

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Governing Board Members

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

DATE: December 8, 2022

SUBJECT: Contract for Aerial Application Services

Agenda Item Background:

Staff is seeking Governing Board approval to enter into a contract for aerial application services. The objectives of this award are to: 1) support the District's effort of maintaining flood control project facilities in accordance with established standards, 2) eliminate melaleuca and other invasive exotic plant species from natural areas, 3) support STA vegetation management activities, 4) support prescribed fire projects on District lands, and 5) provide aerial seeding services. Plant species with the highest potential for impacting these lands are best controlled through an integrated management approach using chemical, biological, and physical methods consistent with the District's Herbicide Reduction Strategy. This contract requires application of different herbicides to various types of aquatics, wetland and upland vegetation using aerial application equipment and associated support vehicles, in accordance with District project management directions. Following negotiations, the District intends to issue a 3-year work order contract with two 1-year renewal options for aerial application services to Agricultural Air Services, LLC. The District will negotiate a contract with the contract bidders in ranked order until a contract has been successfully negotiated.

Additional Item Background:

Vegetation management is required to maintain efficient operation of the C&SF project, environmental integrity of District-managed conservation lands and waters, and maximum performance capability of the STAs and other CERP projects. District project sites include the canals, levees and rights of way. Natural areas including, the Everglades Water Conservation Areas and surrounding buffer lands, Lake Okeechobee, the Kissimmee River and Chain of Lakes, and other Conservation properties are also included.

Funding Source:

Funding historically has come from many dedicated fund sources, including State and Federal funds (Water Management Land Trust Fund, Invasive Plant Management Trust Fund, Wetland Mitigation, and Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan Fund). Some ad valorem funding will also be used over the five-year period. Total spending authority is \$15,000,000 for the five-year contract, of which \$3,000,000 is budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of the Fiscal Years 2024-2027 budgets.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission provide matching funds to the District melaleuca program, under a cooperative agreement. The District is also reimbursed for aquatic plant treatments in sovereign waters of the State, under a separate agreement.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

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ATTACHMENTS:

[Resolution No. 2022-1204](#)