

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Chip Merriam, Deputy Executive Director, Water Resources

DATE: April 15, 2008

SUBJECT: Approve entering into a 3-year cooperative agreement with Broward County Water Resource Division to deliver outreach, information and education services to stakeholders within Broward County Non-Everglades Construction Project (Non-ECP) in the amount not to exceed \$340,524 of which \$72,743 is budgeted (Everglades Trust Fund) and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval in FY09 and FY10; providing an effective date (Contract Number 4600001391)

Background: As required by the 1994 Everglades Forever Act (EFA), water delivered to the Everglades Protection Area (EPA) must meet state water quality standards. The *Everglades Protection Area Tributary Basins Long-Term Plan for Achieving Water Quality Goals* (LTP), includes water quality improvement strategies and source controls. The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and the Broward County Water Resources Division (BCWRD) have proposed entering into a 3-year contract to implement the LTP source control recommendation. BCWRD will provide outreach assistance to the SFWMD in the delivery of information and education services to stakeholders within Broward County Non-ECP basins (C-11 West, North New River Canal, and North Springs Improvement District), and to provide a measure of implementation. The SFWMD's total contribution for the contract shall not exceed \$72,743 for Fiscal Year 2008, \$131,850 for Fiscal Year 2009, and \$135,931 for Fiscal Year 2010.

How this helps meet the District's 10-year Strategic Plan: One of the District's priorities is to comply with the EFA requirement to meet state water quality standards for water delivered to the EPA. To meet state water quality standards, the LTP recommends implementation of phosphorus source controls for the three Non-ECP Broward County basins discharging to the EPA. This contract is aligned with the District Strategic Plan.

Funding Source: Funds for FY08 are currently budgeted under the Everglades Trust Fund. The second and third fiscal years will also be funded from the Everglades Trust Fund.

This Board item impacts what areas of the District, both resource areas and geography? The resource area impacted is the Everglades Regulation Division, Environmental Resource Regulation Department. The geographic areas impacted by this contract are the C-11 West, North New River Canal, and North Springs Improvement District basins located within Broward County.

What concern could this Board item raise? Stakeholders may prefer that funding be used for expedited implementation of capital improvement projects that will reduce phosphorus in discharges and improve water quality. The SFWMD has been providing funding for such capital projects, but a significant source of phosphorus comes from improper fertilization and landscape management. These are the target of source controls which are a critical component of overall restoration. Education and outreach are key to successful implementation of source controls.

Why should the Governing Board approve this item? Implementation of phosphorus source control BMPs is required by the LTP. This contract will help reduce phosphorus inputs to the EPA while conserving water and will complement the existing SFWMD's public information and education efforts. Also, the SFWMD will advance a positive relationship with Broward County.