

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Governing Board Members

**FROM:** Tommy B. Strowd, P.E., Director  
Operations, Maintenance and Construction Division

**DATE:** November 15, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Authorization of the official ranking of short-listed firms and entering into a three (3) year work order contract, with two (2) one-year renewal options, subject to successful negotiations with Helicopter Applicators, Inc., one of two firms selected for Vegetation Management Aerial Application Services, in an amount not-to-exceed the total funding of \$15,000,000 available for both contracts (4600002768 and 4600002769); of which ad valorem and non-ad valorem funds in the combined amount of \$3,000,000 which was approved by the Governing Board for FY13 Budget and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of the FY14 - FY17 budgets; providing an effective date.

### **Background:**

This contract is for aerial application services to target exotic plant infestations, which threaten both the operation and maintenance of the C&SF project and the stability of the natural ecosystems of South Florida. The objectives of this award are to: 1) support the District's effort of maintaining flood control project facilities in accordance with established standards, 2) eliminate melaleuca and other invasive exotic plant species from natural areas within District boundaries, and 3) support vegetation management activities in the STAs. Plant species with the highest potential for impacting these lands are best controlled through an integrated management approach using chemical, biological, and physical methods. However, the primary method of control is the application of herbicides using ground or aerial application equipment. This contract requires application of different herbicides to various types of aquatic, wetland and upland vegetation using aerial application equipment and associated support vehicles, in accordance with District project management directions. Following negotiations, the District intends to issue a 3-year work order contract with 2 one year renewal options to Helicopter Applicators, Inc. The District has used these services over the past 20 years to control melaleuca, aquatic and other exotic plants District-wide. These services have also supported projects funded by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the USACE.

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

Vegetation management is required to maintain efficient operation of the C&SF project, environmental integrity of District-managed conservation lands and waters, and maximum performance capability of the STAs and additional CERP projects. District project sites include the canals, levees and rights-of-way; and natural areas including,

**How this helps meet the District's 10-year Strategic Plan: (Continued)**

the Everglades Water Conservation Areas and surrounding buffer lands, Lake Okeechobee, the Kissimmee River and Chain of Lakes, and other Conservation properties.

**Funding Source:**

Funding historically has come from many dedicated fund sources, including State and Federal funds (Water Management Land Trust Fund, Invasive Plant Management Trust Fund, Wetland Mitigation, and Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan Fund). Some ad valorem funding will be used over the 5-year period. Total spending authority is \$15M for the 5 year contract, is subject to Governing Board approval of the FY14 - FY17 budgets.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission provide matching funds to the District melaleuca program, under a cooperative agreement 4600002523. The District is also, reimbursed for aquatic plant treatments in sovereign waters of the State, under agreement 46000002640.

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

This contract is managed by the Vegetation Management Section and provides vegetation management services District-wide. All District Sections and Field Stations requesting such services can utilize this agreement.

**What concerns could this Board item raise?**

This Request for Proposal (RFP) followed standard procurement procedures.

**Why should the Governing Board approve this item?**

On-going programs to mitigate the threat from invasive species require aerial application services in order to be effective & cost efficient. Vegetation management has been identified as a critical element for several programs at the District. Aerial application services are integral to successful vegetation management. To help maintain consistency through this outsourcing initiative, we are requesting that this work order contract be for a 3-year term with 2 one year renewal options. Without this contract, vegetation management activities at the District cannot proceed.

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