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September 25, 2024

T.S. Strickland
Director of Strategy
Pensacola Bluffline, Inc.
127 Palafox Place, Suite 200
Pensacola, FL 32502

Re: Letter of Support

Dear Mr. Strickland,

I am pleased to be writing you to express the support of the Emerald Coast Utilities Authority (ECUA) for several initiatives of your organization. Pensacola is a beautiful community, in large part due to the surrounding rivers, lakes, bays, sounds, bayous and the Gulf of Mexico. These bodies of water and their adjacent greenways are an endearing part of our local environment. There are many green spaces along the bluffs, railroads and roadways that have the untapped potential to provide the public with closer visual access and exposure to these areas. As important protectors of the environment through our activities as a public utility, the ECUA supports and encourages your efforts to create a new, 70-acre park on county-owned land at Jackson Lakes and then connect this park to Corry Station, surrounding neighborhoods, schools, parks and healthcare facilities via a greenway corridor, primarily along Chief's Way and within the FPL rights of way along Idlewood.

It is our understanding that The Bluffline is currently applying for a capital construction grant through the EPA's Community Change Program in West Pensacola. The ECUA is concurrently in the engineering design process for three septic to sewer projects in the Bayou Chico watershed which have a combined construction estimate of approximately \$22 million. These projects are intended to help improve the impaired waters of Bayou Chico (which has a Basin Management Action Plan) by providing ECUA utility sewer service to over 550 homes who are currently

served by septic tanks. These projects, which will be bid in 2025, are in keeping with many of your project's environmental goals to improve the environment for the betterment of our citizens.

Similarly, The Bluffline is also submitting a planning grant through the USDOT's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program for a second section of the Bluffline in Ferry Pass. As this project proceeds, there may be opportunities for co-locating some of your project's alignment with ECUA projects that are planned along Scenic Highway. The ECUA has a series of sewer force main replacement and upsizing projects along Scenic Highway from just south of I-10 and running north to near the entrance of the University of West Florida. Perhaps there could be some project savings for both the ECUA and The Bluffline project if right-of-way restoration costs are shared if the projects could be built concurrently.

Final approval would be subject to approval of the ECUA Board and appropriation of funds in the proposed fiscal year.

Thank you for your efforts on this exciting project! Please keep in touch as your project plans progress so we can coordinate and help support each other's efforts to protect the environment and improve the ability for Pensacola residents to access their beautiful green spaces and waterways.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Bruce Woody". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping tail.

J. Bruce Woody, P.E.

Executive Director