

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Patrick Webster, Chief Professional Engineer, Ag and Environmental Projects

THRU: Steve Minnis, Deputy Executive Director, Business and Community Services

DATE: August 30, 2019

RE: Approval to Enter into Contracts for Calendar Year 2019 Regional Initiative Valuing Environmental Resources Cost-Share Program

### RECOMMENDATION

**Staff recommends the Governing Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into contracts for the Fiscal Year 2019 Regional Initiative Valuing Environmental Resources Cost-Share Program.**

### BACKGROUND

The Governing Board proposed budget includes funding for Regional Initiative Valuing Environmental Resources (RIVER) projects that enhance or address the District's water supply, water quality, flood protection and/or natural systems responsibilities. This funding is consistent with sections 373.703 and 373.705, Florida Statutes (F.S.), which state water management districts may provide assistance to local governments, regional water supply authorities, and water utilities. The funding awarded in prior years has facilitated the District mission and achieved improvements to the infrastructure, economy, and public health of communities throughout the District.

Applications submitted to the District through January 16, 2019, were considered for the Summer 2019 RIVER funding cycle. Staff is recommending dispersing a total of the \$983,094 for 8 projects. Three of these projects have been submitted for funding through the Alternative Water Supply (AWS) Funding. Staff is recommending funding for one or both of the contingency projects should one or more of the three identified projects receive funding from the AWS Funding program. Total funding not to exceed the proposed budget amount.

As in previous years, the number of applications received, and the funding requested demonstrates the scope of the water supply needs that exist across the District. Additionally, in accordance with Executive Order Number 2019-12 District staff worked with applicants where appropriate to maximize nutrient reductions. The quality of the applications received, and the overall funding requested has resulted in a highly competitive process. As a result, the Summer 2019 funding cycle focused on addressing applications that were previously submitted to the District and have been revised, as well as new projects. District staff will continue to work with local governments, water utilities, and other agencies to identify additional funding resources.

Attached is a list of the proposed recipients and proposed funding amounts, a map that shows the recommended project locations and a brief description of project submittals recommended for the Calendar Year 2019 RIVER Cost-Share Program.

Funding for this recommendation is included in the Fiscal Year 2019-20 Tentative Budget and is contingent upon approval of the final budget.

PW/tm  
Attachments