

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Sharon M. Trost, P.G., AICP, Director, Regulation Division

DATE: March 19, 2012

SUBJECT: BOMA Interim Lands Dispersed Water Management Project
Contract No. 4600002618

Background: The Florida Legislature's intent for the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (F.S. 373.4595) is to encourage and support the development of creative partnerships to facilitate the further restoration and protection of the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary. The objective of the BOMA project is to implement a Dispersed Water Management Project on District-owned lands in partnership with the current lessee, BOMA, LC. The project will lead to increased water and nutrient retention in the above-ground impoundments on the 1,892 acres of primarily citrus lands during storm events and in collaboration with Barron Water Control District, and reduce regulatory releases to the Caloosahatchee River Estuary from Lake Okeechobee.

Upon execution of the agreement, the District will reimburse BOMA, LC with an amount not to exceed Two Hundred Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$200,000) over the term of the agreement for BOMA, LC to operate and maintain an above-ground impoundment pump system that is currently not in use.

Why is this action necessary? The project will provide water and nutrient retention in the Northern Everglades to assist with meeting the water quality improvement goals for the watershed. The project will be fully operational in 30 days and provides cost-effective water retention services.

How this helps meet the District's 10-year Strategic Plan: This project is a component of the Dispersed Water Management Program that is outlined in the District's Ten Year Strategic Plan. One component of the program is to re-direct or capture excess stormwater from the Caloosahatchee River during Lake Okeechobee regulatory releases and retain it on private and public lands in order to reduce discharge volumes to the estuary. The benefits of the project are flow attenuation and water quality nutrient load reductions in the Caloosahatchee River Watershed.

Funding Source: Ad Valorem Funds

This Board item impacts what areas of the District, both resource areas and geography: This project is located with the Northern Everglades Watershed and impacts the Resource Areas of Everglades Restoration, Operations, and Regulation.

What concerns could this Board item raise: This project is being coordinated with the planned Caloosahatchee Nitrogen Removal Research Project.

Why should the Governing Board approve this item: The approval of the referenced project is critical to provide additional water retention and water quality improvements in the Northern Everglades, which is critical to the health of the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at ext. 6814.

ST/ss