



## MEMORANDUM

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

**Date:** July 8, 2024  
**To:** CLFLWD Board of Managers  
**From:** Mike Kinney, District Administrator  
**Subject:** Automated Lake Level Monitoring Budget Transfer



**District Wide**

### Background/Discussion

The purpose of this agenda item is to consider authorizing a budget transfer to allow the District Administrator to purchase automated lake level monitoring equipment this year.

Lake level monitoring has been a topic of discussion for years for the District and of recent concern for local LGUs, lake associations, and residents due to heavy rains and increasingly high-water levels. The District has seen a high demand from lakeshore residents for up-to-date lake level data. District staff are out in the field often and are generally able to manually collect lake level readings and post the information to the District website on a weekly basis.

This frequency is sufficient for the District's long-term trend monitoring needs. Implementation of automated lake level monitoring, which would be available in real time on the District website, would provide lakeshore residents with more frequent data. The automated system will require staff time to set up and maintain, but we estimate it would require less time and resources, over the long run, than physically driving out to read each lake's staff gage daily. The estimated cost for the equipment itself is \$9,500. The proposed budget line item to purchase the equipment is 3-003-C Lake Monitoring.

This expense is not budgeted in the 2024 budget. However, the Board may wish to process a budget transfer from another line item to allow for the equipment purchase this year rather than budgeting for and waiting until 2025 for implementation. The District budgeted \$80,000 in the 3-004-D, Commercial/Community Grant line item, which includes the Lake Association Grant. The proposed automated lake level monitoring equipment would provide benefit to each of the District's three lake associations by providing real-time data to lake association members. We have not received any applications to the Lake Association Grant program yet this year.

### Recommended Motion

Manager \_\_\_\_\_ moves to amend the 2024 budget for account 3-004-D to \$70,500 and to transfer \$9,500 from account 3-004-D to account 3-003-C. Seconded by Manager \_\_\_\_\_.