



**Florida Job Growth Grant Fund  
Public Infrastructure Grant Proposal**

Proposal Instructions: The Florida Job Growth Grant Fund Proposal (this document) must be completed by the governmental entity applying for the grant and signed by either the chief elected official, the administrator for the governmental entity or their designee. Please read the proposal carefully as some questions may require a separate narrative to be completed.

**Governmental Entity Information**

Name of Governmental Entity: Hendry County

Government Federal Employer Identification Number: [REDACTED]

**Contact Information:**

Primary Contact Name: Charles Chapman

Title: County Administrator

Mailing Address: 640 S. Main Street  
LaBelle, FL 33975

Phone Number: (863)675-5220

Email: cchapman@hendryfla.net

**Public Infrastructure Grant Eligibility**

Pursuant to section 288.101, F.S., the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund was created to promote economic opportunity by improving public infrastructure and enhancing workforce training. Eligible governmental entities that wish to access this grant fund must submit public infrastructure proposals that:

- Promote economic recovery in specific regions of the state, economic diversification or economic enhancement in a targeted industry. (View Florida's [Targeted Industries here.](#))
- Are not for the exclusive benefit of any single company, corporation or business entity.
- Are for infrastructure that is owned by the public and is for public use or predominately benefits the public.



**1. Program Requirements:**

Each proposal must include the following information describing how the project satisfies eligibility requirements listed on page 1.

- A. Provide the title and a detailed description of the public infrastructure improvements.

Airglades Airport US Customs and Border Protection Facility  
(See attachment A for further details)

---

- B. Is this infrastructure owned by the public?

Yes       No

- C. Is this infrastructure for public use or does it predominately benefit the public?

Yes       No

- D. Will the public infrastructure improvements be for the exclusive benefit of any single company, corporation or business entity?

Yes       No

- E. Provide a detailed explanation of how the public infrastructure improvements will connect to a broader economic development vision for the community and benefit additional current or future businesses.

See Attachment A

---



F. Provide a detailed description of, and quantitative evidence demonstrating, how the proposed public infrastructure project will promote:

- Economic recovery in specific regions of the state;
- Economic diversification; or
- Economic enhancement of a Targeted Industry (View Florida's [Targeted Industries here.](#))
  - As part of this response, describe how the project will promote specific job growth. Include a description of the number of jobs that will be retained or created, the average wages of such jobs, and in which industry(ies) the jobs will be created using the North American Industry Classification System ([NAICS](#)) codes. Where applicable, you may list specific businesses that will retain or grow jobs or make capital investment.
  - Further, include the economic impact on the community, region, or state and the associated metrics used to measure the success of the proposed project.

See Attachment A

---

See Attachment A



**2. Additional Information:**

A. Is this project an expansion of an existing infrastructure project?

Yes       No

B. Provide the proposed commencement date and number of days required to complete construction of the public infrastructure project.

Construction is projected to begin upon receipt of funds.

---

C. What is the location of the public infrastructure? (Provide the road number, if applicable.)

Airglades Airport, 1090 Airglades Boulevard, Clewiston, Florida 33440

---

D. Who is responsible for maintenance and upkeep? (Indicate if more than one are applicable.)

Federal     State     County     City     Other \_\_\_\_\_

E. What permits are necessary for the public infrastructure project?

Limited construction permits for the planned expansion of Airglades Airport

---

F. Detail whether required permits have been secured, and if not, detail the timeline for securing these permits. Additionally, if any required permits are local permits, will these permits be prioritized?

Standard construction permits by Hendry County are required during construction phase.

---

G. What is the future land use and zoning designation on the proposed site of the infrastructure improvements, and will the improvements conform to those uses?

Industrial Use - Yes, the proposed use would conform to the existing land use/zoning designation

---



H. Will an amendment to the local comprehensive plan or a development order be required on the site of the proposed project or on adjacent property to accommodate the infrastructure and potential current or future job creation opportunities? If yes, please detail the timeline.

Yes  No

If additional space is needed, attach a word document with your entire answer.

---

I. Is the project ready to commence upon grant fund approval and contract execution? If no, please explain.

Yes  No

The Project is "shovel ready".

---

J. Does this project have a local match amount?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe the entity providing the match and the amount.

N/A

---

K. Provide any additional information or attachments to be considered for this proposal.

See Attachments

---



**3. Program Budget**

**Estimated Costs and Sources of Funding:** Include all applicable public infrastructure costs and other funding sources available to support the proposal.

**A. Public Infrastructure Project Costs:**

Construction	\$ 1,200,000		
Reconstruction	\$ 0		
Design & Engineering	\$ 200,000		
Land Acquisition	\$ 0		
Land Improvement	\$ 0		
Other	\$ 100,000	Please Specify:	<u>CBP Equipment</u>
<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>\$ 1,500,000</b>		

**B. Other Public Infrastructure Project Funding Sources:**

City/County	\$ 0		
Private Sources	\$ 0		
Other (grants, etc.)	\$ 0	Please Specify:	<u>N/A</u>
<b>Total Other Funding</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>		

**Total Amount Requested**     \$ 1,500,000

**Note:** The total amount requested must equal the difference between the public infrastructure project costs in 3.A. and the other public infrastructure project funding sources in 3.B.

**C. Provide a detailed budget narrative, including the timing and steps necessary to obtain the funding and any other pertinent budget-related information.**

The UFF at Airglades would proceed upon receipt of the grant funding and would expect to be operational in 2018.



#### 4. Approvals and Authority

- A. If the governmental entity is awarded grant funds based on this proposal, what approvals must be obtained before it can execute a grant agreement with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (e.g., approval of a board, commission or council)?

Final approval by the Hendry Board of County Commissioners

---

- B. If approval of a board, commission, council or other group is needed prior to execution of an agreement between the governmental entity and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity:

- i. Provide the schedule of upcoming meetings for the group for a period of at least six months.  
10/26/17; 11/28/17; 12/12/17; 1/9/18; 2/13/18; 3/13/18; 4/10/18
- 

- ii. State whether that group can hold special meetings, and if so, upon how many days' notice.  
Hendry BCC may hold special meetings with 7 days notice.
- 

- C. Attach evidence that the undersigned has all necessary authority to execute this proposal on behalf of the governmental entity. This evidence may take a variety of forms, including but not limited to: a delegation of authority, citation to relevant laws or codes, policy documents, etc.



I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that I have express authority to sign this proposal on behalf of the above-described governmental entity.

Name of Governmental Entity: Hendry County

Name and Title of Authorized Representative: Charles Chapman, County Administrator

Representative Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature Date: 10/04/17

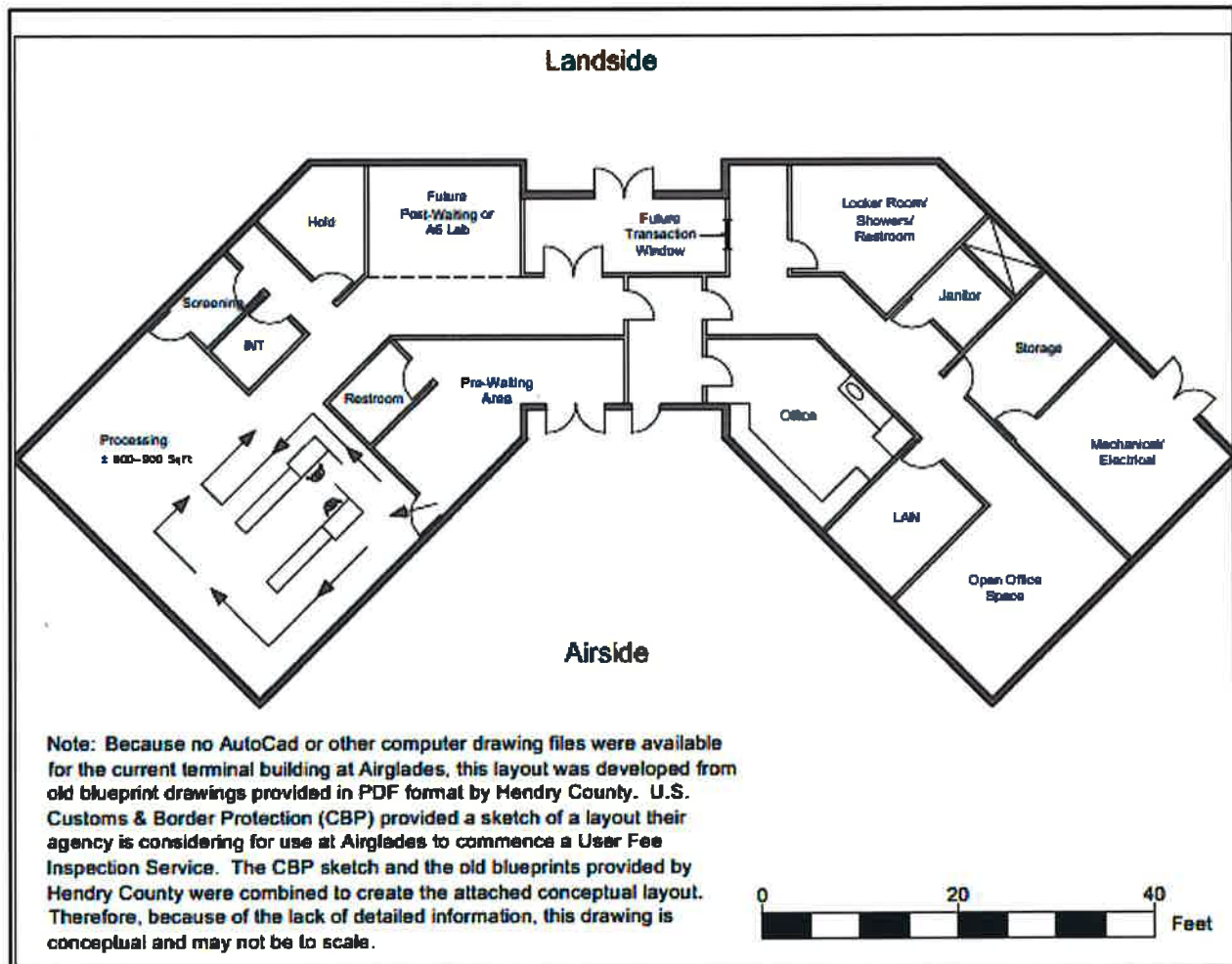


# ATTACHMENT

## A

## RESPONSE TO 1.A. (Page 2)

The proposed project includes retrofitting the existing terminal at Airglades Airport to accommodate a new U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) User Fee Facility (UFF) for the processing of direct international aircraft, passengers, and cargo. Below is a layout of the necessary infrastructure improvements to the existing terminal within Airglades Airport, which includes the creation of multiple “rooms/offices” for CBP officers and processing areas.



## RESPONSE TO 1.E. (Page 2)

There has been an increasing demand from the general aviation community over the last several years to extend Customs Inspection services to small airports such as those located in Hendry and western Palm Beach Counties. The timing of implementing a new (CBP) User Fee Facility at Airglades Airport is crucial considering President Donald Trump’s naming Mar-a-Lago, an estate owned by the President, as his Winter White House. Based on this, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has issued new restrictions that are being placed on the airspace surrounding Palm Beach International Airport (PBI). Therefore, both private and general aviation activity at one of the busiest business jet airports along the Atlantic Coast has been, and will continue to be, heavily impacted when POTUS activity is underway at Mar-a-Lago.

Construction of a UFF at Airglades Airport would provide a much-needed solution for, not only those international flights impacted by PBI Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFR), but would also provide an alternative for international general aviation activity that want to avoid the customs clearance delays that are commonly experienced at other congested airports within the South Florida Region. In addition, the UFF at Airglades would alleviate some of the congested burden other larger airports in South Florida currently experience.

As a part of the application that Hendry County submitted for UFF, a number of existing and potential businesses have expressed interest in expanding and/or establishing new operations at Airglades upon implementation of the UFF. The application by Hendry County for the UFF at Airglades was also supported by Governor Rick Scott.

A copy of the CBP application for UFF, which includes the above-referenced letters of support, is attached to this EFI Grant Application as **ATTACHMENT B**.

### **RESPONSE TO 1.F. (Page 3)**

Airglades Airport (also known as Riddle Field) has a fascinating past, rich in aviation history. In 1941, President Franklin Roosevelt championed the “Lend Lease Act” which included American spending on British military training at bases set up in the United States Riddle Field was built as a training base for the British Flying Training Schools (BTFS) program and was operational from 1941-1945. These flying schools were built to train Royal Air Force (RAF) pilots, and over 11,000 pilots graduated as a result. Riddle Field was inactivated in December of 1945, and the present-day Airglades Airport was built after the war over the runways of Riddle Field.

Currently, Airglades Airport operates as a small county-owned facility with a loyal group of MROs and other businesses as tenants. Several private charter companies, aviation mechanics, the Blue Sky Flying Club, and a skydiving company operate out of Airglades Airport hangars.

According to Florida TaxWatch, maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) companies tend to create higher-paying jobs, with an average wage of \$53,700. Current MRO tenants at Airglades Airport intend to expand and add new employees to the existing 35 people currently working at the airport. Jacob’s Flight Services, in particular, has expressed an interest in building an additional aircraft hangar in collaboration with Hendry County. There are an expected 30 temporary construction-related jobs anticipated by the project. After construction is completed, an additional 7 to 10 aviation and MRO jobs are expected to be added to Jacob’s Flight Services. In addition to the proposed hangar construction, Jacob’s Flight Service anticipates including training programs for aircraft repair, maintenance, and aircraft inspections.

The establishment of Airglades Airport as a User Fee airport would enable Hendry County/Airglades Airport to become a more substantial contributor to the Florida Airport System and would produce new employment opportunities in this Florida county, which has the state's highest rate of unemployment. Hendry County has also been identified as a Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC). This situation has been recently exacerbated by Hurricane Irma. The UFF at Airglades Airport would promote business opportunities and increase job creation in Hendry County.

The establishment of a UFF at Airglades Airport would specifically enhance the Targeted Industry of Aviation. This could include new businesses such as: Aircraft and Aircraft Parts Manufacturing, Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul of Aircraft, and other aviation-related activities. In addition to the direct jobs anticipated at Airglades Airport, other indirect jobs would be created in the service industry, such as food and beverage, lodging, transportation, and fuel facilities.

CBP has published a Fact Sheet outlining its “Role in Strengthening the Economy,” which discusses potential indirect jobs and economic impacts associated with adding CBP inspection services at airports. Airglades Airport anticipates 3 inspection officers for the initial implementation of UFF at Airglades. The referenced Fact Sheet and other related documentation related are included in **ATTACHMENT C**.

Further, upon implementation of the perishable air cargo complex at Airglades, significant additional direct and indirect jobs would be created. It should be noted, however, that the UFF at the existing Airglades Airport could spawn other activity, but it is not dependent on the proposed perishable air cargo complex.

Based on NAICS codes, among the industries where jobs will be created are the following: 1) 481112 – Scheduled Freight Air Transportation; 2) 484110 – General Freight Trucking, Local; 3) 484121 – General Freight Trucking, Long-Distance, Truckload; 4) 484220 – Specialized Freight (except Used Goods) Trucking; 5) 484230 – Specialized Freight (except Used Goods) Trucking, Long-Distance; 6) 488111 – Air Traffic Control; 7) 488119 – Other Airport Operations; 8) 488190 – Other Support Activities for Air Transportation; 9) 488510 – Freight Transportation Arrangement; 10) 488991 – Packing and Crating; 11) 488999- All Other Support Activities for Transportation; 12) 493110 – General Warehousing and Storage; 13) 238210 – Electrical Contractors and Other Wiring Installation Contractors; 14) 238290 – Other Building Equipment Contractors; 15) 238310 – Drywall and Insulation Contractors; 16) 238320 – Painting and Wall Covering Contractors; 17) 238220 – Flooring Contractors; 18) 238390 – Other Building Finishing Contractors

**RESPONSE TO 2.B. (Page 4)**

The project would begin upon receipt of grant funding. Design, bidding, and construction is anticipated to take approximately 9 to 12 months, with project completion anticipated in the 4th Quarter of 2018.

# ATTACHMENT B



**HENDRY COUNTY**  
**Board of County Commissioners**  
**P.O. Box 2340**  
**LaBelle, Florida 33975-2340**

**Charles T. Chapman IV**  
County Administrator

**Mark F. Lapp**  
County Attorney

**Barbara Butler**  
Clerk of the Courts

December 15, 2016

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Ms. Jennifer Connors, Port Director – Port of Palm Beach  
1 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 323, Box 4  
Riviera Beach, FL 33404

Re: User Fee US Customs Inspection Services at Airglades Airport

Dear Director Connors,

On behalf of the Hendry County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) I am very pleased to respectfully submit to you a Letter of Application and supporting documents for your consideration in providing User Fee (general aviation) Inspection Services (UFA) at the Airglades Airport (Identifier Code 21S) located in Clewiston, Florida.

Hendry County Administrator, Charles Chapman, and our Airglades Airport General Manager, have reported to the BOCC that you and your staff have been most helpful in providing guidance to Hendry County as to how best to prepare for the submittal of our application to CBP.

Mr. Chapman advises that you and your staff have already conducted the preliminary site visit to Airglades on July 22, 2016 and have held informational meetings at your office on August 16, 2016 and by telecom on August 26, 2016. You and your staff were very helpful in providing guidance as to how to commence this process. Your guidance has created an atmosphere of anticipatory enthusiasm in Hendry and Glades counties.

Please find attached the following documents:

1. Letter from the Hendry County BOCC to Florida Governor Rick Scott seeking his consent to establish User Fee services at Airglades Airport;
2. Support letters from Florida State Representatives Byron Donalds and Kathleen Passidomo;
3. Support letters from interested aviation industry parties;
4. Support letters from Hendry & Glades counties' tenants and users of Airglades Airport.

Please be advised that on November 8, 2016 the Hendry County BOCC unanimously voted its approval to make application to CBP. This vote included a commitment of the BOCC to fully cover the costs of CBP providing User Fee inspection services, which would be recovered in entirety through fees collected exclusively from transient users and Airglades Airport tenants.

Emma J. Byrd  
District 1

Darrell Harris  
District 2

Mitchell Wills  
District 3

Michael Swindle  
District 4

Karson Turner  
District 5

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer"





**HENDRY COUNTY**  
**Board of County Commissioners**  
**P.O. Box 2340**  
**LaBelle, Florida 33975-2340**

**Charles T. Chapman IV**  
County Administrator

**Mark F. Lapp**  
County Attorney

**Barbara Butler**  
Clerk of the Courts

These costs and procedural steps include:

- A. Reimbursing CBP for staffing costs estimated at \$140,874 per year per officer assigned;
- B. Reimbursing CBP for ADP costs estimated at \$21,062 per year per officer assigned;
- C. Reimbursing CBP for any staff overtime incurred;
- D. Hendry County completing an Agriculture Compliance Agreement which demonstrates and certifies that the Airglades Airport/Fixed Base Operator/Waste Removal Provider have been trained in and will comply with the required treatment and removal of international garbage from aircraft arriving at Airglades Airport;
- E. Securing a letter from Florida Governor Scott supporting the UFA application (see letter request attached);
- F. Executing a Memorandum of Agreement stating agreement to pay and establishing mutually agreeable hours of operation;
- G. Providing a physical office/inspection/interview facility (3 offices presently located in the terminal will adequately serve that need);
- H. Hendry County providing loaned furniture, Wi-Fi and janitorial services to CBP;
- I. A successful site visit in which CBP officials discuss workload and services and verify that facilities are adequate for inspectional services to be provided.
- J. A final site visit in which CBP officials verify that facilities are 85% complete and adequate for the inspectional services to be provided.

Additionally, County Administrator Charles Chapman, pledges the resources of his staff to ensure that your assigned officers are encouraged to call the Airport General Manager for any need or request for assistance.

Thanks you again for your patience and guidance. Your team of professionals have been a pleasure to work with. We look forward to establishing a strong working relationship with CBP at the Airglades Airport.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Michael Swindle in cursive script.

Michael Swindle, Chairman

CC: Board of County Commissioners  
Charles Chapman, County Administrator  
Shane Parker, County Engineer

Emma J. Byrd  
District 1

Darrell Harris  
District 2

Mitchell Wills  
District 3

Michael Swindle  
District 4

Karson Turner  
District 5

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer"



**HENDRY COUNTY**  
**Board of County Commissioners**  
**P.O. Box 2340**  
**LaBelle, Florida 33975-2340**

**Charles T. Chapman IV**  
County Administrator

**Mark F. Lapp**  
County Attorney

**Barbara Butler**  
Clerk of the Courts

December 16, 2016

Office of Governor Rick Scott  
State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 S. Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

**RE: AIRGLADES AIRPORT**

Dear Governor Scott:

I am writing you on behalf of the Hendry County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) in the matter of the County-owned Airglades Airport located in Clewiston, Florida and its application to U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP) for "User Fees" inspection services at Airglades.

Airglades has been a significant but under-utilized community asset since its acquisition by the County over fifty years ago. While its operations have historically not produced a significant return on investment to Hendry County and its taxpayers, it nonetheless has been the recipient of substantial improvements and investment. These improvements will facilitate the establishment of Airglades as a User Fee airport and enable Hendry County/Airglades to become a more substantial contributor to the Florida Airport System and producing new employment opportunities in the Florida county with the state's highest rate of unemployment.

- The combined FAA and FDOT investment in Airglades' infrastructure over the past 25 years totals over \$13 million dollars, including a complete resurfacing of the Airglades Runway 13-31.
- A new General Aviation passenger terminal was constructed at Airglades in 2006 with \$750,000 dollars in grant funds provided by FDOT.

Recent developments and frequent requests for User Fee status over the past two years indicate that Airglades, with its historic lowest in the region fuel price per gallon, if approved as a CBP User Fee airport, will attract additional air traffic into our community and the State of Florida, generating new profitable operations at no cost to the State of Florida or Florida's taxpayers.

Also, Airglades based Jacobs Flying Service has acquired two Cabin Class twin jets and leases hangar space to a Beechcraft King Air and a Legacy Cabin Class Twin-Jet that frequently travels to Bahamian and Caribbean Basin markets.

Emma J. Byrd  
District 1

Darrell Harris  
District 2

Mitchell Wills  
District 3

Michael Swindle  
District 4

Karson Turner  
District 5

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer"





**HENDRY COUNTY**  
**Board of County Commissioners**  
**P.O. Box 2340**  
**LaBelle, Florida 33975-2340**

**Charles T. Chapman IV**  
County Administrator

**Mark F. Lapp**  
County Attorney

**Barbara Butler**  
Clerk of the Courts

Over the past two years, Airglades has experienced measurable growth in aeronautical activity by fractional ownership companies, including Net Jets and other regional charter fleet managers, such as Palm Beach-based Privaira, which operates a fleet of business jets ranging from 6-passenger Cessna Citations to Canadair Challenger 600 Series Cabin Class Twin Jets.

Airglades has experienced a considerable uptick in queries from these and other operators who wish to make a combined CBP inspection and refueling at Airglades due to its consistent policy to offer the lowest price per gallon jet fuel in the region.<sup>1</sup>

Each of these current and potential developments have prompted queries as to when Airglades might be offering CBP User Fee inspection services that would allow the corporate jet category aircraft entering the United States from the Bahamas and the Caribbean to land at Airglades to:

- take advantage of low-cost fueling,
- reduce total elapsed flight time by avoiding the overburdened air traffic corridors at Florida east coast airports, and
- reduce ground delays awaiting CBP inspections at busy regional commercial airports.

Hendry County has an obligation to maximize its revenue generating potential as part of its compliance with FAA and FDOT Grant Assurances. The Grant Assurance provisions require Hendry County, as the recipient of the grant funding, to endeavor to pursue each and every potential revenue generating opportunity to maximize the return on FAA & FDOT grant investments.

With these considerations and objectives in mind, Hendry County has had several discussions with Senior Leadership of CBP over the past few months. CBP has given the County both guidance and encouragement to seek your consent for Hendry County's submission of a formal application to CBP for User Fee inspection services at Airglades, provided that such services are provided at no cost to Florida taxpayers.

To evidence the County's seriousness of purpose, please find attached letters from business and recreational General Aviation constituencies who support the introduction of User Fee inspection services at Airglades.

Please be assured that if approved, this service will be provided at no cost to Florida taxpayers. CBP has advised that the cost to Airglades would be approximately \$150,000 per annum. The County recognizes that initially user fee inspection revenues may not be adequate to cover the CBP costs in the first years of operations. Therefore, the County has received a commitment from local and regional users to provide a revenue "backstop" to Hendry County's agreement to pay CBP. This group would reimburse Hendry County for any shortfall between Airport collected user fees and the annual fee paid by County to CBP.

<sup>1</sup> Our Airport Planner estimates that fuel sales activity would increase by tenfold within 2 years.

Emma J. Byrd  
District 1

Darrell Harris  
District 2

Mitchell Wills  
District 3

Michael Swindle  
District 4

Karson Turner  
District 5

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer"



**HENDRY COUNTY**  
**Board of County Commissioners**  
**P.O. Box 2340**  
**LaBelle, Florida 33975-2340**

**Charles T. Chapman IV**  
County Administrator

**Mark F. Lapp**  
County Attorney

**Barbara Butler**  
Clerk of the Courts

Your favorable response will be greatly appreciated by the Hendry County Board of County Commissioners. We are prepared to meet with you and your staff, or to provide any additional information that might be needed by your office to fully consider this request.

Respectfully,

Michael Swindle,  
Chairman

cc: Ms. Jennifer Connors, Port Director – Port of West Palm Beach, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Senator Kathleen Passidomo

Representative Byron Donalds

Hendry County Board of County Commissioners

Charles Chapman, County Administrator

Emma J. Byrd  
District 1

Darrell Harris  
District 2

Mitchell Wills  
District 3

Michael Swindle  
District 4

Karson Turner  
District 5

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer"



**The Florida Senate**  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

**Kathleen C. Passidomo**  
State Senator  
District 28

December 6, 2016

Governor Rick Scott  
Office of Governor Rick Scott  
State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Scott,

Please accept this letter of support for the User Based Fee Airport status for the Hendry County Airglades Airport (Airglades). Airglades is a critical link between Southeast and Southwest Florida and the global air and marine transportation systems serving Florida.

Hendry County is situated on the Okeechobee waterway, which provides coast-to-coast passage from Stuart to Fort Myers. The county serves as a growing tourist and business destination due in part to its relative location to all the major ports in south Florida.

Establishing Airglades as a User Fee airport would enable Hendry County/Airglades to become a more substantial contributor to the Florida Airport System. This designation will also greatly expand the economic opportunities in Hendry County by producing new employment opportunities in the Florida county with the state's highest rate of unemployment. Historically, Airglades has had the lowest fuel price per gallon in the region. If approved as a User Fee airport Airglades will attract additional air traffic into our community and the State of Florida, generating new profitable operations at no cost to the State of Florida or its taxpayers. The Hendry County Airglades Airport is currently preparing an application to the United States Customs and Border Protection for "User-Fee Airport" status at Airglades. Your support of this application would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Passidomo", written over a circular stamp.

Senator Kathleen C. Passidomo



**Byron Donalds**  
Florida House of Representatives  
District 80

December 6, 2016

Governor Rick Scott  
Office of Governor Rick Scott  
State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Scott,

I seek your support for the User Based Fee Airport status for the Hendry County Airglades Airport (Airglades). Airglades is a critical link between southeast and southwest Florida and the global air and marine transportation systems serving Florida.

Hendry County is situated on the Okeechobee waterway, which provides coast-to-coast passage from Stuart to Fort Myers. Understating that priority for US Customs and Border Protection is Homeland security, establishing a fee-based customs in Hendry County at Airglades Airport will enhance managing, securing and controlling the nation's border.

This designation will greatly expand the economic opportunities in Hendry County. The County serves as a growing tourist and business destination due in part to its relative location to all the major ports in south Florida.

Airglades has historically the lowest in the region fuel price per gallon. If approved as a User Fee airport Airglades will attract additional air traffic into our community and the State of Florida, generating new profitable operations at no cost to the State of Florida or its taxpayers.

The Hendry County Airglades Airport is currently preparing an application to the United States Customs and Border Protection for "User-Fee Airport" status at Airglades. Your support of this application is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Byron Donalds".

Representative Byron Donalds

**COLLIER COUNTY OFFICE**  
Suite 212, Hampton Turner Bldg  
3299 Tamiami Trail East  
Naples, FL 34112  
(239) 417-6270

**HENDRY COUNTY OFFICE**  
25 E Hickponchee Ave  
LaBelle, FL 33935  
(863) 673-5267

Email:  
Byron.donalds@myfloridahouse.gov  
Website: www.myfloridahouse.gov



CORPORATE PILOTS ASSOCIATION

Dear Governor Scott:

I am writing to you on a matter of significant importance to the Corporate Pilots Association. Our association is comprised of corporate pilots from across the United States .

It has come to our attention that Airglades Airport located in Hendry County Florida is applying for User Fee US Customs inspection services commencing in 2017.

Our association supports airports that provide viable alternative "Customs Clearance" that allows our aircraft to bypass the much more congested and expensive commercial airports. Therefore we fully support the efforts of Hendry County and respectfully urge your office grant a consent to their application.

Sincerely,



John M. Wraga, Jr.  
Executive Director

200 Hanscom Drive, Suite 322 • Hanscom Field, P.O. Box 666 • Bedford, MA 01750  
T 781-860-7403 • F 781-860-5105 • [www.CPA.Aero](http://www.CPA.Aero)



# JACOBS FLIGHT SERVICES, LLC

Honorable Governor Rick Scott  
Executive Office of the Governor  
400 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor Scott:

I am the owner of a Flight Training, Aircraft Management and Air Charter service located at the Airglades Airport in Clewiston Florida. I have been based at Airglades since 2007.

Jacobs Flight Services (JFS) has provided jet aircraft Air Charter services from the Hendry/Glades region to the world for over 10 years. Unfortunately, each time we operate to a destination outside the borders of the United States, on returning, we must "clear Customs" at another and often much more crowded and delay prone airport.

More importantly, each additional landing and takeoff "cycle" not only adds to crew, fuel and maintenance costs, each landing and take-off increases the frequency of very expensive FAA required service checks that causes JFS to take our jet out of service for days and weeks at a time.

Additionally, JFS manages "cabin class" corporate jets in addition to its own jet aircraft. Our combined fleet includes a Gulfstream G-IV, Dassault Falcon Jet, Cessna Citation M-2, Cessna Citation 650's and Beechcraft King Air.

Our own fleet and managed fleet are truly global reach aircraft but we are constrained operationally and competitively by having to make an additional landing and take-off for every cross border trip back to our home base.

I am respectfully seeking your support of the application of Hendry County's application to the United States Customs and Border Protection Service for User Fee Inspection



Services at the Airglades Airport as we find it difficult to compete with large fleet operators who operate from large "user fee" presence airports.

The convenient location of Airglades Airport along the Highway 27 allows JFS to provide jet charter services and fleet management to the entire Hendry, Glades and Okeechobee region.

Also, JFS has been engaged with Hendry County officials to erect a new and expanded aircraft storage and maintenance hangar. Your support the US CBP User Fee inspection services will go a long way to causing to expand our operations at Airglades. We provide flight training services to organizations all over the world. Our strength is enhanced because of the excellent weather and unconstrained airspace which are two favorable components of a successful flight training operation.

We commit to financially support the CBP presence at no cost to Florida taxpayers.

JFS pleads for your approval to allow User Fee inspection services at Airglades Airport.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JE Jacobs". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Jason E Jacobs

President

Jacobs Flight Services, LLC

Cc: Ms. Jennifer Connors US CBP Port Director, Port of Palm Beach, FL



**Letter of Support for User Fee US Customs Service at Airglades Airport – PRIVAIRA**

**Honorable Governor Rick Scott  
Executive Office of the Governor  
400 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399**

**Dear Governor Scott:**

**I am the Senior Director for Privaira, a relatively large jet aircraft charter service based in Boca Raton, Florida. We are a Part 91 and Part 135 charter operator and have several clients in the Hendry County, Glades County and West Palm Beach County region that utilized our services using Challenger 601 Series as the aircraft of choice, Falcon 50, Hawker 800, BeechJet/Hawker 400 series as well.**

**A high percentage of our services are to offshore destinations including, Canada, South and Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean. On each of these international flights we are required to clear customs usually at a larger congested airport where customs inspections for general aviation aircraft are not a high priority. These "technical stops" add a great deal of cost on a per trip basis to not only the customer, but to our company as well and the aircraft owner. The additional stop adds wear and tear on the aircraft which adds an additional cycle for landing/take-off and additional fuel burn.**

**When we became aware that Airglades Airport/Hendry County was applying for user fee custom service at Airglades, we as a company and our flight crews became very enthused at the prospect of reducing our international trip times into Airglades by more than an hour. Your consent to Hendry County's request to have US custom inspection services, we believe will be beneficial to the region's aviation community and to our customers from that area. We urge your support and wisdom in approving their application to US Customs.**

**Sincerely,**

**12/15/2016**

**Timothy J. Hinkle  
Privaira Senior Director**

**Cc: Ms. Jennifer Connors US CBP Port Director, Port of Palm Beach, FL**



**BLUE SKY FLYING, LLC**

Honorable Governor Rick Scott  
400 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor Scott:

I am writing you in support of Hendry County's application to the United States Customs and Border Protection Service for User Fee Inspection Services at the Airglades Airport.

Blue Sky Flying, LLC is a flying club corporation based in Indian Town, Florida and was founded in November of 2014. The club is comprised of retired pilots of major airlines who own the club's aircraft and consists of many members who frequently fly to and from Florida and the Bahamas and other islands in the Caribbean Basin, which therefore requires customs clearance upon reentry into the United States.

Blue Sky Flying, LLC provides a unique experience and service to its membership that does not include flying into large commercial airports.

With that in mind, it is very important to Blue Sky Flying, LLC to be able to better serve our members between Florida cities and the islands of the Bahamas and Caribbean Basin. At present, we have a shortage of smaller CBP served airports primarily used for charters and recreational purposes in the Hendry, Glades communities.

In order to serve our members for those communities, we must enter Florida via the more crowded Florida East Coast airports, who currently enjoy US CBP inspection services. You may be aware that each unnecessary landing and take-off uses valuable slots at major commercial airports that could be used for aircraft carrying hundreds of passengers.

I very respectfully seek your approval and support of Hendry County's application to the United States Customs and Border Protection Service to allow CBP User Fee Inspection Services at Airglades Airport.

Sincerely,

  
Fernando Millon  
President  
Blue Sky Flying, LLC

Honorable Governor Rick Scott  
Executive Office of the Governor  
400 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

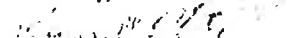
Dear Governor Scott:

I am the owner of a significant agricultural enterprise based in Glades County, Florida and my two aircraft one of which is a brand new Cessna citation M2 Twin-Jet. My flight operation has been based at Airglades since 1982.

J R Kilpatrick Aviation Llc flies with great frequency to our diverse operations centers from Texas to the Bahamas and Caribbean basin. On each and every trip returning from offshore we are currently required to make an expensive and time consuming additional stop for reentry clearance into the United States. Not only does this add time and direct operation cost to the flight, it also hastens various FAA required inspections.

I can't adequately express in words how much more efficient my aviation operations would be with the introduction of CBP User Fee Inspection services at Airglades Airport. Between the flight time saving and low cost fuel at Airglades, this is great news to me and to other jet operators in the region. I would be very grateful if you would consider consenting to a CBP presence at the Airglades Airport at no cost to the Florida taxpayer.

Sincerely,

  
Russell Kilpatrick

Cc: Ms. Jennifer Connors US CBP Port Director, Port of Palm Beach, FL

# JOHN GOGLIA

---

December 16, 2016

Honorable Governor Rick Scott  
400 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor Scott,

I am a "snowbird" and aviation consultant that conducts a great deal of aviation safety consulting in the Bahamas, Caribbean and South Florida. I served two terms as a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board, currently serve as a Subject Matter Expert for CNN and as a commentator for the Smithsonian Channel on their show "Why Planes Crash".

Being in the aviation industry for over 50 years, I have become a strong advocate of User Fee US Customs Services at smaller airports in order to increase separation of small General Aviation and corporate aircraft from the crowded skies at major commercial airports.

The crowded skies of Miami, Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach make the Airglades Airport a perfect candidate for a CBP presence at Airglades.

May I respectfully request your favorable consent to the application of Hendry County to CBP for User Fee Inspection services?

Sincerely,



Honorable John Goglia  
Independent Air Safety Consultant  
Former NTSB Board Member

**Honorable Governor Rick Scott**

**400 S. Monroe Street**

**Tallahassee, FL 32399**

Dear Governor Scott

**I am writing you in support of the application of Hendry County's application to the United States Customs and Border Protection Service for User Fee Inspection Services at the Airglades Airport.**

**My company, Trans Caribbean Air was founded in 1989 and has provided Air Charter services to and from Florida communities and the Bahamas and other islands in the Caribbean Basin.**

**Trans Caribbean Air planning to fill a very special niche service to Florida communities that do not enjoy commercial /scheduled air transportation services for both passengers and critical cargo including medical supplies, pharmaceuticals, "just in time" industrial and IT equipment and time sensitive critical documents.**

**It is very important to Trans Caribbean Air to be able to serve both passenger and critical demand for expedited services between Florida cities and the islands of the Bahamas and Caribbean Basin. With that need in mind, we have experienced an unmet demand for our services in Hendry, Glades counties and communities surrounding Lake Okeechobee for both passengers and critical cargo.**

**Unfortunately, to serves those communities, we now must enter Florida via the more crowded Florida East Coast airports that currently enjoy US CBP inspection services. You may be aware that each unnecessary landing and take-off ads time, fuel burn and aircraft maintenance expenses to each and every trip and occupies a runway landing and take-off slot that otherwise could be used by a 200 passenger aircraft.**

Trans Caribbean Air is a current user of Airglades Airport in Clewiston, FL. We use the Airglades Airport for post-maintenance test flights and will often refuel at Airglades because of its consistently lower fuel price policies and its professional and safety conscious staff. We find that Airglades provides a warm welcome and caters to the smaller aircraft customer at a higher level than we find at other larger Port of Entry airports in the region.

Further, the location of Airglades Airport along the Highway 27/Highway 80 corridors makes Airglades attractive to our customers because of the easy highway access from surrounding communities.

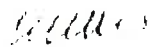
Lastly, Trans Caribbean Air has been having serious discussions with Hendry County airport officials to support the US CBP User Fee Inspection services as we explore with Hendry County our desire to relocate our Base of Operations to Airglades if the User Fee inspection services are approved by you and US CBP.

Governor Scott, Trans Caribbean Air is a small, family owned Florida based business that has been operating since 1989. Competing with large jet equipped air charter services is a constant challenge. The markets we serve cannot support ad hoc jet charter services. We can provide an important service to a rural but important agricultural and sport fishing region. We stand ready to financially support the CBP presence so this service is provided at no cost to Florida taxpayers.

Our family respectfully seeks your approval to allow CBP User Fee Inspection services at Airglades Airport.

Sincerely,

Trans Caribbean Air

  
President

# ATTACHMENT C



## U.S. Customs and Border Protection

## User Fee Airport

### User Fee Airport (UFA) Program

Pursuant to the provisions of Title 19, United States Code, Section 58b, a User Fee Airport (UFA) is a small airport which has been approved by the Commissioner of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to receive, for a fee, the services of a CBP officer for the processing of aircraft, passengers and cargo entering the United States. The applicant must meet the following criteria for UFA consideration:

- The volume or value of business at the airport does not justify the availability of inspectional services on a non-reimbursable basis.
- The current governor of the state in which the airport is located supports the UFA designation in a letter to the Commissioner of CBP.
- The requestor (e.g. airport authority) agrees to reimburse CBP for all costs associated with the services, including all expenses of staffing a minimum of one full-time CBP officer.
- The requestor completes an Agriculture Compliance Agreement (ACA) with fixed base operators and garbage haulers for handling international garbage.



### The basic steps required in considering an application for designation as a UFA include:

- Receipt of a letter from the current state governor supporting the UFA designation, addressed to the Commissioner of CBP.
- An initial CBP site visit to the airport to discuss CBP workload and services.
- A final CBP site visit to verify facilities are 85 percent complete and adequate for inspection services.
- Completing a Memorandum of Agreement with CBP, stating responsibilities, fees and hours of service.
- Completing an ACA with CBP for handling international garbage.

### An approved UFA receiving CBP services is responsible for payment of the following fees:

- Per officer - \$140,874 for the first year and \$123,438 for succeeding years.
- Automated Data Processing costs per officer - \$17,042 to \$21,062 (1st year) and \$13,620 to \$17,640 for succeeding years depending on the location.
- Other associated costs such as overtime.





## U.S. Customs and Border Protection

# CBP'S ROLE *in* Strengthening the Economy

TRAVEL and TRADE are important to the economic health of *your* state.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Field Operations is the law enforcement entity responsible for managing the Nation's 328 air, land, and sea ports of entry. CBP's mission includes border security and anti-terrorism. We also help drive our Nation's economic engine by facilitating lawful international trade and travel through the enforcement of hundreds of U.S. laws and regulations ranging from agriculture to intellectual property rights. Nearly 225 years ago, the Fifth Act of Congress was passed, establishing the U.S. Customs Service in 1789. Since then, we have played a critical role in collecting revenue for the Nation's treasury.

### TRAVEL— Did You Know?

- ◇ CBP welcomes nearly 1 million travelers every day — 360 million per year.
- ◇ International air travel alone grew more than 16% since 2009.
- ◇ The volume of visitors to the U.S. is expected to grow annually between 3.4% and 4.1% over the next 4 years.
- ◇ Each overseas visitor to the U.S. spends approximately \$4,500. In fiscal year 2013, the U.S. received 69.8 million international arrivals.
- ◇ For every 33 overseas visitors, 1 new job is created in the U.S.

U.S. Travel Association  
U.S. Department of Commerce



### TRADE— Did You Know?

- ◇ CBP is the second largest revenue producer for the U.S. after the Internal Revenue Service.
- ◇ U.S. trade supports nearly 40 million U.S. jobs.
- ◇ CBP processed more than \$2.3 trillion in trade and nearly 25 million cargo containers in fiscal year 2013
- ◇ In 2013, CBP conducted more than 24,000 seizures of goods that violated intellectual property rights, with a total retail value of \$1.7 billion — a 38% increase over 2012.

U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
Office of U.S. Trade Representative

## CBP: A Good Investment

Adding CBP Officers to ports of entry results in tangible economic benefits. According to a study by the National Center for Risk and Economic Analysis of Terrorism Events (CREATE) at the University of Southern California, adding a single CBP Officer equates to annual benefits of:

- ◇ \$2 million increase in Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
- ◇ \$640,000 saved in opportunity costs
- ◇ 33 jobs added to the economy

These findings were based on a study that focused primarily on both passenger and trade operations at land ports. In a subsequent study, CREATE concentrated their analysis on passenger-only operations at airports. In the new study, they found that adding 14 officers to the inspection sites at four major U.S. airports is likely to result in an \$11.8 million increase in GDP and generate as many as 81 jobs. The value of wait time saved to existing passengers could be as much as \$9 million.





# **ATTACHMENT D**



**U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection**

Commissioner

MAR - 9 2017

633274  
DUE 4-13-17

The Honorable Rick Scott  
Governor  
State of Florida  
The Capitol  
Tallahassee, FL 32399



Dear Governor Scott:

This is in response to your January 30, 2017 letter supporting Airglades Airport (2IS) becoming a User Fee Facility (UFF). U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) works closely with communities and business partners to fulfill its mission of facilitating legitimate trade and travel. The establishment of UFFs at appropriate locations contributes to that effort.

CBP will work closely with 2IS personnel throughout the process to design, plan, and construct a safe and secure facility that meets current Airport Technical Design Standards. CBP anticipates that 2IS will make a good faith effort to meet the requirement to begin construction within three years. In the unlikely event that construction has not begun after three years, 2IS would need to reapply for UFF designation since conditional approval is valid only three years from the date of issuance of this letter.

CBP personnel from our Miami Field Office continue to engage with 2IS officials to provide support on program requirements, responsibilities, and cost. Furthermore, CBP will review 2IS's business plan, which is critical to attaining UFF designation. Additionally, to supplement the staffing of agriculture specialists, CBP recommends 2IS to apply for the Reimbursable Service Program.

We understand this issue is important for the County of Hendry and look forward to working with county officials in support of this project. Should you need additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 202-344-2001.

Sincerely,

Kevin K. McAleenan  
Acting Commissioner

# **ATTACHMENT E**



## HENDRY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AGENDA

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Special Meeting, 5:30 p.m.  
City Commission Chambers  
Clewiston, Florida

**Notice for Public Comment:** Public comment will be allowed at the time the agenda item is being considered. You will be allowed to speak for up to three minutes and only one time for each item provided a speaker request card is completed prior to the meeting. Be advised that the Board may take action on items not listed on the agenda. If this occurs, public comment will be received at the time the item is considered for up to three minutes provided that you raise your hand to indicate your desire to speak. Comment for non-agenda general discussion by members of the public will be allowed at the end of the regular agenda for up to one minute provided a speaker request card is completed prior to the meeting.

Please silence all electronic devices.

### **Pledge of Civility:**

We will be respectful of one another even when we disagree. We will direct all comments to the issues. We will avoid personal attacks. "Politeness costs so little." - Abraham Lincoln

### **I. STAFF REPORTS**

- A. Charles T. Chapman IV, County Administrator
  - 1. Ratification of Submission of Grant Application to Enterprise Florida for Customs and Border Patrol Facility at Airglades Airport
- B. Mark Lapp, County Attorney
  - 1. Waive formal bidding for the repair of the Health Dept. LaBelle office roof

### **II. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC**

### **III. AGENDA ADDITIONS**

### **ADJOURN BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.



Board of County Commissioners  
Agenda Request

**Date of Meeting:** October 3, 2017  
**Date Submitted:** October 2, 2017  
**To:** Honorable Chairperson and Members of the Board  
**From:** Charles T. Chapman IV, County Administrator  
**Subject:** **STAFF REPORT**– Ratification of submission of grant application to Enterprise Florida for U.S. Customs and Border Protection User Fee Facility at Airglades Airport

---

**Statement of Issue:**

The State of Florida Legislature appropriated \$85 million to Enterprise Florida, Inc (EFI) during its 2017 legislative session. This agenda item seeks Board ratification of an application to EFI to seek \$1.5 million to retrofit the existing terminal at Airglades Airport into a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) User Fee Facility (UFF).

**Background:**

On December 15, 2016, Hendry County made a request to Governor Rick Scott seeking his approval of Airglades Airport becoming a UFF airport and add CBP inspection services (Attachment 1).

On January 30, 2017, Governor Rick Scott sent a letter providing his support of Airglades Airport to become a UFF airport and to secure the presence of CBP (Attachment 2).

On March 9, 2017, Governor Scott received a letter from CBP's Acting Commissioner Kevin McAleenan. This letter indicated that CBP will work closely with Airglades personnel throughout the process of designing, planning and constructing a safe and secure facility that meets federal standards.

On June 9, 2017, staff received a floor plan sketch of the facility CBP would like to see developed. The floor plan utilized the existing foot print of the terminal. Alternatives continue to be discussed regarding a new facility or the use of hardened and secured portables until the airport has been sold.

The grant opportunity before you this evening came available a few weeks ago.

It is a first come, first served grant until all funds have been appropriated.

There is no limit on the amount of funds to be requested. Hendry County also has another request being developed for this same program for \$8 million to fund the construction of the force main to Clewiston and the expansion of the City of Clewiston wastewater treatment plan. However, the force-main grant is still being developed in coordination with the City of Clewiston.

There are no matching fund requirements.

**Analysis:**

The award of these funds would further the goal of having CBP's presence at Airglades Airport and open up the existing general aviation operation for international travelers. This comes at a time when air traffic in south Florida can be congested periodically with season travel and the travel of the President of the United States of America to his Florida home.

Questions that remain regard the fuel system and the fuel attendant situations. Our fuel system needs to be upgraded and most airlines that would utilize Airglades would require a fuel attendant to service the planes due to risk management concerns. The new pricing strategies took these two items into consideration based on our current volume of sales to capitalize out the debt of improving both the fuel system, fuel supply and fuel attendants. However, staff will need to determine where to house the fuel attendant personnel if the terminal becomes a CBP facility fully.

Additionally, current leases would need to be considered that involved office space with the existing terminal if the grant was awarded and the project proceeds.

**Fiscal Impact:**

The potential receipt of \$1.5 million for the retrofit of the existing Airglades Airport terminal into a CBP facility

**Options:**

- Option 1: Ratify the Application Submitted by Staff
- Option 2: Direct Staff to Withdraw the Application
- Option 3: Board Direction

**County Administrator's Recommendation:**

Option 1

**Attachments:**

1. December 15, 2016 Letter from Hendry County to Jennifer Connors, Port Director-Port of Palm Beach US Customs and Border Patrol.
2. January 30, 2017 Letter from Governor Scott to Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowske, US Customs and Border Patrol
- 3: March 9, 2017 Letter from Acting Commissioner Kevin McAleenan, US Customs and Border Patrol to Governor Rick Scott
4. Copy of the Grant submission to EFI (Material to be Provided)