

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Chip Merriam, Deputy Executive Director, Water Resources
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DATE: April 15, 2008

SUBJECT: Authorize entering into a (4) month Local Governmental Agreement with Highlands Soil and Water Conservation District to oversee the completion of an Agricultural Stormwater Management system on B4 and Butler Oaks, Inc. property in the amount of \$5,000,000, of which the District's total contribution is \$175,000 for which ad valorem funds are budgeted; providing an effective date (Contract Number 4600001397)

Background: The Lake Okeechobee Protection Program's Coordinating Agencies, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumers Services (FDACS), and the South Florida Water Management District (District) consider the Agricultural Stormwater Management System (ASWMS) to be the most effective Best Management Practice (BMP) to address residual/historical soil phosphorus loading on a dairy, large vegetable, and sod operations. The FDACS is providing cost share funds to facilitate the design and implementation of ASWMS at the B-4 and Butler Oaks, Inc. properties through Highlands Soil and Water Conservation District (HSWCD). In addition the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Landowners are also contributing funds for the project.

How this helps meet the District's 10-year Strategic Plan: This project helps meet the goals of the Lake Okeechobee Protection Plan and the Northern Everglades Estuary initiative.

Funding Source: The District is contributing \$175,000 of ad valorem funds toward this \$5 million project. The HSWCD will retain 5% of the District's \$175,000 cost-share for managing this project.

This Board item impacts what areas of the District, both resource areas and geography?
Kissimmee River and the Northern Everglades and Estuary Protection Area

What concern could this Board item raise? There may be a concern in utilizing HSWCD to manage the completion of this project. However the HSWCD is currently managing the FDACS funding for this project and this approach will be more efficient and reduce duplication of efforts.

Why should the Governing Board approve this item?

The District, as part of the Interagency Group and in accordance with the Coordinating Agencies Memorandum of Understanding (C-13422-A01), will contribute and mutually support the completion of the ASWMS at the B-4 and Butler Oaks, Inc. properties with funds designated for cooperative FDACS water quality improvement projects.

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