

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Chip Merriam, Deputy Executive Director, Water Resources

DATE: November 21, 2008

SUBJECT: 2008 Report on the “Long-Term Plan for Achieving Water Quality Goals”

Background: The District has been actively implementing the Long-Term Plan for Achieving Water Quality Goals for the Everglades Protection Area Tributary Basins, and recently completed the fifth year of implementation of the Long-Term Plan. Substantial progress towards reducing phosphorus levels discharged to the Everglades Protection Area has been made by the District, the State of Florida, and other stakeholders. The 2008 Report on the Long-Term Plan summarizes work completed to date which has contributed significantly to the improvement in water quality discharges to the Everglades Protection Area.

How this helps meet the District’s 10-Year Strategic Plan: Implementation of the Long-Term Plan is one of the District’s strategic priorities and the goal of the Long-Term Plan is to achieve Everglades water quality standards.

Funding Source: Long-Term Plan projects are funded by the Everglades Fund which includes revenue from several sources, including ad valorem funds dedicated for implementation of the Everglades Construction Project (ECP) and the Long-Term Plan. The 2008 Report is a status report on the first five years of the implementation of the Long-Term Plan and will not impact funding.

This Board item impacts what areas of the District, both resource areas and geography: The Long-Term Plan addresses Everglades Protection Area tributary basins. Implementation of the Long-Term Plan is managed by Water Resources staff and individual Long-Term Plan projects are managed by staff throughout the District.

What concerns could this Board item raise? Because there were several events that occurred during the development of the 2008 Report that could result in additional proposed revisions to the Long-Term Plan, the 2008 Report focuses on activities and accomplishments to date in the ECP Basins and non-ECP Basins. A future effort is planned to develop a comprehensive set of Long-Term Plan proposed revisions, once all of the related projects and activities are better defined, and these revisions will contain associated project costs for which dedicated funds will be used

Why should the Governing Board approve this item? The Long-Term Plan contained direction to submit a report to the governor and legislature on the status of implementation of the Long-Term Plan by December 31, 2008.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call me at extension 6597.

CM/tp
Attachment – Resolution, Executive Summary