

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Sharon M. Trost, P.G., AICP, Director, Regulation Division

DATE: November 26, 2012

SUBJECT: Amendment to a Memorandum of Agreement among the Town of Southwest Ranches, South Broward Drainage District, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the South Florida Water Management District

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District authorizing an amendment to extend by one year a memorandum of agreement among the Town of Southwest Ranches (SW Ranches), the South Broward Drainage District (SBDD), the Department of Agriculture and Consumers Services (DACS) and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) for the purpose of continuing a pilot project designed to assess revisions to water management system operations within the SBDD's S9/S10 Basin.

BACKGROUND

The SFWMD has been working with SW Ranches and SBDD on nuisance flooding problems within the SBDD's S9/S10 Basin. SW Ranches' concerns began in 2008 when SBDD implemented an improvement project to control discharges from the basin. The project replaced multiple open culvert connections to the SFWMD's C-11 West Canal with three operable structures. These structures now control the water levels and discharge rates from the basin. The SFWMD provided cost share funds for this project due to the water quality and quantity improvements anticipated in the C-11 West Basin which discharges to the Everglades via the SFWMD's S-9 pump station.

Previously, water levels in the older developed areas of the basin (SW Ranches) were not controlled and rose and fell with the levels of the C-11 West Canal near the SFWMD's S-9 pump station. During wet periods, the water levels in the C-11 West Canal are pumped down to provide flood protection to areas further away from the pump station. This resulted in lowered water levels within SW Ranches. However, once the open connections were replaced with the control structures, the water levels within SW Ranches were not being drawn down and stayed at the control elevation of 4.0 feet. This also resulted in low lying areas in older, platted lots remaining inundated for longer periods.

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On June 1, 2010, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among the SFWMD, SBDD, SW Ranches, and DACS was executed by the final party to authorize a pilot project to resolve the problem. The pilot project was designed to allow the new control structures to discharge to the SFWMD's C-11 West canal during the wet season at elevations lower than 4.0 feet when the C-11 West Canal is lower (limits of the discharges are included in the memorandum of agreement) while also implementing additional water quality monitoring and water quality improvement through Best Management Practices (BMPs) and providing educational technical assistance to SW Ranches and nursery producers in the community.

The term of the MOA was for period of one (1) year from the effective date (June 1, 2010). On October 13, 2011, the MOA was extended for an additional year. The required infrastructure is complete and operational. The pilot project has been successfully implemented over the last two years. As a result, the SBDD intends to work with SW Ranches and submit an application to modify the S9/S10 permit in early 2013 to permanently implement the pilot operation plan.

If necessary, and in accordance with paragraph 16 of the executed MOA and the previous time extension of the MOA, the Parties may jointly consider extending the pilot project for an additional year.

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