

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

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

DATE: February 01, 2010

SUBJECT: CN040435 / 3600000369 - Phase 2 Installation of Manatee Protection Systems – Project Cooperation Agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Background: In 1993 the Governing Board issued a mandate of zero mortality for the endangered Florida Manatee at District control structures. This action supported the District's efforts to comply with the Federal Endangered Species Act. A task force was established to determine the best means for protection of manatee at water control structures. From this task force, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and District entered into two Project Cooperation Agreements. The first (Phase 1) was executed on January 5, 2000. This was for installation of manatee sensors at twenty water control structures. This system uses pressure sensors and has been completed. The second (Phase 2) agreement includes manatee protection for six navigational locks. This agreement was executed on January 13, 2005 and is in progress. Under the Phase 2 agreement, a new system for protection had to be developed because the sector gates work in pairs and the pressure system does not work as in gated water control structures. The technology for sector gates is based on acoustic (sonar) applications. The Phase 2 agreement installations are the first to use the new technology in the manatee protection system.

Installation of the manatee protection system is necessary for the District to comply with the Federal Endangered Species Act. The new acoustic technology needed for the navigational lock sector gates has required more work effort and have had higher equipment costs than the conceptual estimate in 2003. Some of the new technology includes acoustic beams, and electronic boards networked to a computer, display screens in the control house, and data loggers. The work under the Phase 2 agreement does not have an end date since warranty work, documentation, and training are continuing.

How this helps meet the District's 10-Year Strategic Plan: Installation of the manatee protection system is necessary to comply with the Federal Endangered Species Act.

Funding Source: Funding is from savings in the FY10 Operation & Maintenance's Capital Program, specifically from 402 funds and CA04 program. Additional funds of \$500,000 will be expended in FY10.

This Board item impacts what areas of the District, both resource areas and geography: The identified projects under the Agreement are located around Lake Okeechobee within the service area of the Okeechobee Field Station.

What concerns could this Board item raise? The identified project supports compliance with the Federal Endangered Species Act. Any changes to the Project Cooperation Agreement may delay installation of the remaining manatee protection systems.

Why should the Governing Board approve this item? This project will allow the District to comply with the Federal Endangered Species Act by protecting the endangered Florida Manatee at District control structures and navigational locks.

GLH/kmc