

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Darlene Velez, Chief, Office of Water Resources

THRU: Tom Mirti, Deputy Executive Director, Water and Land Resources

DATE: August 14, 2020

RE: Contract with Vieux & Associates, Inc., for Purchase of Gage-Adjusted Radar-Rainfall Data for Fiscal Years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with Vieux & Associates, Inc., for a two-year term to purchase gage-adjusted radar rainfall data for an annual amount not to exceed \$40,800.

BACKGROUND

The District has acquired gage-adjusted radar rainfall data since February 2001. This service will continue to provide radar-derived daily rainfall estimates on a two-kilometer by two-kilometer grid throughout the District. Precipitation data from this process is essential for the estimation of groundwater recharge, for use as inputs to hydrologic modeling efforts, for the support of agricultural, regulatory, and District land management activities, the maintenance of District rainfall records, and the development of accurate water budgets. This information is requested frequently by emergency managers, land managers, researchers, and agricultural agencies. The District also uses it to analyze rainfall extremes such as drought, floods, and hurricanes on a scale ranging from small watersheds to the entire District.

Staff proposes to continue purchasing the services of the radar-rainfall data provider under the prices negotiated by the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), under their current five-year contract which will expire on September 30, 2022, unless extended.

St. Johns River (SJRWMD), South Florida, Southwest Florida, Northwest Florida, and Suwannee River water management districts (WMDs) cooperated in the issuance and evaluation of a request for proposals in Fiscal Year 2017-2018 (FY 2018) for this product. The WMDs cooperate in order to have consistent rainfall data coverage over the state, as has been the case since 2001. The consistency in coverage means less uncertainty in modeling across water management district boundaries.

Pursuant to the District's Contractual Services Policy, the District entered a contract based on the above competitive solicitation and the resultant contract, however the District's agreement for services was for one year with two one-year renewals. The last available renewal under that contract will expire on September 30, 2020. Staff is recommending that the District enter into a new agreement, under the above competitive solicitation and resulting contract with SJRWMD for the remaining two-year period of the SJRWMD agreement. The new agreement will continue on the same terms, conditions, and pricing as the previous agreement. The proposed new contract will keep all WMDs on the same procurement schedule and facilitate the consistency of rainfall data collection throughout the state of Florida. It is expected that a new competitive solicitation process will be completed during calendar year 2022.