

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Governing Board Members

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

**DATE:** September 13, 2012

**SUBJECT: 4600002335 - Orlando USGS Cooperative Agreement for Hydrologic Monitoring (Groundwater and Surface Water) between the District and the U.S. Geological Survey**

**Background:** This Cooperative Agreement between the District and the USGS has been supported since 1946. It has allowed the District to count on groundwater and surface water monitoring support from the USGS. These data support various District programs related to ecosystems restoration, water supply and baseline monitoring. Continuing this agreement will insure continuity of the monitoring work that the USGS has partially funded for the sites listed in the statement of work of the agreement. Continuation of this agreement from October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013 is requested. The monitoring work includes the collection of monthly and continuous data from approximately 13 surface water stations, 6 evapo-transpiration stations and ground-water level data from 26 groundwater stations. Data will be archived in the USGS's national database, and then transferred to the District via direct computer link on a monthly or as-needed basis.

**How this helps meet the District's 10 Year Strategic Plan:** Priorities outlined in the District's Strategic Plan include preserving and protecting South Florida's ecosystem while providing for other water-related needs of the region, including water quality, water supply and flood protection. The monitoring support provided by USGS assists the District's efforts at assessing water resources available, changes in flow trends due to structural changes in the system and their impact on water quality issues. The data is particularly useful in the assessment of environmental compliance of waters being discharged into Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades Protection Area with state quality standards.

**Funding Source:** This is a one-year cooperative agreement using ad valorem funds in the amount of \$256,399. This represents a decrease of \$13,069 from 2012 budget.

**This Board item impacts what areas of the District, both resource areas and geography:** This item applies to groundwater and surface water monitoring throughout the District. The main impact areas include Lake Okeechobee, Water Conservation Areas, and Everglades Protection Area.

**What concerns could this Board item raise?** The amount of monitoring being performed or contracted by the District is a possible concern. However, optimization of the monitoring network under this agreement is on-going and has resulted in decreased monitoring since 2009.

**Why should the Governing Board approve this item?** The hydrologic data collected under this agreement are critical for the success of key components of the District mission including regulatory compliance, water supply, flood control, Everglades restoration and environmental protection. Furthermore, implementation of this cooperative agreement is the most efficient way for supplementing the District's internal monitoring efforts.