

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

**TO:** Governing Board Members

**FROM:** Stephen M. Collins, Real Estate & Land Management

**DATE:** June 9, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Donation and Conveyance of Land in Palm Beach County to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

### **Agenda Item Background:**

Staff is seeking Governing Board approval to donate 39.5 acres to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). In 2014, the District gave approximately 150 acres of the northwest corner of Mecca Farms to FWC as part of an exchange. FWC developed the parcel into an Olympic-quality public shooting range, addressing public recreational needs. The shooting range is also used to expand hunter safety and safe gun handling educational programs. FWC has requested that the District donate an additional 39.5 acres of adjacent land for additional public recreational activities including an archery venue and a RV campsite. The District will reserve a perpetual easement over approximately 22.7 acres of the proposed donation for future construction staging activities needed during construction of the adjacent water feature.

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

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

In December 2013, the District acquired approximately 1,896.49 acres of lands identified and known as “Mecca Farms”, for the Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project (“Project”) in Palm Beach County. As part of a 2014 exchange transaction with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (“FWC”), the District conveyed FWC an approximately a 150-acre portion in the northwest corner of Mecca Farms (the “FWC Parcel”). FWC has developed the property into an Olympic-quality public shooting range, addressing public recreational needs and providing a venue for sport shooting related events. The shooting range is also used to expand hunter safety and safe gun handling educational programs. FWC has requested that the District donate an additional 39.5 acres located directly south of the shooting range (the “Additional Parcel”), as depicted in Exhibit “A” attached hereto. The District will reserve a perpetual easement with respect to approximately 22.7 acres for the purpose of construction staging activities that will be conducted during construction of the adjacent water feature. Closing is to occur no later than August 15, 2022.

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

As the plans for the Additional Parcel include an archery venue and an RV campsite, the subject donation will provide substantial public recreational benefits.

### **Funding Source:**

As this is a donation, there is no purchase price to fund. Any closing costs associated with the transaction will be paid by FWC. The funds used for the original purchase of Mecca Farms were from Save Our Everglades Trust Fund.

**Staff Contact and/or Presenter:**

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

[Resolution No. 2022-0602](#)

[Exhibit A](#)