

Subject

Approve Amendment NO. 1 to Agreement No. QG010 between Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and Polk County and to fund the Wilson Ranch Reserve Hydrological Restoration Project. (one-time revenue \$7,500,000)

Description

In 2023, the County approved a comprehensive services agreement (CSA) #2023-059 with HGS, LLC d/b/a RES ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATING COMPANY ("RES"), to design and construct a proposed regional water quality treatment and wetland restoration project located where Saddle Creek and Peace Creek converge to form the headwaters of the Peace River (the "Project"). Once the Project is constructed, RES will monitor the pollutant loads, floodplain restoration levels, and exotic vegetation thresholds to ensure the Project has achieved desired water quality benefits. At the conclusion of a 25-year management period, RES will convey fee simple title for the Property and Project improvements to the County.

The CSA requires the County and RES to work together to secure State funding to fund the Project. Therefore, the County applied to the FDEP Water Quality Improvement Grant program in September 2023, requesting funds in the amount of \$7,500,000.00 with no match required. In the spring of 2024, FDEP notified the County that it was awarded the full funding requested and by October 2024, the County had a fully executed grant #QC010 for \$7,500,000. The major tasks for this grant agreement are to complete preconstruction work and initiate construction activities. There is no match requirement.

October 2025, Polk County is requesting Amendment NO. 1 to grant agreement #QC010. The amendment clarifies the grant agreement deadline from to be October 31, 2028. Additional changes were made to the Task 1 & 2 deliverables. Due to unforeseen circumstances with federal and state permitting delays, modifications were made to Task 1 & 2 deliverables and the budget per task. These modifications in no way change the intent of the original agreement and there is no change in the overall grant budget.

These changes allow the County to seek reimbursement for Task 1 within the next month, rather than having to wait up to 6 months until the permits are approved.

Through CSA 2023-059 County will continue to work closely with RES to execute the grant tasks. The County will be reimbursed upon successful completion of each of the grant tasks.

The project has been approved by STAC.

Recommendation

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Fiscal Impact

No Fiscal Impact

Contact Information

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