

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

**TO:** Governing Board Members

**FROM:** Ray Palmer, Real Estate

**DATE:** November 13, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Hybrid Wetland Treatment Technology Project Lease, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Okeechobee County

### **Agenda Item Background:**

The District and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) entered into a lease agreement on October 16, 2015 for the purpose of conducting research for the Hybrid Wetland Treatment Technology Project. The current lease includes two tracts; parcel NB100-007 which was donated to the District and HF100-005 that was acquired on July 2, 2001. These parcels are located within the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project. The current lease is set to expire on October 15, 2025. Both the District and Lessee wish to extend the lease for ten years.

Staff is seeking Governing Board authorization to extend the lease located in Okeechobee County for ten years with FDACS. The lease agreement will have the standard provision for termination by the District for convenience of 180 days. The District will not be charging rent to FDACS.

### **Additional Item Background:**

All leased lands are inspected on a semi-annual basis at a minimum.

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

The objective of this Lease is to assist FDACS in developing cost-effective biologically based hybrid wetland/chemical nutrient control technologies.

### **Funding Source:**

There are no District costs associated with this item other than the cost of administering the lease.

### **Staff Contact and/or Presenter:**

Ray Palmer, [rpalmer@sfwmd.gov](mailto:rpalmer@sfwmd.gov), 561-682-2246

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

[Resolution No. 2025-1101](#)

[Exhibit A](#)

[Exhibit B](#)