

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Governing Board Members

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

**DATE:** February 1, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Ten-Year Cooperative Agreement with Florida Department of  
Environmental Protection for Use of Funds from Save Our Everglades  
Trust Fund for Reimbursement of Northern Everglades and Estuaries  
Protection Program Expenditures – Contract Number 4600001991

**Background:** Staff requests Governing Board approval to enter into a 10-year Cooperative Agreement with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for the use of funds received from the Save Our Everglades Trust Fund (SOETF) for Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP) land acquisition, planning, design, engineering and construction efforts. Chapter 373.472 of the Florida Statutes established the SOETF for deposit of funds to finance the restoration and conservation of natural systems, including the implementation of the NEEPP, which was authorized by Chapter 373.4595 of the Florida Statutes. Under terms of the agreement, the FDEP will reimburse the SFWMD for monies it has disbursed to external contractors, entities or partnering agencies for NEEPP costs outlined in the agreement.

**How this helps meet the District's 10-Year Strategic Plan:** Execution of this Agreement provides the means for receiving funds from the SOETF that are needed to complete the land acquisition, planning, design, engineering and construction efforts for NEEPP, a key component of the Strategic Plan.

**Funding Source:** The SOETF was created by the Florida Legislature through enactment of Section 373.472 of the Florida Statutes. Section 373.470, F.S. authorized deposit of a variety of different funds into the SOETF, including funding from general revenue; gifts from private individuals, corporations or other entities; and from the sale of Everglades restoration bonds pursuant to Section 201.15, F.S. Section 373.470, F.S. requires that distribution of funds from the SOETF be equally matched by cumulative contributions from the District by fiscal year 2019-2020. The District match may come from in-kind project design and construction work and contract expenditures, or existing interest in public lands needed for project components.

**This Board item impacts what areas of the District, both resource areas and geography:** This Agreement will provide funding for the land acquisition, planning, design, engineering and construction efforts for the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program.

**What concerns could this Board item raise?** It will be important for District staff to work with FDEP staff to develop a systematic approach for processing reimbursement requests in a timely manner.

**Why should the Governing Board approve this item?** Cash reimbursements from the SOETF are critical to financing implementation of the NEEPP.

Attachment – Resolution

KGA/tm