- **Continue pursuing State funding (FDEP)**
  - FDEP funding constitutes \$4.3 million of total Phase 1 funds and were planned to be received in two different fiscal years
  - FDEP's first year funding of \$2.4 million is needed by the end of November 2020 in order to bid the project in January 2021
    - Otherwise, the project would have to be postponed for one year or until adequate funding is obtained



# Next Steps

- **State Funding and its timing is very critical**
  - Multiple funding agencies and over half a dozen grant applications spanning multiple years
  - Grant funding requires initial investment – Design completion
  - Larger projects require multiyear funding, with only the first year funding being guaranteed
    - However, our project qualifies for and it is very likely to obtain all of its funding from multiple FDEP sources on its second year of funding
- **Recommend bidding project if the first year of FDEP funding is obtained**



# Project Update

▪ Questions?

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