M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Lucine Dadrian, P.E., Engineering, Construction & Modeling

DATE: October 9, 2025

SUBJECT: Everglades Agricultural Area A-2 Reservoir Pump Station S-623 Project, Palm Beach County

Agenda Item Background:
In July 2025, Governor Ron DeSantis announced that the State of Florida and the U.S. Department of the Army reached a new landmark agreement to accelerate the restoration of America's Everglades. The new agreement accelerates the timeline of EAA Reservoir from 2034 to 2029 and authorizes the State of Florida to construct additional features to expedite the project.

As part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Phase, the EAA A-2 Reservoir S-623 Pump Station Project, located in Palm Beach County, is a 4,600 cubic feet per second (cfs) pump station for the future EAA A-2 Reservoir. This project will play a crucial role by improving the quantity, timing, and distribution of water flows from Lake Okeechobee south to the central Everglades, Florida Bay, and Everglades National Park. The pump station scope includes construction of an enclosed concrete formed structure with a pump mix consisting of three 200 cfs electric pumps, two 400 cfs diesel pumps, and four 800 cfs diesel pumps. The pump station also includes a fuel farm; trash rake; mechanical, electrical, and SCADA systems; 180-foot microwave tower; and rip rapped canal intake. In addition, a portion of the seepage canal and inflow/outflow canal will be constructed to tie into U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) contract work.

This project was authorized by Congress in 2016, and a Post Authorization Change Control Report was authorized by Congress in October 2018. The S-623 Pump Station will serve as the primary inflow structure to the future EAA A-2 Reservoir, currently being constructed by the USACE. The EAA A-2 Reservoir is one of many restoration projects within the CEPP EAA plan, a component of the overall CERP aimed to restore, protect, and preserve the Everglades ecosystem. The CEPP EAA Phase includes a 10,500-acre reservoir, a 6,500-acre stormwater treatment area with associated water control structures including the S-623 Pump Station, inflow-outflow canal, as well as Miami and North New River canal conveyance improvements. Other features of the CEPP EAA A-2 Reservoir have been completed or are being designed or constructed by the District or the USACE.

The lowest responsive and responsible bidder is Harry Pepper & Associates, Inc., in the amount of $389,861,240 and recommended for award of the contract. In accordance with District policy and consistent with state law for Request for Bids procurements, this item was competitively bid through a sealed bid process. The bid opening for this project was on September 16, 2025.

The lowest bid is consistent with the District's engineers estimate range from ($333,376,446 - $368,468,704) and competitive with respect to other recently bid pump stations. The USACE recently awarded a 650 cfs pump station for $192.8 Million ($297,000 per cfs). The District is building a 1,100 cfs pump station for $99.4 Million ($90,300 per cfs). The EAA Reservoir Inflow pump station is bid at $84,752 per cfs. While construction costs are higher in the current economy, there are economies of scale as you increase pump station size.

Additionally, in an effort to expedite the construction of the S-623 Pump Station, staff is requesting an additional 5% in budget authority, above the lowest responsive and responsible bid, to fund any necessary access roads, any additional material laydown areas, potential construction village expansion for increased staffing, including base camp facilities for out of state personnel, site management of the CEPP EAA A-2 Reservoir construction site, and obtain necessary design related change orders associated with the S-623 Pump Station.

Additional Item Background:

Core Mission and Strategic Priorities:

The EAA A-2 Reservoir Pump Station S-623 Project supports the District's core missions of water quality, flood control, and ecosystem restoration.

Funding Source:
The EAA A-2 Reservoir Pump Station S-623 Project will be funded through dedicated funds (State Appropriations) and Ad Valorem funds.

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ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution No. 2025-1012