



Alachua County

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Michele Lieberman
County Manager

May 26, 2020

Mr. Tom Kay, Executive Director
Alachua Conservation Trust
7204 SE CR 234
Gainesville, FL 32641

RE: ACT's "Surface To Springs" Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Dear Tom:

I am writing to document Alachua County's support of Alachua Conservation Trust's proposal to the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), titled the "Surface To Springs." Alachua County is familiar with the proposal, understands general expectations, and supports the efforts to address the natural resource concerns identified in therein.

If this RCPP proposal is selected for funding, Alachua County will provide technical assistance and the acquisition of fee title and conservation easements to meet the objectives of the proposal for a partner contribution equal to the total amount of \$12 million over four years to this project. For the fifth year of the project, we are willing to maintain the same levels of support, but this will have to be contingent upon renewal of the Wild Spaces Public Places one-half cent sales tax and approval by the Board of County Commissioners. Our expected contributions to acquisitions meeting the objectives of the Surface To Springs Conservation Partnership include:

- \$100,000 per year for fiscal years 2021-24 (\$500,000 total) in technical assistance and other in-kind support to provide planning, negotiations, and due diligence for acquisitions.
- \$3 million per year for fiscal years 2021-24 (\$12 million total) for County-held title and conservation easements.

These contributions are subject to actual revenues received from the Wild Spaces and Public Places one-half cent sales tax, and its annual appropriation by the Board of County Commissioners.

We look forward to the County's participation in this important partnership to protect vital ecological and water resources in the Santa Fe River basin.

Sincerely,

Michele Lieberman

County Manager