

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

**TO:** Governing Board Members

**FROM:** Jennifer Reynolds, Ecosystem Restoration

**DATE:** July 10, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Lake Belt Mitigation Funding Agreement

### **Agenda Item Background:**

The Lake Belt Area of Miami-Dade County lies west of the Florida Turnpike and east of Krome Avenue, occupying the buffer area between urban Miami-Dade County and the Everglades. This strategically important area is also important for flood control, water supply, and limestone production. The Legislature established the Lake Belt Plan Implementation Committee composed of government agencies, mining interests, and non-mining interests, which completed a long-term plan for the Lake Belt Area in 2000. The implementation of that plan, through ecological restoration and environmental enhancement projects, is funded through the Lake Belt Mitigation Fee held in the Lake Belt Mitigation Trust Fund managed by the District. Responsibility for the planning, implementation, and approval of expenditures from the Lake Belt Mitigation Trust Fund is carried out by the legislatively established Lake Belt Mitigation Committee (§ 373.41492, Fla. Stat. (2024)), consisting of representatives from state and federal agencies, and a non-voting representative from the industry. This agreement will continue the procedures originally established by the Governing Board in 2010 to provide for the efficient and timely funding of the Committee-approved projects.

### **Additional Item Background:**

Staff recommends approval of contract number 4600002246-A02 with Miami-Dade Limestone Products Association to continue the procedures that provide for the efficient and timely funding of the Lake Belt Mitigation projects.

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

This Governing Board item supports the District's core mission of environmental restoration and is consistent with § 373.41492, Fla. Stat. (2024), that allows the impact of mining within the rock mining allowable areas of the Miami-Dade County Lake Plan to best be offset by the implementation of a comprehensive mitigation plan.

### **Funding Source:**

Funding for the ten-year term of this agreement is from the Lake Belt Mitigation Trust Fund established by § 373.41492, Fla. Stat. (2024), administered by the District for the benefit of restoration projects approved by the Lake Belt Mitigation Committee.

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

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### **ATTACHMENTS:**

