

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Fay Baird, Senior Hydrologist, Office of Water Resources

THRU: Darlene Velez, Chief, Office of Water Resources  
Tom Mirti, Deputy Executive Director, Water and Land Resources

DATE: July 31, 2020

RE: Interagency Joint Funding Agreement with the United States Geological Survey for Steamgaging Services for Fiscal Year 2020-2021

**RECOMMENDATION**

Authorize the Executive Director to enter into an Interagency Joint Funding Agreement with the United States Geological Survey for an amount not to exceed \$1,495,150 for streamgaging services in Fiscal Year 2020-2021 (FY 2021)

**BACKGROUND**

Hydrologic and water quality monitoring are central to the Suwannee River Water Management District's (District) mission, and for decades the mechanism to accomplish this has been through cooperative funding with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) at major river stations throughout the District. The USGS maintains gages and sensors at these stations, provides quality assurance, and archives long term hydrologic data.

This long-term program provides essential information for flood warnings and forecasts through the National Weather Service, floodplain mapping, the determination of Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs), groundwater modeling and drought monitoring. Data obtained through this program are provided in real-time to the public via the USGS' national web page, the District's River Levels web page, and the District's river level automated phone service. Data are also provided instantaneously to the National Weather Service's Southeast River Forecast Center.

The proposed FY 2021 Interagency Joint Funding Agreement (JFA) with the USGS is for a total amount of \$1,495,150 with the District providing \$916,830 and the USGS contributing \$467,970. For FY 2020, the total contract amount was \$1,198,800 and the District's share was \$625,931. Table 1 provides a detailed budget showing cost at each monitoring station and a breakdown of the proposed cooperative funding.

The cost increase compared to FY 2020 is a result of:

- a 2% federal cost of living adjustment,
- purchase, installation, and maintenance of equipment to monitor continuous temperature and conductivity at three existing long-term flow and level stations on the middle Suwannee River (Ellaville, Luraville, and Bell),
- construction and monitoring for new water level, temperature, and conductivity stations near the mouths of the Econfina, Fenholloway, and Steinhatchee rivers. Equipment at