

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Governing Board Members

**FROM:** Ernie Barnett, Director – Office of Policy and Legislation

**DATE:** January 8, 2007

**SUBJECT:** Indiantown Citrus Growers Water Conservation Project – Contract No. 4600000620

**Background:** This project is one of many projects prioritized and approved by the St. Lucie River Issues Team for FY2007 State Legislative Appropriations. The St. Lucie River Issues Team is a group of local stakeholders who prioritize and approve legislatively funded projects that benefit the St. Lucie River and Indian River Lagoon. This project is sponsored by the Treasure Coast Resource Conservation & Development Council (TCRC&DC) and the Indiantown Citrus Growers Association (ICGA) to increase the water holding capacity within the 1775 acres of the ICGA citrus groves. By staging the water throughout the groves it is estimated that there will be an increase in water holding capacity of at least 3,550 AF. This will additionally help to hold agrichemicals in the groves and prevent them from entering the C-44 canal. This is the first year of funding provided by the State Legislature for this project.

**How this helps meet the District's 10-year Strategic Plan:** This project supports the goals and objectives of the Coastal Watersheds Program by improving the quality, quantity, timing and distribution of flows to the St. Lucie estuary from tributary watersheds and minimizing impacts of the C&SF system on the St. Lucie estuary.

**Funding Source:** The total cost of the project is \$650,000. The contract is funded by FY2007 State Legislative Appropriation (St. Lucie River Issues Team) funds totaling \$295,200 which are forecasted to be expended in FY2007. The remaining \$354,800 is being funded through the ICGA.

**This Board item impacts what areas of the District, both resource areas and geography:** The project is located in Indiantown, Martin County. It is bordered by the SFWMD C-44 canal to the south and the property lies east of the FPL reservoir and west of SR 710. This contract is being administered by the Martin/St. Lucie Service Center under the Coastal Watersheds program.

**What concerns could this Board item raise?** Additional funding may be needed for future phases of this project. The District will continue to support the TCRC&DC and the ICGA in their efforts to secure additional funding to complete this project.

The funds for this project have been initially budgeted in Managerial Reserves, therefore, we are also asking for a budget transfer from Managerial Reserves to the Martin/St. Lucie Service Center, in the amount of \$295,200.

**Why should the Governing Board approve this item?** Approval will assure a continued partnership with TCRC&DC and the ICGA and the St. Lucie River Issues Team, and allow this project, which supports District regional efforts such as the Indian River Lagoon South Feasibility Study, CERP and the Ten Mile Creek Water Preserve Area, to be implemented.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at ext. 2110.

EB/kl  
Attachment – Resolution