

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Ernie Barnett, Director, Office of Policy & Legislation

DATE: December 11, 2006

SUBJECT: Amendment to Increase Reimbursement from NRCS for North Fork New River Bank Stabilization (Contract Number 4600000371-A01)

Background: In early 2006, South Florida Water Management District commissioned a study of the bank stabilization options for the North Fork of the New River (NFNR) in unincorporated Fort Lauderdale in Broward County. The primary objectives of this study were to conduct an independent scientific and engineering review of the existing conditions in the NFNR and prepare a stakeholder coordinated response to the erosion problems being encountered and improve water quality within an environmentally friendly and sustainable framework. An examination of a number of “hard” and “soft” options was done, with consideration of the options technical viability and eligibility of access to public funds. There is a total of 15,200 feet of embankment within the project area for which it was determined over 2,000 feet has erosion problems of significance. This reimbursement agreement with Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS) will provide funding for the completion of the First Phase (between Sistrunk Blvd. and 27th Ave.) of the bank stabilization of the North Fork of New River.

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

This project is a partnership with NRCS that will support the goals of the Coastal Watershed program and the District’s Mission by enhancing and improving the water management of a coastal ecosystem and providing water quality and flood protection.

Funding Source: This is an amendment to increase the reimbursement contract with NRCS by \$300,000, to a total of \$2,000,000 with 75% (\$1,500,000) eligible to be reimbursed to the District by NRCS, and authorize a budget transfer in the amount of \$75,000 from Managerial Reserves to the Broward Service Center to bring the District’s total ad valorem contribution for NFNR to \$500,000.

This Board item impacts what areas of the District, both resource areas and geography: The project benefits the Coastal Watershed Program, the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) program and Operations within Broward County. The project will be managed by the Broward Service Center staff with support from the Fort Lauderdale Field Station staff.

What concerns could this Board item raise? Additional funding might be required for subsequent phases of this project. The Broward Service Center staff is currently working with the local community and the Legal Department to obtain the necessary permits and additional funding with NRCS for Phase 2 of this project (between 27th Ave. and 31st Ave.) in Broward County.

Why should the Governing Board approve this item? Approval of this amendment contributes to the accomplishment of the goals of the Coastal Watershed Program by sharing costs with NRCS and fosters continued partnership with the Broward County to achieve mutual objectives related to bank stabilization to prevent the loss of property in future storm events. This project also improves the water quality at the North Fork of New River under the TMDL program.

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

EB/jl