

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Chip Merriam, Deputy Executive Director, Water Resources

DATE: May 27, 2008

SUBJECT: Approve an Interagency Agreement between the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWM) authorizing the SFWMD to issue an Environmental Resource Permit for the proposed expansion of the Delray Plants Nursery located in Highlands County.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve an Interagency Agreement between the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) authorizing the SFWMD to issue an Environmental Resource Permit for the proposed expansion of the Delray Plants Nursery located in Highlands County.

BACKGROUND

The subject property is presently being used as an improved pasture and is located in Highlands County. The property is located within the jurisdiction of both SWFWMD and SFWMD. Neither District has previously issued a surface water management or environmental resource permit on the property. The property drains via sheetflow to Fisheating Creek, which is located within South Florida Water Management District. Subsection 373.046 (6), authorizes a water management district to designate through an interagency agreement, regulatory responsibility to another water management district over a project which crosses the jurisdictional boundaries of both districts. For efficiency and effectiveness, the applicant and both districts desire to designate SFWMD as the water management district with all regulatory responsibilities under Part IV of Chapter 373, F.S., for the Delray Plants Project. Both Districts propose to enter into an Interagency Agreement, directing the SFWMD to process and regulate environmental resource permits under Part IV of Chapter 373, F.S., for those activities associated with the expansion of the Delray Plants Nursery in Highlands County.

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