

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

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

DATE: August 14, 2012

SUBJECT: Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve-North Hydrologic Restoration Cooperative Project Agreement; Contract No. 4600002716

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 Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve North Hydrologic Restoration Project is to implement a Dispersed Water Management Project to benefit the Caloosahatchee Estuary. The project will return historic sheet flow south to the headwaters of Six Mile Cypress Slough while diverting and reducing flows to the Orange River and Caloosahatchee Estuary. Shallow water retention will be created in disturbed areas that will provide increased groundwater recharge, flood mitigation, and water quality enhancement while restoring historic sheetflow south to Six Mile Cypress Slough.

Upon execution of the agreement, the District will provide Lee County with an amount not to exceed Three Hundred Thousand dollars (\$300,000) in cost match funding over the term of the cooperative agreement. Lee County will design and construct the project that will result in additional water retention up to 1,400 acre-ft.

Why is this action necessary? The project will provide water retention and reduce flows to the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary to assist in meeting the storage and water improvement goals for the watershed. The project will be fully operational within one year.

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 goal of the program is to re-direct or capture excess surface waters from the Caloosahatchee River and store on private or public lands in order to reduce high discharge volumes to the estuary. The benefits of the project are flow diversion and attenuation with ancillary water quality improvements in the Caloosahatchee River Watershed while also providing additional retention in the former headwaters of Six Mile Cypress Slough.

Funding Source: Ad Valorem Funds

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

What concerns could this Board item raise: None

Why should the Governing Board approve this item: The approval of the referenced project will provide water retention and water quality improvements in the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary.

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