Community Value

During times of inclement weather that result in power outages, homes which have water served by individual private wells lose access to water and sewer service. This presents a health issue to the community as the people lose access to water for drinking and hygiene. Risk of fire protection is also higher in this area due to the lack of infrastructure with available fire hydrants. Through implementation of our grant projects, the risks to safety, health, and loss of service to our customers is significantly decreased. Through the expansion of our centralized water service, the surrounding community is greatly strengthened during times of natural disaster. The centralized system provides reliable, safe potable drinking water and the infrastructure for increased fire protection.

Silver Springs Shores is a neighborhood and Census Designated Place located in southeast Marion County. The Phase II community is home to 209 lots, which 144 are developed, with approximately 360-525 people and numerous businesses of which many get their water from private wells. During power outages, homes that are serviced by private wells lose water service and have no ability to obtain water for drinking or sanitation. These houses are also at an increased risk from fire protection due to the lack of available fire hydrants in the area. During normal circumstances, the implementation of a central water system can provide increased fire protection and the ability for decreased fire insurance rates, provide a constant supply of water and water pressure, and eliminate the need to drill new private wells. The community lifelines that will be served by the completion of this project are the lifelines of Food, Water & Shelter; Health & Medical; and Transportation. This project enhances community resilience by allowing the county to provide continuous water service during power outages and inclement weather and provide much needed fire protection. The proposed pipeline, along with the rest of our assets, are all owned and maintained by the county and does not hold any historical or cultural significance.

With the completion of the Silver Springs Shores Water System Improvement Phase II, we would be strengthening MCU’s lifeline of potable water service and fire protection during times of crisis. It is imperative that safe potable water, fire protection usage of existing sewer septic systems is able to be provided and during times of crisis to maintain the health and safety of our community. The expansion of our facilities would allow for greater water security for our community.