

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Chip Merriam, Deputy Executive Director, Water Resources

DATE: January 11, 2008

SUBJECT: San Carlos Estates Water Control District (SCEWCD) Exotic Removal and Restoration

Background: The SCEWCD is located in Bonita Springs between Old US 41 and Interstate 75 at the headwaters of Spring Creek (Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) listed impaired waterbody). The SCEWCD consists of approximately 1,100 acres of land and includes approximately 900 individually owned parcels. A perimeter canal system and network of unpaved roads and swales constructed in the late 1960's provide access and drainage for the SCEWCD.

The roads and drainage system originally built are now insufficient to provide adequate service to the residents of the SCEWCD. The SCEWCD is currently in the process of implementing the Capital Improvement Projects previously permitted by the South Florida Water Management District (District) to restore their level of service. This phase of the Capital Improvement Project includes removal and/or spraying of exotic vegetation, planting native species, and the stabilization and restoration of canal banks to the original design cross sections. This will restore storage capacity resulting in improvements to conveyance capacity and water quality improvement.

How this helps meet the District's 10-Year Strategic Plan: This project is listed in the Draft Lower Charlotte Harbor Surface Water Improvement Plan (SWIM). Part of the 10-Year Strategic Plan is to assist local governments with SWIM projects.

Funding Source: This is a one year cost share agreement for \$255,000 in dedicated funds (state appropriations). The total project cost is estimated to be \$510,000 and the SCEWCD cost share is to be \$255,000.

This Board item impacts what areas of the District, both resource areas and geography: This agreement is administered by the Stormwater Management Division. The improvements will be constructed in the Estero Bay Watershed.

What concerns could this Board item raise? Ongoing legislative funding assistance may be requested to provide further construction support of additional stormwater projects associated with the SCEWCD. The District will continue to work to secure additional legislative funding for the City.

Why should the Governing Board approve this item? Approval will ensure that the SCEWCD will have the funding resources needed for the water quality component of this project.

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