

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Kenneth G. Ammon, P.E., Deputy Executive Director, Everglades Restoration Resource Area *KS for KeA*

DATE: January 24, 2008

SUBJECT: Southwest Florida Feasibility Study Cost Share Agreement Amendment 1 (Contract 3600000026-A01)

Background:

The Southwest Florida Feasibility Study (SWFFS) is a component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). The SWFFS was initiated in recognition that there are additional water resource issues within southwest Florida that were not being addressed directly by CERP. The SWFFS was intended to provide a plan with specific infrastructure and management measures to address the health and sustainability of aquatic ecosystems in southwest Florida. The study also was meant to identify and evaluate alternatives to address the water resource and natural systems issues. Subsequent detailed regional hydrologic and ecological models were under development to evaluate such alternatives, including preliminary design features and engineering and construction estimates.

As the project planning developed, management at the District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined this level of detail and effort would increase the study's cost significantly and would prove to be too costly to continue in that manner. To reduce future cost increases, the scope of the feasibility study has been changed to more of a conceptual water resources plan with a less detailed set of restoration features and management measures, while still achieving the overall goal of the original feasibility study. Despite the change in scope to a less detailed study, it is estimated that the overall cost will increase by \$5,000,000. The District's \$2,500,000 share of this increase will be through in-kind services, and no additional cash will be required.

How this helps meet the District's 10-Year Strategic Plan: The SWFFS Project supports the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.

Funding Source:

No new funding is associated with this action. This amendment to the Southwest Florida Feasibility Study Cost Sharing Agreement Contract C-12119 / 3600000026 with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers increases the total estimated study cost by \$5,000,000 for a total amount of \$17,000,000 of which the District's 50% cost share, or \$2,500,000, will be in-kind services for which no additional appropriation of funds is required.

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

The SWFFS area encompasses approximately 4,300 square miles including all of Lee County, most of Collier and Hendry counties, and portions of Charlotte, Glades and Monroe counties. The study is being managed by the Everglades Restoration Resource Area's Planning Department.

What concerns could this Board item raise?

If the District's 50% cost share for the additional cost of the study, or \$2.5 million, is not fully met with in-kind services, the District would be obligated to provide a cash match for the difference to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Why should the Governing Board approve this item?

The District has committed to implementation of CERP, which includes the SWFFS. The local governments and state and federal agencies in the study area are actively involved in the process and it would be difficult to re-build trust with agencies and stakeholders if the study was not completed. This action by the Governing Board expresses the Board's continued support for the implementation of the SWFFS.

KGA/js

Attachments – Resolution, Map