

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

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

DATE: November 05, 2007

SUBJECT: **3600000786-A06- Miami River Commission Operational and Non-Recurring Project Support**

Background: The Miami River Commission (MRC) was formed by the Florida Legislature in 1998 as the official clearinghouse for all public policy and projects related to the Miami River. Its mission is to help ensure that government agencies, businesses and residents speak with one voice on river issues. The law directs the MRC to develop coordinated plans, priorities, programs, projects, and budgets that will substantially improve the river area; and act as the principle advocate and watchdog to ensure that river projects are funded and implemented in a proper and timely manner. Furthermore, the enabling legislation established that the Chair of the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board or their designee serve as the District's representative on the MRC Board. The MRC's Strategic Plan is the blueprint for the future development of the River and directs the MRC functions to include Governance issues, Planning and Zoning recommendations, Greenway Development, Encourage Investment in the River, Dredging Assistance, Enhancement of the River Environment, Transportation issues, and Neighborhood Improvements. To support the efforts of the MRC, the District's Governing Board approved funding in the District's Fiscal Year 2004 (FY04), FY05, FY06, FY07 and FY08 budgets to further the initiatives and efforts of the MRC to improve water quality in the Miami River and related waterbody, Biscayne Bay.

How this helps meet the District's 10-Year Strategic Plan: This item will help achieve the District's mission to mitigate flooding and improve water quality, and falls within the Coastal Watersheds element of the Strategic Plan.

Funding Source: This amendment is funded by ad valorem funds of \$250,000, which are forecasted to be expended in FY08.

This Board item impacts what areas of the District, both resource areas and geography: This contract is administered by the Miami-Dade Regional Service Center and implements the strategies of the Coastal Watersheds Program. The MRC activities support public policy and projects related to the Miami River, which is located geographically in the central-eastern portion of Miami-Dade County.

What concerns could this Board item raise? If the MRC does not receive the proposed funding, it will limit their function and the benefits it provides.

Why should the Governing Board approve this item? Approval will ensure that the Miami River Commission can continue its work as a strong advocate for the River and Bay system, and will meet the District's goals of mitigating flooding and improving water quality within Miami-Dade County.

GLH/ems