

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Governing Board Members

**FROM:** Terrie Bates, Assistant Deputy Executive Director, Water Resources Management

**DATE:** August 13, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Concurrence with the Granting of Temporary Variances from Water Shortage Restrictions Imposed within the entire South Florida Water Management District.

**Background:** On September 11, 2008, Order No. 2008-420-DAO-WS became effective, imposing modified Phase II Severe Water Shortage Restrictions for all use classes withdrawing water from the surface waters and groundwater within the South Florida Water Management District. Pursuant to provisions contained in the Order and within District Rule 40E-21.275, F.A.C., variances from specified water restrictions can be issued based on good cause. Applicants that have demonstrated that the conditions for issuance of a variance have been met may be issued a temporary variance by the Executive Director or her designee. Pursuant to District rules, all such temporary variances must be acted upon by the Governing Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting. The list of temporary variances granted along with staff recommendations is attached.

**How this helps meet the District's 10-year Strategic Plan:** Variances ensure continuing consistency in water use and support the rules to protect water resources and maximize efficient use of water during these extreme hydrologic conditions. The variances still require users to adhere to the water shortage restrictions.

**Funding Source:** There is no funding source associated with this item.

**This item impacts what area of the District, both resource area and geography:** The entire sixteen counties of the South Florida Water Management District.

**What concerns could this Board item raise?** Economic impacts associated with the water restrictions. Environmental and recreational impacts associated with low levels within surface water features of the area

**Why should the Governing Board approve this item?** This item will allow flexibility to assist water users with site-specific constraints to comply with the water shortage cut-backs.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at ext. 6952.

TB/pk