

4:24 pm Aug 2, 2024

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
3301 Gun Club Road  
West Palm Beach, Florida

SOUTH FLORIDA  
WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
CMB

IN THE MATTER OF:

SFWMD ORDER NO. 2024-054-DAO

EMERGENCY AUTHORIZATION  
FOR PROCUREMENT OF GOODS  
AND SERVICES MADE NECESSARY  
BY INVEST 97L

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### **EMERGENCY FINAL ORDER**

Under the authority of the State of Florida Executive Order No. 24-156, incorporated herein by reference, and section 120.569(2)(n), Florida Statutes, the South Florida Water Management District ("District"), enters this Order authorizing the emergency procurement of goods and services, and suspending rules and policies requiring advertisement or competition, due to the impacts and time constraints caused by Invest 97L ("the Storm").

### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. On August 1, 2024, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order 24-156 ("the Executive Order") declaring a state of emergency based upon the serious threat to the public health, safety, and welfare posed by the Storm. The Governor included the following counties in the Executive Order that are within the District's jurisdiction: Charlotte, Collier, Lee, Monroe, Orange, Osceola and Polk counties ("the Emergency Areas").

2. The Storm has the potential to cause widespread flooding, may continue to impact the operational capability of critical infrastructure, and poses an immediate danger to the lives and property of persons throughout the Emergency Areas.

3. As provided in the Executive Order, the Governor found that the special duties and responsibilities of some agencies, including District, in responding to disasters may require them to deviate from the statutes and rules they administer. More specifically, the Executive Order gives each political subdivision of the State authority to waive the procedures and formalities otherwise required by law in relation to performing public work and taking necessary action to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community. This included entering into contracts, incurring obligations, employing permanent and temporary workers, utilizing volunteer workers, renting equipment, acquiring and distributing, with or without compensation, supplies, materials, and facilities, and appropriating and expending public funds.

4. The District's Executive Director has determined that an immediate danger to the public health and safety, or other substantial loss to the public, exists because the Storm poses a serious and imminent threat to District canals, works, lands, equipment, and facilities within the District such that operational capability of the Big Cypress Basin, Central & Southern Florida Flood Control System, and other District functions may be jeopardized.

#### **ULTIMATE FACTS AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

5. The District issues this Order to carry out the directives in the Governor's Executive Order. The District has authority to issue this Order under sections 120.569(2)(n), 252.46, 373.119(2), and 373.439, Florida Statutes.

6. The Executive Order permits agencies, including the District, to suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conducting state business, or the orders or rules of the agency, if strict compliance with the provisions of any such statute, order, or rule would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency. The Executive Order gives the District further authority to take formal action by emergency order to cope with the emergency.

7. Based on the above findings of fact, and to protect the public's immediate health, safety, and welfare, and to not prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency, it is both reasonable and appropriate to waive any applicable statute, including, but not limited to, chapters 255 and 287, Florida Statutes, and any District rule, policy, or order governing the procurement of equipment, services, and commodities necessitated by this emergency.

## **ORDER**

### **THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:**

1. Effective upon execution of this Order, all requirements for advertisement and competition for the procurement of equipment, services, and commodities set forth in any statute, including, but not limited to, chapters 255 and 287, Florida Statutes, and any District rule, policy, or order are hereby waived for the duration of this Order.

2. District staff may procure equipment, services, and commodities necessitated by this emergency without advertisement or competition as described below:

a. The procurement of all goods and services necessary to prepare, maintain, and restore District canals, works, lands, equipment, and facilities to full operational condition.

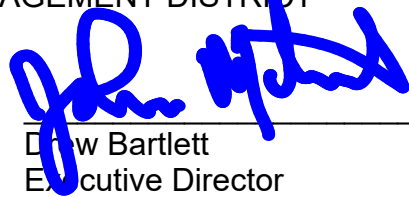
b. All such procurements shall be reported to the Governing Board prior to or at the next regularly scheduled Governing Board meeting.

c. This authorization shall expire on September 30, 2024, unless otherwise extended or terminated by the District's Executive Director or Governing Board.

**DONE AND ORDERED** on this 2nd day of August, 2024, in West Palm Beach, Florida.

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER  
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

By:



for

Drew Bartlett  
Executive Director

### NOTICE OF RIGHTS

Any party substantially affected by this Order has the right to seek judicial review under section 120.68, Florida Statutes, by filing a notice of appeal under Rule 9.110 of the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure with the Clerk of the DISTRICT at 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, Florida 33406, and by filing a copy of the notice of appeal accompanied by the applicable filing fees with the appropriate district court of appeal. The notice of appeal must be filed within thirty days after this Order is filed with the Clerk of the DISTRICT.