

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Governing Board Members

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

**FROM:** Ruth Clements, Department Director  
Land Acquisition and Land Management

**DATE:** November 15, 2007

**SUBJECT:** Approve addition of the Caloosahatchee River Basin Water Quality Treatment and Testing Facility Project to the SFWMD Florida Forever Work Plan, 2007 Annual Update list of eligible projects

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt a Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to amend the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Florida Forever Work Plan, 2007 Annual Update, contained in Chapter 6, Volume II of the South Florida Environmental Report, to add the Caloosahatchee River Basin Water Quality Treatment and Testing Facility Project to be located in Glades County; providing an effective date.

### **BACKGROUND**

- Section 373.199 requires the SFWMD to maintain a 5-year Florida Forever Work Plan that identifies the list of projects that will further the goals of the Florida Forever Act and be eligible for funding under the program.
- On December 14th, 2006, a public hearing was duly held and the South Florida Water Management District adopted the SFWMD Florida Forever Work Plan, 2007 Annual Update.
- Section 373.139, F.S., requires a public hearing be held by the SFWMD Governing Board to adopt an amendment to the South Florida Water Management District Florida Forever Work Plan, 2007 Annual Update to add the Caloosahatchee River Basin Water Quality Treatment and Testing Facility Project, to be located in Glades County.
- To address the Project land requirements, there is a proposed acquisition of 1,780 acres of land located in the Upper Caloosahatchee River Basin in Glades County, north of State Road 80 and south of the Caloosahatchee River, about eight miles east of La Belle, and immediately upstream of the S-78 Ortona Lock.
- The Project will address the removal of nutrients and suspended solids from the Caloosahatchee River Basin water.

- The Project will further the following goal of the Florida Forever Act: (3)(a)3. Enhance the coordination and completion of land acquisition projects, as measured by the number of shared acquisition projects among Florida Forever funding partners and partners with other funding sources, including local governments and the federal government.
- Lee County has agreed to partner with the SFWMD in the acquisition of lands for the Project. The Lee County Commissioners have approved a commitment of \$10 million toward the purchase of land.

### **MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY**

Amending the SFWMD Florida Forever Work Plan, 2007 Annual Update, to add the Caloosahatchee River Basin Water Quality Treatment and Testing Facility Project to the list of eligible projects furthers the goals of the Florida Forever Act and makes the Project eligible for funding under the program.

### **This Board item impacts what areas of the District, both resource areas and geography:**

Approval of the amendment will impact Land Acquisition for the Northern Everglades; more specifically, the acquisition of Project lands located in Glades County.

### **What concerns could this Board item raise?**

None. Amending the SFWMD Florida Forever Work Plan, 2007 Annual Update, to add the Project will make Northern Everglades - Save Our Everglades Trust Funds available for the purchase of land. Additionally, Lee County has agreed to partner in the acquisition of land for the project by providing \$10 million.

### **Why should the Governing Board approve this item?**

Approval of this item will satisfy statutory requirements for updating the SFWMD Florida Forever Work Plan, 2007 Annual Update. Additionally, funding will be made available for the acquisition of land for the Project.

RC/WCS