November 15, 2018

The Honorable Wesley Maul

Director, Florida Division of Emergency Management

2555 Shumard Oak Blvd.

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100

**Reference: Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, DR 4399 FL, Public Assistance Funding Immediate Need Funding / Expedite Project Worksheet (PW)**

Dear Director Maul,

On behalf of Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative (GCEC), please accept this letter as GCEC’s official request to the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) for assistance to receive Immediate Needs Funding (INF) from the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA). As a not-for-profit electric utility, GCEC is eligible to receive INF for emergency power restoration work that was performed immediately following the disaster declaration for Hurricane Michael.

GCEC serves some of the most impacted counties in Hurricane Michael’s path. The category 4 hurricane’s sustained winds destroyed nearly 100% of GCEC’s distribution system. GCEC, working with the County and State emergency response agencies, immediately mobilized 1600 restoration personnel from Florida and other states to clear debris, and repair and restore the distribution system its member-consumers. GCEC has incurred over $60 million in costs associated with the urgent work performed by restoration personnel. In most instances, payments on the invoices from this emergency work are due within the next 30 days

Even though GCEC has completed the initial restoration of power to its customers, further inspection of GCEC’s infrastructure shows that additional repairs need to be performed to return the system to pre-storm condition. The costs to GCEC to ensure the current and future reliability of its electric system are substantial.

During its Preliminary Damage Assessment, GCEC determined that it had immediate needs for funding that is earmarked for the most urgent work performed in the initial aftermath of Hurricane Michael.

GCEC is collecting the necessary documentation from restoration personnel and is ready immediately to meet with State and Federal officials to develop expedited PWs, which will allow for immediate funding to be made available. GCEC understands it is permissible, under the Public Assistance program, to provide “advance funding” to meet this immediate need, while FEMA, FDEM, and GCEC work together to finalize the claim for the damages caused by Hurricane Michael.

GCEC responded immediately to the critical need to restore power to its member-consumers while honoring the requests from the State to utilize all resources available to address the urgent need. We are now asking the FDEM and FEMA to address the critical financial need which has developed from this response with the same urgency.

INF will provide GCEC with the cash flow necessary to reimburse the dedicated people who worked endlessly for days and weeks to restore electric service to our members-consumers. To achieve this objective, GCEC respectfully requests FDEM for immediate assistance in seeking INF from FEMA. I am available at your convenience to answer any questions about GCEC’s claim.

Sincerely,

John Bartley, CEO

Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative.

Cc: **Amanda Campen, Florida Public Assistance Deputy Bureau Chief**