

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Governing Board Members

**FROM:** Chip Merriam, Deputy Executive Director, Water Resources

**DATE:** May 16, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Authorize an amendment to cost share agreement 3600000933 with Collier County for the Gordon River Water Quality Park in an amount not to exceed \$108,700 for which dedicated funds (State Appropriations) are budgeted; providing an effective date.(Contract Number 3600000933-A04)

**Background:** The Naples Bay Watershed Initiative identified the need to construct stormwater treatment structures/facilities that improve polluted runoff, reduce the amount of freshwater entering the Bay and, ultimately, restore sea grasses, oyster beds, and mangroves in the Naples Bay. This amendment provides additional funding for the design and construction of the Gordon River Water Quality Park, which will attenuate flooding by reducing flows and durations of events in the Gordon River Basin while improving water quality, wetland habitat, and groundwater recharge. The Park is approximately 50 acres in size and will include a pump station delivering water from the Goodlette Frank Road, a series of interconnected, cascading ponds making up the treatment train, a bypass structure, and a discharge structure. Recreational and educational attributes include an educational building, recreational trails, benches, lighting, and trash receptacles.

**How this helps meet the District's 10-Year Strategic Plan?** Construction of the Gordon River Water Quality Park meets the District's 10-Year Strategic Plan to restore watersheds and estuaries through local initiatives, and to decrease flood damages through proactive flood management planning.

**Funding Source:** This is an amendment to add \$108,700 in dedicated funds (state appropriations) to a four-year (currently in year 3) cost share agreement with Collier County for the Design and Construction of the Gordon River Water Quality Park. These additional funds (second amendment to add funding) are being redirected from other projects that did not require all their appropriated funds. No additional funding is anticipated for this agreement. The total project cost is estimated to be at \$9,000,000. The District's total contribution is \$958,700 and the County's cost share is the remainder, plus project oversight and coordination. Collier County has invoiced the District for \$350,000 of the \$958,700.

**This Board item impacts what areas of the District, both resource areas and geography:** This agreement is administered by the Stormwater Improvement Division. The Park will be constructed in the Naples Bay Watershed of Collier County.

**What concerns could this Board item raise?** Ongoing legislative funding assistance may be requested to provide further construction support of the Park or other projects associated with the Naples Bay Watershed Improvements. The District will continue to work to secure additional legislative funding for the County.

**Why should the Governing Board approve this item?** Approval will ensure Collier County will have the funding resources needed to complete construction of the Gordon River Water Quality Park which will provide mitigation of flood waters and improve water quality.