

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Kenneth G. Ammon, P.E., Deputy Executive Director, Everglades Restoration Resource Area

DATE: May 22, 2008

SUBJECT: North River Shores Vacuum Sewer System – Contract 4600001416

Background: This project entails construction of a vacuum-assisted gravity sewer system and associated pumping facility to provide sanitary sewer service to approximately 450 single-family and multi-family parcels of land in the North River Shores area of Martin County, Florida. The project includes construction of the underground collection system throughout the project area and a vacuum sewage collection and pumping facility to be located on an easement being granted by the neighboring First Presbyterian Church.

How this helps meet the District's 10-Year Strategic Plan:

Initiation of the St. Lucie River Watershed Protection Plan, to which this project pertains, is listed as a milestone in the 2008 Annual Work Plan which links to the 10-Year Strategic Plan.

Funding Source: This is a two-year contract with the Martin County Board of County Commissioners for the North River Shores Vacuum Sewer System in an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000, which is subject to Governing Board approval of the FY09-FY10 budgets.

This project is being cost-shared as part of the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program and will be included in the St. Lucie River Watershed Protection Plan. This project is one of several that relates to FY08 Specific Appropriation 1741, which provides \$5 million in state funds for implementation of St. Lucie River watershed projects identified for the purposes of improving hydrology, water quality, and aquatic habitats. The state's appropriation will be equally matched by the South Florida Water Management District and Martin County by providing funding or credits toward these projects.

This Board item impacts what areas of the District, both resource areas and geography: Staff from the Northern Everglades Restoration Division of the Everglades Restoration Resource Area will manage the contract. North River Shores is a residential community located in the central Stuart area, east of U.S. 1 in Martin County.

What concerns could this Board item raise?

Questions may be asked regarding the potential future funding of this State and County Partnership effort. This project is one of several that relates to FY08 Specific Appropriation 1741, which provides \$5 million in state funds for implementation of St. Lucie River watershed projects in 2008/2009. The amount of additional funding for future years (if any) has not been determined at this time. The SFWMD will continue to work with the State of Florida and Martin County under the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program to maximize the potential for future funding of these local government partnerships.

There also may be questions regarding how these smaller projects affect the status and funding of the larger restoration projects planned for this area such as the C-44 Reservoir/STA and other components of the CERP Indian River Lagoon South Project. The SFWMD is working closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on implementing the projects identified in this CERP Plan. The smaller local stormwater projects will complement and enhance the environmental benefits expected from the CERP components. The State funds received for the local projects should not significantly impact the ability to obtain the Federal and State funding needed for the larger CERP projects.

Why should the Governing Board approve this item?

The project will enhance water quality in the North Fork of the St. Lucie River by eliminating nutrient loading from septic systems. In addition, it will route this wastewater to the North Wastewater Treatment Plant where it will be converted to irrigation-quality water for reuse.

Attachments – Resolution, Map
KGA/mpv