

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Governing Board Members

**FROM:** Chip Merriam, Deputy Executive Director, Water Resources

**DATE:** October 9, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Proposed 2009 Minimum Flows and Levels Priority List and Schedule

**Background:** This is a request for the Governing Board to authorize submittal of the proposed 2009 Minimum Flow and Level (MFL) Priority Water Body List to the Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for its review and approval. The list identifies water bodies to be addressed and schedules for adoption of MFL rules. The schedule for development of water reservations is also included.

**How this helps meet the District's 10-year Strategic Plan:** Section 373.042, Florida Statutes, requires the District to update its MFL priority list on an annual basis. The FDEP is required to review and approve the list based on importance of the water body and the potential for significant harm to the water resources or ecology of the region or state. One of the primary success indicators in the Water Supply portion of the Strategic Plan is to complete MFLs.

**Funding Source:** Staff resources are funded with ad valorem revenue.

**This Board item impacts what areas of the District, both resource areas and geography:** The priority list identifies specific wetlands, lakes, rivers and estuaries. This year's list identifies the activities anticipated over the next two years and includes water bodies throughout the District. The effort is primarily supported by District staff in the Water Supply, Watershed Management and Everglades Restoration Planning departments and the Office of Counsel.

**What concerns could this Board item raise?** The same technical, scientific and modeling support staff involved with MFL development also develops Water Reservations and provide support to the regional Water Supply Plans. The proposed list reflects changes to last year's list due to the adoption of the Lake Okeechobee Service Area's Regional Water Availability Rule. The proposed reservation schedule may be subject to change during the year due to possible changes in Everglades Restoration priorities.

**Why should the Governing Board approve this item?** Section 373.042, Florida Statutes requires the District to provide the MFL priority list to FDEP each year.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at ext. 6597.

CM/mc