

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members
FROM: Chip Merriam, Deputy Executive Director, Water Resources
DATE: August 4, 2008
SUBJECT: Amendment to Contract 4600000525 with University of Florida for Geomorphic Monitoring of Kissimmee River Restoration

Background: In 1992, the Kissimmee River Restoration Project (KRRP) was initiated to restore flow into the old channel system. Stability and sedimentation monitoring are presented in the Integrated Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Statement (IFR/EIS) as integral programs in the KRRP monitoring plan. The IFR/EIS recognizes that assessing the long-term stability of the physical river system is vital in determining the sustainability of the restored biological communities which inhabit it. The IFR/EIS also recognizes the need for overall monitoring of the project area so that any mass transport to Lake Okeechobee can be detected. A comprehensive monitoring program to monitor the changes in sediment transport, streamflow, channel slope, channel morphology, and planform geomorphic features of sinuosity, meander wavelength, belt width, and radius of curvature is needed to ensure success of the Restoration.

In 2007, the District entered into a contract with the University of Florida for a three-year study with yearly renewal options pursuant to requirements of the IFR/EIS for sedimentation and stability (geomorphic) monitoring of the restored Kissimmee River. The purpose of the 3-year pilot study is to assess appropriate and cost-effective methodologies and protocols for long-term geomorphic monitoring of the river system as part of the overall Kissimmee River Restoration Evaluation Program due to be completed by 2017.

How this helps meet the District's 10-Year Strategic Plan: Baseline, initial response and post-restoration evaluation studies, which include geomorphic monitoring, are identified as part of the strategies for achieving the goal of restoring the Kissimmee River.

Funding Source: This amendment exercises the second of two one-year renewal options in contract 4600000525 with the University of Florida, thereby extending the term of the contract from September 30, 2008, to September 30, 2009, and increasing funding in the amount of \$54,000, for which ad valorem funds are subject to Governing Board approval of the FY09 budget. The revised contract total after this amendment would be \$161,000 and is cost-matched by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on a 50% cost-reimbursement basis as part of the Kissimmee River Restoration Program.

This Board item impacts what areas of the District, both resource areas and geography: The study area includes a total of five unrestored (for baseline and control purposes) and restored runs of the Kissimmee River within the Lower Kissimmee Basin.

What concerns could this Board item raise? As with the biological components of the Kissimmee River Restoration Evaluation Program (KRREP), geomorphic evaluation is expected to be completed by 2017. Long-term geomorphic monitoring under the KRREP beyond the three-year study is expected.

Why should the Governing Board approve this item? Approval of this item will ensure operational continuity of the two years of work already performed by University of Florida. This work is necessary to comply with the requirements of the IFR/EIS for geomorphic (sedimentation and stability) monitoring of the restored Kissimmee River. Non-approval of this item would result in delays and logistical complications in completing the three-year geomorphic monitoring pilot study.

CM/jv

Attachment – Study Area Map