

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Chip Merriam, Deputy Executive Director, Water Resources

DATE: September 2, 2008

SUBJECT: Authorization to enter into 51 separate Science & Technology Services (STS) work order contract amendments to increase their terms by two years and increase total funding authorization by an amount not-to-exceed \$30 million

Background: Since late 2005 and early 2006, the District has extensively utilized the services of 51 contracting firms under the Science and Technology Services (STS) work order contract program to provide the technical support needed to carry out the District's many priority projects and activities. These services, grouped under nine discipline areas (hydrology and hydraulics, water resources evaluation, water quality monitoring, laboratory operations, QA/QC, biological monitoring, modeling, GIS/remote sensing, and wildlife consultation), have been necessary to supplement the capacity of internal resources and to complement services provided under the General Engineering Services contacts. These 51 three-year term contracts are due to expire between December 2008 and March 2009 and less than \$4 million of the original \$45 million spending authorization remains. The District is requesting approval to exercise the renewal option and extend all 51 STS contracts for a one-time two-year period and to raise the spending authorization by \$30 million. The long-term plan is to use the next two years to assess the future workload of the agency along with the projected demand for these types of services and to conduct a series of new discipline-specific solicitations for science and technical services which will be in place prior to the expiration of the current STS contracts.

How this helps meet the District's 10-Year Strategic Plan: The STS work order contracts provide a mechanism to outsource a number of key competencies to help achieve Strategic Plan priorities and success indicators in potentially nine out of 11 District Programs: Operations and Maintenance, Coastal Watersheds, Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), Kissimmee Restoration, Modeling and Scientific Support, Lake Okeechobee, Water Supply, Mission Support, and District Everglades.

Funding Source: The original spending authorization of \$45 million was approved by the November 2005 Governing Board. Approval of these amendments for a two-year contract period will require the total spending authorization to be increased by an additional amount not-to-exceed \$30 million for the two-year contract period. The funding sources will be a combination of dedicated and ad valorem funding subject to Governing Board approval of the FY09-FY10 budgets.

This Board item impacts what areas of the District, both resource areas and geography: This item has District-wide impact and includes but is not limited to the

following resource areas: Operations and Maintenance, Water Resources, Corporate Resources, and Everglades Restoration.

What concerns could this Board item raise? Because the agency's work load continues to exceed the capacity of existing staff resources, there continues to be heavy reliance on outsourcing to private firms to get the work done. Work order based contracts, such as the STS contracts, are the most efficient way of accomplishing this. The Governing Board has given clear direction on the need for staff to carefully manage these large work-based "umbrella" contracts to ensure equitable distribution of work and dollars. The formal process which was established at the onset of the STS program will continue to monitor the distribution of work and align contractor strengths with project needs, and will be regularly reviewed by the District Leadership Team.

Why should the Governing Board approve this item? Because the current STS contract terms expire between 12/2008 and 3/2009, approval to amend these contracts for another two years will ensure continued availability of critical professional and technical services to assist District staff in meeting the District's FY09 and FY10 work plan objectives. Approval to extend the existing contracts prior to October 1, 2008, will allow project managers to prepare continuous multi-year work orders to avoid a lapse in service.

CM/lj/dl

Attachments – Resolution