

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Deena Reppen, Deputy Executive Director, Regulatory and Public Affairs

DATE: May 13, 2010

SUBJECT: City of Port St. Lucie, Howard Creek Stormwater Quality Retrofit
Contract No. 4600002098

Background: The Howard Creek Stormwater Quality Retrofit is funded through the St. Lucie River Issues Team Initiative; a 50-50% cost-share program matching budgeted State Appropriations with local government funds; with no cost to the District. The Issues Team consists of local stakeholders that prioritize and recommend turn-dirt water resource improvement projects to the state legislature for funding.

The City proposes to construct a stormwater treatment area as part of a \$36M Eastern Watershed Improvement Project (EWIP) to provide water quality treatment and improve flood protection in the Howard Creek Drainage Basin. These improvements will enhance flood protection and water quality in the 1,200-acre Howard Creek Drainage Basin of the Howard Creek Tributary providing 18 acre-feet of detention prior to discharge into the North Fork of the St. Lucie River. The project is consistent with the goals of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, Indian River Lagoon South Plan and the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program.

How this helps meet the District's 10-year Strategic Plan: This project supports the District's 10-Year Strategic Plan's Coastal Watersheds Program goal to restore coastal watersheds and estuaries through local initiatives and partnerships.

Funding Source: This is a 1-year, cost-share agreement with the City of Port St. Lucie. The total cost of the project is \$2,000,000, of which the District's contribution is \$964,884 in State Appropriations. Funds for this project are currently encumbered under another contract that is unable to move forward. These funds will be transferred to the Howard Creek Project following expiration of the contract on March 19, 2010.

This Board item impacts what areas of the District, both resource areas and geography: The project is located just west of U.S. Hwy 1, south of Port St. Lucie Boulevard and North of Westmoreland Boulevard adjacent to the Howard Creek Tributary, which discharges into the North Fork of the St. Lucie River within the City of Port St. Lucie. The contract will be administered by the Martin/St. Lucie Service Center.

What concerns could this Board item raise? The City may request future state appropriations to implement additional phases of this project.

Why should the Governing Board approve this item? The project leverages state appropriations with local funds to implement this turn-dirt water resource project that directly benefits the St. Lucie River and Indian River Lagoon with no cost to the District. This project is supported by the St. Lucie River Issues Team and the Florida Legislature.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at ext. 6016.

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