

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board  
FROM: Patrick Webster, Chief Professional Engineer  
THUR: Steve Minnis, Deputy Executive Director  
DATE: August 30, 2019  
RE: Authorization to Enter into Agreements with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to Receive Springs Grant Funds and to Enter into Local Cooperative Agreements

### RECOMMENDATION

**Staff recommends the Governing Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into agreements with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to receive springs grant funds and to enter into agreements with the appropriate entities to implement the projects.**

### BACKGROUND

On June 21, 2019, Governor DeSantis signed the “Bold Vision for a Brighter Future” state budget, which includes an investment of \$100 million for springs protection. This appropriation included \$50 million for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Springs Restoration Plan presented to the Legislative Budget Commission during Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-19 and an additional \$50 million for springs protection in FY 2019-20.

District staff collaborated with local governments and interested stakeholders throughout the 15-county area and invited them to submit spring protection and restoration project concepts. District staff presented all the projects to the Governing Board during the April 9, 2019, Board Meeting that were submitted to the District and reviewed for springs grant funding. At that meeting, the Governing Board approved 11 projects to be submitted to the FDEP for review. Staff prepared and submitted the proposed projects to FDEP for consideration.

In August 2019, FDEP informed the District that it will receive over \$8.3 million in state springs grant funding for 3 projects.

Staff recommends the Executive Director be authorized to enter into agreements with the FDEP to receive spring grant funds and subsequently enter into agreements with the cooperators to implement the projects.

Attached is a list of the projects approved for state springs grant funding that are the subject of this recommendation. The District will enter into agreements on the first two projects listed in the attached spreadsheet. The other project, the cooperator will contract directly with FDEP. Funding for these projects is included in the Tentative FY 2019-20 Budget and is contingent upon approval of the final budget.

PW/tm  
Attachment