

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

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

DATE: May 22, 2008

SUBJECT: Old Palm City Phase 3 Stormwater Quality Improvement Project – Contract 4600001419

Background: The Old Palm City Phase 3 Stormwater Quality Improvement Project (Project) entails development of a neighborhood stormwater quality management system in Old Palm City, Martin County, Florida. The Project includes land acquisition and construction of two (2) Stormwater Treatment Areas (East STA and West STA) that will serve approximately 106 acres of residential land that was first platted in the 1920s. This contract is for the land acquisition portion of the Project, totaling approximately 8.7 acres.

The County currently owns three of the 50.5 vacant lots required; therefore the remaining 47.5 lots need to be acquired. The appraised value for these remaining lots total approximately \$2,070,000. The County is requesting \$1,200,000 from the State of Florida and South Florida Water Management District to be used for the purchase of these lands under the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program. The balance of the land costs will be funded through Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds to be obtained by Martin County (Phase 1 - \$198, 274; Phase 2 (pending) - \$1,317,375).

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 one-year contract with the Martin County Board of County Commissioners for the land acquisition portion of the Old Palm City Phase 3 Stormwater Quality Improvement Project in an amount not to exceed \$1,200,000 for which dedicated funds (Save Our Everglades Trust Fund) are budgeted.

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: The land for this Project is located in Palm City, Martin County. Staff from the Northern Everglades Restoration Division of the Everglades Restoration Resource Area will manage the contract.

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?

This contract with Martin County should be approved to provide water quality benefits to the St. Lucie Watershed, reduce sediment and nutrient loading to the St. Lucie River and Estuary, and increase basin storage and treatment.

Attachments – Resolution, Map
KGA/mpv