

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Chip Merriam, Deputy Executive Director, Water Resources

DATE: July 13, 2006

SUBJECT: Authorize entering into an Interagency Agreement between the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) concerning permitting for those activities by the Florida Department of Transportation Florida's Turnpike Enterprise (FDOT) which are associated with proposed improvements to portions of State Road 91 (Florida's Turnpike) within the Lake Olivia Basin in Orange County, Florida. (Resolution No. _____)

Background

The Florida Department of Transportation Florida's Turnpike Enterprise (FDOT) proposes improvements to State Road 91 (Florida's Turnpike) between Station 2845+21.05 and Station 2867+50 (approximately 2,228.95 linear feet) within the Lake Olivia Basin in Orange County, Florida (the Roadway Project). This Project crosses the jurisdictional boundaries of SJRWMD and SFWMD. By statute, affected water management districts are authorized to designate, by interagency agreement, regulatory responsibility to a single, affected water management district over a project which crosses the jurisdictional boundaries of both districts. For efficiency and effectiveness, the Applicant, SJRWMD and SFWMD desire to designate SFWMD as the water management district with all regulatory responsibilities under Part IV of Chapter 373, F.S., for the Project. The District and SJRWMD propose to enter into an Interagency Agreement, directing the District to process and regulate environmental resource permits for those activities by the FDOT, which are associated with the improvements to Florida's Turnpike in Orange County, and Mitigation for environmental impacts related to those portions of the Roadway Project within the jurisdictional boundaries of SJRWMD will be conducted by SFWMD.

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

The District has the proper personnel to process permits associated with the Roadway Project and the District has had previous experience dealing with flooding issues associated with the Lake Olivia Basin. This Interagency Agreement allows the District to implement a program for issuance and regulation of permits for those activities by the FDOT which are associated with the Florida Turnpike Roadway Project.

Funding Source

The permit applications will be handled by existing SFWMD staff.

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

This item impacts the Environmental Resource Regulation Department and it affects activities in Orange County.

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What concerns could this Board item raise?

Based on the responsibilities delegated by SJRWMD to SFWMD, there should be no concerns other than the possibility that some additional staff time may be needed in order to issue and regulate the permits associated with the Roadway Project.

Why should the Governing Board approve this item?

The Governing Board should approve this item because SFWMD has the knowledge and expertise to issue and regulate environmental resource permits for the FDOT and it will be more efficient for one district to assume regulatory responsibility for the Project.

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