

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: John P. Mitnik, P.E., Chief District Engineer

DATE: March 5, 2026

SUBJECT: Caloosahatchee (C-43) Reservoir Operations and Maintenance with Approval of Embankment, Slope, and Grounds Maintenance Services

Agenda Item Background:

As part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, the Caloosahatchee (C-43) Reservoir, located in Hendry County, will restore and improve freshwater deliveries to the natural system and provide water for other related needs of the system, if available. The Caloosahatchee (C-43) Reservoir provides 170,000 acre-feet of water storage to improve ecological conditions in the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary. The reservoir will capture excess water in the river originating from local run-off and Lake Okeechobee, reducing damaging discharges to the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary.

Maintenance activities of the reservoir, which is the second longest dam in America, are crucial for ensuring structural integrity, maintaining water quality, and minimizing flood risks effectively by protecting and preserving the infrastructure. Preventative maintenance and refurbishments are necessary for pump stations, water control structures, emergency spillways, embankments and seepage management features, perimeter and Townsend Canals, and access bridges and roadways to support continuous operations. Typical maintenance components include pump components, motors, trash rake system, gates and lifting mechanisms, control systems, concrete, mechanical and electrical features, and dam safety instrumentation.

Maintaining healthy turf on the components of the Caloosahatchee (C-43) Reservoir including the embankment, canal side slopes and other acreage supports the growth of vegetation appropriate for reservoir inspections, operations and maintenance activities. This activity prevents the development of woody and nuisance vegetation that can create seepage paths and undermine the structural integrity of the embankment and supports dam safety, timely operations, and formal inspections of the Reservoir and the District's water control facilities.

Additional Item Background:

This item was solicited through a Request for Proposals. The selection committee evaluated responsive and responsible respondents based on their qualifications, technical merits and cost proposals. Proposals were subsequently scored and listed in ranked order.

Core Mission and Strategic Priorities:

Caloosahatchee (C-43) Reservoir Embankment, Slope, and Grounds Maintenance Mowing Services supports the District's missions of ecosystem restoration, water supply, and flood control.

Funding Source:

Caloosahatchee (C-43) Reservoir Embankment, Slope, and Grounds Maintenance Mowing Services will be funded through dedicated funds (State Appropriations) and Ad Valorem funds.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

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ATTACHMENTS:

[Resolution No. 2026-0310](#)

[RFP 6000001653 Ranking and Negotiations Authorization Posting Notice](#)