

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Governing Board Members

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

**DATE:** November 2, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Implementation of Agricultural/Stormwater Best Management Practices in the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Area – Contract Number 4600001935

**Background:** The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), in conjunction and consultation with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the South Florida Water Management District (District), is charged with implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs) on agricultural lands within the boundaries described in the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Act (NEEPA), Chapter 373.4595, F.S. This project consists of multiple sub-projects that are designed to improve agricultural water quality and to detain and/or reuse surface water on agricultural lands within the hydrological boundaries of the basins covered in NEEPA. These goals will be met through the installation and/or rehabilitation of structures for water control, the construction of berms or dikes for surface water retention, the installation of pumping equipment to enable the reuse of captured surface water, where applicable, and implementation of edge-of-field Best Available Technologies (BATs), where appropriate.

**How this helps meet the District's 10-Year Strategic Plan:** This project supports the Governing Board's strategic priority to reduce phosphorus loads to Lake Okeechobee and St Lucie River, to meet state mandates and TMDLs.

**Funding Source:** This is a new contract for implementing existing regulations and voluntary agricultural and non-agricultural BMPs, development and implementation of improved BMPs, improvement and restoration of hydrologic function of natural and managed systems, and utilization of alternative technologies for nutrient reduction, in the amount of \$3M, for which dedicated funds - Save Our Everglades Trust Fund (SOETF) - are budgeted and will be advanced to FDACS prior to SOETF reimbursement.

**This Board item impacts what areas of the District, both resource areas and geography:** The areas of impact are the northern Lake Okeechobee and St. Lucie watersheds. District resources for this project include staff from the Restoration Sciences and Policy and Coordination Departments.

**What concerns could this Board item raise?** Successful completion of the project is contingent upon continued collaboration between the District and FDACS.

**Why should the Governing Board approve this item?** The successful implementation of the projects selected for this effort will improve agricultural water quality through detaining and/or reusing surface water from agricultural lands, and possibly implement chemical injection systems at selected edge-of-field BATs sites within the hydrological boundaries of the basins covered in NEEPA.

KGA/dm  
Attachment – Resolution, Location Map