

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Governing Board Members

**FROM:** Deena Reppen, Deputy Executive Director, Government and Public Affairs

**DATE:** November 13, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Chapman Field Park Wetlands Restoration, Contract 3600000894-A03

**Background:** The subject cooperative agreement was executed with a 24-month term on March 28, 2005 for Miami-Dade County to design and implement a restoration of impacted wetlands areas within Chapman Field Park. The Park, located along the edge of Biscayne Bay in southern Miami-Dade County included historic Red Mangrove communities, which were impacted by dredge and fill and solid waste dumping activities many years ago. The County is actively restoring wetlands impacted at this site, as well as at other sites throughout the County, in an effort to restore native ecosystems along Biscayne Bay. In addition to restoring the native plant community at the site, this project provides the benefits of increasing native habitat for birds and fish and improving water quality in the local portion of Biscayne Bay. Amendment 1 to the agreement executed on December 6, 2006, added \$480,000 to the project from the District (\$240,000 from State Appropriations and \$240,000 from Ad Valorem funds) and extended the contract termination date to November 27, 2007. Amendment 2 to the agreement, executed on June 8, 2007 extended the termination date by 12 months to November 27, 2008. This amendment 3 will serve to add \$310,246 in unencumbered State Appropriation funds designated for Biscayne Bay (\$118,248 from FY02 and \$191,998 from FY05) and extend the expiration date by 12 months to November 27, 2009 to add Phase II to the project. The originally designed project was for the restoration of a teardrop-shaped area in the park that measures approximately 8 acres. However, due to a lack of available funding, the project needed to be broken into phases. The original agreement and first 2 amendments provided funding for Phase I of the Project. Amendments were needed to add funding because the original estimate provided by the county's consultant was incorrect and to add time to accommodate the county's bidding process. This amendment will provide funding to support Phase II of the Project. Phase III is not yet planned by the County due to lack of funding.

**How this helps meet the District's 10-Year Strategic Plan:** This item will help achieve the District's strategic plan goal of assisting local governments with implementation of coastal water body restoration projects, and falls within the Coastal Watersheds element of the Strategic Plan.

**Funding Source:** This amendment is funded by FY02 and FY05 State appropriated funds of \$310,246, all of which are forecast to be expended in FY09.

**This Board item impacts what areas of the District, both resource areas and geography:** This contract is administered by the Miami-Dade Regional Service Center and implements the strategies of the Coastal Watersheds Program. Chapman Field Park is located geographically in southeastern Miami-Dade County, adjacent to Biscayne Bay.

**What concerns could this Board item raise?** If this item does not receive approval, the County will be unable to complete the project and the benefits of ecosystem restoration, habitat creation and water quality improvements will not be realized. Phase III of this project is not yet planned by the County.

**Why should the Governing Board approve this item?** Approval will ensure that Miami-Dade County can proceed with this project, and that the District's goal of improving water quality within Biscayne Bay will be met.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at ext. 6232.  
DR/es