

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Deena Reppen, Deputy Executive Director, Regulatory and Public Affairs

DATE: February 10, 2011

SUBJECT: Lower Floridan Aquifer Well Construction Contract

BACKGROUND: A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to authorize entering into a 250 day contract with All Webb Enterprises, the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, for the Kissimmee Basin Lower Floridan Aquifer Drilling & Testing – Site B which will result in collection of additional groundwater data to be used in the Central Florida coordination Area Project, in the amount of \$1,475,693, for which ad valorem funding is budgeted; providing an effective date. (Contract Number 4600002366) (Emily Richardson, ext. 6824)

How this helps meet the District's 10-year Strategic Plan: Withdrawals from the Upper Floridan Aquifer in the Central Florida Coordination Area (CFCA) have resulted in impacts to natural systems including springs, lakes, and wetlands. Alternative water supply sources need to be explored via water resource development projects such as this, a responsibility of the water management districts per Ch. 373. F.S. The purpose of this project is to evaluate the Lower Floridan Aquifer as an alternative water supply source to meet the water supply planning objectives of the District as outlined in the SFWMD Strategic Plan.

Funding Source: Ad valorem funding for Fiscal Year 2011 is designated for this contract in the contract amount of \$1,475,693, which is less than the budgeted amount of \$1,750,000.

This Board item impacts what areas of the District, both resource areas and geography: Geographically, this item impacts the entire Kissimmee basin, but particularly the CFCA region. The project is within the Regulatory and Public Affairs resource area with assistance from the Engineering and Construction Management Departments of the Everglades Restoration and Capital Projects Resource Area.

What concerns could this Board item raise? By virtue of the contract amount being greater than \$1 million, this contract will be reviewed by the Governor's Office of Fiscal Accountability and Regulatory Reform.

Why should the Governing Board approve this item?

Availability of water from traditional sources within the Kissimmee Basin has been increasingly constrained by impacts to the environment, requiring development of alternative water sources. The Lower Floridan Aquifer has been identified as one possibility, but the nature of that aquifer, its productivity, water quality and degree of connection to shallower aquifers, is largely unknown within the region. This uncertainty makes development of the Lower Floridan aquifer a high risk alternative for local utilities. The Governing Board recognized this problem, and instructed staff to design a project to address these unknowns. The current item is the first step in that effort.

Staff Contact – Emily Richardson, Lead Hydrogeologist, Resource Evaluation, ext. 6824.

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