

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Chip Merriam, Deputy Executive Director, Water Resources

DATE: April 17, 2009

SUBJECT: **Approve Environmental Resource Permit Application 070330-6 for the construction and operation of a surface water management system to serve approximately 14 miles (249-acres) of road widening known as State Road 997/Krome Avenue (S.W. 177th Avenue) (Miami-Dade County)**

RECOMMENDATION

Approve Environmental Resource Permit Application 070330-6 for the construction and operation of a surface water management system to serve approximately 14 miles (249-acres) of road widening known as State Road 997/Krome Avenue (S.W. 177th Avenue) located in Miami-Dade County.

BACKGROUND

State Road (S.R.) 997 (S.W. 177th Avenue), also known as Krome Avenue, is a major north-south corridor in western Miami-Dade County. Krome Avenue is predominantly a two-lane undivided roadway located in rural and suburban areas of the county, and it begins at U.S. 1 (Dixie Highway) in southwest Miami-Dade County and extends north to U.S. 27 (Okeechobee Road) in northwest Miami-Dade County. This application addresses the Krome Avenue north corridor improvements that extend from just north of S.W. 8th Street to just south of Okeechobee Road (approximately 14 miles) in Miami-Dade County. The proposed project consists of the widening of the roadway from a two-lane undivided highway to a four-lane divided highway. The proposed surface water management system will consist of roadside swales along the entire length of the roadway which have been designed to provide water quality treatment and attenuation for the 25-year design storm.

In addition, the proposed roadway widening will result in 173 acres of direct impacts and 213.32 acres of secondary impacts to wetlands. The proposed mitigation plan will be implemented pursuant to Chapter 373.4135 F.S., whereby the District will accept funding from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to permit and construct the following projects:

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1) C-110 – Backfilling the existing canal to restore sheetflow to the surrounding area; this work will be supplemental to the previously proposed and funded work to install ditch plugs in the canal. Approximately 47.56 acres of existing canal will be filled.

2) SW 472nd Street - Removal approximately 10.71 acres of existing unpaved roadway and filling of an adjacent canal to restore sheetflow to the surrounding area. 10.71

In combination, District staff estimates that the filling of the C-110 Canal and the removal of SW 472nd will result in restored sheetflow and hydrologic enhancement of approximately 10,375 acres of wetlands in the surrounding areas. This proposed restoration and enhancement work will offset functional losses associated with 173 acres of direct wetland impacts and 213 acres of secondary wetland impacts for the Krome Avenue project.

3) L-31W – In addition to the mitigation projects listed in items (1) and (2) above, the District may have remaining funds for additional filling or plugging work in portions of the L-31W canal to control seepage in the surrounding area. Any work in the L-31W will be accomplished only if funds are available once the other two listed projects are completed and/or funded. Since the other projects will provide more than enough wetland mitigation for the Krome Avenue project, the L-31W project is not necessary to offset the proposed wetland impacts associated with Krome Avenue, but will provide additional ecological benefits if funding is available.

In addition to the projects listed above, the FDOT will purchase 27.94 credits from the Hole-in-the-Donut Mitigation Bank.

The District will enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to use the funding provided by FDOT to complete the projects listed above. The Environmental Resource Permit application (#070330-6) and the proposed Memorandum of Agreement are scheduled for the May 14, 2009 Governing Board meeting.

The proposed roadway widening is not inconsistent with the objectives of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project (CERP).

Staff Contacts: **Robert Brown, Director, Environmental Resource Regulation Department, (561) 682-6283**

Lawrence Gerry, Director, Everglades Restoration Planning Department, (561) 681-2586 Ext. 3701