

## **M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO:** Governing Board Members

**FROM:** Lawrence Glenn, Water Resources Division

**DATE:** August 11, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Contract with Florida Atlantic University for the Management of Riverwoods Field Laboratory, Highlands County

### **Agenda Item Background:**

The Kissimmee River Restoration Project is a 50/50 cost share between the federal government (United States Army Corps of Engineers) and the District. As part of this cost share agreement, the District is charged with assessing physical, chemical, biological, and functional responses within the restored river/floodplain to evaluate project success. The District currently has contracted with Florida Atlantic University (FAU) to manage the Riverwoods Field Laboratory as a base for field operations for District scientists evaluating ecosystem response, due to the remote location of the project and distance from District headquarters. This contract also provides two scientific staff to support evaluation of ecosystem response. The proposed three-year contract is to continue FAU providing two scientific staff and site maintenance/security for the 15-acre Riverwoods site in an amount not-to-exceed \$1,017,168 subject to Governing Board approval of future years budgets. Costs for this contract, both expended and proposed, are creditable and included in the District's total project cost estimate for Kissimmee River Restoration.

### **Core Mission and Strategic Priorities:**

#### **Additional Item Background:**

Riverwoods Field Laboratory is located in Cornwell, Florida on a reach of the Kissimmee River. The District has held four previous multi-year contracts with FAU to manage the Riverwoods Field Laboratory. Section 287.057, Florida Statutes, and District Policy provide exempting this agreement from competitive solicitation based on Section 155-6 #17 that state "services from universities and colleges, including community colleges, for research, studies, or training, unless more than one institution can provide comparable products or services".

Contracting these services through FAU rather than from a private sector firm provides the District with a substantial savings of over the three-year contract life.

### **Core Mission and Strategic Priorities:**

This action supports the mission element, "to safeguard and restore South Florida's water resources and ecosystems". This continued level of support will allow complete evaluation and documentation of changing ecological conditions in the Kissimmee River and floodplain as the system continues to respond to completion of project construction in 2020.

### **Funding Source:**

Ad Valorem funds subject to Governing Board approval of the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Adopted Budget and future years budgets.

**Staff Contact and/or Presenter:**

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

[Resolution No. 2022-0802](#)