

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Jennifer Reynolds, Ecosystem Restoration

DATE: February 12, 2026

SUBJECT: Abington Preserve, LLC, Amended and Restated Northern Everglades Payment for Environmental Services Project Agreement

Agenda Item Background:

As part of the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program, the Abington Preserve Water Management Project, located in Okeechobee County, supports the Lake Okeechobee Basin Management Action Plan. The approximately 1,000-acre project captures direct rainfall and retains regional runoff in five storage basins in order to reduce discharges and moderate flows from the Lower Kissimmee Subwatershed. Originally approved by the Governing Board on October 9, 2011, the existing project stored an average of 325 acre-feet of water annually. The proposed project expansion is estimated to store 1,160 acre-feet of water per year.

The existing Contract No. 4600004474 and its three subsequent amendments provided construction and 11 years of operations at \$672,282.61. Staff requests Governing Board approval to enter into an amended and restated Service Agreement with Abington Preserve, LLC, to expand the storage area and extend project operations for an additional ten years in an amount not to exceed \$1,540,000, for a revised agreement total not to exceed \$2,212,282.61.

The amended and restated agreement updates the terms and conditions and includes construction costs to increase project benefits and efficiency, ten years of additional operation, establishes fixed annual cost including operations and maintenance responsibilities, and removes variability and uncertainty of Consumer Price Index cost increases. The amended and restated agreement includes a fixed cost of \$370,000 for permitting, design, and construction and a total of \$1,170,000 for operations and maintenance over the ten-year term.

Additional Item Background:

Core Mission and Strategic Priorities:

The Abington Preserve Project is consistent with the Lake Okeechobee 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:

Funding source is from annual legislative appropriations for Dispersed Water Management and the Northern Everglades and Estuary Protection Program.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

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ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution No. 2026-0207

Existing Project and Project Renewal