

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Governing Board Members

**FROM:** George L. Horne, Deputy Executive Director, Operations & Maintenance

**DATE:** March 01, 2010

**SUBJECT: 4600002034 - Operations Decision Support System (ODSS) – Operations Control Subject Matter Expert**

**Background:** The scope of the Operations Decision Support System (ODSS) project is the development and delivery of an ODSS application solution that meets defined South Florida Water Management District (District) business requirements. ODSS will be comprised of hardware, software, and services to be delivered as the result of a structure system development life cycle process.

ODSS will be a new component of the overall Water Management System (WMS) that is used to provide real-time and historical hydro-meteorological data and decision support tools to the District's Operational Control Center as well as centrally accessible data for the District's various departments, cooperating agencies, and the public.

A critical aspect of the ODSS project is having access to Operations Control subject matter expertise to ensure that the operational and business rule knowledge used by District Water Managers to manage the surface water network is captured and incorporated correctly into the ODSS. ODSS will be a vital component of the Operations Control infrastructure that assists Water Managers in making water management system decisions. The availability of water management expertise for the extent of the District's area of responsibility is key to the successful delivery of the ODSS.

As Water Managers play a vital role in the ongoing management of the District's surface water network, the Operations Control SME will also provide additional support to Operations Control personnel to help ensure that ongoing Operations Control priorities and ODSS project commitments can be met. The Operations Control SME will provide an expert knowledge source to the ODSS team and will free up a portion of the water managers time for their primary responsibility of real time operations.

**How this helps meet the District's 10-year Strategic Plan:** ODSS is part of the Water Management System element of the Operations & Maintenance Program and supports the District's 10-year strategic plan goal of optimally operating the primary flood control and water supply system.

**Funding Source:** A not to exceed amount of \$264,000, of which \$72,000 is budgeted using ad valorem funds within the Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Operations Control and Hydro Data Management Department. The remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of the FY11-FY13 budgets.

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

This item impacts O&M Resource Area and Information Technology Department resources in Palm Beach County. The project's deliverables will have a District-wide impact on the WMS.

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

This Waiver of Competition is an exception to the District's general standards of competition.

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

The growing complexity of the District's Water Management System (WMS) requires decision support automation to protect people, property, and natural systems; and to sustain the growth of the water management infrastructure. The ODSS project was engaged to address this complexity and support District water managers in their decision making processes.

This waiver of competition request will ensure public confidence that a technically qualified Subject Matter Expert with a deep understanding of District surface water network characteristics and business processes is participating in one of the most critical and technically challenging projects the District has embarked on.

GLH/lf