

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Governing Board Members

THROUGH: Kenneth G. Ammon, P.E., Deputy Executive Director,
Everglades Restoration Resource Area

FROM: Ruth Clements, Director
Land Acquisition Department

SUBJECT: Cooperative Agreement with Florida Department of Environmental Protection – River of Grass Acquisition Project, Environmental Assessment (Contract Number 4600001556)

REQUEST: Approval to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to conduct pre-acquisition Phase II environmental risk assessments associated with the purchase of the United States Sugar Corporation (USSC) property located in four counties (Palm Beach, Hendry, Glades and Gilchrist) involving approximately 187,000 acres in the Everglades Agricultural Areas. The funding for this work was approved as part of the FY09 budget.

CONSIDERATIONS: The South Florida Water Management District (District) is in the process of conducting a pre-acquisition environmental site assessment of the USSC property. In an effort to complete the assessment in an expedited manner, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) has provided the District with FDEP resources. The FDEP resources include internal personnel, FDEP contractors and Laboratory Services. FDEP conducted site assessment investigations associated with point source areas that include pump stations, cane loading areas and maintenance and storage areas.

FISCAL IMPACT: As part of the environmental assessment, the District utilized FDEP resources. The FDEP resources were utilized to address the complexity, schedule and magnitude of this assessment. The access to well trained personnel to assist with the assessment and investigation of the USSC property is of significant benefit. It is estimated that the FDEP will invoice the District approximately \$1,500,000.00 to complete their assessment work.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of a resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to authorize entering into a cooperative agreement with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for Phase II environmental risk assessment services in conjunction with the River of Grass Acquisition Project, in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.00, the funding for which work was approved as part of the FY09 budget, for which dedicated funds (Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan) are budgeted; providing an effective date (Contract Number 4600001556).

Governing Board Members
November 13, 2008
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Land Acquisition
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Reviewed by: _____
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Land Acquisition
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Approved by: _____
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