

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Tommy B. Strowd, Director, Operations, Maintenance & Construction Division

DATE: September 13, 2012

SUBJECT: Restoration Strategies:
L-8 Flow Equalization Basin
Contract 4600002731

Background:

To address water quality concerns associated with existing flows to the Everglades Protection Area (EPA), the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD or District), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), and United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) engaged in technical discussions starting in 2010. The primary objectives were to establish a Water Quality Based Effluent Limit (WQBEL) that would achieve compliance with the State of Florida's numeric phosphorus criterion in the EPA and to identify a suite of additional water quality projects to work in conjunction with the existing Everglades Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs) to meet the WQBEL.

Based on the collaborative effort described above, a suite of projects have been identified that would achieve the WQBEL. The identified projects primarily consist of Flow Equalization Basins (FEBs), STA expansions, and associated infrastructure and conveyance improvements. The L-8 FEB is one of the identified projects within the S-5A Basin and will attenuate peak stormwater flows prior to delivery to STA-1W and provide dry season benefits. The L-8 FEB provides additional water storage of approximately 45,000 acre-feet (ac-ft).

How this helps meet the District's 10-Year Strategic Plan:

The approval of the L-8 FEB contract will initiate design and construction of features allowing for attenuation of flows from the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) prior to discharge STA 1-W thereby improving water quality to the Everglades Protection Area. Permanent Protective Measures in order to meet the mandated dates of the Memorandum of Agreement among the US Army Corps of Engineers, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Seminole Tribe of Florida, South Florida Water Management District and Florida State Historic preservation officer.

Funding Source:

Funding will be ad valorem funds for FY12 and a combination of ad valorem and non ad valorem sources such as Save our Everglades Trust funds appropriations for FY13 and FY14.

This Board item impacts what areas of the District, both resource areas and geography:

The L-8 FEB is located in Palm Beach County on the west side of the L-8 Canal just north of State Road 80. It is bounded on the north by the EAA, on the east by the L-8 Canal and residential properties, and on the south by the Palm Beach Aggregates, and on the west by Florida Power and Light West County Energy Center.

Staff from the Engineering and Construction Bureau will manage the construction of the project. Staff from the West Palm Beach Field Station will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the FEB once completed.

What concerns could this Board item raise?

The scope of work for this project requires permits from the United States Army Corps of Engineers including a section 408 permit for modifications to the Central & South Florida system.

Why should the Governing Board approve this item?

Approval of Contract 4600002731 will allow the District to initiate the design and construction of the project will be completed using a design/build contract. The selected design/build contractor will be responsible for designing and constructing the FEB infrastructure, which will include an inlet structure and outflow pump station, as well as revetment protection features for the surrounding levees.

Fulfillment of the obligations of the Restoration Strategies Regional Water Quality Plan will allow the District help achieve the goals of the Long-Term Plan.

Attachments – Resolution, Map