



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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Mailing Address: P.O. Box 24680, West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680 • www.sfwmd.gov

LAND ACQUISITION EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PROJECT: Lake Okeechobee Watershed
COUNTY: Highlands
SIZE: 2053.60 Acres
TRACT: 19-102-180
SELLER: Putnam Groves, Inc.

HIGHLIGHTS: Requesting reimbursement from the Department of Environmental Protection in the amount of \$12,500,000 from the Save Our Everglades Trust Fund in connection with the acquisition of 2053.60 acres for the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project.

BACKGROUND: The CERP Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project ("Project") is intended to meet the need for storage and water quality treatment in watersheds immediately north of Lake Okeechobee. The Project is in the planning stage and the Project Implementation Report is expected to be completed and ready for federal authorization in late 2008. The completed plan is likely to recommend construction of about 275,000 acre-feet of storage and water quality treatment facilities capable of removing about 130 metric tons of phosphorus from Lake inflows. The Project will also provide habitat restoration of approximately 3,500 acres of wetlands. An additional Project recommendation may be to revise the regulation schedule for Lake Istokpoga made possible by efficient utilization of storage components principally designed for Lake Okeechobee.

CONSIDERATIONS: The District acquired fee title to the lands depicted on attached Exhibit "A" pursuant to a July 18, 2005 Stipulated Final Judgment as part of the Kissimmee River Restoration Project. In addition to the need for a portion of the lands for the Kissimmee River Restoration Project, these lands have now been added as a property under the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project as shown on the attached Exhibit "AA". Under the settlement finalized by the Stipulated Final Judgment, the \$25,000,000 settlement price was to be paid by the District in two equal payments of \$12,500,000. The Department of Environmental Protection previously provided \$16,631,721.66 of Florida Forever Trust Fund monies representing reimbursement for the first \$12,500,000 payment plus all associated costs. The remaining \$12,500,000 is now required by the Stipulated Final Judgment.

FISCAL IMPACT: The current acquisition payment of \$12,500,000.00 due in July, 2006, will be funded utilizing Save Our Everglades Trust Fund.

GOVERNING BOARD

Kevin McCarty, *Chair*
Irela M. Bagué, *Vice-Chair*
Pamela Brooks-Thomas

Alice J. Carlson
Michael Collins
Nicolás J. Gutiérrez, Jr., Esq.

Lennart E. Lindahl, P.E.
Harkley R. Thornton
Malcolm S. Wade, Jr.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Carol Ann Wehle, *Executive Director*

RECOMMENDATION: That the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District approves a request for reimbursement from the Department of Environmental Protection in the amount of \$12,500,000 from the Save Our Everglades Trust Fund for the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project.

Prepared by: 
Ruth P. Clements, Director
Land Acquisition Department

4/18/06
Date

Approved by: 
Kenneth G. Ammon, P.E.
Deputy Executive Director
CERP

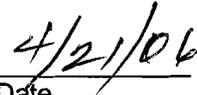
4/21/06
Date

LAND ACQUISITION EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (continued)

Dollars	Fund	Agency	Org	Activity (Cap Proj)	Object/ Revenue	Function
\$ 12,500,000	412	720	7220	P101	5610	83A2



Budget Approved



Date