MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Kenneth G. Ammon, P.E., Deputy Executive Director, Everglades Restoration and Capital Projects

DATE: October 1, 2009

SUBJECT: Construction of Frog Pond Detention Area for C-111 Spreader Canal Phase 1 Project – Contract Number 4600001893

Background:
The intent of the District is to design and construct the C-111 Spreader Canal Phase 1 Project, also known as the C-111 Spreader Canal Western Project. In July 1999, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works transmitted the Central and Southern Florida Project Comprehensive Review Study Final Integrated Feasibility Report and Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement to Congress for implementation and approval in accordance with the Chief of Engineers Report. The plan was authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (WRDA 2000) and signed into law by the President in December 1999. The C-111 Spreader Canal Project was one of 68 components contained in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) to improve the Central and Southern Florida Project. The project received authorization under Section 601(c) Initial Projects, Item (x) of WRDA 2000. In 2004, phase 1 of the project became part of the State's Expedited Construction Plan.

The purpose of this contract is to construct the C-111 Spreader Canal Phase 1 Project's Frog Pond Detention Area component. This consists of constructing the Frog Pond Detention Area, approximately 590 acres in size, and the associated conveyance canal system.

The District has obtained the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 404 Clean Water Act Permit and Florida Department of Environmental Protection Everglades Forever Act Permit for construction of the project.

How this helps meet the District's 10-Year Strategic Plan:
The C-111 Spreader Canal Phase 1 Project is included in the 10-Year Strategic Plan and the Annual Work Plan. The project will enable the District to restore important functions and values of the Everglades and south Florida ecosystem. The project also will improve deliveries and enhance the connectivity and sheet flow in the Model Lands and Southern Glades, reduce wet season flows in the C-111 Canal, and decrease the potential flood risk in the lower south Miami Dade County area.

Funding Source:
This is a 540-day contract with Palm Beach Grading, Inc., the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, for construction of the C-111 Spreader Canal Phase I Project's Frog Pond Detention Area component in an amount not to exceed $10,800,000 for which dedicated funds (Save Our Everglades Trust Fund) are budgeted.

This Board item impacts what areas of the District, both resource areas and geography: The C-111 Spreader Canal Phase 1 Project is located in southwest Miami Dade County near the entrance to Everglades National Park. The project is bounded by Everglades National Park to the west and south, L-31E Canal to the east and the Model Lands to the north.

Staff from the Everglades Restoration and Capital Projects will manage the construction of the Project. Consulting engineering firms will provide construction management and engineering during construction services. Staff from the Homestead Field Station will be responsible for the maintenance of the project after its completion.

What concerns could this Board item raise?
There have been continuous concerns related to raising water levels in agricultural areas, impacts to the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow habitat and the Operational Plan. These concerns have been addressed with the incorporation of a detailed monitoring plan, as described in the draft C-111 Spreader Canal Western Project Implementation Report (PIR) dated April 2009.

Why should the Governing Board approve this item?
The construction contract for civil works must be pursued in order to partially fulfill the requirements of the Comprehensive Everglades restoration Plan in south Miami Dade County and support the District's Strategic Plan.

Attachments – Resolution, Map
KGA/jaj