

County of Monroe

Planning & Environmental Resources Department
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NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

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These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the College of the Florida Keys.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about January 5, 2026, Monroe County will authorize the College of the Florida Keys to submit a request to Florida Commerce for the release of Community Planning and Development funds under FY 2023 Community Funding Project Grant, as amended, to undertake the project known as the CFK-Big-Pine-Key Workforce Training Center.

Purpose: The project will facilitate training in various degree and certificate programs, including motor vehicular tactical training for the College's Institute for Public Safety and Commercial Driver's License (CDL) training. A second project activity will be the construction of a multipurpose vehicle operation training track. The project is designed to strengthen economic recovery and work force development in Monroe County by converting unused public land into a hub for education and training.

Location: 450 Key Deer Boulevard, Big Pine Key, Florida.

Project/Program Description:

The project consists of the demolition of existing buildings, site cleanup, and construction of a 400 ft by 400 ft concrete pad. The pad will facilitate training in various degree and certificate programs, including motor vehicular tactical training for the College's Institute for Public Safety and Commercial Driver's License (CDL) training classes. An initial project activity will be examining how the land was used and exploring options for reuse that optimize prior infrastructure investments, acute site improvements include repairs to fencing, removal of trash and derelict vehicles, cutting down overgrowth of vegetation, and performing a site assessment. The site assessment will help the College maximize the existing infrastructure while minimizing environmental impacts. A second project activity will be the construction of a multipurpose vehicle operation training track.

The project will support economic recovery and diversification by developing vacant land for educational purposes, including developing a multipurpose vehicle operations training track. The Florida Department of Corrections correctional facility on Big Pine Key in Monroe County was listed as "state surplus" on February 4, 2020, and leased to The College of the Florida Keys (CFK) on November 23, 2021. The now-closed former prison property represents an important community asset that CFK will utilize to add value to residents in and around Big Pine Key.

Estimated Project Cost: \$2,000,000.00

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Monroe County has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the Monroe County Planning & Environmental Resources Department, Marathon Government Center, 2798 Overseas Highway, Suite 400, Marathon, FL 33050 and may be examined or copied weekdays 8 A.M to 5 P.M. or may be reviewed on-line at <https://cpd.hud.gov/cpd-public/environmental-reviews>.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Monroe County Planning & Environmental Resources Department Marathon Government Center, 2798 Overseas Highway, Suite 400, Marathon, FL 33050 or via e-mail to Roberts-Michael@MonroeCounty-fl.gov. All comments received by January 2, 2026 will be considered by Monroe County prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

Monroe County certifies to Florida Commerce that Christine Hurley, Certifying Officer, in her capacity as the County Administrator consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. Florida Commerce approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the College of the Florida Keys to use HUD program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

Florida Commerce will accept objections to its release of fund and Monroe County's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the name of RE; (b) the RE has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD/State; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to HUD/State administration office at address of that office. Potential objectors should contact HUD/State to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Christine Hurley, Monroe County Administrator, Certifying Officer