

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Governing Board Members

**FROM:** Terrie Bates, Director, Water Resources Division

**DATE:** November 15, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Everglades Agricultural Area Environmental Protection District (EAA EPD) Cost Share Agreement for Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs) Optimization Support

### **Agenda Item Description**

A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to authorize entering into a (1) one-year cost-share agreement with the Everglades Agricultural Area Environmental Protection District for Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs) Optimization Support, in the amount of \$780,000, of which the District's total contribution is **\$300,000**, for which dedicated funds (Everglades Restoration Trust Fund) are budgeted.

### **Background**

Due to their size and complexities, managing the STAs requires different environmental variables, including phosphorus removal performance, be continuously monitored, and applied scientific studies be conducted to understand the mechanisms involved in phosphorus removal. This cooperative agreement is to continue joint efforts with the EAA EPD in conducting scientific studies within the STAs. The information generated from these studies are important in evaluating STA condition and performance as required under the STA permits, and in finding ways to maximize phosphorus removal in these complicated systems. This agreement provides for a research technical team to be formed by the parties, and for joint funding of research priorities to further the common interests and collaborative efforts of the District and the EAA EPD.

### **Core Mission and Strategic Priorities**

This work conducted under this cooperative agreement will help the District achieve the goals and objectives of the Everglades Restoration Strategies by working cooperatively with another government agency to assess how to best optimize STA performance.

### **Funding Source**

This item is funded by dedicated funds from the Everglades Trust Fund, in the amount of **\$300,000**. The EAA EPD will contribute **\$480,000** as a cost-share partner.

### **Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommends entering into this cost-share agreement with EAA EPD not only to continue a successful collaborative relationship, but as a cost effective means of carrying out essential applied science activities in the STAs that will be key to determining factors involved in reducing the phosphorus discharged to the Everglades Protection Area. It will be most beneficial for the District to continue a productive partnership that has generated high caliber scientific results and greatly enhanced our understanding of the STAs. In addition, the agreement supplements our in-house capabilities and staff resources for the STAs.

If you have any questions, please call Terrie Bates at ext. 6952 or Linda Lindstrom at ext. 6820.