

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Jennifer Reynolds, Ecosystem Restoration & Capital Projects

DATE: May 9, 2024

SUBJECT: Contract Amendment for the Lower Kissimmee Basin Stormwater Treatment Area Project

Agenda Item Background:

As part of the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP), the Lower Kissimmee Basin Stormwater Treatment Area (LKBSTA) Project, located in Okeechobee County, will remove phosphorus loads from contributing basins before they enter Lake Okeechobee. In December 2021, the Governing Board authorized entering into a Project Agreement with EIP Florida Water Quality, LLC for the design, construction, operation, and land acquisition of the LKBSTA Project. The project, as currently designed, is expected to remove 12-15 metric tons of TP per year and will cost \$300 Million.

Since December 2021, significant investigation and public engagement has occurred, and the project concept has evolved both to increase the benefits and address public concerns from nearby stakeholders. The land associated with the original contract has also been investigated to ensure project feasibility.

An additional 1,400 acres southeast of the existing LKBSTA Project are available to expand the project footprint. Expanding the project would allow for additional water treatment in the region and is estimated to bring the total project TP removal to 20-22 metric tons per year. Staff requests Governing Board approval to amend the current contract with EIP Florida Water Quality, LLC to revise the project design to include the expanded project footprint.

Additional Item Background:

The basins that will be treated by this project often contribute some of the highest Total Phosphorous (TP) loads to Lake Okeechobee. For the five-year period of Water Years 2019-2023 (WY2019-2023), the TP load from the Lake Okeechobee watershed was 402 metric tons, which is 297 metric tons above the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) target set by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Core Mission and Strategic Priorities:

This project supports the District's core mission of ecosystem restoration.

Funding Source:

State Water Quality Grant through Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

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ATTACHMENTS:

[Resolution No. 2024-0514](#)

[LKBSTA Site Plan](#)