

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

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

DATE: September 4, 2007

SUBJECT: Employee Interchange Agreement for District Permitting – Contract 4600001048

Background: Implementation of the District's restoration projects will provide significant benefits to the greater Everglades ecosystem. Each of the projects will require a Clean Water Act, Section 404 Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). This agreement will fund the USACE's dedication of an individual to exclusively process District permit applications, thereby removing these permits from the general pool and existing processing back log.

How this helps meet the District's 10-Year Strategic Plan? This meets the District's 10-Year Strategic Plan to restore, preserve and protect the South Florida ecosystem. Issuance of these permits is necessary before construction can begin on the District's restoration projects. If assigned to the general pool, the permits would not be expected to be issued for several more years.

Funding Source: This is a two-year contract with the USACE for a dedicated Corps staff member to process District permit applications in the not-to-exceed amount of \$377,000, of which \$186,000 is budgeted in FY08 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of the FY09 budget.

This Board item impacts what areas of the District, both resource areas and geography: The agreement impacts the entire area of the District. Personnel from the Everglades Restoration Resource Area will manage the contract and interact with USACE staff.

What concerns could this Board item raise? This agreement is similar in nature to agreements executed in the past with the USACE and other agencies. Because the level of effort required by USACE staff is somewhat unclear, the agreement is structured as a not-to-exceed amount and assumes, at most, the efforts of one full-time person would be needed. If additional effort is required, then the agreement would need to be amended.

Why should the Governing Board approve this item? Approval will ensure that District permit applications for restoration projects are processed in a timely manner.

KGA/jpm
Attachment: Resolution