

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Kenneth G. Ammon, P.E., Deputy Executive Director
Everglades Restoration and Capital Projects

DATE: November 2, 2009

SUBJECT: Environmental Laboratory Services – Biological – Contract 4600001941

Background: The South Florida Water Management District (District) has an in-house analytical laboratory that can analyze approximately 160,000 water samples per year for inorganic parameters. Additional water samples that exceed the capacity of the District laboratory and those for which the laboratory does not have current capability are currently sent to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Laboratory and private contract laboratories. Soil, plant, and tissue samples are currently sent to both private contract laboratories and the FDEP Laboratory in Tallahassee. The FDEP Laboratory also analyzes the bulk of the District's water and soil samples for organic parameters and ultra-trace mercury.

The District issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit the services of environmental laboratories to analyze samples for various District projects that cannot be conducted at the District or FDEP Laboratories. The solicitation would result in multiple work order contracts to provide overflow laboratory analysis services in support of District projects, including, but not limited to Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), Everglades Construction Program (ECP), Everglades/Florida Bay Restoration, Lake Okeechobee Protection Program, and Kissimmee River Restoration.

How this helps meet the District's 10-Year Strategic Plan: The work orders will be used on an as needed basis for analyses of biological parameters such as soil, vegetation, periphyton, fish, and invertebrates. They will support the objectives of CERP, Coastal Watersheds, District Everglades, Kissimmee, and Okeechobee programs.

Funding Source: This is a three year work order contract, subject to successful negotiations with Columbia Analytical Services, Inc., one of three firms selected under Request for Proposal 6000000298 for Environmental/Biological Laboratory Overflow Services, in an amount not to exceed the total funding of \$1,500,000 for all three contracts (4600001940, 4600001941, and 4600001942), for which \$329,000 - \$314,000 in ad valorem funds (Everglades Restoration Trust Fund) and \$15,000 in dedicated funds (Florida Bay Fund) - is budgeted and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of the FY11-FY12 budgets; if negotiations are unsuccessful with Columbia Analytical Services, Inc., the District will proceed with negotiations in ranked order until a contract has been successfully negotiated.

This Board item impacts what areas of the District, both resource areas and geography: This contract will be managed by staff in the Everglades Division as part of the Restoration Sciences Department. Geographically, this contract will support projects throughout the entire District.

What concerns could this Board item raise? The board might be concerned about having a large contract for overflow laboratory services. This is an as-needed work order contract for a not to exceed amount of \$1.5 million for all three contracts, subject to funding availability over three years. Although this may seem like a large amount of money to spend with outside laboratories, when compared to previous years, this contract is a reduction in total requested services. Biological parameters can be highly technical and specialized, and therefore can be expensive. While the in-house District laboratory will be used for many analyses, it is currently unable to handle the more specialized biological parameters being requested.

Why should the Governing Board approve this item? This contract will meet the biological needs of numerous restoration science programs within the District. With this contract, the District will gain needed sample capacity and the ability to have specialized analyses provided by technically sound private laboratories for services that the District laboratory cannot currently provide. These laboratories can also provide backup for the District laboratory in the event of an emergency.

KGA/mj
Attachment – Resolution