

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: George L. Horne, Deputy Executive Director, Operations & Maintenance

DATE: August 31, 2009

SUBJECT: 4600001879 - Stormwater Treatment Area Optimization Support

Background: In accordance with the Long Term Plan for Achieving Water Quality Goals (Long-Term Plan), the South Florida Water Management District (District) is required to make scheduled improvements to the Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs), and perform research on optimizing performance of the STAs. The Everglades Agricultural Area Environmental Protection District (EAA EPD) has developed a productive applied research program to address STA optimization, and along with the District, recognizes the ongoing need for optimizing the phosphorus removal performance and enhancing the sustainability of the STAs. This agreement provides for an STA research technical team to be formed by the parties, and for joint funding of research priorities to further the common interests and collaborative intentions of the District and the EAA EPD.

How this helps meet the District's 10-Year Strategic Plan: This effort helps us achieve the goals of the Everglades Program and the Long-Term Plan by working cooperatively with another government agency to perform analyses in the STAs and optimize their performance.

Funding Source: This is a one year cooperative agreement with the EAA EPD, in the amount of \$700,000, of which the District total contribution is \$400,000, for which ad valorem funds (Everglades Trust Fund) are subject to Governing Board approval of the FY10 budget. The EAA EPD will contribute \$300,000 as cost-share.

This Board item impacts what areas of the District, both resource areas and geography: The activities that will result from this agreement potentially include all of the STAs in the Everglades Agricultural Area (STA-1E, STA-1W, STA-2, STA-3/4, STA-5, and STA-6, map attached). The District STA management optimization staff will be involved in the implementation of the terms of this agreement.

What concerns could this Board item raise? Based on the continued success of the cooperative agreement, this agreement may be renewed annually. This item implies that the District will continue to fund this item annually, beyond the FY10 funding commitment.

Why should the Governing Board approve this item? This item emphasizes the collaborative relationship between the District and the EAA EPD in jointly funding and prioritizing essential research activities in the STAs that will help optimize performance to reduce phosphorus discharged to the Everglades Protection Area. The agreement will promote improved communications among the STA technical research community in establishing a solid direction for STA optimization. The enhanced communications and partnering that have been improving between the parties may be adversely affected if this item is not approved.

GLH/di
Attachment – Map

Map of Everglades Agricultural Area Environmental Protection District
Including the Stormwater Treatment Areas (in orange)

