

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Tommy B. Strowd, P.E., Division Director, Operations, Maintenance & Construction

DATE: September 13, 2012

SUBJECT: C-44 Communication Tower for CERP C-44 Reservoir/Stormwater Treatment Area Project – Contract Number 4600002725

Background:

The C-44 Reservoir/Stormwater Treatment Area Project (C-44 Project) is intended to be constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) by utilizing three different construction contracts over the next eight years. Contract 1 is currently under construction and Contract 2 for the reservoir and pump station is scheduled to start construction in 2014.

This contract with Expert Construction Managers, Inc. (Expert) is to construct a 300-foot tall communication tower with a fully functional microwave system on the C-44 Project site. This new tower will (1) allow the C-44 Project pump station, reservoir, and stormwater treatment areas to be monitored and operated remotely from the District B-1 Control Room, (2) provide a primary link on the District's backbone communication system to four other communication stations, and (3) eliminate the District's need for the Indiantown Communication Tower which would be structurally overloaded if the C-44 Project's communications requirements were added to that tower. It was determined to be more cost effective to construct a new 300-foot tower at the C-44 Project site than to construct a shorter C-44 Project tower to communicate with the Indiantown Tower and to rehabilitate the existing Indiantown Tower to conform to District Standards and accommodate the additional structural loads.

The construction work includes a 300-foot self-supporting microwave antenna tower with associated appurtenances, foundation, microwave equipment shelter, installation and integration of microwave communication equipment, generator shelter, generator, buried liquid petroleum fuel tank, electric service connection, shell rock access road, site grading, fencing, sod, grass, and site work. The new antennas and microwave equipment will be District supplied under a separate purchase order with Aviat US, Inc. (Aviat). Expert will be responsible to test, install and integrate the antennas and equipment at five tower sites on the District's backbone network including the new C-44 Tower site and provide a fully functional microwave communication system for the C-44 Tower. Per the contract, Expert is required to utilize Aviat for the communication system installation, testing, and integration efforts. When the Indiantown Tower is no

longer functional and all serviceable equipment has been removed by the District; the Indiantown Tower will be turned over to Martin County in an “as is” condition per a previously executed agreement with Martin County.

How this helps meet the District’s 10Year Strategic Plan?

This contract will support the completion of the C-44 Project and refurbish District infrastructure, which are both linked to the 10-Year Strategic Plan. The District has access to the project lands/sites, completed the design, and received the permits for the C-44 Project utilizing funding under previous fiscal years. The USACE intends to construct C-44 Contract 2 starting in FY14 and these construction efforts need to be performed to ensure the District’s ability to operate those features once turned over by the USACE.

Funding Source:

This is a 391-day construction effort with Expert Construction Managers, Inc., the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, to perform the specified tower construction efforts in the fixed price amount of \$2,799,000, for which ad valorem funds in the amount of \$2,528,820 are budgeted for FY12; and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of the FY13 budget.

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

The Operations and Maintenance Resource Area (OMRA) and the C-44 Project site located in Martin County north of the C-44 Canal are impacted by this contract.

What concerns could this board item raise?

There may be concerns about (1) whether the USACE will agree that the entire contract is cost shareable or that only a portion is cost shareable if USACE deems that the District wind load standards are excessive and therefore a portion of the construction is a betterment and (2) the contracting approach requiring the prime construction contractor to utilize a particular sub-contractor (Aviat US, Inc. based on a previously Board approved Waiver of Competition) for the communication equipment testing, installation and integration which results in a fully functional system at the end of construction instead of procuring the tower construction and equipment testing, installation and integration separately and sequentially.

Why should the Governing Board approve this item?

Approval of the contract will allow the District to construct the C-44 Tower features, fulfill its obligations to the USACE and fulfill the District’s goal of infrastructure refurbishment to current District standards.

Attachments – Resolution, Map