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## **South Florida Water Management District**

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### **GOVERNING BOARD MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA**

October 9, 2025

9:00 AM

District Headquarters, B-1 Auditorium  
3301 Gun Club Road  
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

#### **FINAL**

1. Call to Order - Chauncey Goss, Chairman, Governing Board
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Employee Recognitions
  - October 2025 Employee of the Month: Mark Nissenbaum, Senior Meteorologist
  - October 2025 Team of the Month: Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget Preparation Team
  - 30-Year Service Award: Nancy Demonstranti, Lead Scientist, Water Supply
  - 35-Year Service Award: Kathleen Massey, Land Management Specialist
  - 35-Year Service Award: Stuart VanHorn, Bureau Chief, Water Quality
4. Agenda Revisions
5. Agenda Item Abstentions by Board Members
6. Audit & Finance Committee Report - Jay Steinle, Chairman
7. Consider Approval of the Minutes for the September 11, 2025 Monthly Meeting; the September 11, 2025 Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Tentative Ad Valorem Millage Rates, Non Ad Valorem Tax Rolls, and Tentative Budget; and the September 23, 2025 Final Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Final Millage Rates and Final Budget

8. Executive Director's Report - Drew Bartlett
9. General Public Comment
10. Board Comment
11. Move Consent Agenda Items to Discussion Agenda
12. Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items
13. Board Vote on Consent Agenda

## **Consent Agenda**

14. Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan Biological Control Implementation Project (Staff contact, Rich Virgil, P.E.)

### **Agenda Item Background:**

The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan Biological Control Implementation Project (Project) is a component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), which was authorized by Congress in Section 601 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-541). The intent of the CERP is to restore, preserve, and protect the South Florida ecosystem while providing for other water-related needs of the region. CERP is implemented under a partnership between the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the District. Long term suppression of highly invasive plant species is a major focus of Everglades restoration and preservation, and biological control is identified as a primary component of the District's integrated pest management approach to invasive species control.

The Project and its anticipated impacts are described in detail in the June 2010 Final Project Implementation Report (FPIR) and Environmental Assessment prepared by the CERP partner agencies in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and other state and federal agencies. In brief, the Project seeks to control the most aggressive, widespread, and problematic invasive exotic plants in South Florida including melaleuca (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*), Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) and Old World climbing fern (*Lygodium microphyllum*). In addition, the FPIR includes an adaptive management approach for additional insect/plant combinations should they become available for invasive non-indigenous species affecting the Everglades (FPIR Chapter 5, 5-28).

The USACE and the District entered into a Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) for the Project, dated July 30, 2010, under which the USACE was responsible for construction of a Mass Rearing Annex and the District is responsible for biological control implementation, including operation and maintenance of the Annex. The PPA further allows the District to enter into an agreement with the ARS for the Project, including operation and maintenance of the Mass Rearing Annex. Specific objectives of this project include: 1) culture and release approved agents; 2) evaluate release strategies; 3) monitor field populations of insects and target plants; 4) evaluate efficacy of agents; 5) investigate opportunities for integrated pest management; and 6) operate

and maintain the Mass Rearing Annex as defined in the Operation, Maintenance, Repair, Rehabilitation and Replacement Manual. This five-year agreement is a continuation of the Project, now entering its ninth year in operation.

**Recommended Action:**

**Resolution No. 2025-1001 Authorize entering into a five-year agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Research Service for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) Biological Control Implementation Project in an amount not to exceed \$4,660,000, of which \$660,000 in Ad Valorem funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2025-2026, and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years' budgets. (Contract No. 4600005268)**

[Resolution No. 2025-1001](#)

15. Florida Department of Transportation's Compensatory Mitigation Plan for Moving I-4 Forward and Partial Release of Certain Conservation Easements (Staff contact, Jill S. Creech, P.E)

**Agenda Item Background:**

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is advancing a project known as Moving I-4 Forward along SR 400 (I-4) that includes widening I-4 from west of the US 27 interchange to the SR 536 interchange and a new SR 538 corridor to the south. The proposed roadway corridor for the project will impact up to 64.87 acres of conservation easements that were granted to the District, and recorded in Official Records of Osceola County, Florida. However, the project is still in the design build phase; therefore, it is still undergoing revisions that may reduce its impacts to the conservation easements.

FDOT has identified and is under contract to purchase a 406-acre property known as Boggy Marsh. Approximately 80 acres of the 406-acre parcel will be preserved to offset the conservation easement impacts. The remaining 326 acres will be preserved and utilized to offset additional direct and secondary wetland impacts associated with future FDOT needs for the Moving I-4 Forward Project. Boggy Marsh is approximately 406-acres, is located within the St. Johns River Water Management District, and is within both the Reedy Creek Basin and Southern Ocklawaha Basin. Boggy Marsh offers high-quality habitats and strategic connectivity to existing conservation lands. Boggy Marsh is bordered by Lake Louisa State Park to the north, land owned by Audubon Florida to the north/east, and lies near the Hilochee Wildlife Management Area to the west and south. This strategic location enhances landscape-scale conservation objectives by maintaining regional ecological connectivity and contributing to hydrological stability within the basin. Residing within the "Last Green Thread" boundary established by the Florida Wildlife Corridor Program, the property plays a key role in maintaining functional wildlife corridors between Everglades Headwaters to the Green Swamp.

Staff has determined that this compensatory mitigation plan is sufficient to fully offset up to 64.87 acres of conservation easement impacts associated with the project. To accommodate the accelerated schedule of the project, staff requests the Board approve FDOT's compensatory mitigation plan to offset up to 64.87 acres of impacts to the conservation easements and approve the partial release of up to 64.87 acres of the

conservation easements.

**Recommended Action:**

**Resolution No. 2025-1002 Approve the Florida Department of Transportation's compensatory mitigation plan for Moving I-4 Forward and approve the partial release of up to 64.87 acres of conservation easements, as recorded in Book 1154, Page 0648; Book 4558, Page 2657; Book 1125, Page 1165; Book 2123, Page 1031; Book 4345, Page 2864; Book 4345, Page 2977; and Book 4345, Page 2896; all in the public records of Osceola County, Florida, for a project known as Moving I-4 Forward.**

[Resolution No. 2025-1002](#)

[Exhibit A](#)

[Exhibit B](#)

16. Authorize Publication of a Notice of Proposed Rule in the Florida Administrative Register and Adopt Amendments to Rule 40E-2.091, Florida Administrative Code, and the Applicant's Handbook for Water Use Permit Applications, for the Purpose of Promoting Reclaimed Water Use and Encouraging Quantifiable Potable Water Offsets (Staff contact, Simon Sunderland)

**Agenda Item Background:**

Chapter 2024-180, Laws of Florida (SB1386), which went into effect on July 1, 2024, requires water management districts to develop rules by December 31, 2025, to promote the use of reclaimed water and encourage quantifiable potable water offsets with specific requirements for such rules. The District is implementing SB1386 by proposing to amend Rule 40E-2.091, Florida Administrative Code, and the incorporated Applicant's Handbook for Water Use Permit Applications, to add new subsection 1.5.1 E, to allow for consumptive use permit (CUP) durations up to 30 years and CUP extensions up to 10 years if a water supply development or water resource development project using reclaimed water meets certain conditions under the new subsection 373.250(9), Florida Statutes.

The District held a joint rule development workshop with St. Johns River Water Management District and Southwest Florida Water Management District on August 25, 2025. The public was provided 14 days to submit comments. Upon Governing Board approval of the proposed rule language, District staff will publish a Notice of Proposed Rule in the Florida Administrative Register, and the public will have an additional 21 days to submit comments. After the time period to comment on the proposed rule concludes, if no request for a public hearing is received and no substantive changes are made, District staff will file the proposed rule for adoption with the Department of State.

The proposed revisions to the Reclaimed Water Use rule are located at [sfwmd.gov/doing-business-with-us/rules](https://sfwmd.gov/doing-business-with-us/rules).

**Recommended Action:**

**Resolution No. 2025-1003 Authorize publishing a Notice of Proposed Rule in the Florida Administrative Register and Adopting Amendments to Rule 40E-2.091, Florida Administrative Code, and the incorporated Applicant's Handbook for Water Use Permit Applications, for the purpose of promoting reclaimed water**

**use and encouraging quantifiable potable water offsets in accordance with Chapter 2024-180, Laws of Florida (SB1386).**

[Resolution No. 2025-1003](#)

[Notice of Proposed Rule](#)

17. Oracle Software License Purchase and Annual Maintenance (Staff contact, Akintunde Owosina, P.E.)

**Agenda Item Background:**

The District uses Oracle databases for many critical applications such as DBHYDRO, Graphical Verification and Analysis, Flow Program, Documentum, and Laboratory Information Management Systems. Since 2022, Information Technology has procured limited technical assistance (no updates or upgrades) from a third-party vendor. During this time the District significantly reduced the Oracle footprint and rightsized the Oracle licenses. Now that the Oracle licenses are rightsized, it is more cost effective to purchase current Oracle licenses and annual maintenance, resulting in \$570,000 savings over the next five years. The annual software maintenance includes 24x7 technical support, the latest software updates, security patches, and enhancements.

This request is to issue a purchase order to Mythics LLC for software licenses and annual maintenance for the next five years in the amount of \$1,142,633.69.

The software licenses and maintenance will be procured using a special procurement pursuant to Sec. 155-6 of the District's Procurement Policy using Maricopa County, Arizona Contract Number 180233-002 with Mythics LLC.

**Recommended Action:**

**Resolution No. 2025-1004 Authorize issuing a purchase order to Mythics LLC, for Oracle software licenses and annual software maintenance for the next five years, in the amount of \$1,142,633.69, for which \$659,641.80 in Ad Valorem funds is budgeted in Fiscal Year 2025-2026 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years' budgets, using Mythics LLC Contract with Maricopa County, Arizona Contract Number 180233-002. (Purchase Order No. 4500158139)**

[Resolution No. 2025-1004](#)

18. Rafter T Realty, Inc., Northern Everglades Payment for Environmental Services Project Contract Amendment (Staff contact, Jennifer Reynolds)

**Agenda Item Background:**

As part of the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program, the Rafter T Ranch Water Management Project, located in Highlands County, is a public-private partnership supporting the Lake Okeechobee Basin Management Action Plan. The ~1,300-acre project captures rainfall and retains regional runoff in five basins and is uniquely situated to reduce discharges to Arbuckle Creek and moderate flows to the Lake Istokpoga Subwatershed. Approved by the Governing Board on October 9, 2014, it was estimated to store ~1,300 acre-feet of water annually and retain approximately 0.2 metric tons of total phosphorus (TP) and 4.4 metric tons of total nitrogen (TN) per year. The expanded project is expected to store ~3,300 acre-feet and retain 0.7 metric tons of TP and 8.8 metric tons of TN.

The existing Contract No. 4600002876 and its two subsequent amendments provided 11 years of operations at \$1,899,524.94. Staff requests Governing Board approval to amend the existing Service Agreement with Rafter T Realty, Inc., to expand the service area and extend project operations for an additional ten years in an amount not to exceed \$4,613,353, for a revised contract total not to exceed \$6,512,877.94.

The amended contract includes construction costs to increase project resiliency and efficiency, ten years of additional operation, establishes fixed annual cost including operations and maintenance responsibilities, and removes variability and uncertainty of Consumer Price Index cost increases. Annual payments over the ten-year operational term of the contract are fixed at \$416,000 for operations and maintenance as well as a one-time not-to-exceed payment of \$453,000 for construction of three culverts and a pump station refurbishment.

**Recommended Action:**

**Resolution No. 2025-1005 Authorize an amendment to the Northern Everglades Payment for Environmental Services Agreement with Rafter T Realty, Inc., for the Rafter T Ranch Water Management Project, to expand the service area and extend the term by ten years in an amount not to exceed \$4,613,353, for a revised contract total not to exceed \$6,512,877.43, for which \$869,353 in dedicated funds (Lands Acquisition Trust Fund) was provided by the Florida Legislature and is budgeted in Fiscal Year 2025-2026, and the remainder is solely dependent on future legislative funding and subject to Governing Board approval of future years' budgets. (Contract No. 4600002876-A03)**

[Resolution No. 2025-1005](#)

19. 2025 Priority Water Body List and Schedule (Staff contact, Jennifer Reynolds)

**Agenda Item Background:**

Each year, the water management districts are statutorily required to submit a list and schedule to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection prioritizing water bodies for developing or reevaluating minimum flows and minimum water levels (MFLs) and water reservations. MFLs define the point at which further withdrawals would cause significant harm to the water resources or the ecology of the area. Water reservations protect the water needed for fish and wildlife or public health and safety from being allocated to consumptive uses. The District also uses a third water resource protection tool: restricted allocation areas (RAAs), which are defined geographic areas where consumptive use allocations from specific water resources are limited. The proposed 2025 Priority Water Body List and Schedule includes MFL reevaluations of the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River, Florida Bay, and Biscayne Aquifer to adapt to changing hydrological conditions including the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) and sea level rise over a 20-year planning horizon. The proposed list also includes establishment of a Water Reservation and/or RAA for the Western Everglades Restoration Project (WERP) and a RAA for the Lake Okeechobee Component A Reservoir (LOCAR) to ensure water made available by these CERP projects is protected for fish and wildlife and not available for consumptive use.

**Recommended Action:**

**Resolution No. 2025-1006 Authorize submission of the proposed 2025 Priority**



**Water Body List and Schedule for Minimum Flows and Levels and Water Reservations to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for review and approval pursuant to Section 373.042(3), Florida Statutes.**

[Resolution No. 2025-1006](#)

[2025 Priority Water Body List and Schedule](#)

20. Caloosahatchee Watershed Storage Initiative Contracts (Staff contact, Jennifer Reynolds)

**Agenda Item Background:**

The Caloosahatchee River Watershed in southwest Florida spans Lee, Hendry, Charlotte, Glades, and Collier counties. Freshwater and nutrients flow into the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary from Lake Okeechobee, the Caloosahatchee Basins, and the Tidal Basins. Of the five Caloosahatchee River Watershed basins, the East, West, and S-4 Basins are freshwater; and the Tidal and Coastal Basins are brackish water.

Over the past five years (Water Year 2020 through Water Year 2024), the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary received an average of 2,190 tons/year of Total Nitrogen, requiring a 23% reduction to meet Total Maximum Daily Loads targets. This calls for improved surface water storage and treatment.

The Caloosahatchee River Watershed Storage Initiative focuses on storage of high amounts of runoff, especially in the West Basin. Three proposals were received, evaluated, and selected. Each of the three proposals intend to use private lands to build and operate storage projects in Hendry and Glades counties which aim to store over 11,000 acre-feet annually for ten years. One project is in the West Basin, one in the East, and one spanning both.

PH Citrus, LLC, has procured some funding for design and a survey of the property from Florida Department of Agricultural Services (FDACS), and the District will continue to work with the NEEPP coordinating agencies to identify funding sources and deliver needed projects in a fiscally efficient manner.

**Table 1: Contracts in Ranked Order**

Contractor	Contract Number
PH Citrus, LLC	4600005271
Snake Land and Cattle, LLC	4600005272
Sustainable Water Infrastructure Group, LLC	4600005273

**Recommended Action:**

**Resolution No. 2025-1007 Authorize negotiations in ranked order, with the entities listed above for Dispersed Water Management: Caloosahatchee River Watershed Water Storage Initiative Request for Proposals Number 6000001643, to provide storage, subject to Governing Board approval to enter into contractual obligations, and Governing Board approval of future years' budgets.**

[Resolution No. 2025-1007](#)

[Backup Presentation](#)

21. Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Five-Year Water Resource Development Work Program (Staff contact, Carolina Maran, Ph.D., P.E.)

**Agenda Item Background:**

The Five-Year Water Resource Development Work Program (Work Program) is an update report that includes a draft evaluation of the Work Program's consistency with the District's regional water supply plans and the adequacy of the proposed expenditures pursuant to Section 373.536(6)(a)4, Florida Statutes. The Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Work Program covers the period from October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2030. The Work Program contains, for example, projects involving water conservation, resource evaluation, and regional water resource development which include Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan projects that help address water quantity challenges for the environment. Within 30 days of budget adoption, the water management districts are required to submit the Work Program to several entities, including the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. This item also authorizes District staff to address and incorporate appropriate revisions resulting from agency and/or public comments into the Work Program prior to inclusion into the final Fiscal Year 2026 South Florida Environmental Report.

**Recommended Action:**

**Resolution No. 2025-1008 Authorize the transmittal of the draft Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Five-Year Water Resource Development Work Program pursuant to Section 373.536(6)(a)4., Florida Statutes.**

[Resolution No. 2025-1008](#)

[Draft FY25-26 Five-Year Water Resource Development Work Program](#)

22. C-43 Reservoir (Staff contact, Maricruz R. Fincher)

**Agenda Item Background:**

The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) will restore and improve freshwater deliveries to the natural system and provide water for other related needs of the system. The C-43 West Basin Storage Reservoir was approved by Congress in 2014 and provides 170,000 acre-feet of water storage to improve ecological conditions in the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary. The reservoir will capture excess water in the river originating from local run-off and Lake Okeechobee, reducing discharges to the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary.

In March 2019, the District contracted with a contractor to build the Bid Package 4 Civil Works project (BP4.) The contractor did not adhere to the contract's required schedule, which set forth a mandatory substantial completion date and final completion date. The contractor also refused to make the necessary changes to get back on schedule or prevent further delay. As a result, the District terminated the Contractor and filed a breach of contract suit to recover damages. The case is a multi-million-dollar complex construction dispute that the parties are vigorously litigating. The District hired Kirwin Norris P.A., a law firm with seven Florida Bar Board Certified Construction Lawyers specializing in construction law to serve as lead counsel in this case.

This case is set for trial beginning February 2026. The Office of Counsel requests to



amend the District's contract with Kirwin Norris, P.A. to increase funds by \$3,500,000.

**Recommended Action:**

**Resolution No. 2025-1009 Authorize an amendment to the contract with Kirwin Norris, P.A. to increase the contract by \$3,500,000 for which dedicated funds (State Appropriations) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2025-2026, to defend the District's interests and fully prosecute its claims related to the C-43 West Caloosahatchee Basin Storage Reservoir. (Contract No. 4600004519-A07)**

[Resolution No. 2025-1009](#)

23. Initiation of a Lawsuit Against 7th Terrace Property Owners, LLC, Its Assigns, Successors, and/or Beneficiaries, Regarding the Construction of an Apartment Building on a Portion of the Right-of-Way Along the C-4 Canal in Miami-Dade County Without a Release or Payment (Staff contact, Maricruz R. Fincher)

**Agenda Item Background:**

On March 10, 2022, the District conditionally approved the release of a portion of the C-4 right-of-way in Miami-Dade County through Resolution No. 2022-0301, which required payment to the District for the appraised value of the land to be released. Despite numerous attempts by the District to collect payment for the value of the land to be released, 7th Terrace Property Owners, LLC refuses to pay and completed construction on District property in the summer of 2023.

**Recommended Action:**

**Resolution No. 2025-1010 Approve the initiation of a lawsuit against 7th Terrace Property Owner, LLC, its assigns, successors, and/or beneficiaries, regarding the construction of an apartment building on a portion of the right-of-way along the C-4 Canal without payment or a release.**

[Resolution No. 2025-1010](#)

24. Initiation of a Lawsuit Against K2 Sweetwater, LLC, and K2 Sweetwater 2, LLC, Delaware Limited Liability Companies, Their Assigns, Successors, and/or Beneficiaries, Regarding the Release of Portions of the District's Easement Along the C-4 Canal in Miami-Dade County Without Payment (Staff contact, Maricruz R. Fincher)

**Agenda Item Background:**

On February 10, 2022, the District conditionally approved the release of a portion of the C-4 right-of-way in Miami-Dade County through Resolution No. 2022-0201, which required K2 Sweetwater, LLC and K2 Sweetwater 2, LLC to pay the District for the appraised value of the land. On February 15, 2022, a Partial Release of Easement was recorded in the Official Records of Miami-Dade County, Florida. Despite numerous attempts by the District to collect payment for the value of the released land, the beneficiaries of the release have refused to pay.

**Recommended Action:**

**Resolution No. 2025-1011 Approve the initiation of a lawsuit against K2 Sweetwater, LLC, and K2 Sweetwater 2, LLC, both Delaware limited liability companies, their assigns, successors, and/or beneficiaries, regarding the release of portions of the District's easement along the C-4 Canal without**

payment.

Resolution No. 2025-1011

## **Discussion Agenda**

25. Everglades Agricultural Area A-2 Reservoir Pump Station S-623 Project, Palm Beach County (Staff contact, Lucine Dadrian, P.E.)

### **Agenda Item Background:**

In July 2025, Governor Ron DeSantis announced that the State of Florida and the U.S. Department of the Army reached a new landmark agreement to accelerate the restoration of America's Everglades. The new agreement accelerates the timeline of EAA Reservoir from 2034 to 2029 and authorizes the State of Florida to construct additional features to expedite the project.

As part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Phase, the EAA A-2 Reservoir S-623 Pump Station Project, located in Palm Beach County, is a 4,600 cubic feet per second (cfs) pump station for the future EAA A-2 Reservoir. This project will play a crucial role by improving the quantity, timing, and distribution of water flows from Lake Okeechobee south to the central Everglades, Florida Bay, and Everglades National Park. The pump station scope includes construction of an enclosed concrete formed structure with a pump mix consisting of three 200 cfs electric pumps, two 400 cfs diesel pumps, and four 800 cfs diesel pumps. The pump station also includes a fuel farm; trash rake; mechanical, electrical, and SCADA systems; 180-foot microwave tower; and rip rapped canal intake. In addition, a portion of the seepage canal and inflow/outflow canal will be constructed to tie into U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) contract work.

This project was authorized by Congress in 2016, and a Post Authorization Change Control Report was authorized by Congress in October 2018. The S-623 Pump Station will serve as the primary inflow structure to the future EAA A-2 Reservoir, currently being constructed by the USACE. The EAA A-2 Reservoir is one of many restoration projects within the CEPP EAA plan, a component of the overall CERP aimed to restore, protect, and preserve the Everglades ecosystem. The CEPP EAA Phase includes a 10,500-acre reservoir, a 6,500-acre stormwater treatment area with associated water control structures including the S-623 Pump Station, inflow-outflow canal, as well as Miami and North New River canal conveyance improvements. Other features of the CEPP EAA A-2 Reservoir have been completed or are being designed or constructed by the District or the USACE.

The lowest responsive and responsible bidder is Harry Pepper & Associates, Inc., in the amount of \$389,861,240 and recommended for award of the contract. In accordance with District policy and consistent with state law for Request for Bids procurements, this item was competitively bid through a sealed bid process. The bid opening for this project was on September 16, 2025.

The lowest bid is consistent with the District's engineers estimate range from (\$333,376,446 - \$368,468,704) and competitive with respect to other recently bid

pump stations. The USACE recently awarded a 650 cfs pump station for \$192.8 Million (\$297,000 per cfs). The District is building a 1,100 cfs pump station for \$99.4 Million (\$90,300 per cfs). The EAA Reservoir Inflow pump station is bid at \$84,752 per cfs. While construction costs are higher in the current economy, there are economies of scale as you increase pump station size.

Additionally, in an effort to expedite the construction of the S-623 Pump Station, staff is requesting an additional 5% in budget authority, above the lowest responsive and responsible bid, to fund any necessary access roads, any additional material laydown areas, potential construction village expansion for increased staffing, including base camp facilities for out of state personnel, site management of the CEPP EAA A-2 Reservoir construction site, and obtain necessary design related change orders associated with the S-623 Pump Station.

**Recommended Action:**

**Resolution No. 2025-1012 Authorize the Executive Director and the Executive Director's designee to enter into a contract with Harry Pepper & Associates, Inc. for the CEPP EAA A-2 Reservoir S-623 Pump Station Project in the amount of \$389,861,240; authorize the Executive Director and the Executive Director's designee to enter into contracts, design-related change orders, and agreements for the expedited implementation of the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir Project in an aggregate amount not-to-exceed five percent (5%) above the executed contract value for the CEPP EAA A-2 Reservoir S-623 Pump Station Project, excluding prior expenditures and encumbrances; funded through dedicated funds (State Appropriations) and Ad Valorem funds within the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 and future years' budgets, subject to future appropriated funds and Governing Board approval of future years' budgets. (Contract No. 4600005263)**

[\*\*Resolution No. 2025-1012\*\*](#)

26. Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program Briefing (Staff contact, Jennifer Reynolds)

**Agenda Item Background:**

The Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP) promotes a comprehensive approach to restore and protect surface water. Comprised of the Lake Okeechobee Watershed, Caloosahatchee River Watershed, and St. Lucie River Watershed, the NEEPP uses a combination of research, monitoring, source controls and construction projects to reduce nutrients and increase water storage opportunities in the three watersheds. Water quality improvements in the Northern Everglades watersheds are a shared responsibility between the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and the District (Coordinating Agencies).

This item will include presentations from the NEEPP Coordinating Agencies, highlighting ongoing NEEPP efforts to support the state's water quality goals and restoration of the Northern Everglades ecosystems.

## **Technical Reports**

27. Water and Ecological Conditions Report - John P. Mitnik, P.E., and Cassondra Armstrong, Ph.D.

### **Staff Reports**

28. Monthly Financial Report - Candida Heater, Division Director - Administrative Services
29. General Public Comment
30. Board Comment
31. Adjourn

### **Public Comment Procedure**

The South Florida Water Management District Governing Board encourages the public to provide comment and input to the Governing Board. Public comment is accepted at the two dedicated General Public Comment periods at the beginning and the end of the meeting. Public comment is also accepted on the Consent Agenda and each Discussion Agenda item.