

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Jennifer Reynolds, Ecosystem Restoration

DATE: October 9, 2025

SUBJECT: Caloosahatchee Watershed Storage Initiative Contracts

Agenda Item Background:

The Caloosahatchee River Watershed in southwest Florida spans Lee, Hendry, Charlotte, Glades, and Collier counties. Freshwater and nutrients flow into the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary from Lake Okeechobee, the Caloosahatchee Basins, and the Tidal Basins. Of the five Caloosahatchee River Watershed basins, the East, West, and S-4 Basins are freshwater; and the Tidal and Coastal Basins are brackish water.

Over the past five years (Water Year 2020 through Water Year 2024), the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary received an average of 2,190 tons/year of Total Nitrogen, requiring a 23% reduction to meet Total Maximum Daily Loads targets. This calls for improved surface water storage and treatment.

The Caloosahatchee River Watershed Storage Initiative focuses on storage of high amounts of runoff, especially in the West Basin. Three proposals were received, evaluated, and selected. Each of the three proposals intend to use private lands to build and operate storage projects in Hendry and Glades counties which aim to store over 11,000 acre-feet annually for ten years. One project is in the West Basin, one in the East, and one spanning both.

PH Citrus, LLC, has procured some funding for design and a survey of the property from Florida Department of Agricultural Services (FDACS), and the District will continue to work with the NEEPP coordinating agencies to identify funding sources and deliver needed projects in a fiscally efficient manner.

Table 1: Contracts in Ranked Order

Contractor	Contract Number
PH Citrus, LLC	4600005271
Snake Land and Cattle, LLC	4600005272
Sustainable Water Infrastructure Group, LLC	4600005273

Additional Item Background:

Core Mission and Strategic Priorities:

These projects support storage in the Caloosahatchee River Watershed, as well as providing some ancillary benefits such as nutrient retention to improve water quality ultimately providing resilience for the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary. These projects will be implemented and tracked by the Ecosystem Restoration Division. The Office of Water Quality will be providing support since these projects will be reported on in the South Florida Environmental Report.

Funding Source:

PH Citrus, LLC, has procured some funding for design and a survey of the property from Florida Department of Agricultural Services.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

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ATTACHMENTS:

[Resolution No. 2025-1007](#)

[Backup Presentation](#)