

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Deena Reppen, Deputy Executive Director, Regulatory and Public Affairs

DATE: January 13, 2010

SUBJECT: Authorize an amendment to a cooperative agreement with Istokpoga Marsh Watershed Improvement District and Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for the Alternative Water Storage/Disposal and Stormwater Recycling project in an amount not to exceed \$1,515,236 in FY10, subject to the release of funding by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, for which dedicated funds (Save Our Everglades Trust Fund) are budgeted in Everglades Restoration and Capital Projects, Coastal Program, and authorize a budget transfer to Regulatory and Public Affairs, Lake Okeechobee Program, with this agreement; and an amount not to exceed \$1,107,910 in FY11, subject to Governing Board budget approval; providing an effective date. (Contract number 4600001716-A2)

Background: In February, 2009, the Governing Board approved a cooperative agreement (Contract Number 4600001716) with Istokpoga Marsh Watershed Improvement District (IMWID) and Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) to cost-share a water quality improvement project. This resolution requests the amendment of the cooperative agreement to increase the budgeted amount by an additional \$2,623,146 (\$1,515,236 in FY10 and \$1,107,910 in FY11) for the purpose of acquiring an additional 401.13 acres of land for the proposed IMWID Alternative Water Storage/Disposal and Stormwater Recycling project. The IMWID has already purchased 308.30 acres of land in support of the project, towards the estimated 1,200 acres required to meet performance goals.

The IMWID Alternative Water Storage/Disposal and Stormwater Recycling project proposes to capture excess stormwater that in turn will be used for farm irrigation through containment of stormwater runoff and gravity discharge back into the IMWID canal system. The proposed system would include the phased design and construction of Above-Ground Impoundments (AGIs) and the installation of pump stations to lift water into the AGI's, as well as the design and installation of gravity control structures. Current engineering estimates indicate the AGIs combined with on-farm best management practices (BMPs) could provide a reduction in average annual discharge volume of approximately 60% from implementing the AWS/D and stormwater recycling system. In addition, it is anticipated that the proposed system will remove approximately 70% of the Total Phosphorus (TP) currently discharged from the IMWID to the Harney Pond Canal and subsequently to Lake Okeechobee.

How this helps meet the District's 10-Year Strategic Plan? The Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection initiative and the Lake Okeechobee protection and restoration are major programs and priorities in the District's 10 year strategic plan. Alternative storage and recycling of excess surface water and water quality treatment assists in achieving the overall Lake Okeechobee restoration and estuary protection goals.

Funding Source: The State (Save of Everglades Trust Fund) is providing a total of \$6,305,952.80 toward implementation of this project, which is estimated to cost approximately \$12.5 million. Resolution 2009-219 previously authorized \$3.8 million, while this resolution seeks to authorize an additional \$2,623,146. FDACS has contributed and will continue to provide funding and in-kind services. Highlands Soil and Water Conservation District (HSWCD) has also committed funding to the project. The Parties shall pursue other federal, state and local grant programs to increase partners and cost-share funding. There is no commitment for additional funding from the District; however the District will continue to support efforts to secure additional funding for the project.

This Board item impacts what areas of the District, both resource areas and geography: This is a project which will impact flows within the Lake Okeechobee Watershed, specifically flows reaching Lake Okeechobee from the Lake Istokpoga Sub-basin. Resource areas include Regulation, Everglades Restoration, Operations and Water Supply.

What concerns could this Board item raise? Sufficient funding from other entities is necessary to complete all phases of the project. Funds provided by the District are expected to be sufficient to complete 60% of the land acquisition component of the project. If funding is not obtained for future phases of the project, the terms of the agreement with the IMWID provide for land surplus and return of funds to the District. Permitting issues/concerns will need to be successfully resolved with the IMWID and other parties following completion of the final design.

Why should the Governing Board approve this item? SFWMD and its partners are committed to Northern Everglades and Estuaries protection goals.