

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Chip Merriam, Deputy Executive Director, Water Resources

DATE: October 1, 2007

SUBJECT: Release of Funds from the Water Protection and Sustainability Trust Fund

Background: The 2005 Legislature, through Senate Bill 444, created §403.890, Florida Statutes, making provisions for the distribution of funds deposited or appropriated into the Water Protection and Sustainability Trust Fund, which shall be administered by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). In accordance with §403.890(1)(c), F.S., the District shall receive funding for projects pursuant to §373.45-373.459 F.S. or surface water restoration activities in water-management-district-designated priority water bodies.

The District prepared the attached list of projects to be completed with this funding, pursuant to §373.45-373.459 F.S. or surface water restoration activities in water-management-district-designated priority water bodies, which shall be submitted to FDEP upon Governing Board approval of the resolution.

How this helps meet the District's 10-Year Strategic Plan: The acceptance of funds pursuant to the provisions in §403.890(1)(c), F.S. meets the District's 10-Year Strategic Plan to restore watersheds and estuaries through local initiatives.

Funding Source: For fiscal year 2007-2008, the District budgeted \$3,500,000 for projects pursuant to §373.45-373.459 F.S. or surface water restoration activities in water-management-district-designated priority water bodies. This funding is subject to a minimum 50-50 cost-match of cash or in-kind services by the District and/or third parties, and is subject to the requirements of §215.97, Florida Statutes (the "Florida Single Audit Act"). The Florida Department of Environmental Protection shall release funds to the District on a reimbursement basis.

This Board item impacts what areas of the District, both resource areas and geography: District areas impacted include the Watershed Management Department and the Martin/St. Lucie, Miami-Dade, Florida Keys, and Lower West Coast Service Centers. Geographic areas impacted include the District coastal areas.

What concerns could this Board item raise? This funding is subject to a minimum 50-50 cost-match of cash or in-kind services by the District and/or third parties. At this time, the District has identified matching in excess of this requirement with contributions from local governments and District ad valorem funding.

Why should the Governing Board approve this item? Approval of this item will provide needed funding for projects pursuant to §373.45-373.459 F.S. or surface water restoration activities in water-management-district-designated priority water bodies.

CM/ss

Attachment – Resolution, Projects List