

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Chip Merriam, Deputy Executive Director, Water Resources

DATE: August 30, 2007

SUBJECT: **Approve Resolution Number 2007-xxx approving a partial release of conservation easement for a project known as Perkins Restaurant at Osceola Corporate Center; providing an effective date.**

Staff Recommendation:

Approve Resolution Number 2007-xxx approving a partial release of conservation easement for a project known as Perkins Restaurant at Osceola Corporate Center; providing an effective date.

Background:

The District issued Permit Modification 49-00477-S, Application 941101-4, on July 13, 1995, authorizing construction approval of a commercial development with the construction and operation of a surface water management system to serve 1317.34 acres of the development. The applicant dedicated a conservation easement over wetland systems throughout the project area, which totaled 534.52 acres. No mitigation value was provided by this easement; other mitigation was provided for the project. This application includes proposed mitigation for the unavoidable impacts via the purchase of mitigation bank credits at Reedy Creek Mitigation Bank. The unavoidable impacts are to .689 acre of wetlands currently under a conservation easement. The release of .689 acre from the larger conservation area is needed for the applicant to construct a Perkins Restaurant. The wetlands are currently isolated, surrounded by encroaching development, and would be low quality in the post-development condition. Staff is reviewing Application No. 070525-25 and will issue after Governing Board approval of this conservation easement release.

**Staff Contact: Anita Bain, Director, Natural Resource Management Division
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