

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Ernie Barnett, Director, Office of Policy & Legislation

DATE: August 9, 2006

SUBJECT: Broward Service Center August Governing Board Item

Background:

In early 2006, a study was commissioned by South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to carry out a study of the bank stabilization options for the North Fork of the New River (NFNR) in unincorporated Fort Lauderdale in Broward County. The primary objectives of this study were to conduct an independent scientific and engineering review of the existing conditions in the NFNR and prepare a stakeholder coordinated response to the erosion problems being encountered and improve water quality within an environmentally friendly and sustainable framework. An examination of a number of "hard" and "soft" options was done, with consideration of the options technical viability and eligibility of access to public funds. There is a total of 15,200 feet of embankment within the project area for which it was determined over 2,000 feet has erosion problems of significance. This revenue agreement with Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS) will provide funding for the completion of the First Phase (between Sistrunk Blvd. and 27th. Ave) of the bank stabilization of the North Fork of New River.

How this helps meet the District's Mission:

This project is a partnership with NRCS that will support the goals of the Coastal Watershed program and District's Mission by enhancing and improving the water management of a coastal ecosystem and providing water quality and flood protection.

Funding Source:

This is a cost share agreement with NRCS. NRCS is providing 75% of the total estimated project cost of \$1,700. The District's contribution is not to exceed \$425,000 (25% of cost share) for which dedicated funds (Broward Service Center- North Fork of New River) are budgeted in FY07 subject to Governing Board approval of the FY07 budget.

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

The project benefits the Coastal Watershed Program, the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) program and Operations within Broward County. The project will be managed by the Broward Service Center staff with support from the Fort Lauderdale Field Station staff.

What concerns could this Board item raise?

Additional funding might be required for subsequent phases of this project. The Broward Service Center staff is currently working with the local community and the Legal Department in obtaining the necessary permits and additional funding with NRCS for Phase 2 of this project (between 27th. Ave and 31st. Ave) in Broward County.

Why should the Governing Board approve this item?

Approval of this contract contributes to the accomplishment of the goals of the Coastal Watershed Program by sharing costs with NRCS and fosters continued partnership with the Broward County to achieve mutual objectives related to bank stabilization to prevent the loss of property in future storm events. This project also improves the water quality at the North Fork of New River under the TMDL program.