

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

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



DATE: November 29, 2010

SUBJECT: Environmental Laboratory Overflow Services (RFP 6000000393)

Background: The objective of these work order contracts is to provide a mechanism for obtaining laboratory services, on an as-needed basis, from multiple contractors. The contracts will replace the existing contracts due to expire in February 2011. The South Florida Water Management District (District) has an in-house analytical laboratory that can perform approximately 200,000 water, sediment and fish tissue analyses per year for inorganic parameters. To supplement the in-house laboratory capacity and capabilities, the District laboratory must procure approximately another 40,000 laboratory tests through contractual services each year, most of which are for matrices (such as soil or plants) and parameters (e.g. organics and ultra trace mercury) that cannot be analyzed by the District laboratory. Approximately 80% of these contracted water samples are sent to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) laboratory and the remaining 20% must be analyzed by private laboratories.

How this helps meet the District's 10-Year Strategic Plan: The services provided under these contracts will contribute toward meeting permit requirements by ensuring that the environmental monitoring and analytical operations conducted by the District produces high quality and scientifically defensible data. Having quality scientific information is instrumental in meeting permit requirements and keeping strategic projects moving forward.

Funding Source: This is a three-year work order contract, subject to successful negotiations with the three firms selected under Request for Proposal 6000000393 for Environmental Laboratory Overflow Services, in an amount not to exceed the total funding of \$950,000 for all three contracts (4600002319 Columbia Analytical Laboratories, 4600002320 Florida Spectrum Environmental Laboratories, Inc. and 4600002321 Jupiter Environmental Laboratories, Inc.) for which \$20,894 in ad valorem funds are budgeted; and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of the FY12-14 budgets.

This Board item impacts what areas of the District, both resource areas and geography: This contract will be managed by staff in the Analytical Services Division of the Restoration Sciences Department and will support projects throughout the entire District.

What concerns could this Board item raise? A potential concern is why almost 17% of laboratory analyses must be outsourced. The District laboratory does not have the capability to analyze all of the parameters required for permitting requirements.

However, through monitoring network optimization and the addition of new capabilities in the District laboratory, the number of tests being sent to outside laboratories in the last few years has been significantly reduced. Also, a recent cost benefit analysis conducted to evaluate the possibility of adding other specialized analytical capabilities to the District laboratory demonstrated that it is more cost effective to continue to contract for these types of analyses.

Why should the Governing Board approve this item? These contracts will supplement Restoration Sciences Department's efforts to provide the high quality and scientifically defensible data needed to facilitate management decision making and keep projects on budget and schedule. Additionally, having an established team of qualified laboratory vendors in place is part of the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) for the Restoration Sciences Department which would supplement, or temporarily replace services of the District laboratory in the event of a natural disaster or other emergency.

KGA/mw
Attachment – Resolution