

# ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

Florida Friendly Use of Fertilizer on Urban Landscapes Ordinance

**DATE:** 8/17/2016

**DEPARTMENT/DIVISION:** Public Works/Watershed Management

**CONTACT PERSON:** Shannon Wetzel

**EXTENSION:** 407-665-2455

## **DESCRIBE PROJECT/PROPOSAL:**

Adopting the Florida Friendly Use of Fertilizer on Urban Landscapes ordinance. This new fertilizer ordinance is a regulatory requirement of the County's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit (NPDES Permit No. FLS000038). The permit mandates the adoption of a fertilizer ordinance by December 31, 2013. The overall goal of this ordinance is the education of proper fertilizer application.

## **DESCRIBE THE DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE PROJECT/ PROPOSAL UPON THE OPERATION OF THE COUNTY:**

Adoption of the fertilizer ordinance will necessitate public education and possibly enforcement of the ordinance. It is anticipated that the above support activities can be handled internal to the County with assistance from existing resources within the Watershed Management Division and the Public Works Department. Total impact to the Department will be minimal at less than 40 hours per year in total. There will also be direct economic benefits to the County by the adoption of this ordinance through more efficient application of fertilizers on county property.

## **DESCRIBE THE DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE PROJECT/ PROPOSAL UPON THE PROPERTY OWNERS/TAX PAYERS/CITIZENS WHO ARE EXPECTED TO BE AFFECTED:**

The adoption of the fertilizer ordinance will set forth the necessary provisions for the proper application of fertilizer by residents, commercial and institutional applicators. There are no direct costs associated with this fertilizer ordinance to the citizens. The proper application of fertilizer may provide a direct cost savings to homeowners who reduce their fertilizer use.

The required training and certifications for commercial and institutional fertilizer applicators are already required under the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and therefore do not contribute to additional costs to the applicators.

## **IDENTIFY ANY POTENTIAL INDIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACTS, POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE WHICH MIGHT OCCUR AS A RESULT OF THE PROJECT PROPOSAL:**

The adoption of the fertilizer ordinance will have a positive indirect benefit to the water resources and citizens of Seminole County. The proper application of fertilizer by both residents and commercial and institutional applicators will result in less fertilizer running off into our waterbodies, thereby reducing nutrient loads. Reduced fertilizer use by the citizens will ultimately result in reduced maintenance costs within our water resources. Additional economic impact may include preservation of property value based on community wide improvement, improvement of local water resources and benefits associated with public funding of projects.