

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Lucine Dadrian, P.E., Engineering, Construction & Modeling

DATE: March 5, 2026

SUBJECT: Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed Bird Rookery Boardwalk Replacement, Collier County

Agenda Item Background:

As part of the Big Cypress Basin Bird Rookery Land Management Plan, the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW) Bird Rookery Replacement Project, located in the Bird Rookery Swamp Management Area in Collier County, will fully replace the existing 1,400-foot boardwalk. The project scope includes replacement of the foundation, substructure, boardwalk, posts and railings. The boardwalk leads to a 12-mile tram road trail that is frequently used by the public for outdoor recreational activities such as hiking, running, biking, nature photography, geocaching, and birding. The replacement of the boardwalk will ensure the public can continue enjoying their outdoor recreational activities where the maple-cypress swamp is home to alligators, otters, Florida panthers, bobcats, white-tailed deer and more.

On February 13, 2025, the Governing Board approved \$3,500,000 of authority to negotiate with Thomas Marine Construction, Inc. During design, the District opted to use Fiber Reinforced Polymer (FRP) materials for the new boardwalk to provide a durable, long-term infrastructure solution with an anticipated service life of up to 100 years. FRP offers significant advantages over traditional timber construction, including enhanced structural integrity, resistance to rot, corrosion, and environmental degradation, and substantially reduced maintenance requirements. This item increases the authority to \$4,000,000 to complete negotiations for the construction of the boardwalk utilizing FRP materials.

Additional Item Background:

Core Mission and Strategic Priorities:

The CREW Bird Rookery Boardwalk Replacement Project supports the District's missions of ecosystem restoration, land management and recreation.

Funding Source:

The CREW Bird Rookery Boardwalk Replacement Project will be funded through Big Cypress Basin Ad Valorem funds.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

Lucine Dadrian, P.E., ldadrian@sfwmd.gov, 561-682-2685

ATTACHMENTS:

[Resolution No. 2026-0305](#)

