

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Hugh Thomas, Executive Director
DATE: August 18, 2020
RE: Temporary Delegation of Additional Authority

RECOMMENDATION

Amend temporary delegation of additional authority.

BACKGROUND

On April 14, 2020, the Governing Board approved a temporary delegation of additional authority to the Executive Director to ensure the continuity of District operations.

Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-52 and subsequent Orders 20-114 and 20-166 declaring a state of emergency based upon the serious threat to the public health, safety, and welfare posed by COVID-19. As a result of findings made in these Orders, and in accordance with section 252.38, Florida Statutes (F.S.), the Governor authorized political subdivisions to waive procedures and formalities governing, among other things, the performance of public work and taking whatever prudent action is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community.

The District has responded to these directives by, among other things, closing its buildings to the public and limiting meetings to those which can be conducted electronically. Many District staff are also working remotely to perform their duties and to keep the District operational.

The public health emergency presented by COVID-19 is requiring compressed timelines for making operational and financial decisions.

Furthermore, pursuant to subsections 373.079(4) and 373.083(5), F.S., the Governing Board is authorized to execute any of the powers, duties, and functions vested in the Board through the Executive Director.

In response to the orders and guidance from state and federal authorities and to responsibly ensure continuity of operations during the current public health emergency, staff recommends that the Governing Board extend the temporarily delegation of additional authority to the Executive Director.

SM/rl
Attachment