

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Jennifer Reynolds, Ecosystem Restoration

DATE: April 9, 2026

SUBJECT: Mudge Ranch Amended and Restated Northern Everglades Payment for Environmental Services Agreement

Agenda Item Background:

As part of the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program, the Mudge Ranch Water Management Area Project, located in Glades County, supports the Caloosahatchee River Watershed Protection Plan. The approximately 300-acre project retains direct rainfall and excess runoff in order to reduce discharges and moderate flows from the West Caloosahatchee Basin. Originally approved by the Governing Board on December 12, 2013, and expanded in 2024, the project is estimated to store approximately 630 acre-feet of water per year. The ancillary nutrient retention benefits from the project are approximately 265 pounds of phosphorous and 2,116 pounds of nitrogen annually.

The existing Contract No. 4600005082 and its four subsequent amendments included construction and 13 years of operations at a total cost not to exceed \$709,266.88. Staff requests Governing Board approval to enter into an amended and restated service agreement with Mudge Ranch LLC, to extend the agreement term to include an additional ten years of operation, update the terms and conditions, and add \$960,000 for a revised agreement total of \$1,669,266.88.

Additional Item Background:

Core Mission and Strategic Priorities:

The Mudge Ranch 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:

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. 2026-0403](#)

[Backup Presentation](#)