

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

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

DATE: July 29, 2008

SUBJECT: Okeelanta Bridge Replacement for Compartment B Build-out
Contract Number 4600001480

Background:

A Bridge Inspection and Load Rating Analysis report prepared in February 2006 by EAC Consulting for Brown & Caldwell as part of the Basis of Design Report for Compartment B Build-out stated that the existing single-lane Okeelanta Bridge shows evidence of extensive corrosion and deemed insufficient to carry the Florida legal loads.

The purpose of this contract is to replace the existing Okeelanta Bridge prior to the start of construction of the three pump stations at Compartment B Build-out, planned for July 2009, to provide/improve temporary access for construction equipment and permanent access for future operations and maintenance.

How this helps meet the District's 10-Year Strategic Plan:

Compartment B is a component of the Everglades Protection Area Tributary Basins Long-Term Plan for Achieving Water Quality Goals, Revised Part 2 (LTP), which is included in the 10-Year Strategic Plan and the current Annual Plan. Compartment B enables the District to achieve Everglades water quality standards as part of the implementation of the Long-Term Plan to ensure that all waters discharging into the Everglades Protection Area are in compliance with state water quality standards. Constructing the Okeelanta Bridge replacement prior to the start of construction of the Compartment B pump stations reduces the risk of delays in the construction of the three pump stations at Compartment B due to the inability of heavy equipment and concrete mixers to cross the North New River to Compartment B.

Funding Source: This is a 270-day contract with Construct Group Corporation, the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, for the Okeelanta Bridge replacement in the amount of \$750,702 of which dedicated funds (Everglades Restoration Trust Fund) in the amount of \$180,000 are budgeted and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of the FY09 budget.

This Board item impacts what areas of the District, both resource areas and geography: The Okeelanta Bridge Replacement Project location is in southwestern Palm Beach County within the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) approximately three miles north of the Palm Beach and Broward county line on the east side of U.S. 27. Staff from the Everglades Restoration Resource Area will manage the project.

What concerns could this Board item raise?

The District will be committing funds to construct the Okeelanta Bridge prior to receiving permits for the Compartment B Build-out project and Governing Board approval for the pump station construction, scheduled to start in July 2009. This work is also dependent upon approval of the forthcoming FY09 budget.

Why should the Governing Board approve this item?

The construction contract of the Okeelanta Bridge replacement should be approved in anticipation of the future construction of three pump stations at Compartment B. Approval of this item increases the District's ability to meet the overall Compartment B project schedule and achieve the goals of the Long-Term Plan. The bridge construction duration is estimated to be 270 days and, therefore, approval is needed this month to maintain the current STA construction schedule start of July 2009.

Attachments – Resolution, Map
KGA/ma