

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Governing Board Members  
**From:** Terrie Bates, Division Director, Water Resources  
**Date:** February 28, 2012  
**Subject:** Approval of the Lake Belt Committee Annual Report for 2011

### **Background:**

The interagency Lake Belt Mitigation Committee is required to annually prepare and submit to the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District a report evaluating the mitigation costs and revenues generated by the mitigation fee in accordance with Florida Statute Section 373.41492(9)(a). The mitigation fee is collected by the Department of Revenue from each ton of limerock and sand sold from properties within the Miami-Dade Lake Belt. Proceeds of the mitigation fee must be used to conduct mitigation activities that offset the loss of wetland functions and values resulting from mining activities.

### **How this helps meet the District's 10-year Strategic Plan:**

The Florida Legislature recognized the many important features of the Lake Belt area and mandated that a comprehensive mitigation plan be prepared to address the environmental and water resource concerns critical to the State. This Annual Report summarizes the mitigation costs, revenues generated by the statutorily-established mitigation fee and activities provided as mitigation for impacts associated with mining activities in the Miami-Dade Lake Belt area as administered by the interagency Lake Belt Mitigation Committee. The major mitigation activity approved by the Lake Belt Mitigation Committee in 2011 was the construction of a 2-mile long, 35-ft deep seepage management barrier project along the L-31N at a cost of \$7,838,000. All funding for the project comes from the Lake Belt Mitigation Trust Fund and the project is being constructed by the Miami-Dade Limestone Products Association.

### **Funding Source:**

The expected funding requirement associated with preparing the report and staffing the Lake Belt Mitigation Committee is limited to staff time. Activities undertaken by the District to implement mitigation projects approved by the Committee are funded through the Lake Belt Mitigation Trust Fund.

### **This Board item impacts what areas of the District, both resource areas and geography:**

This item will impact the following divisions: Operations, Maintenance and Construction, Water Resources and Regulation and the Miami-Dade Lake Belt area.

### **What concerns could this Board item raise?**

This is a routine annual report to the Governing Board. Some mitigation activities are approved by the Lake Belt Committee mid-year and are not always reflected in the District's current work plan.

### **Why should the Governing Board approve this item?**

The interagency Lake Belt Mitigation Committee established by Statute has provided and submitted to the Governing Board a report that evaluates the mitigation costs and revenues generated by the mitigation fee in accordance with Section 373.41492(9)(a), Florida Statutes. It is appropriate for the Governing Board to approve this Report.

**Staff Contact** – Terrie Bates, Division Director, Water Resources, ext. 6952

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