

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

**TO:** Governing Board Members

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

**DATE:** May 12, 2022

**SUBJECT:** C-43 West Basin Storage Reservoir Project - Release of Easement, Hendry County

### **Agenda Item Background:**

The District is in the process of construction to implement the C-43 West Basin Storage Reservoir Project. The neighboring lands adjacent to the west boundary of the District's Project lands currently have an irrigation water supply pump station permitted to withdraw water from the Townsend Canal, which is located on the western boundary of the District's Project lands ownership and which connects the Reservoir to the Caloosahatchee River. An irrigation easement of approximately 0.343 acres benefiting and in favor of the neighboring lands, encumbers the District's Townsend Canal Project lands. As this pump station conflicts with the District's construction features along the Townsend Canal, to work around the pump station would increase project cost by approximately \$830,000. The landowner has agreed to modify the consumptive use permit and construct a groundwater well and, in connection therewith, abandon the pump station intake and provided the District with a release of the easement. Acquiring the Release of Easement in the amount of \$290,500, will result in a construction cost savings to the District of approximately \$539,500.

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

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

The District is in the process of construction to implement the C-43 West Basin Storage Reservoir Project ("Project") in Hendry County. Construction contracts in excess of \$600 million are in progress. A major feature for conveying water to and from the Reservoir is the Townsend Canal, which is located on the western boundary of the District's Project lands ownership and which connects the Reservoir to the Caloosahatchee River. The lands adjacent to the west boundary of the District's Project lands (the "Company Land") currently have an irrigation water supply pump station permitted to withdraw water from the Townsend Canal. An irrigation easement ("Easement") of approximately 0.343 acres (the "Easement Area") benefiting and in favor of the Company Land, encumbers the District's Townsend Canal Project lands, all as shown on the map attached hereto as Exhibit "A". As this pump station conflicts with the District's construction features along the Townsend Canal, an increase in construction costs of approximately \$830,000 would be required. The landowner of the Company Land has agreed to modify the consumptive use permit and construct a groundwater well and, in connection therewith, abandon the pump station intake and provide the District with a release of the Easement ("Release of Easement"). Acquiring the Release of Easement in the amount of \$290,500, will result in a construction cost savings to the District of approximately \$539,500.

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

The C-43 West Basin Storage Reservoir Project supports the District's core mission of

ecosystem restoration and protection by capturing excessive flows to the Caloosahatchee Estuary and supporting minimum flows and levels during the dry season. The Project is a Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (“CERP”) project.

**Funding Source:**

All costs associated with the release of the Easement herein described will be funded from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund and/or District Ad Valorem funds.

**Staff Contact and/or Presenter:**

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

[Resolution No. 2022-0504](#)

[Resolution No. 2022-0505](#)

[Exhibit A](#)