

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Chip Merriam, Deputy Executive Director, Water Resources

DATE: June 13, 2007

SUBJECT: Governing Board approval of "Amendment to Interim Consumptive Use Authorization and Agreement" between the South Florida Water Management District and Miami-Dade County.

Recommendation

Staff recommends the Governing Board approve the "Amendment to Interim Consumptive Use Authorization and Agreement" between the South Florida Water Management District and Miami-Dade County subject to action by the Miami-Dade County Commission to allow an expedited process to hire a consultant to design the reverse osmosis project.

Background

The District and Miami-Dade County entered into an Interim Consumptive Use Authorization and Agreement on May 10, 2006. The agreement allows Miami-Dade to continue its consumptive use of approximately 348 million gallons per day (MGD) for up to 18 months from the effective date of the agreement. During the 18 month term of the agreement Miami-Dade is required to meet certain deadlines to show good faith progress toward developing alternative water sources in the short term and to develop a long-term Alternative Water Supply Plan and submit a consumptive use permit application consistent with that long-term plan. Since the time the agreement was originally executed last May, several developments have occurred that warrant changes to the agreement. First, as for the short-term actions, the agreement required that Miami-Dade would, by May 2007 complete 90% design of a reverse osmosis facility to treat water from the Floridan Aquifer. Miami-Dade has now changed the location of the reverse osmosis facility from South Miami Heights to Hialeah. This change came about when the County decided to pursue a reclaimed water groundwater recharge at the South Miami Heights facility, thereby prompting the move of the RO facility to Hialeah. Second, after further discussions regarding a pilot project to provide highly treated reclaimed water for rehydration of Biscayne Bay Coastal wetlands, it was determined that although this is a worthy restoration project, it is not necessary to be included in the agreement to address consumptive use issues for the County.

The proposed amendment to the agreement:

1. Imposes a new schedule for design and construction of a reverse osmosis facility such that design would be completed by November, 2008 and

construction would be completed by July, 2011.

2. Removes the requirement for a coastal wetlands rehydration pilot project.
3. All other requirements of the original agreement would remain in effect including the requirement for the County to submit a consumptive use permit application including a long term alternative water supply plan acceptable to the District by November, 2007.

How this helps meet the District's Mission: Approving this Amendment sets the course for Miami-Dade to construct Alternative Water Supply facilities to meet their future demands.

Funding Source: There is no funding need associated with this Amendment.

This item impacts what area of the District, both resource area and geography: The Water Supply Department is responsible for administering this Agreement which affects water supplies for Miami-Dade County.

What concerns could this Board item raise? The original agreement contemplated completion of a reverse osmosis facility at a different location sooner than the amended schedule. However, the new proposal contemplates both a reverse osmosis facility at Hialeah and a reclaimed water groundwater recharge project in South Miami.

Why should the Governing Board approve this item? Approval of this item will establish a schedule and deadlines for construction of a reverse osmosis facility to supply water to meet the future needs of Miami-Dade County.

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