

## **US Department of the Interior**

### **Seminole Tribe of Florida Brighton Reservation Major Surface Water Flows Monitoring (Tribal Proposal)**

The Seminole Tribe of Florida (Tribe) proposes to partner with the US Geologic Survey, (USGS) to establish four streamflow and water level monitoring stations in the Seminole Tribe of Florida Brighton Reservation (Brighton) in Glades County, Florida. The new sites would provide an independent and objective determination of major surface water inflows into and out of Brighton Reservation. Surface water flows from Brighton Reservation are a significant contributor of flow volumes and nutrient loading to Lake Okeechobee. Lake Okeechobee is at the center of Florida Everglades restoration, as well as a vital resource for Florida's fresh water supply, wildlife and the environment. This project would quantify surface water flows available to Brighton Reservation. Knowledge of major surface water flow amounts would enhance community resilience to distribute water resources in an informed capacity for the natural environment. The objective of this proposal is to install four (4) water level and streamflow data collection stations on the major inflow sites of the Brighton Reservation: Harney Pond Canal and Indian Prairie Canal (Figure 4). The USGS will operate and maintain equipment. Water quality will be assessed and analyzed utilizing the flow information from the USGS gages. Reporting will be submitted by the Tribe to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) annually for the duration of this project. Requested funding amount: \$1,844,000.