

**AGENDA REQUEST FOR
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
April 14, 2020**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

THROUGH: Ann B. Shortelle, Ph.D.
Executive Director

FROM: Michael A. Register, Director
Division of Water Supply Planning and Assessment

SUBJECT: Authorization of Projects for the Tri-County Agricultural Area Water Management Partnership and Districtwide Agricultural Cost Share Programs

RECOMMENDATION

Approval of the ranking and authorization for the Executive Director to execute contracts for the Tri-County Agricultural Area (TCAA) Water Management Partnership and Districtwide Agricultural Cost Share Programs' projects with a cumulative dollar total not to exceed \$706,922 for the TCAA Water Management Partnership projects and \$363,029 for the Districtwide Agricultural Cost Share projects and the related budget transfer.

Project Name: Agricultural Cost Share Program, TCAA and Districtwide

Initiative: Agricultural Partnership

Contractor: Multiple

TCAA Amount: \$706,922

Districtwide Amount \$363,029

Implementation: Project completion by September 30, 2020

Total TCAA and Districtwide Agricultural Cost Share Budget: \$1,767,532

Funding Available: FY 19-20 budget

TCAA Account Number: 01-34-11-6210-8301-36224

Districtwide Account Number: 01-34-11-6210-8301-12255

TCAA BACKGROUND

The Tri-County Agricultural Area Water Management Partnership Cost Share Program was developed to assist farmers and growers with implementing projects that conserve water and result in nutrient loading reductions.

Funding for this cost share program is provided on a year to year basis by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), and the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD). FDACS serves as the "gate keeper" for applications and the three partners select agricultural projects for cost share opportunities. A fourth partner, the Natural Resource and Conservation Service also provides cost share opportunities to the Tri-County Agricultural Area growers (via federal dollars). To date, 113 projects have received funding through this program. Projects are eligible for cost share funding for 75% of construction cost with an annual cap of \$250,000.

TCAA DISCUSSION

There are two solicitations for this program each year. Projects approved from the first solicitation in July 2019 were funded by FDEP and FDACS. Seven applications were received for the second solicitation in February of this year. Six of the projects were recommended for funding; one of which has already been funded by FDACS. The five remaining projects are being recommended for funding through SJRWMD and are listed below in rank order.

Applicant	Total Amount Requested \$	Applicant Share \$	SJRWMD Cost \$
Greene's Farms	329,000	82,250	246,750
C.P. Wesley Smith Inc.	340,000	90,000	250,000
Tater Farms	138,733	34,683	104,050
Riverdale Potato Farms	118,372	29,593	88,779
De-Lee Produce LLC	23,124	5,781	17,343
Totals	949,229	242,307	706,922

TCAA Cost Share Project Benefits:

- Total estimated acres: 3,871
- Estimated conservation/water made available: 98.5 mgy
- Estimated annual TN loading reduction: 7,697 pounds
- Estimated annual TP loading reduction: 3,022 pounds

Upon approval of the TCAA Water Management Partnership Cost Share contracts, there will be approximately \$835,880 remaining in the budget. These remaining funds will not be awarded this fiscal year and it is requested that \$138,300 of these funds be transferred to the Districtwide Agricultural Cost Share Program to cover the projects recommended for funding below.

DISTRICTWIDE AGRICULTURAL COST SHARE BACKGROUND

Beginning in FY 2015, the Districtwide Agricultural Cost Share program was developed to assist farmers and growers with implementing projects that conserve water and result in nutrient loading reductions. Projects are ranked based on benefit to the District's core missions, resource benefits, cost effectiveness and timeline to completion. The cost share program provides up to 75% of the project costs, not to exceed \$250,000, for the engineering, design, construction and implementation costs of the project. Awardees are expected to cover project maintenance costs for the life of the project and, if applicable, must modify their consumptive use permits to reflect water savings produced by SJRWMD funds. To date, 93 projects have been approved for funding.

DISTRICTWIDE AGRICULTURAL COST SHARE DISCUSSION

The Governing Board previously approved twelve projects for funding on October 8, 2019 from the first solicitation for this program. A second solicitation was sent out in January of this year and ten applications were received and reviewed by the Project Selection Panel. One project was not ranked because it did not meet the intent of the program and one project ranked too low to be recommended for funding. The eight remaining projects are being recommended for funding and are listed below in rank order.

Applicant	Total Amount Requested \$	Applicant Share \$	SJRWMD Cost \$
IMG Citrus Inc.	175,959	43,990	131,969
Villa City	17,319	4,330	12,989
Legacy Farms and Ornamentals	32,581	8,145	24,436
The Magnolia Company	152,615	38,154	114,461
Select Growers Inc.	38,755	9,689	29,066
Wilson Training Center	14,000	3,500	10,500
Southern Hill Farms	11,432	2,858	8,574
J. Patrick Schirard	41,379	10,345	31,034
Totals	484,040	121,011	363,029

Districtwide Cost Share Project Benefits:

- Total estimated acres: 1,208
 - Estimated conservation/water made available: 219 mgd
 - Estimated annual TN loading reduction: 5,070 pounds
 - Estimated annual TP loading reduction: 1,128 pounds
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