

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members
FROM: Ernie Barnett, Director, Policy and Legislation
DATE: October 19, 2007
SUBJECT: Community Based Issue Requests

Background

Annually, the South Florida Water Management District works with local governments to establish partnerships in projects that help improve water quality. A vehicle that is used to secure funding for these partnerships is a legislative tool, Community Based Issue Requests, commonly known as CBIRs. Each project identified must be a project that helps improve water quality in a watershed and must be financially matched by the local government with whom the South Florida Water Management District has partnered. Each of these projects must be heard in a "public hearing" and this item, on the Governing Board agenda serves two purposes; it provides an opportunity for approval to seek these funds from the Governing Board and satisfies that "public hearing" component of the process.

How this helps meet the District's 10-year Strategic Plan:

These projects help meet the goals of the Coastal Watershed program by constructing capitol projects that improve water quality.

Funding Source: Any funding that is appropriated from the legislature is provided to the South Florida Water Management District via the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and contracts are entered into between the South Florida Water Management District and the local government. Community Based Issue Requests are a revenue stream for projects.

This Board item impacts what areas of the District, both resource areas and geography:

For the 2008 Florida Legislative Session, eleven projects have been identified. Projects will be in the Northern Everglades, Big Cypress Basin, Broward County, the Florida Keys, the Indian River Lagoon, Lower Charlotte Harbor, Naples Bay and the C-139 basin.

What concerns could this Board item raise?

It is possible that local governments who do not have a current Community Based Issue Request could raise their concern to Governing Board Members. Service Center staff has worked very closely with their communities to avoid a circumstance as someone feeling excluded. Also, with local governments facing challenges in their own revenues, matching funds could be a concern but again, Service Center staff has worked very closely to ensure that local governments in our partnership have the financial wherewithal to complete their obligation.

Why should the Governing Board approve this item?

This item should be approved to continue the strong relationships we have with our local governments to improve water quality.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at ext. 2110

ELB/gw