

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Chip Merriam, Deputy Executive Director, Water Resources

DATE: April 18, 2006

SUBJECT: Authorize entering into an Interagency Agreement between the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) concerning permitting for those activities by the Dunes at Nature's Edge, LLC (DNE) which are associated with proposed construction and operation of a surface water management system for a proposed residential subdivision to be known as the Dunes at Nature's Edge, situated within Sections 32 and 33, Township 28 South, Range 28 East in Polk County (PR060357)

Background

Application has been made to the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) by The Dunes at Nature's Edge, LLC (DNE) for Environmental Resource Permit 44-029945, to authorize the construction and operation of a surface water management system for a proposed residential subdivision to be known as The Dunes at Nature's Edge (Project). This Project crosses the jurisdictional boundaries of SWFWMD and SFWMD. By statute, affected water management districts are authorized to designate, by interagency agreement, regulatory responsibility to a single, affected water management district over a project which crosses the jurisdictional boundaries of both districts. For efficiency and effectiveness, the Applicant, SWFWMD and SFWMD desire to designate SWFWMD as the water management district with regulatory responsibility for the Project. The District and SWFWMD propose to enter into an Interagency Agreement, directing the SWFWMD to process and regulate environmental resource permits for those activities by the DNE which are associated with the improvements to the Dunes at Nature's Edge Subdivision Project in Polk County.

How this helps meet the District's 10-year Strategic Plan

The SWFWMD has the proper personnel to process permits associated with the Dunes at Nature's Edge Subdivision Project. This Interagency Agreement allows the SFWMD to delegate permitting responsibility to SWFWMD in order to implement a program for issuance and regulation of permits for those activities by the Dunes at Nature's Edge, LLC which are associated with the Dunes at Nature's Edge Subdivision Project.

Funding Source

The permit applications will be handled by existing SWFWMD staff.

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

This item impacts the Environmental Resource Regulation Department and it affects activities in Polk County.

What concerns could this Board item raise?

Based on the responsibilities delegated by SFWMD to SWFWMD, there should be no concerns other than the possibility that some additional staff time may occasionally be needed in order to monitor the permits associated with the Dunes at Nature's Edge Subdivision Project.

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Why should the Governing Board approve this item?

The Governing Board should approve this item because the SWFWMD has the knowledge and expertise to issue and regulate environmental resource permits for the Dunes at Nature's Edge, LLC, and it will be more efficient for one district to assume regulatory responsibility for the Project.