

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Chip Merriam, Deputy Executive Director, Water Resources

DATE: January 11, 2007

SUBJECT: **Approval of a Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District objecting to a proposed Comprehensive Plan amendment requested by City of Weston.**

Background: The City of Weston has proposed an amendment to its Comprehensive Plan that would allow the City to reconsider its commitment to vacate road right-of-ways within the District's C-11 Impoundment Project. The District has already invested \$147 million to acquire the 1,850-acre site and design this Acceler8 Project based on the City's past assurances to support the vacation of the right-of-way. The Comprehensive Plan amendment is also in conflict with Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) #06-03067-P issued to the City. The District is requesting the City to withdraw the proposed amendment and vacate the road right-of-ways within the C-11 Impoundment Project boundary in compliance with the permit condition included in ERP Permit #06-03067-P. Failure to vacate the right-of-ways would cause delays and additional costs to the C-11 Improvement Project, and limit the project's effectiveness in achieving the goals of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP).

How this helps meet the District's Mission: This item is critical to achieving the Governing Board's CERP strategic priority: "Expedite construction and operations of Everglades restoration projects through Acceler8."

Funding Source: There are no funding requirements for this resolution.

This item impacts what area of the District, both resource area and geography: The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan program and the Water Supply Program; the area includes the Everglades (Water Conservation Area 3) and the western C-11 Basin in Broward County.

What concerns could this Board item raise? The support of other agencies and local governments for Acceler8 implementation may erode over time.

Why should the Governing Board approve this item? By formally objecting to the City's Comprehensive Plan amendment, the District preserves its point of entry in the state administrative process. This action also will officially notify the City of Weston of the significant negative impact the proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment may have on Everglades restoration.