MEMORANDUM

To: Council Members
From: Staff
Date: March 15, 2013 Council Meeting
Subject: Intergovernmental Coordination and Review Log

The Intergovernmental Coordination and Review process serves, in part, as an early warning system for the federal government to determine if a federally funded project is consistent with plans and ongoing community initiatives of local governments and the regional planning council. By coordinating with and requesting comments from affected local governments on applications, a duplication of efforts, funding and services can be avoided. This enables the tax dollars to be more effectively used to carry out local/regional initiatives in the region.

The attached Intergovernmental Coordination and Review Log presents one application for federal funding of projects or programs. The Review Log contains the applicant’s name, project location, project description, federal funding source, and the amount of funds requested, as well as designation of Notification of Intent if it is a preliminary application. Staff recommendations are provided on the consistency of funding applications with the Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TCRPC Number</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Funding Agency</th>
<th>Federal Funding Requested</th>
<th>Total Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13-PB-02-01</td>
<td>Draft Environmental Impact Statement – Everglades Agricultural Area A-1 Shallow Flow Equalization Basin Project</td>
<td>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Recommendation

Council should approve the comments in the attached report and authorize their distribution.

Attachments
The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is requesting regulatory authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to construct a shallow flow equalization basin (FEB) on the A-1 project site in the Everglades Agricultural Area. The A-1 project site is approximately 16,152 acres and bordered to the east by U.S. Highway 27, to the south by Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) 3/4, to the west by the Holey Land Wildlife Management Area, and to the north by agricultural lands.

The shallow FEB is an above-ground 60,000 acre-foot impoundment with a maximum operating depth of 4 feet. As proposed, construction of the shallow FEB would place fill within 296.5 acres of freshwater marsh wetlands to construct levees, place fill within 164.5 acres of canals to create appropriate wetland elevations, and excavate 75.8 acres of canals and ditches. Operation of the shallow FEB would inundate 10,517 acres of jurisdictional wetlands and 1,147.65 acres of uplands to create an emergent marsh habitat.

The purpose of the shallow FEB is to improve the phosphorus treatment performance in STAs 2 and 3/4 by retaining and then delivering water to the STAs with improved flow and timing, which is expected to increase the effectiveness of phosphorus treatment in the STAs prior to discharge in the Everglades Protection Area. The primary concern with the project is related to the amount of mitigation for impacts to wetlands. The SFWMD wetland mitigation plan includes hydraulic and vegetation benefits within the footprint of the project. The USACE agrees the shallow FEB would provide wetland benefits and therefore, does not have concerns with recognizing the environmental benefits of the project to offset the loss of existing wetland function and value. However, continued coordination between the SFWMD, USACE, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is expected prior to finalizing the mitigation assessment methodology for the project.
Estimated Funding: N/A

Recommendations: The application is consistent with the Strategic Regional Policy Plan. It furthers Regional Goal 6.9 - Protection and sustainability of the Everglades Ecosystem; and Strategy 6.9.1 - Manage and restore the Everglades ecosystem to ensure a sustainable future.

Agencies Contacted: Palm Beach County Planning
Palm Beach County Environmental Resource Management
City of Belle Glade
City of Pahokee
City of South Bay
Project Site Location Map and Surrounding Features

Figure 1
A-1 Flow Equalization Basin
Project Location Map
Palm Beach County, Florida

Legend
- A-1 FEB Project Location
- EAA Statutory Boundary83
Location Map of Western, Central and Eastern Flowpaths