

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Eric Marzolf, Ph.D., Division Director, Water Resources
DATE: June 4, 2013
RE: Purchase of Water Use Monitoring Equipment

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Governing Board waive the District's current procedural limit of \$15,000 for informal bid purchases and authorize the Executive Director to approve this one-time only purchase of water use monitoring equipment totaling less than \$35,000.

BACKGROUND

The purpose of purchasing these modems is to provide wireless communication to agricultural water use monitoring devices, as funded by a Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services grant approved by the Governing Board in April and May. The benefit of the modems is the significant reduction of staff time and improvement of data quality through remote access.

This purchase request is for 90 new wireless modems and was necessitated because our current modem model has been eliminated and replaced by a newer model; however, the new model is not yet on the State's approved purchase list.

These modems will be used to fulfill the monitoring agreement we have with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to spend funds on agricultural water use monitoring equipment. These funds have just become available in our budget and need to be encumbered by the end of June.

Florida Statute (Chapter 287.057) allows purchases up to \$35,000 based upon informal bids. We received informal bids from four vendors, and recommend the purchase of 90 Sierra Wireless LS300 modems from Mobile Pro Wireless for a total delivered price of \$34,672.50. Below is a tabulation of the informal bids.

Mobile Pro Wireless, Inc.	\$34,672.50
Locher Environmental Technology, LLC	\$35,016.89
GRG Wireless	\$40,050.00
GetWireless, LLC	\$43,470.00

EM/dd