

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Governing Board Members

**FROM:** Jennifer Reynolds, Ecosystem Restoration

**DATE:** May 14, 2026

**SUBJECT:** Snake Land and Cattle Water and Nutrient Retention Project

### **Agenda Item Background:**

As part of the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP), the Snake Land and Cattle Water and Nutrient Retention Project, located in Glades County, is the result of the Caloosahatchee River Watershed Water Storage Initiative Request for Proposals released in May 2025. Snake Land and Cattle, LLC will provide stormwater retention services utilizing 632 acres of the ranch land located in the West Caloosahatchee Basin. The project is estimated to store approximately 1,800 acre-feet of water per year. The ancillary nutrient retention benefits from the project are approximately 700 pounds of phosphorous and 6,000 pounds of nitrogen annually.

The negotiated ten-year agreement includes up to one year for implementation (design, permitting, and construction) and nine years of operation. Funding includes \$716,000 for permitting, design and construction and \$251,600 per year for operations and maintenance. Staff requests Governing Board approval to enter into an agreement with Snake Land and Cattle, LLC to construct and operate the project for a total not to exceed agreement total of \$2,980,400.

### **Additional Item Background:**

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

The Snake Land and Cattle Water and Nutrient Retention Project is consistent with the Caloosahatchee River Watershed Protection Plan storage and water quality goals, Section 373.4595, Florida Statutes, NEEPP, and supports the District's core mission of ecosystem restoration.

#### **Funding Source:**

State Appropriated Funds in the amount of \$40,000 is budgeted in Fiscal Year 2025-2026 and the remainder is solely dependent on future legislative funding and subject to Governing Board approval of future years' budgets.

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

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### **ATTACHMENTS:**

[Resolution No. 2025-0504](#)

[Backup Presentation](#)