

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Governing Board Members

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

**DATE:** December 14, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Concurrence with the Granting of Temporary Variances from Water Shortage Restrictions Imposed within the Indian Prairie Basin (Scott Burns, ext. 6817)

**Background:** On October 19, 2006, an emergency water shortage order (2006-159-DAO-WS) was declared for portions of the Indian Prairie Water Use Basin. Pursuant to provisions contained in the Order and within District rules (40E-21.275 F.A.C.), variances from the specified water restrictions can be issued based on good cause. Applicants that have demonstrated that the conditions for issuance of a variance have been met may be issued a temporary variance by the Executive Director or her designee. Pursuant to District rules, all such temporary variances must be acted upon by the Governing Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting. The list of temporary variances granted along with staff recommendations is attached.

**How this helps meet the District's Mission:** Provides for equitable allocation of available water supplies while protecting the water resources during extreme hydrologic conditions. The variances only allow water use when rainfall and or groundwater seepage have caused water levels to exceed the cutoff levels contained in rule without having to frequently cancel and reinstate the water shortage order.

**Funding Source:** There is no funding source associated with this item.

**This item impacts what area of the District, both resource area and geography:** Portions of the Indian Prairie Water Use Basin located within Glades and Highlands Counties.

**What concerns could this Board item raise?** Economic impacts associated with the water restrictions. Environmental and recreational impacts associated with low levels within surface water features of the area

**Why should the Governing Board approve this item?** This item will allow usage of available water supplies when stages are above cutoff levels.