

**SEATON CREEK RESERVE  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
LANDOWNERS ELECTION, PUBLIC HEARINGS,  
AUDIT COMMITTEE & REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 28, 2021**

**SEATON CREEK RESERVE  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT AGENDA  
OCTOBER 28, 2021 AT 2:00 P.M.  
BARTRAM PARK EXECUTIVE CENTER  
LOCATED AT 12724 GRAN BAY PARKWAY WEST, SUITE 410  
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32258**

<b>District Board of Supervisors</b>	Supervisor	Ross Puzzitiello
	Supervisor	Rick Puzzitiello
	Supervisor	Ward Huntley
	Supervisor	Amy Dewey
	Supervisor	Zenzi Rogers
<b>District Manager</b>	Meritus	Brian Lamb
<b>District Attorney</b>	Hopping Green & Sams	Wes Haber
<b>District Engineer</b>	Prosser Inc.	Brad Davis

***All cellular phones and pagers must be turned off while in the meeting room***

**The District Agenda is comprised of four different sections:**

The meeting will begin at **2:00 p.m.**

Public workshops sessions may be advertised and held in an effort to provide informational services. These sessions allow staff or consultants to discuss a policy or business matter in a more informal manner and allow for lengthy presentations prior to scheduling the item for approval. Typically, no motions or votes are made during these sessions.

Pursuant to provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting is asked to advise the District Office at (813) 873-7300, at least 48 hours before the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 7-1-1 who can aid you in contacting the District Office.

Any person who decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the meeting is advised that this same person will need a record of the proceedings and that accordingly, the person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

October 28, 2021  
Board of Supervisors  
**Seaton Creek Reserve Community Development District**

*Dear Board Members:*

The Landowners Election, Public Hearings, Audit Committee & Regular Meeting of the Seaton Creek Reserve Community Development District will be held on **October 28, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. at the Bartram Park Executive Center located at 12724 Gran Bay Parkway West Suite 410, Jacksonville, FL 32258.** Please let us know at least 24 hours in advance if you are planning to call into the meeting. Following is the Agenda for the Meeting:

**Call In Number: 1-866-906-9330**

**Access Code: 4863181**

**LANDOWNERS MEETING/ELECTION**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. APPOINTMENT OF MEETING CHAIRMAN**
- 3. ANNOUNCEMENT OF CANDIDATES/CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**
- 4. ELECTION OF SUPERVISORS**
- 5. OWNERS' REQUESTS**
- 6. ADJOURNMENT**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS, AUDIT COMMITTEE AND REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**
- 2. OATH OF OFFICE**
- 3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**
- 4. RECESS TO PUBLIC HEARINGS**
- 5. PUBLIC HEARING ON ADOPTING UNIFORM METHOD OF COLLECTION**
  - A. Open the Public Hearing on Adopting Uniform Method of Collection
  - B. Staff Presentation
  - C. Public Comment
  - D. Close the Public Hearing on Adopting Uniform Method of Collection
  - E. Consideration of Resolution 2022-01; Adopting Uniform Method of Collection.....Tab 01
- 6. PUBLIC HEARING ON ADOPTING UNIFORM RULES OF PROCEDURE**
  - A. Open the Public Hearing on Adopting Uniform Rules of Procedure
  - B. Staff Presentations
  - C. Public Comment
  - D. Close the Public Hearing on Adopting Uniform Rules of Procedure
  - E. Consideration of Resolution 2022-02; Adopting Uniform Rules of Procedure.....Tab 02
- 7. PUBLIC HEARING ON ADOPTING FINAL FISCAL YEAR 2021 & 2022 BUDGET**
  - A. Open Public Hearing on Adopting Final Fiscal Year 2021 & 2022 Budget
  - B. Staff Presentations
  - C. Public Comment
  - D. Close Public Hearing on Adopting Final Fiscal Year 2021 & 2022 Budget
  - E. Consideration of Resolution 2022-03; Adopting Final Fiscal Year 2021 Budget.....Tab 03
    - i. Developer Funding Agreement
  - F. Consideration of Resolution 2022-04; Adopting Final Fiscal Year 2022 Budget.....Tab 04
    - i. Developer Funding Agreement
- 8. RECESS TO AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING**
- 9. AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING**
  - A. Call to Order/Roll Call
  - B. Appoint Chairman
  - C. Selection of Criteria for Evaluation of Proposals

D. Determine Date, Time and Location RFP Required	
i. Consider Notice of Request for Proposals for Audit Services	
E. Consider Sending RFP to Interested Firms	
F. Determine Date of Next Committee Meeting	
i. Audit Committee Guidelines.....	Tab 05
<b>10. RETURN AND PROCEED TO REGULAR MEETING</b>	
<b>11. VENDOR AND STAFF REPORTS</b>	
A. District Counsel	
B. District Manager	
C. District Engineer	
<b>12. BUSINESS ITEMS</b>	
A. Consideration of Resolution 2022-05; Canvassing and Certifying the Results of the Landowners Election.....	Tab 06
B. Consideration of Resolution 2022-06; Designating Officers.....	Tab 07
C. Consideration of Resolution 2022-07; Extending Board Terms to Coincide with General Elections..	Tab 08
D. Discussion on District Counsel Transition.....	Tab 09
E. Consideration of ADA Website Compliance Proposal.....	Tab 10
<b>13. BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS</b>	
<b>14. PUBLIC COMMENTS</b>	
<b>15. ADJOURNMENT</b>	

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call us at (813) 873-7300.

Sincerely,



Brian Lamb, CEO  
Meritus

## **RESOLUTION 2022-01**

### **RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE SEATON CREEK RESERVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT EXPRESSING ITS INTENT TO UTILIZE THE UNIFORM METHOD OF LEVYING, COLLECTING, AND ENFORCING NON AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS WHICH MAY BE LEVIED BY THE SEATON CREEK RESERVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 197.3632, FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the Seaton Creek Reserve Community Development District (“District”) was established pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 190, Florida Statutes, which authorizes the District to levy certain assessments which include benefit and maintenance assessments and further authorizes the District to levy special assessments pursuant to Chapter 170, Florida Statutes, for the acquisition, construction, or reconstruction of assessable improvements authorized by Chapter 190, Florida Statutes; and

**WHEREAS**, the above referenced assessments are non-ad valorem in nature and, therefore, may be collected under the provisions of Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes, in which the State of Florida has provided a uniform method for the levying, collecting, and enforcing such non-ad valorem assessments; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes, the District has caused notice of a public hearing to be advertised weekly in a newspaper of general circulation within Duval County for four (4) consecutive weeks prior to such hearing.

### **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE SEATON CREEK RESERVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT:**

**SECTION 1.** The Seaton Creek Reserve Community Development District upon conducting its public hearing as required by Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes, hereby expresses its intent to use the uniform method of collecting assessments imposed by the District as provided in Chapters 170 and 190, Florida Statutes, each of which are non-ad valorem assessments which may be collected annually pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 190, Florida Statutes, for the purpose of paying principal and interest on any and all of its indebtedness and for the purpose of paying the cost of operating and maintaining its assessable improvements. The legal description of the boundaries of the real property subject to a levy of assessments is attached and made a part of this Resolution as **Exhibit A**. The non-ad valorem assessments and the District’s use of the uniform method of collecting its non-ad valorem assessment(s) may continue in any given year when the Board of Supervisors determines that use of the uniform method for that year is in the best interests of the District.

**SECTION 2.** The District's Secretary is authorized to provide the Property Appraiser and Tax Collector of Duval County and the Department of Revenue of the State of Florida with a copy of this Resolution and enter into any agreements with the Property Appraiser and/or Tax Collector necessary to carry out the provisions of this Resolution.

**SECTION 3.** If any provision of this Resolution is held to be illegal or invalid, the other provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 4.** This Resolution shall become effective upon its passage and shall remain in effect unless rescinded or repealed.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 28<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021.

ATTEST:

**SEATON CREEK RESERVE COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary/Assistant Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

**Exhibit A:** Legal Description

## Exhibit A

A PORTION OF THE SECTIONS 39 AND 42, TOWNSHIP 1 NORTH, RANGE 26 EAST, BEING A PORTION OF TISON'S SUBDIVISION ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 150 OF THE FORMER PUBLIC RECORDS OF DUVAL COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS DUVAL COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 1, SECTION 42 OF SAID TISON'S SUBDIVISION; THENCE SOUTH 84°00'52" EAST, ALONG THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 1, A DISTANCE OF 358.50 FEET TO THE WESTERLY LINE OF THOSE LANDS DESCRIBED AND RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 8000, PAGE 1335 OF THE CURRENT PUBLIC RECORDS OF SAID COUNTY AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE SOUTHERLY, ALONG LAST SAID LINE, RUN THE FOLLOWING THREE (3) COURSES AND DISTANCES: COURSE NO. 1: SOUTH 07°04'22" WEST, 763.95 FEET; COURSE NO. 2: SOUTH 11°23'58" WEST, 66.01 FEET; COURSE NO. 3: SOUTH 00°11'00" WEST, 933.84 FEET TO THE NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF ARNOLD ROAD (A 66 FOOT RIGHT OF WAY, AS NOW ESTABLISHED); THENCE NORTH 81°38'36" WEST, ALONG LAST SAID LINE, 2491.37 FEET TO THE WESTERLY LINE OF THOSE LANDS DESCRIBED AND RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 11585, PAGE 2153 OF SAID CURRENT PUBLIC RECORDS; THENCE NORTH 00°49'30" EAST, ALONG LAST SAID LINE AND ALONG THE WESTERLY LINE OF THOSE LANDS DESCRIBED AND RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 15716, PAGE 525 OF SAID CURRENT PUBLIC RECORDS, 2019.16 FEET TO THE NORTHERLY LINE OF LAST SAID LANDS; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY AND EASTERLY, ALONG LAST SAID LINE, RUN THE FOLLOWING FIVE (5) COURSES AND DISTANCES: COURSE NO. 1: NORTH 43°26'36" EAST, 307.76 FEET; COURSE NO. 2: NORTH 84°30'26" EAST, 247.96 FEET; COURSE NO. 3: NORTH 85°51'26" EAST, 423.94 FEET; COURSE NO. 4: NORTH 71°48'26" EAST, 99.45 FEET; COURSE NO. 5: SOUTH 85°23'50" EAST, 1229.77 FEET TO THE EASTERLY LINE OF THOSE LANDS DESIGNATED PARCEL 2, DESCRIBED AND RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 16407, PAGE 1379 OF SAID CURRENT PUBLIC RECORDS; THENCE NORTH 00°25'41" WEST, ALONG LAST SAID LINE, 1916.89 FEET; THENCE NORTH 01°02'11" WEST, CONTINUING ALONG LAST SAID LINE, 2434.75 FEET TO THE TO THE SOUTHEASTERLY LINE OF THOSE LANDS DESIGNATED PARCEL 2, DESCRIBED AND RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 15043, PAGE 670 OF SAID CURRENT PUBLIC RECORDS; THENCE NORTH 80°45'16" EAST, ALONG LAST SAID LINE, 631.65 FEET; THENCE NORTH 41°51'25" EAST, CONTINUING ALONG LAST SAID LINE, 400.79 FEET TO THE NORTHERLY LINE OF THOSE LANDS DESCRIBED AND RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 9601, PAGE 1977 OF SAID CURRENT PUBLIC RECORDS; THENCE SOUTH 50°58'48" EAST, ALONG LAST SAID LINE, 2243.64 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 07°53'59" WEST, 319.68 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 15°21'26" EAST, 543.21 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 87°37'14" EAST, 231.46 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 05°22'15" WEST, 359.32 FEET TO THE NORTHERLY LINE OF THOSE LANDS DESCRIBED AND RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 4278, PAGE 348 OF SAID CURRENT PUBLIC RECORDS; THENCE NORTH 84°37'10" WEST, ALONG LAST SAID LINE, 250 FEET, MORE OR LESS TO THE CENTERLINE OF WILLIAMSON BRANCH; THENCE SOUTHERLY, SOUTHEASTERLY, SOUTHWESTERLY, WESTERLY, NORTHWESTERLY AND NORTHERLY, ALONG THE MEANDERINGS OF LAST SAID LINE, 5000 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE NORTHERLY LINE OF THOSE LANDS DESCRIBED AND RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 1647, PAGE 74 OF SAID CURRENT PUBLIC RECORDS; THENCE SOUTH 87°52'01" EAST, ALONG LAST SAID LINE, 10 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE CENTERLINE OF WILLIAMSON BRANCH, ALSO BEING THE SOUTHWESTERLY LINE OF LEXINGTON PARK PHASE TWO, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 64, PAGES 38 THROUGH 47, INCLUSIVE OF SAID CURRENT PUBLIC RECORDS; THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY, ALONG LAST SAID LINE, 1700 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF AFORESAID LOT 1; THENCE NORTH 84°00'52" WEST, ALONG LAST SAID LINE, 520 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

CONTAINING 345 ACRES, MORE OR LESS

## RESOLUTION 2022-02

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE SEATON CREEK RESERVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT ADOPTING RULES OF PROCEDURE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, Seaton Creek Reserve Community Development District (“**District**”) is a local unit of special purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 190, *Florida Statutes*, being situated entirely within the City of Jacksonville, Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 190, *Florida Statutes*, authorizes the District to adopt rules to govern the administration of the District and to adopt resolutions as may be necessary for the conduct of District business; and

**WHEREAS**, to provide for efficient and effective District operations and to maintain compliance with recent changes to Florida law, the Board of Supervisors finds that it is in the best interests of the District to adopt by resolution the Rules of Procedure attached hereto as **Exhibit A** for immediate use and application; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors has complied with applicable Florida law concerning rule development and adoption.

### **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE SEATON CREEK RESERVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT:**

**SECTION 1.** The attached Rules of Procedure are hereby adopted pursuant to this resolution as necessary for the conduct of District business. These Rules of Procedure replace all prior versions of the Rules of Procedure, and shall stay in full force and effect until such time as the Board of Supervisors may amend these rules in accordance with Chapter 190, *Florida Statutes*.

**SECTION 2.** If any provision of this resolution is held to be illegal or invalid, the other provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 3.** This resolution shall become effective upon its passage and shall remain in effect unless rescinded or repealed.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 28<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021.

**ATTEST:**

**SEATON CREEK RESERVE COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

---

Secretary

---

Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

**Exhibit A:** Rules of Procedure

**EXHIBIT A:**  
RULES OF PROCEDURE

**RULES OF PROCEDURE  
SEATON CREEK RESERVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT  
EFFECTIVE AS OF OCTOBER 28, 2021**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Rule 1.0	General.....	2
Rule 1.1	Board of Supervisors; Officers and Voting. ....	3
Rule 1.2	District Offices; Public Information and Inspection of Records; Policies; Service Contract Requirements; Financial Disclosure Coordination. ....	7
Rule 1.3	Public Meetings, Hearings, and Workshops. ....	10
Rule 1.4	Internal Controls to Prevent Fraud, Waste and Abuse.....	15
Rule 2.0	Rulemaking Proceedings. ....	16
Rule 3.0	Competitive Purchase. ....	22
Rule 3.1	Procedure Under the Consultants' Competitive Negotiations Act.....	27
Rule 3.2	Procedure Regarding Auditor Selection. ....	31
Rule 3.3	Purchase of Insurance. ....	35
Rule 3.4	Pre-qualification.....	37
Rule 3.5	Construction Contracts, Not Design-Build. ....	42
Rule 3.6	Construction Contracts, Design-Build. ....	46
Rule 3.7	Payment and Performance Bonds. ....	51
Rule 3.8	Goods, Supplies, and Materials. ....	52
Rule 3.9	Maintenance Services. ....	56
Rule 3.10	Contractual Services. ....	59
Rule 3.11	Protests with Respect to Proceedings under Rules 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.8, and 3.9.....	60
Rule 4.0	Effective Date. ....	63

**Rule 1.0      General.**

- (1) The Seaton Creek Reserve Community Development District (the “District”) was created pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 190 of the Florida Statutes, and was established to provide for the ownership, operation, maintenance, and provision of various capital facilities and services within its jurisdiction. The purpose of these rules (the “Rules”) is to describe the general operations of the District.
- (2) Definitions located within any section of these Rules shall be applicable within all other sections, unless specifically stated to the contrary.
- (3) Unless specifically permitted by a written agreement with the District, the District does not accept documents filed by electronic mail or facsimile transmission. Filings are only accepted during normal business hours.
- (4) A Rule of the District shall be effective upon adoption by affirmative vote of the District Board. After a Rule becomes effective, it may be repealed or amended only through the rulemaking procedures specified in these Rules. Notwithstanding, the District may immediately suspend the application of a Rule if the District determines that the Rule conflicts with Florida law. In the event that a Rule conflicts with Florida law and its application has not been suspended by the District, such Rule should be interpreted in the manner that best effectuates the intent of the Rule while also complying with Florida law. If the intent of the Rule absolutely cannot be effectuated while complying with Florida law, the Rule shall be automatically suspended.

**Specific Authority:** §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), Fla. Stat.

**Law Implemented:** §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), Fla. Stat.

**Rule 1.1      Board of Supervisors; Officers and Voting.**

- (1) Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors of the District (the “Board”) shall consist of five (5) members. Members of the Board (“Supervisors”) appointed by ordinance or rule or elected by landowners must be citizens of the United States of America and residents of the State of Florida. Supervisors elected or appointed by the Board to elector seats must be citizens of the United States of America, residents of the State of Florida and of the District and registered to vote with the Supervisor of Elections of the county in which the District is located and for those elected, shall also be qualified to run by the Supervisor of Elections. The Board shall exercise the powers granted to the District under Florida law.
  - (a) Supervisors shall hold office for the term specified by Section 190.006 of the Florida Statutes. If, during the term of office, any Board member(s) vacates their office, the remaining member(s) of the Board shall fill the vacancies by appointment for the remainder of the term(s). If three or more vacancies exist at the same time, a quorum, as defined herein, shall not be required to appoint replacement Board members.
  - (b) Three (3) members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the purposes of conducting business, exercising powers and all other purposes. A Board member shall be counted toward the quorum if physically present at the meeting, regardless of whether such Board member is prohibited from, or abstains from, participating in discussion or voting on a particular item.
  - (c) Action taken by the Board shall be upon a majority vote of the members present, unless otherwise provided in the Rules or required by law. Subject to Rule 1.3(10), a Board member participating in the Board meeting by teleconference or videoconference shall be entitled to vote and take all other action as though physically present.
  - (d) Unless otherwise provided for by an act of the Board, any one Board member may attend a mediation session on behalf of the Board. Any agreement resulting from such mediation session must be approved pursuant to subsection (1)(c) of this Rule.
- (2) Officers. At the first Board meeting held after each election where the newly elected members take office, the Board shall select a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, and Treasurer.
  - (a) The Chairperson must be a member of the Board. If the Chairperson resigns from that office or ceases to be a member of the Board, the Board shall select a Chairperson. The Chairperson serves at the pleasure of the Board. The Chairperson shall be authorized to execute resolutions and contracts on the District’s behalf. The Chairperson shall convene and conduct all meetings of the Board. In the event the Chairperson is unable

to attend a meeting, the Vice-Chairperson shall convene and conduct the meeting. The Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson may delegate the responsibility of conducting the meeting to the District's manager ("District Manager") or District Counsel, in whole or in part.

- (b) The Vice-Chairperson shall be a member of the Board and shall have such duties and responsibilities as specifically designated by the Board from time to time. The Vice-Chairperson has the authority to execute resolutions and contracts on the District's behalf in the absence of the Chairperson. If the Vice-Chairperson resigns from office or ceases to be a member of the Board, the Board shall select a Vice-Chairperson. The Vice-Chairperson serves at the pleasure of the Board.
- (c) The Secretary of the Board serves at the pleasure of the Board and need not be a member of the Board. The Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining the minutes of Board meetings and may have other duties assigned by the Board from time to time. An employee of the District Manager may serve as Secretary. The Secretary shall be bonded by a reputable and qualified bonding company in at least the amount of one million dollars (\$1,000,000), or have in place a fidelity bond, employee theft insurance policy, or a comparable product in at least the amount of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) that names the District as an additional insured.
- (d) The Treasurer need not be a member of the Board but must be a resident of the State of Florida. The Treasurer shall perform duties described in Section 190.007(2) and (3) of the Florida Statutes, as well as those assigned by the Board from time to time. The Treasurer shall serve at the pleasure of the Board. The Treasurer shall either be bonded by a reputable and qualified bonding company in at least the amount of one million dollars (\$1,000,000), or have in place a fidelity bond, employee theft insurance policy, or a comparable product in at least the amount of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) that names the District as an additional insured.
- (e) In the event that both the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are absent from a Board meeting and a quorum is present, the Board may designate one of its members or a member of District staff to convene and conduct the meeting. In such circumstances, any of the Board members present are authorized to execute agreements, resolutions, and other documents approved by the Board at such meeting. In the event that the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are both unavailable to execute a document previously approved by the Board, the Secretary or any Assistant Secretary may execute such document.

- (f) The Board may assign additional duties to District officers from time to time, which include, but are not limited to, executing documents on behalf of the District.
  - (g) The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and any other person authorized by District Resolution may sign checks and warrants for the District, countersigned by the Treasurer or other persons authorized by the Board.
- (3) Committees. The Board may establish committees of the Board, either on a permanent or temporary basis, to perform specifically designated functions. Committees may include individuals who are not members of the Board. Such functions may include, but are not limited to, review of bids, proposals, and qualifications, contract negotiations, personnel matters, and budget preparation.
- (4) Record Book. The Board shall keep a permanent record book entitled "Record of Proceedings," in which shall be recorded minutes of all meetings, resolutions, proceedings, certificates, and corporate acts. The Records of Proceedings shall be located at a District office and shall be available for inspection by the public.
- (5) Meetings. For each fiscal year, the Board shall establish a schedule of regular meetings, which shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the District is located and filed with the local general-purpose governments within whose boundaries the District is located. All meetings of the Board and Committees serving an advisory function shall be open to the public in accord with the provisions of Chapter 286 of the Florida Statutes.
- (6) Voting Conflict of Interest. The Board shall comply with Section 112.3143 of the Florida Statutes, so as to ensure the proper disclosure of conflicts of interest on matters coming before the Board for a vote. For the purposes of this section, "voting conflict of interest" shall be governed by the Florida Constitution and Chapters 112 and 190 of the Florida Statutes, as amended from time to time. Generally, a voting conflict exists when a Board member is called upon to vote on an item which would inure to the Board member's special private gain or loss or the Board member knows would inure to the special private gain or loss of a principal by whom the Board member is retained, the parent organization or subsidiary of a corporate principal, a business associate, or a relative including only a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, brother, sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, and daughter-in-law.
  - (a) When a Board member knows the member has a conflict of interest on a matter coming before the Board, the member should notify the Board's Secretary prior to participating in any discussion with the Board on the matter. The member shall publicly announce the conflict of interest at the meeting. This announcement shall appear in the minutes.

If the Board member was elected at a landowner's election or appointed to fill a vacancy of a seat last filled at a landowner's election, the Board member may vote or abstain from voting on the matter at issue. If the Board member was elected by electors residing within the District, the Board member is prohibited from voting on the matter at issue. In the event that the Board member intends to abstain or is prohibited from voting, such Board member shall not participate in the discussion on the item subject to the vote.

The Board's Secretary shall prepare a Memorandum of Voting Conflict (Form 8B) which shall then be signed by the Board member, filed with the Board's Secretary, and provided for attachment to the minutes of the meeting within fifteen (15) days of the meeting.

- (b) If a Board member inadvertently votes on a matter and later learns he or she has a conflict on the matter, the member shall immediately notify the Board's Secretary. Within fifteen (15) days of the notification, the member shall file the appropriate Memorandum of Voting Conflict, which will be attached to the minutes of the Board meeting during which the vote on the matter occurred. The Memorandum of Voting Conflict shall immediately be provided to other Board members and shall be read publicly at the next meeting held subsequent to the filing of the Memorandum of Voting Conflict. The Board member's vote is unaffected by this filing.
- (c) It is not a conflict of interest for a Board member, the District Manager, or an employee of the District to be a stockholder, officer or employee of a landowner or of an entity affiliated with a landowner.
- (d) In the event that a Board member elected at a landowner's election or appointed to fill a vacancy of a seat last filled at a landowner's election, has a continuing conflict of interest, such Board member is permitted to file a Memorandum of Voting Conflict at any time in which it shall state the nature of the continuing conflict. Only one such continuing Memorandum of Voting Conflict shall be required to be filed for each term the Board member is in office.

**Specific Authority:** §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), Fla. Stat.

**Law Implemented:** §§ 112.3143, 190.006, 190.007, Fla. Stat.

**Rule 1.2      District Offices; Public Information and Inspection of Records; Policies; Service Contract Requirements; Financial Disclosure Coordination.**

- (1)    District Offices. Unless otherwise designated by the Board, the official District office shall be the District Manager's office identified by the District Manager. If the District Manager's office is not located within the county in which the District is located, the Board shall designate a local records office within such county which shall at a minimum contain, but not be limited to, the following documents:
- (a)    Agenda packages for prior 24 months and next meeting;
  - (b)    Official minutes of meetings, including adopted resolutions of the Board;
  - (c)    Names and addresses of current Board members and District Manager, unless such addresses are protected from disclosure by law;
  - (d)    Adopted engineer's reports;
  - (e)    Adopted assessment methodologies/reports;
  - (f)    Adopted disclosure of public financing;
  - (g)    Limited Offering Memorandum for each financing undertaken by the District;
  - (h)    Proceedings, certificates, bonds given by all employees, and any and all corporate acts;
  - (i)    District policies and rules;
  - (j)    Fiscal year end audits; and
  - (k)    Adopted budget for the current fiscal year.

The District Manager shall ensure that each District records office contains the documents required by Florida law.

- (2)    Public Records. District public records include all documents, papers, letters, maps, books, tapes, photographs, films, sound recordings, data processing software, or other material, regardless of the physical form, characteristics, or means of transmission, made or received in connection with the transaction of official business of the District. All District public records not otherwise restricted by law may be copied or inspected at the District Manager's office during regular business hours. Certain District records can also be inspected and copied at the District's local records office during regular business hours. All written public records requests shall be directed to the Secretary who by these rules is appointed

as the District's records custodian. Regardless of the form of the request, any Board member or staff member who receives a public records request shall immediately forward or communicate such request to the Secretary for coordination of a prompt response. The Secretary, after consulting with District Counsel as to the applicability of any exceptions under the public records laws, shall be responsible for responding to the public records request. At no time can the District be required to create records or summaries of records, or prepare opinions regarding District policies, in response to a public records request.

- (3) Service Contracts. Any contract for services, regardless of cost, shall include provisions required by law that require the contractor to comply with public records laws. The District Manager shall be responsible for initially enforcing all contract provisions related to a contractor's duty to comply with public records laws.
- (4) Fees; Copies. Copies of public records shall be made available to the requesting person at a charge of \$0.15 per page for one-sided copies and \$0.20 per page for two-sided copies if not more than 8 ½ by 14 inches. For copies of public records in excess of the sizes listed in this section and for outside duplication services, the charge shall be equal to the actual cost of reproduction. Certified copies of public records shall be made available at a charge of one dollar (\$1.00) per page. If the nature or volume of records requested requires extensive use of information technology resources or extensive clerical or supervisory assistance, the District may charge, in addition to the duplication charge, a special service charge that is based on the cost the District incurs to produce the records requested. This charge may include, but is not limited to, the cost of information technology resource, employee labor, and fees charged to the District by consultants employed in fulfilling the request. In cases where the special service charge is based in whole or in part on the costs incurred by the District due to employee labor, consultant fees, or other forms of labor, those portions of the charge shall be calculated based on the lowest labor cost of the individual(s) who is/are qualified to perform the labor, taking into account the nature or volume of the public records to be inspected or copied. The charge may include the labor costs of supervisory and/or clerical staff whose assistance is required to complete the records request, in accordance with Florida law. For purposes of this Rule, the word "extensive" shall mean that it will take more than 15 minutes to locate, review for confidential information, copy and re-file the requested material. In cases where extensive personnel time is determined by the District to be necessary to safeguard original records being inspected, the special service charge provided for in this section shall apply. If the total fees, including but not limited to special service charges, are anticipated to exceed twenty-five dollars (\$25.00), then, prior to commencing work on the request, the District will inform the person making the public records request of the estimated cost, with the understanding that the final cost may vary from that estimate. If the person making the public records request decides to proceed with the request, payment of the estimated cost is required in advance. Should the person fail to pay the estimate, the District is under no duty to produce

the requested records. After the request has been fulfilled, additional payments or credits may be due. The District is under no duty to produce records in response to future records requests if the person making the request owes the District for past unpaid duplication charges, special service charges, or other required payments or credits.

- (5) Records Retention. The Secretary of the District shall be responsible for retaining the District's records in accordance with applicable Florida law.
- (6) Policies. The Board may adopt policies related to the conduct of its business and the provision of services either by resolution or motion.
- (7) Financial Disclosure Coordination. Unless specifically designated by Board resolution otherwise, the Secretary shall serve as the Financial Disclosure Coordinator ("Coordinator") for the District as required by the Florida Commission on Ethics ("Commission"). The Coordinator shall create, maintain and update a list of the names, e-mail addresses, physical addresses, and names of the agency of, and the office or position held by, all Supervisors and other persons required by Florida law to file a statement of financial interest due to his or her affiliation with the District ("Reporting Individual"). The Coordinator shall provide this list to the Commission by February 1 of each year, which list shall be current as of December 31 of the prior year. Each Supervisor and Reporting Individual shall promptly notify the Coordinator in writing if there are any changes to such person's name, e-mail address, or physical address. Each Supervisor and Reporting Individual shall promptly notify the Commission in the manner prescribed by the Commission if there are any changes to such person's e-mail address.

**Specific Authority:** §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), Fla. Stat.

**Law Implemented:** §§ 112.31446(3), 112.3145(8)(a)1., 119.07, 119.0701, 190.006, Fla. Stat.

### **Rule 1.3      Public Meetings, Hearings, and Workshops.**

- (1) Notice. Except in emergencies, or as otherwise required by statute or these Rules, at least seven (7) days, but no more than thirty (30) days public notice shall be given of any public meeting, hearing or workshop of the Board. Public notice shall be given by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the District and in the county in which the District is located. "General circulation" means a publication that is printed and published at least once a week for the preceding year, offering at least 25% of its words in the English language, qualifies as a periodicals material for postal purposes in the county in which the District is located, is for sale to the public generally, is available to the public generally for the publication of official or other notices, and is customarily containing information of a public character or of interest or of value to the residents or owners of property in the county where published, or of interest or of value to the general public. The annual meeting notice required to be published by Section 189.015 of the Florida Statutes, shall be published in a newspaper not of limited subject matter, which is published at least five days a week, unless the only newspaper in the county is published less than five days a week. Each Notice shall state, as applicable:
  - (a) The date, time and place of the meeting, hearing or workshop;
  - (b) A brief description of the nature, subjects, and purposes of the meeting, hearing, or workshop;
  - (c) The District office address for the submission of requests for copies of the agenda, as well as a contact name and telephone number for verbal requests for copies of the agenda; and
  - (d) The following or substantially similar language: "Pursuant to provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting/hearing/workshop is asked to advise the District Office at least forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting/hearing/workshop by contacting the District Manager at (813) 873-7300. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 1 (800) 955-8770 or 1 (800) 955-8771, who can aid you in contacting the District Office."
  - (e) The following or substantially similar language: "A person who decides to appeal any decision made at the meeting/hearing/workshop with respect to any matter considered at the meeting/hearing/workshop is advised that person will need a record of the proceedings and that accordingly, the person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based."

- (f) The following or substantially similar language: “The meeting [or hearing or workshop] may be continued in progress without additional notice to a time, date, and location stated on the record.”
- (2) Mistake. In the event that a meeting is held under the incorrect assumption that notice required by law and these Rules has been given, the Board at its next properly noticed meeting shall cure such defect by considering the agenda items from the prior meeting individually and anew.
- (3) Agenda. The District Manager, under the guidance of District Counsel and the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson, shall prepare an agenda of the meeting/hearing/workshop. The agenda and any meeting materials available in an electronic format, excluding any confidential and any confidential and exempt information, shall be available to the public at least seven days before the meeting/hearing/workshop, except in an emergency. Meeting materials shall be defined as, and limited to, the agenda, meeting minutes, resolutions, and agreements of the District that District staff deems necessary for Board approval. Inclusion of additional materials for Board consideration other than those defined herein as “meeting materials” shall not convert such materials into “meeting materials.” For good cause, the agenda may be changed after it is first made available for distribution, and additional materials may be added or provided under separate cover at the meeting. The requirement of good cause shall be liberally construed to allow the District to efficiently conduct business and to avoid the expenses associated with special meetings.

The District may, but is not required to, use the following format in preparing its agenda for its regular meetings:

- Call to order
- Roll call
- Public comment
- Organizational matters
- Review of minutes
- Specific items of old business
- Specific items of new business
- Staff reports
  - (a) District Counsel
  - (b) District Engineer
  - (c) District Manager
    - 1. Financial Report
    - 2. Approval of Expenditures
- Supervisor’s requests and comments
- Public comment
- Adjournment

- (4) Minutes. The Secretary shall be responsible for preparing and keeping the minutes of each meeting of the Board. Minutes shall be corrected and approved by the Board at a subsequent meeting. The Secretary may work with other staff members in preparing draft minutes for the Board's consideration.
- (5) Special Requests. Persons wishing to receive, by mail, notices or agendas of meetings, may so advise the District Manager or Secretary at the District Office. Such persons shall furnish a mailing address in writing and shall be required to pre-pay the cost of the copying and postage.
- (6) Emergency Meetings. The Chairperson, or Vice-Chairperson if the Chairperson is unavailable, upon consultation with the District Manager and District Counsel, if available, may convene an emergency meeting of the Board without first having complied with sections (1) and (3) of this Rule, to act on emergency matters that may affect the public health, safety, or welfare. Whenever possible, the District Manager shall make reasonable efforts to provide public notice and notify all Board members of an emergency meeting twenty-four (24) hours in advance. Reasonable efforts may include telephone notification. Notice of the emergency meeting must be provided both before and after the meeting on the District's website, if it has one. Whenever an emergency meeting is called, the District Manager shall be responsible for notifying at least one newspaper of general circulation in the District. After an emergency meeting, the Board shall publish in a newspaper of general circulation in the District, the time, date and place of the emergency meeting, the reasons why an emergency meeting was necessary, and a description of the action taken. Actions taken at an emergency meeting may be ratified by the Board at a regularly noticed meeting subsequently held.
- (7) Public Comment. The Board shall set aside a reasonable amount of time at each meeting for public comment and members of the public shall be permitted to provide comment on any proposition before the Board. The portion of the meeting generally reserved for public comment shall be identified in the agenda. Policies governing public comment may be adopted by the Board in accordance with Florida law.
- (8) Budget Hearing. Notice of hearing on the annual budget(s) shall be in accord with Section 190.008 of the Florida Statutes. Once adopted in accord with Section 190.008 of the Florida Statutes, the annual budget(s) may be amended from time to time by action of the Board. Approval of invoices by the Board in excess of the funds allocated to a particular budgeted line item shall serve to amend the budgeted line item.
- (9) Public Hearings. Notice of required public hearings shall contain the information required by applicable Florida law and by these Rules applicable to meeting notices and shall be mailed and published as required by Florida law. The District Manager shall ensure that all such notices, whether mailed or published, contain the information required by Florida law and these Rules and are mailed and

published as required by Florida law. Public hearings may be held during Board meetings when the agenda includes such public hearing.

- (10) Participation by Teleconference/Videoconference. District staff may participate in Board meetings by teleconference or videoconference. Board members may also participate in Board meetings by teleconference or videoconference if in the good judgment of the Board extraordinary circumstances exist; provided however, at least three Board members must be physically present at the meeting location to establish a quorum. Such extraordinary circumstances shall be presumed when a Board member participates by teleconference or videoconference, unless a majority of the Board members physically present determines that extraordinary circumstances do not exist.
- (11) Board Authorization. The District has not adopted Robert's Rules of Order. For each agenda item, there shall be discussion permitted among the Board members during the meeting. Unless such procedure is waived by the Board, approval or disapproval of resolutions and other proposed Board actions shall be in the form of a motion by one Board member, a second by another Board member, and an affirmative vote by the majority of the Board members present. Any Board member, including the Chairperson, can make or second a motion.
- (12) Continuances. Any meeting or public hearing of the Board may be continued without re-notice or re-advertising provided that:
  - (a) The Board identifies on the record at the original meeting a reasonable need for a continuance;
  - (b) The continuance is to a specified date, time, and location publicly announced at the original meeting; and
  - (c) The public notice for the original meeting states that the meeting may be continued to a date and time and states that the date, time, and location of any continuance shall be publicly announced at the original meeting and posted at the District Office immediately following the original meeting.
- (13) Attorney-Client Sessions. An Attorney-Client Session is permitted when the District's attorneys deem it necessary to meet in private with the Board to discuss pending litigation to which the District is a party before a court or administrative agency or as may be authorized by law. The District's attorney must request such session at a public meeting. Prior to holding the Attorney-Client Session, the District must give reasonable public notice of the time and date of the session and the names of the persons anticipated to attend the session. The session must commence at an open meeting in which the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson announces the commencement of the session, the estimated length of the session, and the names of the persons who will be attending the session. The discussion during the session is confined to settlement negotiations or strategy related to

litigation expenses or as may be authorized by law. Only the Board, the District's attorneys (including outside counsel), the District Manager, and the court reporter may attend an Attorney-Client Session. During the session, no votes may be taken and no final decisions concerning settlement can be made. Upon the conclusion of the session, the public meeting is reopened, and the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson must announce that the session has concluded. The session must be transcribed by a court-reporter and the transcript of the session filed with the District Secretary within a reasonable time after the session. The transcript shall not be available for public inspection until after the conclusion of the litigation.

- (14) Security and Firesafety Board Discussions. Portions of a meeting which relate to or would reveal a security or firesafety system plan or portion thereof made confidential and exempt by section 119.071(3)(a), Florida Statutes, are exempt from the public meeting requirements and other requirements of section 286.011, Florida Statutes, and section 24(b), Article 1 of the State Constitution. Should the Board wish to discuss such matters, members of the public shall be required to leave the meeting room during such discussion. Any records of the Board's discussion of such matters, including recordings or minutes, shall be maintained as confidential and exempt records in accordance with Florida law.

**Specific Authority:** §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), Fla. Stat.

**Law Implemented:** §§ 189.069(2)(a)16, 190.006, 190.007, 190.008, 286.0105, 286.011, 286.0113, 286.0114, Fla. Stat.

**Rule 1.4      Internal Controls to Prevent Fraud, Waste and Abuse**

- (1)    Internal Controls. The District shall establish and maintain internal controls designed to:
- (a)    Prevent and detect “fraud,” “waste” and “abuse” as those terms are defined in section 11.45(1), Florida Statutes; and
  - (b)    Promote and encourage compliance with applicable laws, rules contracts, grant agreements, and best practices; and
  - (c)    Support economical and efficient operations; and
  - (d)    Ensure reliability of financial records and reports; and
  - (e)    Safeguard assets.
- (2)    Adoption. The internal controls to prevent fraud, waste and abuse shall be adopted and amended by the District in the same manner as District policies.

**Specific Authority:** §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), Fla. Stat.  
**Law Implemented:** § 218.33(3), Fla. Stat.

## **Rule 2.0      Rulemaking Proceedings.**

- (1) Commencement of Proceedings. Proceedings held for adoption, amendment, or repeal of a District rule shall be conducted according to these Rules. Rulemaking proceedings shall be deemed to have been initiated upon publication of notice by the District. A “rule” is a District statement of general applicability that implements, interprets, or prescribes law or policy, or describes the procedure or practice requirements of the District (“Rule”). Nothing herein shall be construed as requiring the District to consider or adopt rules unless required by Chapter 190 of the Florida Statutes. Policies adopted by the District which do not consist of rates, fees, rentals or other monetary charges may be, but are not required to be, implemented through rulemaking proceedings.
- (2) Notice of Rule Development.
  - (a) Except when the intended action is the repeal of a Rule, the District shall provide notice of the development of a proposed rule by publication of a Notice of Rule Development in a newspaper of general circulation in the District before providing notice of a proposed rule as required by section (3) of this Rule. Consequently, the Notice of Rule Development shall be published at least twenty-nine (29) days prior to the public hearing on the proposed Rule. The Notice of Rule Development shall indicate the subject area to be addressed by rule development, provide a short, plain explanation of the purpose and effect of the proposed rule, cite the specific legal authority for the proposed rule, and include a statement of how a person may promptly obtain, without cost, a copy of any preliminary draft, if available.
  - (b) All rules as drafted shall be consistent with Sections 120.54(1)(g) and 120.54(2)(b) of the Florida Statutes.
- (3) Notice of Proceedings and Proposed Rules.
  - (a) Prior to the adoption, amendment, or repeal of any rule other than an emergency rule, the District shall give notice of its intended action, setting forth a short, plain explanation of the purpose and effect of the proposed action, a reference to the specific rulemaking authority pursuant to which the rule is adopted, and a reference to the section or subsection of the Florida Statutes being implemented, interpreted, or made specific. The notice shall include a summary of the District’s statement of the estimated regulatory costs, if one has been prepared, based on the factors set forth in Section 120.541(2) of the Florida Statutes, and a statement that any person who wishes to provide the District with a lower cost regulatory alternative as provided by Section 120.541(1), must do so in writing within twenty-one (21) days after publication of the notice. The notice shall additionally include a statement that any affected person may request a public hearing

by submitting a written request within twenty-one (21) days after the date of publication of the notice. Except when intended action is the repeal of a rule, the notice shall include a reference to both the date on which and the place where the Notice of Rule Development required by section (2) of this Rule appeared.

- (b) The notice shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the District and each county in which the District is located not less than twenty-eight (28) days prior to the intended action. The proposed rule shall be available for inspection and copying by the public at the time of the publication of notice.
  - (c) The notice shall be mailed to all persons named in the proposed rule and to all persons who, at least fourteen (14) days prior to such mailing, have made requests of the District for advance notice of its rulemaking proceedings. Any person may file a written request with the District Manager to receive notice by mail of District proceedings to adopt, amend, or repeal a rule. Such persons must furnish a mailing address and may be required to pay the cost of copying and mailing.
- (4) Rule Development Workshops. Whenever requested in writing by any affected person, the District must either conduct a rule development workshop prior to proposing rules for adoption or the Chairperson must explain in writing why a workshop is unnecessary. The District may initiate a rule development workshop but is not required to do so.
- (5) Petitions to Initiate Rulemaking. All Petitions to Initiate Rulemaking proceedings must contain the name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner, the specific action requested, the specific reason for adoption, amendment, or repeal, the date submitted, the text of the proposed rule, and the facts showing that the petitioner is regulated by the District or has a substantial interest in the rulemaking. Not later than sixty (60) calendar days following the date of filing a petition, the Board shall initiate rulemaking proceedings or deny the petition with a written statement of its reasons for the denial. If the petition is directed to an existing policy that the District has not formally adopted as a rule, the District may, in its discretion, notice and hold a public hearing on the petition to consider the comments of the public directed to the policy, its scope and application, and to consider whether the public interest is served adequately by the application of the policy on a case-by-case basis, as contrasted with its formal adoption as a rule. However, this section shall not be construed as requiring the District to adopt a rule to replace a policy.
- (6) Rulemaking Materials. After the publication of the notice referenced in section (3) of this Rule, the Board shall make available for public inspection and shall provide, upon request and payment of the cost of copies, the following materials:

- (a) The text of the proposed rule, or any amendment or repeal of any existing rules;
  - (b) A detailed written statement of the facts and circumstances justifying the proposed rule;
  - (c) A copy of the statement of estimated regulatory costs if required by Section 120.541 of the Florida Statutes; and
  - (d) The published notice.
- (7) Hearing. The District may, or, upon the written request of any affected person received within twenty-one (21) days after the date of publication of the notice described in section (3) of this Rule, shall, provide a public hearing for the presentation of evidence, argument, and oral statements, within the reasonable conditions and limitations imposed by the District to avoid duplication, irrelevant comments, unnecessary delay, or disruption of the proceedings. The District shall publish notice of the public hearing in a newspaper of general circulation within the District either in the text of the notice described in section (3) of this Rule or in a separate publication at least seven (7) days before the scheduled public hearing. The notice shall specify the date, time, and location of the public hearing, and the name, address, and telephone number of the District contact person who can provide information about the public hearing. Written statements may be submitted by any person prior to or at the public hearing. All timely submitted written statements shall be considered by the District and made part of the rulemaking record.
- (8) Emergency Rule Adoption. The Board may adopt an emergency rule if it finds that immediate danger to the public health, safety, or welfare exists which requires immediate action. Prior to the adoption of an emergency rule, the District Manager shall make reasonable efforts to notify a newspaper of general circulation in the District. Notice of emergency rules shall be published as soon as possible in a newspaper of general circulation in the District. The District may use any procedure which is fair under the circumstances in the adoption of an emergency rule as long as it protects the public interest as determined by the District and otherwise complies with these provisions.
- (9) Negotiated Rulemaking. The District may use negotiated rulemaking in developing and adopting rules pursuant to Section 120.54(2)(d) of the Florida Statutes, except that any notices required under Section 120.54(2)(d) of the Florida Statutes, may be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the District is located.
- (10) Rulemaking Record. In all rulemaking proceedings, the District shall compile and maintain a rulemaking record. The record shall include, if applicable:

- (a) The texts of the proposed rule and the adopted rule;
- (b) All notices given for a proposed rule;
- (c) Any statement of estimated regulatory costs for the rule;
- (d) A written summary of hearings, if any, on the proposed rule;
- (e) All written comments received by the District and responses to those written comments; and
- (f) All notices and findings pertaining to an emergency rule.

(11) Petitions to Challenge Existing Rules.

- (a) Any person substantially affected by a rule may seek an administrative determination of the invalidity of the rule on the ground that the rule is an invalid exercise of the District's authority.
- (b) The petition seeking an administrative determination must state with particularity the provisions alleged to be invalid with sufficient explanation of the facts or grounds for the alleged invalidity and facts sufficient to show that the person challenging a rule is substantially affected by it.
- (c) The petition shall be filed with the District. Within 10 days after receiving the petition, the Chairperson shall, if the petition complies with the requirements of subsection (b) of this section, designate any member of the Board (including the Chairperson), District Manager, District Counsel, or other person as a hearing officer who shall conduct a hearing within 30 days thereafter, unless the petition is withdrawn or a continuance is granted by agreement of the parties. The failure of the District to follow the applicable rulemaking procedures or requirements in this Rule shall be presumed to be material; however, the District may rebut this presumption by showing that the substantial interests of the petitioner and the fairness of the proceedings have not been impaired.
- (d) Within 30 days after the hearing, the hearing officer shall render a decision and state the reasons therefor in writing.
- (e) Hearings held under this section shall be de novo in nature. The petitioner has a burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the existing rule is an invalid exercise of District authority as to the objections raised. The hearing officer may:
  - (i) Administer oaths and affirmations;

- (ii) Rule upon offers of proof and receive relevant evidence;
  - (iii) Regulate the course of the hearing, including any pre-hearing matters;
  - (iv) Enter orders; and
  - (v) Make or receive offers of settlement, stipulation, and adjustment.
- (f) The petitioner and the District shall be adverse parties. Other substantially affected persons may join the proceedings as intervenors on appropriate terms which shall not unduly delay the proceedings.
- (12) Variances and Waivers. A “variance” means a decision by the District to grant a modification to all or part of the literal requirements of a rule to a person who is subject to the rule. A “waiver” means a decision by the District not to apply all or part of a rule to a person who is subject to the rule. Variances and waivers from District rules may be granted subject to the following:
- (a) Variances and waivers shall be granted when the person subject to the rule demonstrates that the purpose of the underlying statute will be or has been achieved by other means by the person, and when application of the rule would create a substantial hardship or would violate principles of fairness. For purposes of this section, "substantial hardship" means a demonstrated economic, technological, legal, or other type of hardship to the person requesting the variance or waiver. For purposes of this section, "principles of fairness" are violated when the literal application of a rule affects a particular person in a manner significantly different from the way it affects other similarly situated persons who are subject to the rule.
  - (b) A person who is subject to regulation by a District Rule may file a petition with the District, requesting a variance or waiver from the District's Rule. Each petition shall specify:
    - (i) The rule from which a variance or waiver is requested;
    - (ii) The type of action requested;
    - (iii) The specific facts that would justify a waiver or variance for the petitioner; and
    - (iv) The reason why the variance or the waiver requested would serve the purposes of the underlying statute.
  - (c) The District shall review the petition and may request only that information needed to clarify the petition or to answer new questions

raised by or directly related to the petition. If the petitioner asserts that any request for additional information is not authorized by law or by Rule of the District, the District shall proceed, at the petitioner's written request, to process the petition.

- (d) The Board shall grant or deny a petition for variance or waiver and shall announce such disposition at a publicly held meeting of the Board, within ninety (90) days after receipt of the original petition, the last item of timely requested additional material, or the petitioner's written request to finish processing the petition. The District's statement granting or denying the petition shall contain a statement of the relevant facts and reasons supporting the District's action.

- (13) Rates, Fees, Rentals and Other Charges. All rates, fees, rentals, or other charges shall be subject to rulemaking proceedings. Policies adopted by the District which do not consist of rates, fees, rentals or other charges may be, but are not required to be, implemented through rulemaking proceedings.

**Specific Authority:** §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), 190.035, Fla. Stat.

**Law Implemented:** §§ 190.011(5), 190.035(2), Fla. Stat.

### **Rule 3.0      Competitive Purchase.**

- (1) Purpose and Scope. In order to comply with Sections 190.033(1) through (3), 287.055 and 287.017 of the Florida Statutes, the following provisions shall apply to the purchase of Professional Services, insurance, construction contracts, design-build services, goods, supplies, and materials, Contractual Services, and maintenance services.
- (2) Board Authorization. Except in cases of an Emergency Purchase, a competitive purchase governed by these Rules shall only be undertaken after authorization by the Board.
- (3) Definitions.
  - (a) “Competitive Solicitation” means a formal, advertised procurement process, other than an Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, or Invitation to Negotiate, approved by the Board to purchase commodities and/or services which affords vendors fair treatment in the competition for award of a District purchase contract.
  - (b) “Continuing Contract” means a contract for Professional Services entered into in accordance with Section 287.055 of the Florida Statutes, between the District and a firm, whereby the firm provides Professional Services to the District for projects in which the costs do not exceed two million dollars (\$2,000,000), for a study activity when the fee for such Professional Services to the District does not exceed two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000), or for work of a specified nature as outlined in the contract with the District, with no time limitation except that the contract must provide a termination clause (for example, a contract for general District engineering services). Firms providing Professional Services under Continuing Contracts shall not be required to bid against one another.
  - (c) “Contractual Service” means the rendering by a contractor of its time and effort rather than the furnishing of specific commodities. The term applies only to those services rendered by individuals and firms who are independent contractors. Contractual Services do not include auditing services, Maintenance Services, or Professional Services as defined in Section 287.055(2)(a) of the Florida Statutes, and these Rules. Contractual Services also do not include any contract for the furnishing of labor or materials for the construction, renovation, repair, modification, or demolition of any facility, building, portion of building, utility, park, parking lot, or structure or other improvement to real property entered into pursuant to Chapter 255 of the Florida Statutes, and Rules 3.5 or 3.6.

- (d) “Design-Build Contract” means a single contract with a Design-Build Firm for the design and construction of a public construction project.
- (e) “Design-Build Firm” means a partnership, corporation or other legal entity that:
  - (i) Is certified under Section 489.119 of the Florida Statutes, to engage in contracting through a certified or registered general contractor or a certified or registered building contractor as the qualifying agent; or
  - (ii) Is certified under Section 471.023 of the Florida Statutes, to practice or to offer to practice engineering; certified under Section 481.219 of the Florida Statutes, to practice or to offer to practice architecture; or certified under Section 481.319 of the Florida Statutes, to practice or to offer to practice landscape architecture.
- (f) “Design Criteria Package” means concise, performance-oriented drawings or specifications for a public construction project. The purpose of the Design Criteria Package is to furnish sufficient information to permit Design-Build Firms to prepare a bid or a response to the District’s Request for Proposals, or to permit the District to enter into a negotiated Design-Build Contract. The Design Criteria Package must specify performance-based criteria for the public construction project, including the legal description of the site, survey information concerning the site, interior space requirements, material quality standards, schematic layouts and conceptual design criteria of the project, cost or budget estimates, design and construction schedules, site development requirements, provisions for utilities, stormwater retention and disposal, and parking requirements applicable to the project. Design Criteria Packages shall require firms to submit information regarding the qualifications, availability, and past work of the firms, including the partners and members thereof.
- (g) “Design Criteria Professional” means a firm who holds a current certificate of registration under Chapter 481 of the Florida Statutes, to practice architecture or landscape architecture, or a firm who holds a current certificate as a registered engineer under Chapter 471 of the Florida Statutes, to practice engineering, and who is employed by or under contract to the District to provide professional architect services, landscape architect services, or engineering services in connection with the preparation of the Design Criteria Package.
- (h) “Emergency Purchase” means a purchase necessitated by a sudden unexpected turn of events (for example, acts of God, riot, fires, floods, hurricanes, accidents, or any circumstances or cause beyond the control of the Board in the normal conduct of its business), where the Board finds

that the delay incident to competitive purchase would be detrimental to the interests of the District. This includes, but is not limited to, instances where the time to competitively award the project will jeopardize the funding for the project, will materially increase the cost of the project, or will create an undue hardship on the public health, safety, or welfare.

- (i) “Invitation to Bid” is a written solicitation for sealed bids with the title, date, and hour of the public bid opening designated specifically and defining the commodity or service involved. It includes printed instructions prescribing conditions for bidding, qualification, evaluation criteria, and provides for a manual signature of an authorized representative. It may include one or more bid alternates.
- (j) “Invitation to Negotiate” means a written solicitation for competitive sealed replies to select one or more vendors with which to commence negotiations for the procurement of commodities or services.
- (k) “Negotiate” means to conduct legitimate, arm’s length discussions and conferences to reach an agreement on a term or price.
- (l) “Professional Services” means those services within the scope of the practice of architecture, professional engineering, landscape architecture, or registered surveying and mapping, as defined by the laws of Florida, or those services performed by any architect, professional engineer, landscape architect, or registered surveyor and mapper, in connection with the firm's or individual's professional employment or practice.
- (m) “Proposal (or Reply or Response) Most Advantageous to the District” means, as determined in the sole discretion of the Board, the proposal, reply, or response that is:
  - (i) Submitted by a person or firm capable and qualified in all respects to perform fully the contract requirements, who has the integrity and reliability to assure good faith performance;
  - (ii) The most responsive to the Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation as determined by the Board; and
  - (iii) For a cost to the District deemed by the Board to be reasonable.
- (n) “Purchase” means acquisition by sale, rent, lease, lease/purchase, or installment sale. It does not include transfer, sale, or exchange of goods, supplies, or materials between the District and any federal, state, regional or local governmental entity or political subdivision of the State of Florida.

- (o) “Request for Proposals” or “RFP” is a written solicitation for sealed proposals with the title, date, and hour of the public opening designated and requiring the manual signature of an authorized representative. It may provide general information, applicable laws and rules, statement of work, functional or general specifications, qualifications, proposal instructions, work detail analysis, and evaluation criteria as necessary.
- (p) “Responsive and Responsible Bidder” means an entity or individual that has submitted a bid that conforms in all material respects to the Invitation to Bid and has the capability in all respects to fully perform the contract requirements and the integrity and reliability that will assure good faith performance. “Responsive and Responsible Vendor” means an entity or individual that has submitted a proposal, reply, or response that conforms in all material respects to the Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation and has the capability in all respects to fully perform the contract requirements and the integrity and reliability that will assure good faith performance. In determining whether an entity or individual is a Responsive and Responsible Bidder (or Vendor), the District may consider, in addition to factors described in the Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation, the following:
  - (i) The ability and adequacy of the professional personnel employed by the entity/individual;
  - (ii) The past performance of the entity/individual for the District and in other professional employment;
  - (iii) The willingness of the entity/individual to meet time and budget requirements;
  - (iv) The geographic location of the entity’s/individual’s headquarters or office in relation to the project;
  - (v) The recent, current, and projected workloads of the entity/individual;
  - (vi) The volume of work previously awarded to the entity/individual;
  - (vii) Whether the cost components of the bid or proposal are appropriately balanced; and
  - (viii) Whether the entity/individual is a certified minority business enterprise.

- (q) “Responsive Bid,” “Responsive Proposal,” “Responsive Reply,” and “Responsive Response” all mean a bid, proposal, reply, or response which conforms in all material respects to the specifications and conditions in the Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitations to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation document and these Rules, and the cost components of which, if any, are appropriately balanced. A bid, proposal, reply or response is not responsive if the person or firm submitting it fails to meet any material requirement relating to the qualifications, financial stability, or licensing of the bidder.

**Specific Authority:** §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), Fla. Stat.

**Law Implemented:** §§ 190.033, 255.20, 287.055, Fla. Stat.

### **Rule 3.1 Procedure Under the Consultants' Competitive Negotiations Act.**

- (1) Scope. The following procedures are adopted for the selection of firms or individuals to provide Professional Services exceeding the thresholds herein described, for the negotiation of such contracts, and to provide for protest of actions of the Board under this Rule. As used in this Rule, "Project" means that fixed capital outlay study or planning activity when basic construction cost is estimated by the District to exceed the threshold amount provided in Section 287.017 of the Florida Statutes, for CATEGORY FIVE, or for a planning study activity when the fee for Professional Services is estimated by the District to exceed the threshold amount provided in Section 287.017 for CATEGORY TWO, as such categories may be amended or adjusted from time to time.
- (2) Qualifying Procedures. In order to be eligible to provide Professional Services to the District, a consultant must, at the time of receipt of the firm's qualification submittal:
  - (a) Hold all required applicable state professional licenses in good standing;
  - (b) Hold all required applicable federal licenses in good standing, if any;
  - (c) Hold a current and active Florida corporate charter or be authorized to do business in the State of Florida in accordance with Chapter 607 of the Florida Statutes, if the consultant is a corporation; and
  - (d) Meet any qualification requirements set forth in the District's Request for Qualifications.

Evidence of compliance with this Rule may be submitted with the qualifications, if requested by the District. In addition, evidence of compliance must be submitted any time requested by the District.

- (3) Public Announcement. Except in cases of valid public emergencies as certified by the Board, the District shall announce each occasion when Professional Services are required for a Project or a Continuing Contract by publishing a notice providing a general description of the Project, or the nature of the Continuing Contract, and the method for interested consultants to apply for consideration. The notice shall appear in at least one (1) newspaper of general circulation in the District and in such other places as the District deems appropriate. The notice must allow at least fourteen (14) days for submittal of qualifications from the date of publication. The District may maintain lists of consultants interested in receiving such notices. These consultants are encouraged to submit annually statements of qualifications and performance data. The District shall make reasonable efforts to provide copies of any notices to such consultants, but the failure to do so shall not give such consultants any bid protest or other rights or otherwise disqualify any otherwise valid procurement process. The Board has the

right to reject any and all qualifications, and such reservation shall be included in the published notice. Consultants not receiving a contract award shall not be entitled to recover from the District any costs of qualification package preparation or submittal.

(4) Competitive Selection.

- (a) The Board shall review and evaluate the data submitted in response to the notice described in section (3) of this Rule regarding qualifications and performance ability, as well as any statements of qualifications on file. The Board shall conduct discussions with, and may require public presentation by consultants regarding their qualifications, approach to the Project, and ability to furnish the required services. The Board shall then select and list the consultants, in order of preference, deemed to be the most highly capable and qualified to perform the required Professional Services, after considering these and other appropriate criteria:
  - (i) The ability and adequacy of the professional personnel employed by each consultant;
  - (ii) Whether a consultant is a certified minority business enterprise;
  - (iii) Each consultant's past performance;
  - (iv) The willingness of each consultant to meet time and budget requirements;
  - (v) The geographic location of each consultant's headquarters, office and personnel in relation to the project;
  - (vi) The recent, current, and projected workloads of each consultant; and
  - (vii) The volume of work previously awarded to each consultant by the District.
- (b) Nothing in these Rules shall prevent the District from evaluating and eventually selecting a consultant if less than three (3) Responsive qualification packages, including packages indicating a desire not to provide Professional Services on a given Project, are received.
- (c) If the selection process is administered by any person or committee other than the full Board, the selection made will be presented to the full Board with a recommendation that competitive negotiations be instituted with the selected firms in order of preference listed.

- (d) Notice of the rankings adopted by the Board, including the rejection of some or all qualification packages, shall be provided in writing to all consultants by United States Mail, hand delivery, facsimile, or overnight delivery service. The notice shall include the following statement: "Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Rule 3.11 of the Rules of the District shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under those Rules," or wording to that effect. Protests of the District's ranking decisions under this Rule shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in Rule 3.11.

(5) Competitive Negotiation.

- (a) After the Board has authorized the beginning of competitive negotiations, the District may begin such negotiations with the firm listed as most qualified to perform the required Professional Services at a rate or amount of compensation which the Board determines is fair, competitive, and reasonable.
- (b) In negotiating a lump-sum or cost-plus-a-fixed-fee professional contract for more than the threshold amount provided in Section 287.017 of the Florida Statutes, for CATEGORY FOUR, the firm receiving the award shall be required to execute a truth-in-negotiation certificate stating that "wage rates and other factual unit costs supporting the compensation are accurate, complete and current at the time of contracting." In addition, any professional service contract under which such a certificate is required, shall contain a provision that "the original contract price and any additions thereto, shall be adjusted to exclude any significant sums by which the Board determines the contract price was increased due to inaccurate, incomplete, or noncurrent wage rates and other factual unit costs."
- (c) Should the District be unable to negotiate a satisfactory agreement with the firm determined to be the most qualified at a price deemed by the District to be fair, competitive, and reasonable, then negotiations with that firm shall be terminated and the District shall immediately begin negotiations with the second most qualified firm. If a satisfactory agreement with the second firm cannot be reached, those negotiations shall be terminated and negotiations with the third most qualified firm shall be undertaken.
- (d) Should the District be unable to negotiate a satisfactory agreement with one of the top three (3) ranked consultants, additional firms shall be selected by the District, in order of their competence and qualifications. Negotiations shall continue, beginning with the first-named firm on the list, until an agreement is reached or the list of firms is exhausted.

- (6) Contracts; Public Records. In accordance with Florida law, each contract entered into pursuant to this Rule shall include provisions required by law that require the contractor to comply with public records laws.
- (7) Continuing Contract. Nothing in this Rule shall prohibit a Continuing Contract between a consultant and the District.
- (8) Emergency Purchase. The District may make an Emergency Purchase without complying with these Rules. The fact that an Emergency Purchase has occurred or is necessary shall be noted in the minutes of the next Board meeting.

**Specific Authority:** §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), Fla. Stat.

**Law Implemented:** §§ 119.0701, 190.011(3), 190.033, 287.055, Fla. Stat.

### **Rule 3.2      Procedure Regarding Auditor Selection.**

In order to comply with the requirements of Section 218.391 of the Florida Statutes, the following procedures are outlined for selection of firms or individuals to provide Auditing Services and for the negotiation of such contracts. For audits required under Chapter 190 of the Florida Statutes but not meeting the thresholds of Chapter 218 of the Florida Statutes, the District need not follow these procedures but may proceed with the selection of a firm or individual to provide Auditing Services and for the negotiation of such contracts in the manner the Board determines is in the best interests of the District.

(1)    Definitions.

- (a)    "Auditing Services" means those services within the scope of the practice of a certified public accounting firm licensed under Chapter 473 of the Florida Statutes, and qualified to conduct audits in accordance with government auditing standards as adopted by the Florida Board of Accountancy.
- (b)    "Committee" means the auditor selection committee appointed by the Board as described in section (2) of this Rule.

(2)    Establishment of Auditor Selection Committee. Prior to a public announcement under section (4) of this Rule that Auditing Services are required, the Board shall establish an auditor selection committee ("Committee"), the primary purpose of which is to assist the Board in selecting an auditor to conduct the annual financial audit required by Section 218.39 of the Florida Statutes. The Committee shall include at least three individuals, at least one of which must also be a member of the Board. The establishment and selection of the Committee must be conducted at a publicly noticed and held meeting of the Board. The Chairperson of the Committee must be a member of the Board. An employee, a chief executive officer, or a chief financial officer of the District may not serve as a member of the Committee; provided however such individual may serve the Committee in an advisory capacity.

(3)    Establishment of Minimum Qualifications and Evaluation Criteria. Prior to a public announcement under section (4) of this Rule that Auditing Services are required, the Committee shall meet at a publicly noticed meeting to establish minimum qualifications and factors to use for the evaluation of Auditing Services to be provided by a certified public accounting firm licensed under Chapter 473 of the Florida Statutes, and qualified to conduct audits in accordance with government auditing standards as adopted by the Florida Board of Accountancy.

- (a)    Minimum Qualifications. In order to be eligible to submit a proposal, a firm must, at all relevant times including the time of receipt of the proposal by the District:

- (i) Hold all required applicable state professional licenses in good standing;
- (ii) Hold all required applicable federal licenses in good standing, if any;
- (iii) Hold a current and active Florida corporate charter or be authorized to do business in the State of Florida in accordance with Chapter 607 of the Florida Statutes, if the proposer is a corporation; and
- (iv) Meet any pre-qualification requirements established by the Committee and set forth in the RFP or other specifications.

If requested in the RFP or other specifications, evidence of compliance with the minimum qualifications as established by the Committee must be submitted with the proposal.

- (b) **Evaluation Criteria.** The factors established for the evaluation of Auditing Services by the Committee shall include, but are not limited to:
  - (i) Ability of personnel;
  - (ii) Experience;
  - (iii) Ability to furnish the required services; and
  - (iv) Such other factors as may be determined by the Committee to be applicable to its particular requirements.

The Committee may also choose to consider compensation as a factor. If the Committee establishes compensation as one of the factors, compensation shall not be the sole or predominant factor used to evaluate proposals.

- (4) **Public Announcement.** After identifying the factors to be used in evaluating the proposals for Auditing Services as set forth in section (3) of this Rule, the Committee shall publicly announce the opportunity to provide Auditing Services. Such public announcement shall include a brief description of the audit and how interested firms can apply for consideration and obtain the RFP. The notice shall appear in at least one (1) newspaper of general circulation in the District and the county in which the District is located. The public announcement shall allow for at least seven (7) days for the submission of proposals.
- (5) **Request for Proposals.** The Committee shall provide interested firms with a Request for Proposals (“RFP”). The RFP shall provide information on how proposals are to be evaluated and such other information the Committee

determines is necessary for the firm to prepare a proposal. The RFP shall state the time and place for submitting proposals.

- (6) Committee's Evaluation of Proposals and Recommendation. The Committee shall meet at a publicly held meeting that is publicly noticed for a reasonable time in advance of the meeting to evaluate all qualified proposals and may, as part of the evaluation, require that each interested firm provide a public presentation where the Committee may conduct discussions with the firm, and where the firm may present information, regarding the firm's qualifications. At the public meeting, the Committee shall rank and recommend in order of preference no fewer than three firms deemed to be the most highly qualified to perform the required services after considering the factors established pursuant to subsection (3)(b) of this Rule. If fewer than three firms respond to the RFP or if no firms respond to the RFP, the Committee shall recommend such firm as it deems to be the most highly qualified. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Committee may recommend that any and all proposals be rejected.
- (7) Board Selection of Auditor.
  - (a) Where compensation was not selected as a factor used in evaluating the proposals, the Board shall negotiate with the firm ranked first and inquire of that firm as to the basis of compensation. If the Board is unable to negotiate a satisfactory agreement with the first ranked firm at a price deemed by the Board to be fair, competitive, and reasonable, then negotiations with that firm shall be terminated and the Board shall immediately begin negotiations with the second ranked firm. If a satisfactory agreement with the second ranked firm cannot be reached, those negotiations shall be terminated and negotiations with the third ranked firm shall be undertaken. The Board may reopen formal negotiations with any one of the three top-ranked firms, but it may not negotiate with more than one firm at a time. If the Board is unable to negotiate a satisfactory agreement with any of the selected firms, the Committee shall recommend additional firms in order of the firms' respective competence and qualifications. Negotiations shall continue, beginning with the first-named firm on the list, until an agreement is reached or the list of firms is exhausted.
  - (b) Where compensation was selected as a factor used in evaluating the proposals, the Board shall select the highest-ranked qualified firm or document in its public records the reason for not selecting the highest-ranked qualified firm.
  - (c) In negotiations with firms under this Rule, the Board may allow the District Manager, District Counsel, or other designee to conduct negotiations on its behalf.

- (d) Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board may reject any or all proposals. The Board shall not consider any proposal, or enter into any contract for Auditing Services, unless the proposed agreed-upon compensation is reasonable to satisfy the requirements of Section 218.39 of the Florida Statutes, and the needs of the District.
- (8) Contract. Any agreement reached under this Rule shall be evidenced by a written contract, which may take the form of an engagement letter signed and executed by both parties. The written contract shall include all provisions and conditions of the procurement of such services and shall include, at a minimum, the following:
  - (a) A provision specifying the services to be provided and fees or other compensation for such services;
  - (b) A provision requiring that invoices for fees or other compensation be submitted in sufficient detail to demonstrate compliance with the terms of the contract;
  - (c) A provision setting forth deadlines for the auditor to submit a preliminary draft audit report to the District for review and to submit a final audit report no later than June 30 of the fiscal year that follows the fiscal year for which the audit is being conducted;
  - (d) A provision specifying the contract period, including renewals, and conditions under which the contract may be terminated or renewed. The maximum contract period including renewals shall be five (5) years. A renewal may be done without the use of the auditor selection procedures provided in this Rule but must be in writing.
  - (e) Provisions required by law that require the auditor to comply with public records laws.
- (9) Notice of Award. Once a negotiated agreement with a firm or individual is reached, or the Board authorizes the execution of an agreement with a firm where compensation was a factor in the evaluation of proposals, notice of the intent to award, including the rejection of some or all proposals, shall be provided in writing to all proposers by United States Mail, hand delivery, facsimile, or overnight delivery service. The notice shall include the following statement: "Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Rule 3.11 of the Rules of the District shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under those Rules," or wording to that effect. Protests regarding the award of contracts under this Rule shall be as provided for in Rule 3.11. No proposer shall be entitled to recover any costs of proposal preparation or submittal from the District.

**Specific Authority:** §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), Fla. Stat.  
**Law Implemented:** §§ 119.0701, 218.33, 218.391, Fla. Stat.

### **Rule 3.3      Purchase of Insurance.**

- (1) Scope. The purchases of life, health, accident, hospitalization, legal expense, or annuity insurance, or all of any kinds of such insurance for the officers and employees of the District, and for health, accident, hospitalization, and legal expenses upon a group insurance plan by the District, shall be governed by this Rule. This Rule does not apply to the purchase of any other type of insurance by the District, including but not limited to liability insurance, property insurance, and directors and officers insurance. Nothing in this Rule shall require the District to purchase insurance.
- (2) Procedure. For a purchase of insurance within the scope of these Rules, the following procedure shall be followed:
  - (a) The Board shall cause to be prepared a Notice of Invitation to Bid.
  - (b) Notice of the Invitation to Bid shall be advertised at least once in a newspaper of general circulation within the District. The notice shall allow at least fourteen (14) days for submittal of bids.
  - (c) The District may maintain a list of persons interested in receiving notices of Invitations to Bid. The District shall make reasonable efforts to provide copies of any notices to such persons, but the failure to do so shall not give such consultants any bid protest or other rights or otherwise disqualify any otherwise valid procurement process.
  - (d) Bids shall be opened at the time and place noted in the Invitation to Bid.
  - (e) If only one (1) response to an Invitation is received, the District may proceed with the purchase. If no response to an Invitation to Bid is received, the District may take whatever steps are reasonably necessary in order to proceed with the purchase.
  - (f) The Board has the right to reject any and all bids and such reservations shall be included in all solicitations and advertisements.
  - (g) Simultaneously with the review of the submitted bids, the District may undertake negotiations with those companies that have submitted reasonable and timely bids and, in the opinion of the District, are fully qualified and capable of meeting all services and requirements. Bid responses shall be evaluated in accordance with the specifications and criteria contained in the Invitation to Bid; in addition, the total cost to the District, the cost, if any, to the District officers, employees, or their dependents, the geographic location of the company's headquarters and offices in relation to the District, and the ability of the company to guarantee premium stability may be considered. A contract to purchase

insurance shall be awarded to that company whose response to the Invitation to Bid best meets the overall needs of the District, its officers, employees, and/or dependents.

- (h) Notice of the intent to award, including rejection of some or all bids, shall be provided in writing to all bidders by United States Mail, by hand delivery, or by overnight delivery service. The notice shall include the following statement: "Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Rule 3.11 of the Rules of the District shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under those Rules," or wording to that effect. Protests of the District's procurement of insurance under this Rule shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in Rule 3.11.

**Specific Authority:** §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), Fla. Stat.

**Law Implemented:** § 112.08, Fla. Stat.

### **Rule 3.4      Pre-qualification**

- (1) Scope. In its discretion, the District may undertake a pre-qualification process in accordance with this Rule for vendors to provide construction services, goods, supplies, and materials, Contractual Services, and maintenance services.
- (2) Procedure. When the District seeks to pre-qualify vendors, the following procedures shall apply:
  - (a) The Board shall cause to be prepared a Request for Qualifications.
  - (b) For construction services exceeding the thresholds described in Section 255.20 of the Florida Statutes, the Board must advertise the proposed pre-qualification criteria and procedures and allow at least seven (7) days notice of the public hearing for comments on such pre-qualification criteria and procedures. At such public hearing, potential vendors may object to such pre-qualification criteria and procedures. Following such public hearing, the Board shall formally adopt pre-qualification criteria and procedures prior to the advertisement of the Request for Qualifications for construction services.
  - (c) The Request for Qualifications shall be advertised at least once in a newspaper of general circulation within the District and within the county in which the District is located. The notice shall allow at least seven (7) days for submittal of qualifications for goods, supplies and materials, Contractual Services, maintenance services, and construction services under two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000). The notice shall allow at least twenty-one (21) days for submittal of qualifications for construction services estimated to cost over two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) and thirty (30) days for construction services estimated to cost over five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000).
  - (d) The District may maintain lists of persons interested in receiving notices of Requests for Qualifications. The District shall make a good faith effort to provide written notice, by electronic mail, United States Mail, hand delivery, or facsimile, to persons who provide their name and address to the District Manager for inclusion on the list. However, failure of a person to receive the notice shall not invalidate any pre-qualification determination or contract awarded in accordance with these Rules and shall not be a basis for a protest of any pre-qualification determination or contract award.
  - (e) If the District has pre-qualified vendors for a particular category of purchase, at the option of the District, only those persons who have been pre-qualified will be eligible to submit bids, proposals, replies or

responses in response to the applicable Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation.

- (f) In order to be eligible to submit qualifications, a firm or individual must, at the time of receipt of the qualifications:
  - (i) Hold all required applicable state professional licenses in good standing;
  - (ii) Hold all required applicable federal licenses in good standing, if any;
  - (iii) Hold a current and active Florida corporate charter or be authorized to do business in the State of Florida in accordance with Chapter 607 of the Florida Statutes, if the vendor is a corporation; and
  - (iv) Meet any special pre-qualification requirements set forth in the Request for Qualifications.

Evidence of compliance with these Rules must be submitted with the qualifications if required by the District. Failure to submit evidence of compliance when required may be grounds for rejection of the qualifications.

- (g) Qualifications shall be presented to the Board, or a committee appointed by the Board, for evaluation in accordance with the Request for Qualifications and this Rule. Minor variations in the qualifications may be waived by the Board. A variation is minor if waiver of the variation does not create a competitive advantage or disadvantage of a material nature.
- (h) All vendors determined by the District to meet the pre-qualification requirements shall be pre-qualified. To assure full understanding of the responsiveness to the requirements contained in a Request for Qualifications, discussions may be conducted with qualified vendors. Vendors shall be accorded fair treatment prior to the submittal date with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of qualifications. For construction services, any contractor pre-qualified and considered eligible by the Department of Transportation to bid to perform the type of work the project entails shall be presumed to be qualified to perform the project.
- (i) The Board shall have the right to reject all qualifications if there are not enough to be competitive or if rejection is determined to be in the best interest of the District. No vendor shall be entitled to recover any costs of qualification preparation or submittal from the District.

(j) Notice of intent to pre-qualify, including rejection of some or all qualifications, shall be provided in writing to all vendors by United States Mail, electronic mail, hand delivery, facsimile, or overnight delivery service. The notice shall include the following statement: "Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Rule 3.11 of the Rules of the District shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under those Rules," or wording to that effect. Protests of the District's pre-qualification decisions under this Rule shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in Rule 3.11; provided however, protests related to the pre-qualification criteria and procedures for construction services shall be resolved in accordance with section (2)(b) of this Rule and Section 255.20(1)(b) of the Florida Statutes.

(3) Suspension, Revocation, or Denial of Qualification

(a) The District, for good cause, may deny, suspend, or revoke a prequalified vendor's pre-qualified status. A suspension, revocation, or denial for good cause shall prohibit the vendor from bidding on any District construction contract for which qualification is required, shall constitute a determination of non-responsibility to bid on any other District construction or maintenance contract, and shall prohibit the vendor from acting as a material supplier or subcontractor on any District contract or project during the period of suspension, revocation, or denial. Good cause shall include the following:

- i. One of the circumstances specified under Section 337.16(2), Fla. Stat., has occurred.
- ii. Affiliated contractors submitted more than one proposal for the same work. In this event the pre-qualified status of all of the affiliated bidders will be revoked, suspended, or denied. All bids of affiliated bidders will be rejected.
- iii. The vendor made or submitted false, deceptive, or fraudulent statements, certifications, or materials in any claim for payment or any information required by any District contract.
- iv. The vendor or its affiliate defaulted on any contract or a contract surety assumed control of financial responsibility for any contract of the vendor.
- v. The vendor's qualification to bid is suspended, revoked, or denied by any other public or semi-public entity, or the vendor has been the subject of a civil enforcement proceeding or settlement involving a public or semi-public entity.
- vi. The vendor failed to comply with contract or warranty requirements or failed to follow District direction in the performance of a contract.

- vii. The vendor failed to timely furnish all contract documents required by the contract specifications, special provisions, or by any state or federal statutes or regulations. If the vendor fails to furnish any of the subject contract documents by the expiration of the period of suspension, revocation, or denial set forth above, the vendor's pre-qualified status shall remain suspended, revoked, or denied until the documents are furnished.
  - viii. The vendor failed to notify the District within 10 days of the vendor, or any of its affiliates, being declared in default or otherwise not completing work on a contract or being suspended from qualification to bid or denied qualification to bid by any other public or semi-public agency.
  - ix. The vendor did not pay its subcontractors or suppliers in a timely manner or in compliance with contract documents.
  - x. The vendor has demonstrated instances of poor or unsatisfactory performance, deficient management resulting in project delay, poor quality workmanship, a history of payment of liquidated damages, untimely completion of projects, uncooperative attitude, contract litigation, inflated claims or defaults.
  - xi. An affiliate of the vendor has previously been determined by the District to be non-responsible, and the specified period of suspension, revocation, denial, or non-responsibility remains in effect.
  - xii. The vendor or affiliate(s) has been convicted of a contract crime.
    - 1. The term "contract crime" means any violation of state or federal antitrust laws with respect to a public contract or any violation of any state or federal law involving fraud, bribery, collusion, conspiracy, or material misrepresentation with respect to a public contract.
    - 2. The term "convicted" or "conviction" means a finding of guilt or a conviction of a contract crime, with or without an adjudication of guilt, in any federal or state trial court of record as a result of a jury verdict, nonjury trial, or entry of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere.
- (b) A denial, suspension, or revocation shall prohibit the vendor from being a subcontractor on District work during the period of denial, suspension, or revocation, except when a prime contractor's bid has used prices of a subcontractor who becomes disqualified after the bid, but before the request for authorization to sublet is presented.

- (c) The District shall inform the vendor in writing of its intent to deny, suspend, or revoke its pre-qualified status and inform the vendor of its right to a hearing, the procedure which must be followed, and the applicable time limits. If a hearing is requested within 10 days after the receipt of the notice of intent, the hearing shall be held within 30 days after receipt by the District of the request for the hearing. The decision shall be issued within 15 days after the hearing.
- (d) Such suspension or revocation shall not affect the vendor's obligations under any preexisting contract.
- (e) In the case of contract crimes, the vendor's pre-qualified status under this Rule shall be revoked indefinitely. For all violations of Rule 3.4(3)(a) other than for the vendor's conviction for contract crimes, the revocation, denial, or suspension of a vendor's pre-qualified status under this Rule shall be for a specific period of time based on the seriousness of the deficiency.

Examples of factors affecting the seriousness of a deficiency are:

- i. Impacts on project schedule, cost, or quality of work;
- ii. Unsafe conditions allowed to exist;
- iii. Complaints from the public;
- iv. Delay or interference with the bidding process;
- v. The potential for repetition;
- vi. Integrity of the public contracting process;
- vii. Effect on the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

**Specific Authority:** §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), Fla. Stat.  
**Law Implemented:** §§ 190.033, 255.0525, 255.20, Fla. Stat.

### **Rule 3.5      Construction Contracts, Not Design-Build.**

- (1) Scope. All contracts for the construction or improvement of any building, structure, or other public construction works authorized by Chapter 190 of the Florida Statutes, the costs of which are estimated by the District in accordance with generally accepted cost accounting principles to be in excess of the threshold amount for applicability of Section 255.20 of the Florida Statutes, as that amount may be indexed or amended from time to time, shall be let under the terms of these Rules and the procedures of Section 255.20 of the Florida Statutes, as the same may be amended from time to time. A project shall not be divided solely to avoid the threshold bidding requirements.
- (2) Procedure. When a purchase of construction services is within the scope of this Rule, the following procedures shall apply:
  - (a) The Board shall cause to be prepared an Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation.
  - (b) Notice of the Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation shall be advertised at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the District and in the county in which the District is located. The notice shall also include the amount of the bid bond, if one is required. The notice shall allow at least twenty-one (21) days for submittal of sealed bids, proposals, replies, or responses, unless the Board, for good cause, determines a shorter period of time is appropriate. Any project projected to cost more than five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) must be noticed at least thirty (30) days prior to the date for submittal of bids, proposals, replies, or responses. If the Board has previously pre-qualified contractors pursuant to Rule 3.4 and determined that only the contractors that have been pre-qualified will be permitted to submit bids, proposals, replies, and responses, the Notice of Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation need not be published. Instead, the Notice of Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation shall be sent to the pre-qualified contractors by United States Mail, hand delivery, facsimile, or overnight delivery service.
  - (c) The District may maintain lists of persons interested in receiving notices of Invitations to Bid, Requests for Proposals, Invitations to Negotiate, and Competitive Solicitations. The District shall make a good faith effort to provide written notice, by electronic mail, United States Mail, hand delivery, or facsimile, to persons who provide their name and address to the District Manager for inclusion on the list. However, failure of a person to receive the notice shall not invalidate any contract awarded in accordance with this Rule and shall not be a basis for a protest of any contract award.

- (d) If the District has pre-qualified providers of construction services, then, at the option of the District, only those persons who have been pre-qualified will be eligible to submit bids, proposals, replies, or responses to Invitations to Bid, Requests for Proposals, Invitations to Negotiate, and Competitive Solicitations.
- (e) In order to be eligible to submit a bid, proposal, reply, or response, a firm or individual must, at the time of receipt of the bids, proposals, replies, or responses:
  - (i) Hold all required applicable state professional licenses in good standing;
  - (ii) Hold all required applicable federal licenses in good standing, if any;
  - (iii) Hold a current and active Florida corporate charter or be authorized to do business in the State of Florida in accordance with Chapter 607 of the Florida Statutes, if the bidder is a corporation; and
  - (iv) Meet any special pre-qualification requirements set forth in the Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation.

Any contractor that has been found guilty by a court of any violation of federal labor or employment tax laws regarding subjects including but not limited to, reemployment assistance, safety, tax withholding, worker's compensation, unemployment tax, social security and Medicare tax, wage or hour, or prevailing rate laws within the past 5 years may be considered ineligible by the District to submit a bid, response, or proposal for a District project.

Evidence of compliance with these Rules must be submitted with the bid, proposal, reply, or response, if required by the District. Failure to submit evidence of compliance when required may be grounds for rejection of the bid, proposal, reply, or response.

- (f) Bids, proposals, replies, and responses, or the portions of which that include the price, shall be publicly opened at a meeting noticed in accordance with Rule 1.3, and at which at least one district representative is present. The name of each bidder and the price submitted in the bid shall be announced at such meeting and shall be made available upon request. Minutes should be taken at the meeting and maintained by the District. Bids, proposals, replies, and responses shall be evaluated in

accordance with the respective Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation and these Rules. Minor variations in the bids, proposals, replies, or responses may be waived by the Board. A variation is minor if waiver of the variation does not create a competitive advantage or disadvantage of a material nature. Mistakes in arithmetic extension of pricing may be corrected by the Board. Bids and proposals may not be modified or supplemented after opening; provided however, additional information may be requested and/or provided to evidence compliance, make non-material modifications, clarifications, or supplementations, and as otherwise permitted by Florida law.

- (g) The lowest Responsive Bid submitted by a Responsive and Responsible Bidder in response to an Invitation to Bid shall be accepted. In relation to a Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation, the Board shall select the Responsive Proposal, Reply, or Response submitted by a Responsive and Responsible Vendor which is most advantageous to the District. To assure full understanding of the responsiveness to the solicitation requirements contained in a Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation, discussions may be conducted with qualified vendors. Vendors shall be accorded fair treatment prior to the submittal date with respect to any opportunity for discussion, preparation, and revision of bids, proposals, replies, and responses.
- (h) The Board shall have the right to reject all bids, proposals, replies, or responses because they exceed the amount of funds budgeted for the purchase, if there are not enough to be competitive, or if rejection is determined to be in the best interest of the District. No contractor shall be entitled to recover any costs of bid, proposal, response, or reply preparation or submittal from the District.
- (i) The Board may require potential contractors to furnish bid bonds, performance bonds, and/or other bonds with a responsible surety to be approved by the Board.
- (j) Notice of intent to award, including rejection of some or all bids, proposals, replies, or responses, shall be provided in writing to all contractors by United States Mail, hand delivery, facsimile, or overnight delivery service. The notice shall include the following statement: "Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Rule 3.11 of the Rules of the District shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under those Rules," or wording to that effect. Protests of the District's purchase of construction services under this Rule shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in Rule 3.11.

- (k) If less than three (3) Responsive Bids, Proposals, Replies, or Responses are received, the District may purchase construction services or may reject the bids, proposals, replies, or responses for a lack of competitiveness. If no Responsive Bid, Proposal, Reply, or Response is received, the District may proceed with the procurement of construction services, in the manner the Board determines is in the best interests of the District, which may include but is not limited to a direct purchase of the construction services without further competitive selection processes.
- (3) Sole Source; Government. Construction services that are only available from a single source are exempt from this Rule. Construction services provided by governmental agencies are exempt from this Rule. This Rule shall not apply to the purchase of construction services, which may include goods, supplies, or materials, that are purchased under a federal, state, or local government contract that has been competitively procured by such federal, state, or local government in a manner consistent with the material procurement requirements of these Rules. A contract for construction services is exempt from this Rule if state or federal law prescribes with whom the District must contract or if the rate of payment is established during the appropriation process.
- (4) Contracts; Public Records. In accordance with Florida law, each contract entered into pursuant to this Rule shall include provisions required by law that require the contractor to comply with public records laws.
- (5) Emergency Purchases. The District may make an Emergency Purchase without complying with these rules. The fact that an Emergency Purchase has occurred or is necessary shall be noted in the minutes of the next Board Meeting.
- (6) Exceptions. This Rule is inapplicable when:
  - (a) The project is undertaken as repair or maintenance of an existing public facility;
  - (b) The funding source of the project will be diminished or lost because the time required to competitively award the project after the funds become available exceeds the time within which the funding source must be spent;
  - (c) The District has competitively awarded a project and the contractor has abandoned the project or the District has terminated the contract; or
  - (d) The District, after public notice, conducts a public meeting under Section 286.011 of the Florida Statutes, and finds by a majority vote of the Board that it is in the public's best interest to perform the project using its own services, employees, and equipment.

**Specific Authority:** §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), Fla. Stat.

**Law Implemented:** §§ 119.0701, 189.053, 190.033, 255.0518, 255.0525, 255.20, 287.055, Fla. Stat.

**Rule 3.6      Construction Contracts, Design-Build.**

- (1) Scope. The District may utilize Design-Build Contracts for any public construction project for which the Board determines that use of such contract is in the best interest of the District. When letting a Design-Build Contract, the District shall use the following procedure:
- (2) Procedure.
  - (a) The District shall utilize a Design Criteria Professional meeting the requirements of Section 287.055(2)(k) of the Florida Statutes, when developing a Design Criteria Package, evaluating the proposals and qualifications submitted by Design-Build Firms, and determining compliance of the project construction with the Design Criteria Package. The Design Criteria Professional may be an employee of the District, may be the District Engineer selected by the District pursuant to Section 287.055 of the Florida Statutes, or may be retained pursuant to Rule 3.1. The Design Criteria Professional is not eligible to render services under a Design-Build Contract executed pursuant to the Design Criteria Package.
  - (b) A Design Criteria Package for the construction project shall be prepared and sealed by the Design Criteria Professional. If the project utilizes existing plans, the Design Criteria Professional shall create a Design Criteria Package by supplementing the plans with project specific requirements, if any.
  - (c) The Board may either choose to award the Design-Build Contract pursuant to the competitive proposal selection process set forth in Section 287.055(9) of the Florida Statutes, or pursuant to the qualifications-based selection process pursuant to Rule 3.1.
    - (i) Qualifications-Based Selection. If the process set forth in Rule 3.1 is utilized, subsequent to competitive negotiations, a guaranteed maximum price and guaranteed completion date shall be established.
    - (ii) Competitive Proposal-Based Selection. If the competitive proposal selection process is utilized, the Board, in consultation with the Design Criteria Professional, shall establish the criteria, standards and procedures for the evaluation of Design-Build Proposals based on price, technical, and design aspects of the project, weighted for the project. After a Design Criteria Package and the standards and procedures for evaluation of proposals have been developed, competitive proposals from qualified firms shall be solicited pursuant to the design criteria by the following procedure:

1. A Request for Proposals shall be advertised at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the District is located. The notice shall allow at least twenty-one (21) days for submittal of sealed proposals, unless the Board, for good cause, determines a shorter period of time is appropriate. Any project projected to cost more than five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) must be noticed at least thirty (30) days prior to the date for submittal of proposals.
2. The District may maintain lists of persons interested in receiving notices of Requests for Proposals. The District shall make a good faith effort to provide written notice, by electronic mail, United States Mail, hand delivery, or facsimile, to persons who provide their name and address to the District Manager for inclusion on the list. However, failure of a person to receive the notice shall not invalidate any contract awarded in accordance with this Rule and shall not be a basis for a protest of any contract award.
3. In order to be eligible to submit a proposal, a firm must, at the time of receipt of the proposals:
  - a. Hold the required applicable state professional licenses in good standing, as defined by Section 287.055(2)(h) of the Florida Statutes;
  - b. Hold all required applicable federal licenses in good standing, if any;
  - c. Hold a current and active Florida corporate charter or be authorized to do business in the State of Florida in accordance with Chapter 607 of the Florida Statutes, if the proposer is a corporation;
  - d. Meet any special pre-qualification requirements set forth in the Request for Proposals and Design Criteria Package.

Any contractor that has been found guilty by a court of any violation of federal labor or employment tax laws regarding subjects including but not limited to reemployment assistance, safety, tax withholding, worker's compensation, unemployment tax, social security and Medicare tax, wage or hour, or prevailing rate laws within the past 5 years may

be considered ineligible by the District to submit a bid, response, or proposal for a District project.

Evidence of compliance with these Rules must be submitted with the proposal if required by the District. Failure to submit evidence of compliance when required may be grounds for rejection of the proposal.

4. The proposals, or the portions of which that include the price, shall be publicly opened at a meeting noticed in accordance with Rule 1.3, and at which at least one district representative is present. The name of each bidder and the price submitted in the bid shall be announced at such meeting and shall be made available upon request. Minutes should be taken at the meeting and maintained by the District. In consultation with the Design Criteria Professional, the Board shall evaluate the proposals received based on evaluation criteria and procedures established prior to the solicitation of proposals, including but not limited to qualifications, availability, and past work of the firms and the partners and members thereof. The Board shall then select no fewer than three (3) Design-Build Firms as the most qualified.
5. The Board shall have the right to reject all proposals if the proposals are too high, or rejection is determined to be in the best interest of the District. No vendor shall be entitled to recover any costs of proposal preparation or submittal from the District.
6. If less than three (3) Responsive Proposals are received, the District may purchase design-build services or may reject the proposals for lack of competitiveness. If no Responsive Proposals are received, the District may proceed with the procurement of design-build services in the manner the Board determines is in the best interests of the District, which may include but is not limited to a direct purchase of the design-build services without further competitive selection processes.
7. Notice of the rankings adopted by the Board, including the rejection of some or all proposals, shall be provided in writing to all consultants by United States Mail, hand delivery, facsimile, or overnight delivery service. The notice shall include the following statement: "Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Rule 3.11 of the

Rules of the District shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under those Rules," or wording to that effect. Protests of the District's rankings under this Rule shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in Rule 3.11.

8. The Board shall negotiate a contract with the firm ranking the highest based on the evaluation standards and shall establish a price which the Board determines is fair, competitive and reasonable. Should the Board be unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with the firm considered to be the most qualified at a price considered by the Board to be fair, competitive, and reasonable, negotiations with that firm must be terminated. The Board shall then undertake negotiations with the second most qualified firm, based on the ranking by the evaluation standards. Should the Board be unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with the firm considered to be the second most qualified at a price considered by the Board to be fair, competitive, and reasonable, negotiations with that firm must be terminated. The Board shall then undertake negotiations with the third most qualified firm. Should the Board be unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with the firm considered to be the third most qualified at a price considered by the Board to be fair, competitive, and reasonable, negotiations with that firm must be terminated. Should the Board be unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with any of the selected firms, the Board shall select additional firms in order of their rankings based on the evaluation standards and continue negotiations until an agreement is reached or the list of firms is exhausted.
  9. After the Board contracts with a firm, the firm shall bring to the Board for approval, detailed working drawings of the project.
  10. The Design Criteria Professional shall evaluate the compliance of the detailed working drawings and project construction with the Design Criteria Package and shall provide the Board with a report of the same.
- (3) Contracts; Public Records. In accordance with Florida law, each contract entered into pursuant to this Rule shall include provisions required by law that require the contractor to comply with public records laws.
  - (4) Emergency Purchase. The Board may, in case of public emergency, declare an emergency and immediately proceed with negotiations with the best qualified

Design-Build Firm available at the time. The fact that an Emergency Purchase has occurred shall be noted in the minutes of the next Board meeting.

(5) Exceptions. This Rule is inapplicable when:

- (a) The project is undertaken as repair or maintenance of an existing public facility;
- (b) The funding source of the project will be diminished or lost because the time required to competitively award the project after the funds become available exceeds the time within which the funding source must be spent;
- (c) The District has competitively awarded a project and the contractor has abandoned the project or the District has terminated the contractor; or
- (d) The District, after public notice, conducts a public meeting under Section 286.011 of the Florida Statutes, and finds by a majority vote of the Board that it is in the public's best interest to perform the project using its own services, employees, and equipment.

**Specific Authority:** §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), Fla. Stat.

**Law Implemented:** §§ 119.0701, 189.053, 190.033, 255.0518, 255.0525, 255.20, 287.055, Fla. Stat.

**Rule 3.7      Payment and Performance Bonds.**

- (1) Scope. This Rule shall apply to contracts for the construction of a public building, for the prosecution and completion of a public work, or for repairs upon a public building or public work and shall be construed in addition to terms prescribed by any other Rule that may also apply to such contracts.
- (2) Required Bond. Upon entering into a contract for any of the services described in section (1) of this Rule in excess of \$200,000, the Board should require that the contractor, before commencing the work, execute and record a payment and performance bond in an amount equal to the contract price. Notwithstanding the terms of the contract or any other law, the District may not make payment to the contractor until the contractor has provided to the District a certified copy of the recorded bond.
- (3) Discretionary Bond. At the discretion of the Board, upon entering into a contract for any of the services described in section (1) of this Rule for an amount not exceeding \$200,000, the contractor may be exempted from executing a payment and performance bond.

**Specific Authority:** §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), Fla. Stat.

**Law Implemented:** § 255.05, Fla. Stat.

**Rule 3.8      Goods, Supplies, and Materials.**

- (1) Purpose and Scope. All purchases of goods, supplies, or materials exceeding the amount provided in Section 287.017 of the Florida Statutes, for CATEGORY FOUR, shall be purchased under the terms of this Rule. Contracts for purchases of “goods, supplies, and materials” do not include printing, insurance, advertising, or legal notices. A contract involving goods, supplies, or materials plus maintenance services may, in the discretion of the Board, be treated as a contract for maintenance services. However, a purchase shall not be divided solely in order to avoid the threshold bidding requirements.
- (2) Procedure. When a purchase of goods, supplies, or materials is within the scope of this Rule, the following procedures shall apply:
  - (a) The Board shall cause to be prepared an Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation.
  - (b) Notice of the Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation shall be advertised at least once in a newspaper of general circulation within the District and within the county in which the District is located. The notice shall also include the amount of the bid bond, if one is required. The notice shall allow at least seven (7) days for submittal of bids, proposals, replies, or responses.
  - (c) The District may maintain lists of persons interested in receiving notices of Invitations to Bid, Requests for Proposals, Invitations to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitations. The District shall make a good faith effort to provide written notice, by electronic mail, United States Mail, hand delivery, or facsimile, to persons who provide their name and address to the District Manager for inclusion on the list. However, failure of a person to receive the notice shall not invalidate any contract awarded in accordance with this Rule and shall not be a basis for a protest of any contract award.
  - (d) If the District has pre-qualified suppliers of goods, supplies, and materials, then, at the option of the District, only those persons who have been pre-qualified will be eligible to submit bids, proposals, replies, or responses.
  - (e) In order to be eligible to submit a bid, proposal, reply, or response, a firm or individual must, at the time of receipt of the bids, proposals, replies, or responses:
    - (i) Hold all required applicable state professional licenses in good standing;
    - (ii) Hold all required applicable federal licenses in good standing, if any;

- (iii) Hold a current and active Florida corporate charter or be authorized to do business in the State of Florida in accordance with Chapter 607 of the Florida Statutes, if the vendor is a corporation; and
- (iv) Meet any special pre-qualification requirements set forth in the Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation.

Evidence of compliance with these Rules must be submitted with the bid, proposal, reply or response if required by the District. Failure to submit evidence of compliance when required may be grounds for rejection of the bid, proposal, reply, or response.

Any firm or individual whose principal place of business is outside the State of Florida must also submit a written opinion of an attorney at law licensed to practice law in that foreign state, as to the preferences, if any or none, granted by the law of that foreign state to business entities whose principal places of business are in that foreign state, in the letting of any or all public contracts. Failure to submit such a written opinion or submission of a false or misleading written opinion may be grounds for rejection of the bid, proposal, reply, or response.

- (f) Bids, proposals, replies, and responses shall be publicly opened at the time and place noted on the Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation. Bids, proposals, replies, and responses shall be evaluated in accordance with the respective Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation, and this Rule. Minor variations in the bids, proposals, replies, or responses may be waived by the Board. A variation is minor if waiver of the variation does not create a competitive advantage or disadvantage of a material nature. Mistakes in arithmetic extension of pricing may be corrected by the Board. Bids and proposals may not be modified or supplemented after opening; provided however, additional information may be requested and/or provided to evidence compliance, make non-material modifications, clarifications, or supplementations, and as otherwise permitted by Florida law.
- (g) The lowest Responsive Bid, after taking into account the preferences provided for in this subsection, submitted by a Responsive and Responsible Bidder in response to an Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation shall be accepted. If the lowest Responsive Bid is submitted by a Responsive and Responsible Bidder whose principal place of business is located in a foreign state which does not grant a preference in competitive purchase to businesses whose principal place of business are in that foreign state, the

lowest Responsible and Responsive Bidder whose principal place of business is in the State of Florida shall be awarded a preference of five (5) percent. If the lowest Responsive Bid is submitted by a Responsive and Responsible Bidder whose principal place of business is located in a foreign state which grants a preference in competitive purchase to businesses whose principal place of business are in that foreign state, the lowest Responsible and Responsive Bidder whose principal place of business is in the State of Florida shall be awarded a preference equal to the preference granted by such foreign state.

To assure full understanding of the responsiveness to the solicitation requirements contained in an Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation, discussions may be conducted with qualified vendors. Vendors shall be accorded fair treatment prior to the submittal date with respect to any opportunity for discussion, preparation, and revision of bids, proposals, replies, and responses.

- (h) The Board shall have the right to reject all bids, proposals, replies, or responses because they exceed the amount of funds budgeted for the purchase, if there are not enough to be competitive, or if rejection is determined to be in the best interest of the District. No vendor shall be entitled to recover any costs of bid, proposal, reply, or response preparation or submittal from the District.
- (i) The Board may require bidders and proposers to furnish bid bonds, performance bonds, and/or other bonds with a responsible surety to be approved by the Board.
- (j) Notice of intent to award, including rejection of some or all bids, proposals, replies, or responses shall be provided in writing to all vendors by United States Mail, hand delivery, facsimile, or overnight delivery service. The notice shall include the following statement: "Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Rule 3.11 of the Rules of the District shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under those Rules," or wording to that effect. Protests of the District's purchase of goods, supplies, and materials under this Rule shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in Rule 3.11.
- (k) If less than three (3) Responsive Bids, Proposals, Replies, or Responses are received, the District may purchase goods, supplies, or materials, or may reject the bids, proposals, replies, or responses for a lack of competitiveness. If no Responsive Bid, Proposal, Reply, or Response is received, the District may proceed with the procurement of goods, supplies, and materials, in the manner the Board determines is in the best interests of the District, which may include but is not limited to a direct

purchase of the goods, supplies, and materials without further competitive selection processes.

- (3) Goods, Supplies, and Materials included in a Construction Contract Awarded Pursuant to Rule 3.5 or 3.6. There may be occasions where the District has undergone the competitive purchase of construction services which contract may include the provision of goods, supplies, or materials. In that instance, the District may approve a change order to the contract and directly purchase the goods, supplies, and materials. Such purchase of goods, supplies, and materials deducted from a competitively purchased construction contract shall be exempt from this Rule.
- (4) Exemption. Goods, supplies, and materials that are only available from a single source are exempt from this Rule. Goods, supplies, and materials provided by governmental agencies are exempt from this Rule. A contract for goods, supplies, or materials is exempt from this Rule if state or federal law prescribes with whom the District must contract or if the rate of payment is established during the appropriation process. This Rule shall not apply to the purchase of goods, supplies or materials that are purchased under a federal, state, or local government contract that has been competitively procured by such federal, state, or local government in a manner consistent with the material procurement requirements of these Rules.
- (5) Renewal. Contracts for the purchase of goods, supplies, and/or materials subject to this Rule may be renewed for a maximum period of five (5) years.
- (6) Emergency Purchases. The District may make an Emergency Purchase without complying with these rules. The fact that an Emergency Purchase has occurred or is necessary shall be noted in the minutes of the next Board meeting.

**Specific Authority:** §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), Fla. Stat.

**Law Implemented:** §§ 189.053, 190.033, 287.017, 287.084, Fla. Stat.

### **Rule 3.9      Maintenance Services.**

- (1) Scope. All contracts for maintenance of any District facility or project shall be set under the terms of this Rule if the cost exceeds the amount provided in Section 287.017 of the Florida Statutes, for CATEGORY FOUR. A contract involving goods, supplies, and materials plus maintenance services may, in the discretion of the Board, be treated as a contract for maintenance services. However, a purchase shall not be divided solely in order to avoid the threshold bidding requirements.
- (2) Procedure. When a purchase of maintenance services is within the scope of this Rule, the following procedures shall apply:
  - (a) The Board shall cause to be prepared an Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation.
  - (b) Notice of the Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation shall be advertised at least once in a newspaper of general circulation within the District and within the county in which the District is located. The notice shall also include the amount of the bid bond, if one is required. The notice shall allow at least seven (7) days for submittal of bids, proposals, replies, or responses.
  - (c) The District may maintain lists of persons interested in receiving notices of Invitations to Bid, Requests for Proposals, Invitations to Negotiate, and Competitive Solicitations. The District shall make a good faith effort to provide written notice, by electronic mail, United States Mail, hand delivery, or facsimile, to persons who provide their name and address to the District Manager for inclusion on the list. However, failure of a person to receive the notice shall not invalidate any contract awarded in accordance with this Rule and shall not be a basis for a protest of any contract award.
  - (d) If the District has pre-qualified suppliers of maintenance services, then, at the option of the District, only those persons who have been pre-qualified will be eligible to submit bids, proposals, replies, and responses.
  - (e) In order to be eligible to submit a bid, proposal, reply, or response, a firm or individual must, at the time of receipt of the bids, proposals, replies, or responses:
    - (i) Hold all required applicable state professional licenses in good standing;
    - (ii) Hold all required applicable federal licenses in good standing, if any;

- (iii) Hold a current and active Florida corporate charter or be authorized to do business in the State of Florida in accordance with Chapter 607 of the Florida Statutes, if the vendor is a corporation; and
- (iv) Meet any special pre-qualification requirements set forth in the Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation.

Evidence of compliance with these Rules must be submitted with the bid, proposal, reply, or response if required by the District. Failure to submit evidence of compliance when required may be grounds for rejection of the bid, proposal, reply, or response.

- (f) Bids, proposals, replies, and responses shall be publicly opened at the time and place noted on the Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation. Bids, proposals, replies, and responses shall be evaluated in accordance with the respective Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation, and these Rules. Minor variations in the bids, proposals, replies, and responses may be waived by the Board. A variation is minor if waiver of the variation does not create a competitive advantage or disadvantage of a material nature. Mistakes in arithmetic extension of pricing may be corrected by the Board. Bids and proposals may not be modified or supplemented after opening; provided however, additional information may be requested and/or provided to evidence compliance, make non-material modifications, clarifications, or supplementations, and as otherwise permitted by Florida law.
- (g) The lowest Responsive Bid submitted in response to an Invitation to Bid by a Responsive and Responsible Bidder shall be accepted. In relation to a Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate or Competitive Solicitation the Board shall select the Responsive Proposal, Reply, or Response submitted by a Responsive and Responsible Vendor which is most advantageous to the District. To assure full understanding of the responsiveness to the solicitation requirements contained in a Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation, discussions may be conducted with qualified vendors. Vendors shall be accorded fair treatment prior to the submittal date with respect to any opportunity for discussion, preparation, and revision of bids, proposals, replies, or responses.
- (h) The Board shall have the right to reject all bids, proposals, replies, or responses because they exceed the amount of funds budgeted for the purchase, if there are not enough to be competitive, or if rejection is determined to be in the best interest of the District. No Vendor shall be

entitled to recover any costs of bid, proposal, reply, or response preparation or submittal from the District.

- (i) The Board may require bidders and proposers to furnish bid bonds, performance bonds, and/or other bonds with a responsible surety to be approved by the Board.
  - (j) Notice of intent to award, including rejection of some or all bids, proposals, replies, or responses shall be provided in writing to all vendors by United States Mail, hand delivery, facsimile, or overnight delivery service. The notice shall include the following statement: "Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Rule 3.11 of the Rules of the District shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under those Rules," or wording to that effect. Protests of the District's procurement of maintenance services under this Rule shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in Rule 3.11.
  - (k) If less than three (3) Responsive Bids, Proposals, Replies, or Responses are received, the District may purchase the maintenance services or may reject the bids, proposals, replies, or responses for a lack of competitiveness. If no Responsive Bid, Proposal, Reply, or Response is received, the District may proceed with the procurement of maintenance services, in the manner the Board determines is in the best interests of the District, which may include but is not limited to a direct purchase of the maintenance services without further competitive selection processes.
- (3) Exemptions. Maintenance services that are only available from a single source are exempt from this Rule. Maintenance services provided by governmental agencies are exempt from this Rule. A contract for maintenance services is exempt from this Rule if state or federal law prescribes with whom the District must contract or if the rate of payment is established during the appropriation process.
  - (4) Renewal. Contracts for the purchase of maintenance services subject to this Rule may be renewed for a maximum period of five (5) years.
  - (5) Contracts; Public Records. In accordance with Florida law, each contract entered into pursuant to this Rule shall include provisions required by law that require the contractor to comply with public records laws.
  - (6) Emergency Purchases. The District may make an Emergency Purchase without complying with these rules. The fact that an Emergency Purchase has occurred or is necessary shall be noted in the minutes of the next Board meeting.

**Specific Authority:** §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), 190.033, Fla. Stat.  
**Law Implemented:** §§ 119.0701, 190.033, 287.017, Fla. Stat.

**Rule 3.10 Contractual Services.**

- (1) Exemption from Competitive Purchase. Pursuant to Section 190.033(3) of the Florida Statutes, Contractual Services shall not be subject to competitive purchasing requirements. If an agreement is predominantly for Contractual Services, but also includes maintenance services or the purchase of goods and services, the contract shall not be subject to competitive purchasing requirements. Regardless of whether an advertisement or solicitation for Contractual Services is identified as an Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation, no rights or remedies under these Rules, including but not limited to protest rights, are conferred on persons, firms, or vendors proposing to provide Contractual Services to the District.
- (2) Contracts; Public Records. In accordance with Florida law, each contract for Contractual Services shall include provisions required by law that require the contractor to comply with public records laws.

**Specific Authority:** §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), Fla. Stat.

**Law Implemented:** §§ 119.0701, 190.011(3), 190.033, Fla. Stat.

**Rule 3.11      Protests with Respect to Proceedings under Rules 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.8, and 3.9.**

The resolution of any protests with respect to proceedings under Rules 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.8, and 3.9 shall be in accordance with this Rule.

(1)      Filing.

- (a)      With respect to a protest regarding qualifications, specifications, documentation, or other requirements contained in a Request for Qualifications, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Bid, or Competitive Solicitation issued by the District, the notice of protest shall be filed in writing within seventy-two (72) calendar hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and state holidays) after the first advertisement of the Request for Qualifications, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Bid, or Competitive Solicitation. A formal protest setting forth with particularity the facts and law upon which the protest is based shall be filed within seven (7) calendar days (including Saturdays, Sundays, and state holidays) after the initial notice of protest was filed. For purposes of this Rule, wherever applicable, filing will be perfected and deemed to have occurred upon receipt by the District. Failure to file a notice of protest shall constitute a waiver of all rights to protest the District's intended decision. Failure to file a formal written protest shall constitute an abandonment of the protest proceedings and shall automatically terminate the protest proceedings.
- (b)      Except for those situations covered by subsection (1)(a) of this Rule, any firm or person who is affected adversely by a District's ranking or intended award under Rules 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.8, or 3.9 and desires to contest the District's ranking or intended award, shall file with the District a written notice of protest within seventy-two (72) calendar hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and state holidays) after receipt of the notice of the District's ranking or intended award. A formal protest setting forth with particularity the facts and law upon which the protest is based shall be filed within seven (7) calendar days (including Saturdays, Sundays, and state holidays) after the initial notice of protest was filed. For purposes of this Rule, wherever applicable, filing will be perfected and deemed to have occurred upon receipt by the District. Failure to file a notice of protest shall constitute a waiver of all rights to protest the District's ranking or intended award. Failure to file a formal written protest shall constitute an abandonment of the protest proceedings and shall automatically terminate the protest proceedings.
- (c)      If the requirement for the posting of a protest bond and the amount of the protest bond, which may be expressed by a percentage of the contract to be awarded or a set amount, is disclosed in the District's competitive solicitation documents for a particular purchase under Rules 3.1, 3.2, 3.3,

3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.8, or 3.9, any person who files a notice of protest must post the protest bond. The amount of the protest bond shall be determined by District staff after consultation with the Board and within the limits, if any, imposed by Florida law. In the event the protest is successful, the protest bond shall be refunded to the protestor. In the event the protest is unsuccessful, the protest bond shall be applied towards the District's costs, expenses, and attorney's fees associated with hearing and defending the protest. In the event the protest is settled by mutual agreement of the parties, the protest bond shall be distributed as agreed to by the District and protestor.

- (d) The District does not accept documents filed by electronic mail or facsimile transmission. Filings are only accepted during normal business hours.
- (2) Contract Execution. Upon receipt of a notice of protest which has been timely filed, the District shall not execute the contract under protest until the subject of the protest is resolved. However, if the District sets forth in writing particular facts and circumstances showing that delay incident to protest proceedings will jeopardize the funding for the project, will materially increase the cost of the project, or will create an immediate and serious danger to the public health, safety, or welfare, the contract may be executed.
- (3) Informal Proceeding. If the Board determines a protest does not involve a disputed issue of material fact, the Board may, but is not obligated to, schedule an informal proceeding to consider the protest. Such informal proceeding shall be at a time and place determined by the Board. Notice of such proceeding shall be sent via facsimile, United States Mail, or hand delivery to the protestor and any substantially affected persons or parties not less than three (3) calendar days prior to such informal proceeding. Within thirty (30) calendar days following the informal proceeding, the Board shall issue a written decision setting forth the factual, legal, and policy grounds for its decision.
- (4) Formal Proceeding. If the Board determines a protest involves disputed issues of material fact or if the Board elects not to use the informal proceeding process provided for in section (3) of this Rule, the District shall schedule a formal hearing to resolve the protest. The Chairperson shall designate any member of the Board (including the Chairperson), District Manager, District Counsel, or other person as a hearing officer to conduct the hearing. The hearing officer may:
  - (a) Administer oaths and affirmations;
  - (b) Rule upon offers of proof and receive relevant evidence;
  - (c) Regulate the course of the hearing, including any pre-hearing matters;

(d) Enter orders; and

(e) Make or receive offers of settlement, stipulation, and adjustment.

The hearing officer shall, within thirty (30) days after the hearing or receipt of the hearing transcript, whichever is later, file a recommended order which shall include a caption, time and place of hearing, appearances entered at the hearing, statement of the issues, findings of fact and conclusions of law, separately stated, and a recommendation for final District action. The District shall allow each party fifteen (15) days in which to submit written exceptions to the recommended order. The District shall issue a final order within sixty (60) days after the filing of the recommended order.

(5) Intervenors. Other substantially affected persons may join the proceedings as intervenors on appropriate terms which shall not unduly delay the proceedings.

(6) Rejection of all Qualifications, Bids, Proposals, Replies and Responses after Receipt of Notice of Protest. If the Board determines there was a violation of law, defect, or an irregularity in the competitive solicitation process, the Bids, Proposals, Replies, and Responses are too high, or if the Board determines it is otherwise in the District's best interest, the Board may reject all qualifications, bids, proposals, replies, and responses and start the competitive solicitation process anew. If the Board decides to reject all qualifications, bids, proposals, replies, and responses and start the competitive solicitation process anew, any pending protests shall automatically terminate.

(7) Settlement. Nothing herein shall preclude the settlement of any protest under this Rule at any time.

**Specific Authority:** §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), Fla. Stat.

**Law Implemented:** § 190.033, Fla. Stat.

**Rule 4.0      Effective Date.**

These Rules shall be effective October 28, 2021, except that no election of officers required by these Rules shall be required until after the next regular election for the Board.

**Specific Authority:** §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), Fla. Stat.

**Law Implemented:** §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), Fla. Stat.

## RESOLUTION 2022-03

### **THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION OF THE SEATON CREEK RESERVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (“DISTRICT”) RELATING TO THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS AND ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2021; AUTHORIZING BUDGET AMENDMENTS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the District Manager has submitted to the Board of Supervisors (“**Board**”) of the Seaton Creek Reserve Community Development District (“**District**”) proposed budget (“**Proposed Budget**”) for the fiscal year beginning August 30, 2021 and ending September 30, 2021 (“**Fiscal Year 2020/2021**”) along with an explanatory and complete financial plan for each fund of the District, pursuant to the provisions of Section 190.008(2)(a), *Florida Statutes*; and

**WHEREAS**, the District filed a copy of the Proposed Budget with the local governing authorities having jurisdiction over the area included in the District pursuant to the provisions of Section 190.008(2)(b), *Florida Statutes*; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board set a public hearing thereon and caused notice of such public hearing to be given by publication pursuant to Section 190.008(2)(a), *Florida Statutes*; and

**WHEREAS**, the District Manager posted the Proposed Budget on the District’s website at least two days before the public hearing; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 190.008(2)(a), *Florida Statutes*, requires that the Board, by passage of the Annual Appropriation Resolution, shall adopt a budget for the ensuing fiscal year and appropriate such sums of money as the Board deems necessary to defray all expenditures of the District during the ensuing fiscal year; and

**WHEREAS**, the District Manager has prepared a Proposed Budget, whereby the budget shall project the cash receipts and disbursements anticipated during a given time period, including reserves for contingencies for emergency or other unanticipated expenditures during the fiscal year.

### **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE SEATON CREEK RESERVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT:**

#### **SECTION 1. BUDGET**

- a. The Board has reviewed the Proposed Budget, a copy of which is on file with the office of the District Manager and at the District’s Local Records Office, and hereby approves certain amendments thereto, as shown in Section 2 below.

- b. The Proposed Budget, attached hereto as **Exhibit “A,”** as amended by the Board, is hereby adopted in accordance with the provisions of Section 190.008(2)(a), *Florida Statutes* (“**Adopted Budget**”), and incorporated herein by reference; provided, however, that the comparative figures contained in the Adopted Budget may be subsequently revised as deemed necessary by the District Manager to reflect actual revenues and expenditures.
- c. The Adopted Budget, as amended, shall be maintained in the office of the District Manager and at the District’s Local Records Office and identified as “The Budget for the Seaton Creek Reserve Community Development District for the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2021.”
- d. The Adopted Budget shall be posted by the District Manager on the District’s official website within thirty (30) days after adoption, and shall remain on the website for at least 2 years.

## **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATIONS**

There is hereby appropriated out of the revenues of the District, for Fiscal Year 2020/2021, the sum of \$30,000.00 to be raised by the levy of assessments and/or otherwise, which sum is deemed by the Board to be necessary to defray all expenditures of the District during said budget year, to be divided and appropriated in the following fashion:

TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$30,000.00
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	\$30,000.00

## **SECTION 3. BUDGET AMENDMENTS**

Pursuant to Section 189.016, *Florida Statutes*, the District at any time within Fiscal Year 2020/2021 or within 60 days following the end of the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 may amend its Adopted Budget for that fiscal year as follows:

- a. A line-item appropriation for expenditures within a fund may be decreased or increased by motion of the Board recorded in the minutes, and approving the expenditure, if the total appropriations of the fund do not increase.
- b. The District Manager or Treasurer may approve an expenditure that would increase or decrease a line-item appropriation for expenditures within a fund if the total appropriations of the fund do not increase and if either (i) the aggregate change in the original appropriation item does not exceed the greater of \$15,000 or 15% of the original appropriation, or (ii) such expenditure is authorized by separate disbursement or spending resolution.
- c. Any other budget amendments shall be adopted by resolution and consistent with Florida law.

The District Manager or Treasurer must ensure that any amendments to the budget under paragraph c. above are posted on the District's website within 5 days after adoption and remain on the website for at least 2 years.

**SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 28<sup>th</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER, 2021.**

ATTEST:

**SEATON CREEK RESERVE  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
DISTRICT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary/Assistant Secretary

By:\_\_\_\_\_

Its:\_\_\_\_\_

**Exhibit A:** Fiscal Year 2021 Budget

2021



# SEATON CREEK

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

## FISCAL YEAR 2021

FINAL ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET

OCTOBER 28, 2021



# SEATON CREEK

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

## FISCAL YEAR 2021

FINAL ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
I.	BUDGET INTRODUCTION .....	1
II.	PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET .....	2
III.	GENERAL FUND 001 DESCRIPTIONS.....	3
IV.	SCHEDULE OF ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS .....	5

OCTOBER 28, 2021

# SEATON CREEK

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

### BUDGET INTRODUCTION

#### Background Information

The Seaton Creek Community Development District is a local special purpose government authorized by Chapter 190, Florida Statutes, as amended. The Community Development District (CDD) is an alternative method for planning, financing, acquiring, operating and maintaining community-wide infrastructure in master planned communities. The CDD **also is a mechanism that provides a “solution” to the State’s needs for delivery of capital infrastructure to service projected growth without overburdening other governments and their taxpayers. CDDs represent a major advancement in Florida’s effort to manage its growth effectively and efficiently.** This allows the community to set a higher standard for construction along with providing a long-term solution to the operation and maintenance of community facilities.

The following report represents the District budget for Fiscal Year 2021, which begins on October 1, 2020. The District budget is organized by fund to segregate financial resources and ensure that the segregated resources are used for their intended purpose, and the District has established the following funds.

<u>Fund Number</u>	<u>Fund Name</u>	<u>Services Provided</u>
001	General Fund	Operations and Maintenance of Community Facilities

#### Facilities of the District

**The District’s existing facilities include storm-**water management (lake and water control structures), wetland preserve areas, street lighting, landscaping, entry signage, entry features, irrigation distribution facilities, recreational center, parks, pool facility, tennis courts and other related public improvements.

#### Maintenance of the Facilities

In order to maintain the facilities, the District conducts hearings to adopt an operating budget each year. This budget includes a detailed description of the maintenance program along with an estimate of the cost of the program. The funding of the maintenance budget is levied as a non-ad valorem assessment on your property by the District Board of Supervisors.

# SEATON CREEK

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Fiscal Year 2021  
**Final** Operating  
 Budget (Partial  
 Fiscal Year)

<b>REVENUES</b>	
<b>SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS - SERVICE CHARGES</b>	
Operations & Maintenance Assmts-Tax Roll	-
<b>TOTAL SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS - SERVICE CHARGES</b>	\$ -
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS &amp; DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE SOURCES</b>	
Developer Contributions	30,000.00
<b>TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS &amp; DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE SOURCES</b>	\$ 30,000.00
<b>OTHER MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES</b>	
Miscellaneous	-
<b>TOTAL OTHER MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES</b>	-
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	\$ 30,000.00
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	
<b>FINANCIAL &amp; ADMINISTRATIVE</b>	
District Management	5,000.00
District Engineer	2,500.00
Disclosure Report	2,000.00
Supervisor Fees	-
Trustees Fees	-
Auditing Services	-
Accounting Services	-
Postage, Phone, Faxes, Copies	1,000.00
Public Officials Insurance	1,500.00
Legal Advertising	5,825.00
Bank Fees	500.00
Email Hosting Vendor	-
Website Administration	500.00
ADA Website Fee	2,900.00
Dues, Licenses & Fees	175.00
Miscellaneous Fees	100.00
<b>TOTAL FINANCIAL &amp; ADMINISTRATIVE</b>	\$ 22,000.00
<b>LEGAL COUNSEL</b>	
District Counsel	6,000.00
<b>TOTAL DISTRICT COUNSEL</b>	\$ 6,000.00
<b>UTILITY SERVICES</b>	
Electric Utility Services - Streetlights	-
Electric Utility Services - All Others	-
<b>TOTAL UTILITY SERVICES</b>	\$ -
<b>WATER-SEWER COMBINATION SERVICES</b>	
Water Utility Services	-
<b>TOTAL WATER-SEWER COMBINATION SERVICES</b>	\$ -
<b>OTHER PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</b>	
Waterway Management Contract	-
Waterway Improvements & Repair	-
Entrance, Monument & Wall Maintenance Repair	-
General, Property & Casualty Insurance	2,000.00
Garbage Collection	-
Landscape Maintenance - Contract	-
Miscellaneous Landscape	-
Plant Replacement Program	-
Irrigation Maintenance	-
Pool Maintenance - other	-
Pool Maintenance - contract	-
Amenity Center Cleaning & Supplies	-
Amenity Center Pest Control	-
Amenity Center Maintenance & Repair	-
<b>TOTAL OTHER PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</b>	\$ 2,000.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	\$ 30,000.00
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER/(UNDER) EXPENDITURES</b>	\$ -

\*\*\* EXCLUDES 2% DUVAL COUNTY COLLECTION COST

\*\*\* EXCLUDES 4% EARLY PAYMENT DISCOUNT

**FISCAL YEAR 2021**  
 FINAL ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET

# SEATON CREEK

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

### GENERAL FUND 001

#### Financial & Administrative

##### District Manager

The District retains the services of a consulting manager, who is responsible for the daily administration of the District's business, including any and all financial work related to the Bond Funds and Operating Funds of the District, and preparation of the minutes of the Board of Supervisors. In addition, the District Manager prepares the Annual Budget(s), implements all policies of the Board of Supervisors, and attends all meetings of the Board of Supervisors.

##### District Engineer

Consists of attendance at scheduled meetings of the Board of Supervisors, offering advice and consultation on all matters related to the works of the District, such as bids for yearly contracts, operating policy, compliance with regulatory permits, etc.

##### Disclosure Reporting

On a quarterly and annual basis, disclosure of relevant district information is provided to the Muni Council, as required within the bond indentures.

##### Trustees Fees

This item relates to the fee assessed for the annual administration of bonds outstanding, as required within the bond indentures.

##### Auditing Services

The District is required to annually undertake an independent examination of its books, records and accounting procedures. This audit is conducted pursuant to State Law and the Rules of the Auditor General.

##### Postage, Phone, Fax, Copies

This item refers to the cost of materials and service to produce agendas and conduct day-to-day business of the District.

##### Public Officials Insurance

The District carries Public Officials Liability in the amount of \$1,000,000.

##### Legal Advertising

This is required to conduct the official business of the District in accordance with the Sunshine Law and other advertisement requirements as indicated by the Florida Statutes.

##### Bank Fees

The District operates a checking account for expenditures and receipts.

##### Dues, Licenses & Fees

The District is required to file with the County and State each year.

##### Miscellaneous Fees

To provide for unbudgeted administrative expenses.

##### Office Supplies

Cost of daily supplies required by the District to facilitate operations.

##### Website Administration

This is for maintenance and administration of the District's official website.

# SEATON CREEK

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

### GENERAL FUND 001

#### Legal Counsel

##### District Counsel

Requirements for legal services are estimated at an annual expenditures on an as needed and also cover such items as attendance at scheduled meetings of the Board of Supervisor's, Contract preparation and review, etc.

#### Electric Utility Services

##### Electric Utility Services

This item is for street lights, pool, recreation facility and other common element electricity

#### Other Physical Environment

##### Waterway Management System

This item is for maintaining the multiple waterways that compose the District's waterway management system and aids in controlling nuisance vegetation that may otherwise restrict the

##### Property & Casualty Insurance

The District carries \$1,000,000 in general liability and also has sovereign immunity.

##### Entry & Walls Maintenance

This item is for maintaining the main entry feature and other common area walls.

##### Landscape Maintenance

The District contracts with a professional landscape firm to provide service through a public bid process. This fee does not include replacement material or irrigation repairs.

##### Miscellaneous Landscape

This item is for any unforeseen circumstances that may effect the appearance of the landscape program.

##### Plant Replacement Program

This item is for landscape items that may need to be replaced during the year.

# SEATON CREEK

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

## SCHEDULE OF ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS<sup>(1)</sup>

Lot Size	EAU Value	Unit Count	Debt Service Per Unit	O&M Per Unit	FY 2021 Total Assessment
SERIES 2021					
Single Family 40'	1.00	900	\$0.00	\$35.47	\$35.47
TOTAL		900			

Notations:

<sup>(1)</sup> Annual assessments include Duval County collection costs and statutory discounts for early payment.

**FISCAL YEAR 2021**

FINAL ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET

**SEATON CREEK RESERVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT  
FISCAL YEAR 2020/2021 BUDGET FUNDING AGREEMENT**

This Agreement (the "Agreement") is made and entered into this 28th day of October, 2021, by and between:

**SEATON CREEK RESERVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**, a local unit of special-purpose government established pursuant to Chapter 190, *Florida Statutes*, being situated in the City of Jacksonville, Florida with a mailing address of 2005 Pan Am Circle, Suite 300, Tampa, Florida 33607 (the "District"), and

**PECAN ENTERPRISES, LLC**, a Florida limited liability company and the developer of the lands in the District with a mailing address of 22700 Royalton Road, Strongsville, Ohio 44149 (the "Developer"; and together with the District, the "Parties").

**Recitals**

**WHEREAS**, the District was established by an ordinance adopted by the City Council of the City of Jacksonville, Florida, for the purpose of planning, financing, constructing, operating and/or maintaining certain infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, the District, pursuant to Chapter 190, Florida Statutes, is authorized to levy such taxes, special assessments, fees and other charges as may be necessary in furtherance of the District's activities and services; and

**WHEREAS**, Developer presently is developing the majority of all real property ("**Property**") within the District, which Property will benefit from the timely construction and acquisition of the District's facilities, activities and services and from the continued operations of the District; and

**WHEREAS**, the District is adopting its general fund budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021, which year commenced on August 30, 2021, and concludes on September 30, 2021 (the "FY 2021 Budget"); and

**WHEREAS**, the FY 2021 Budget, which both parties recognize may be amended from time to time in the sole discretion of the District, is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as **Exhibit A**; and

**WHEREAS**, the District has the option of levying non-ad valorem assessments on all land, including the Property owned by the Developer, that will benefit from the activities, operations and services set forth in the FY 2021 Budget, or utilizing such other revenue sources as may be available to it; and

**WHEREAS**, in lieu of levying assessments on the Property, the Developer is willing to provide such funds as are necessary to allow the District to proceed with its operations as described in **Exhibit A**; and

**WHEREAS**, the Developer agrees that the activities, operations and services provide a special and peculiar benefit equal to or in excess of the costs reflected on **Exhibit A** to the Property; and

**WHEREAS**, the Developer has agreed to enter into this Agreement in lieu of having the District levy and collect any non-ad valorem assessments as authorized by law against the Property located within the District for the activities, operations and services set forth in **Exhibit A**;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, based upon good and valuable consideration and the mutual covenants of the parties, the receipt of which and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

**SECTION 1.** The Developer agrees to make available to the District the monies necessary for the operation of the District, as called for in the FY 2021 Budget attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, within fifteen (15) days of written request by the District. Amendments to the FY 2021 Budget as shown on **Exhibit A** adopted by the District at a duly noticed meeting shall have the effect of amending this Agreement without further action of the parties. Funds provided hereunder shall be placed in the District's general checking account. In no way shall the foregoing in any way affect the District's ability to levy special assessments upon the property within the District, including the Property, in accordance with Florida law, to provide funds for any unfunded expenditures whether such expenditures are the result of an amendment to the District's FY 2021 Budget or otherwise. These payments are made by Developer in lieu of operation and maintenance assessments which might otherwise be levied or imposed by the District.

**SECTION 2.** The District shall have the right to file a continuing lien (the "Lien") upon the Property described in **Exhibit B** for all payments due and owing under the terms of this Agreement and for interest thereon, and for reasonable attorneys' fees, paralegals' fees, expenses and court costs incurred by the District incident to the collection of funds under this Agreement or for enforcement of this Lien, and all sums advanced and paid by the District for taxes and payment on account of superior interests, liens and encumbrances in order to preserve and protect the District's Lien. The Lien shall be effective as of the date and time of the recording of a "Notice of Lien for the FY 2021 Budget" in the public records of Duval County, Florida, stating among other things, the description of the real property and the amount due as of the recording of the Notice, and the existence of this Agreement. The District Manager, in its sole discretion, is hereby authorized by the District to file the Notice of Lien for the FY 2021 Budget on behalf of the District, without the need of further Board action authorizing or directing such filing. At the District Manager's direction, the District may also bring an action at law against the record title holders to the Property to pay the amount due under this Agreement, or may foreclose the Lien against the Property in any manner authorized by law. The District may partially release any filed

Lien for portions of the Property subject to a plat if and when the Developers have demonstrated, in the District's sole discretion, such release will not materially impair the ability of the District to enforce the collection of funds hereunder. In the event the Developers sell any of the Property described in **Exhibit B** after the execution of this Agreement, the Developers' rights and obligations under this Agreement shall remain the same, provided however that the District shall only have the right to file a Lien upon the remaining Property owned by the Developers.

**SECTION 3.** In the event Developer fails to make payments as and when due to the District pursuant to this Agreement, the District shall have the following remedies, in addition to other remedies available at law and equity:

**A.** At the Board's direction, the District may bring an action at law against the record title holder to the Property to pay the amount due under this Agreement, or may foreclose the Lien against the Property in any manner authorized by law. The District may enforce the collection of funds due under this Agreement by action against Developer in the appropriate judicial forum in and for Duval County, Florida. The enforcement of the collection of funds in this manner shall be in the sole discretion of the District Manager on behalf of the District.

**B.** The District hereby finds that the activities, operations and services set out in **Exhibit A** provide a special and peculiar benefit to the Property, which benefit is initially allocated on an equal developable acreage basis. Developer agrees that the activities, operations and services set forth in **Exhibit A** provide a special and peculiar benefit to the Property equal to or in excess of the costs set out in **Exhibit A**, on an equal developable acreage basis. Therefore, in the alternative, or in addition to the other methods of collection set forth in this Agreement, the District, in its sole discretion, may choose to certify amounts due hereunder as a non ad valorem assessment on all or any part of the Property for collection, either through the Uniform Method of Collection set forth in Chapter 197 or under any method of direct bill and collection authorized by Florida law. Such assessment, if imposed, may be certified on the next available tax roll of the Duval County property appraiser. Developer hereby waives and/or relinquishes any rights it may have to challenge or object to such assessments if imposed, as well as the means of collection thereof.

**SECTION 4.** This instrument shall constitute the final and complete expression of the agreement between the parties relating to the subject matter of this Agreement. Amendments to and waivers of the provisions contained in this Agreement may be made only by an instrument in writing which is executed by both of the parties hereto.

**SECTION 5.** The execution of this Agreement has been duly authorized by the appropriate body or official of all parties hereto, each party has complied with all the requirements of law, and each party has full power and authority to comply with the terms and provisions of this instrument.

**SECTION 6.** This Agreement may be assigned, in whole or in part, by either party only upon the written consent of the other, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld. In the

event that Developer sells or otherwise disposes of its business or of all or substantially all of its assets relating to the lands within the District, including the Property, Developer will expressly require that the purchaser agree to be bound by the terms of this Agreement. In the event of such sale or disposition, Developer may place into escrow an amount equal to the then unfunded portion of the adopted FY 2021 Budget to fund any budgeted expenses that may arise during the remainder of the fiscal year and provide the District evidence of assignment of this Agreement to the purchaser. Upon confirmation of the deposit of said funds into escrow, and evidence of such assignment to, and assumption by the purchaser, the Developer's obligation under this Agreement shall be deemed fulfilled and this Agreement terminated with respect to Developer's obligations. The parties hereto recognize that Developer is responsible for expenditures of the District in the FY 2021 Budget and that expenditures approved by the Board may exceed the amount adopted in the FY 2021 Budget. Developer shall notify the District in writing ninety (90) days prior to an anticipated sale or disposition of all or substantially all of the Property.

**SECTION 7.** A default by either party under this Agreement shall entitle the other to all remedies available at law or in equity, which shall include, but not be limited to, the right of damages, injunctive relief and specific performance and specifically including the ability of the District to enforce any and all payment obligations under this Agreement in the manner described in Paragraph 3 above.

**SECTION 8.** This Agreement is solely for the benefit of the parties hereto and no right or cause of action shall accrue upon or by reason hereof, to or for the benefit of any person or entity not a party hereto. Nothing in this Agreement expressed or implied is intended or shall be construed to confer upon any person or entity other than the parties hereto any right, remedy or claim under or by reason of this Agreement or any provisions or conditions hereof; and all of the provisions, representations, covenants and conditions herein contained shall inure to the sole benefit of and shall be binding upon the parties hereto and their respective representatives, successors and assigns subject to the terms of Paragraph 6 above.

**SECTION 9.** This Agreement and the provisions contained herein shall be construed, interpreted and controlled according to the laws of the State of Florida. Venue shall be in Duval County, Florida.

**SECTION 10.** This Agreement has been negotiated fully between the parties as an arm's length transaction. The parties participated fully in the preparation of this Agreement with the assistance of their respective counsel. In the case of a dispute concerning the interpretation of any provision of this Agreement, the parties are each deemed to have drafted, chosen and selected the language, and the doubtful language will not be interpreted or construed against any party.

**SECTION 11.** The Agreement shall be effective after execution by both parties hereto. The enforcement provisions of this Agreement shall survive its termination, until all payments due under this Agreement are paid in full.

**SECTION 12.** In the event that either party is required to enforce this Agreement by court proceedings or otherwise, then the parties agree that the substantially prevailing party shall be entitled to recover from the other all costs incurred, including reasonable attorneys' fees, paralegal fees and expert witness fees and costs for trial, alternative dispute resolution, or appellate proceedings.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties execute this Agreement the day and year first written above.

**ATTEST:**

**SEATON CREEK RESERVE COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary/Assistant Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman/Vice Chairman

**PECAN ENTERPRISES, LLC,**  
a Florida limited liability company

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its: \_\_\_\_\_

**Exhibit A:** Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Budget

**Exhibit B:** Description of the Property

**Exhibit A**

Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Budget

**Exhibit B**

Description of the Property

## **RESOLUTION 2022-04**

### **THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION OF THE SEATON CREEK RESERVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (“DISTRICT”) RELATING TO THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS AND ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2021, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2022; AUTHORIZING BUDGET AMENDMENTS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the District Manager has submitted to the Board of Supervisors (“**Board**”) of the Seaton Creek Reserve Community Development District (“**District**”) proposed budget (“**Proposed Budget**”) for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2021 and ending September 30, 2022 (“**Fiscal Year 2021/2022**”) along with an explanatory and complete financial plan for each fund of the District, pursuant to the provisions of Section 190.008(2)(a), *Florida Statutes*; and

**WHEREAS**, the District filed a copy of the Proposed Budget with the local governing authorities having jurisdiction over the area included in the District pursuant to the provisions of Section 190.008(2)(b), *Florida Statutes*; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board set a public hearing thereon and caused notice of such public hearing to be given by publication pursuant to Section 190.008(2)(a), *Florida Statutes*; and

**WHEREAS**, the District Manager posted the Proposed Budget on the District’s website at least two days before the public hearing; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 190.008(2)(a), *Florida Statutes*, requires that each year, the Board, by passage of the Annual Appropriation Resolution, shall adopt a budget for the ensuing fiscal year and appropriate such sums of money as the Board deems necessary to defray all expenditures of the District during the ensuing fiscal year; and

**WHEREAS**, the District Manager has prepared a Proposed Budget, whereby the budget shall project the cash receipts and disbursements anticipated during a given time period, including reserves for contingencies for emergency or other unanticipated expenditures during the fiscal year.

### **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE SEATON CREEK RESERVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT:**

#### **SECTION 1. BUDGET**

- a. The Board has reviewed the Proposed Budget, a copy of which is on file with the office of the District Manager and at the District’s Local Records Office, and hereby approves certain amendments thereto, as shown in Section 2 below.

- b. The Proposed Budget, attached hereto as **Exhibit “A,”** as amended by the Board, is hereby adopted in accordance with the provisions of Section 190.008(2)(a), *Florida Statutes* (“**Adopted Budget**”), and incorporated herein by reference; provided, however, that the comparative figures contained in the Adopted Budget may be subsequently revised as deemed necessary by the District Manager to reflect actual revenues and expenditures.
- c. The Adopted Budget, as amended, shall be maintained in the office of the District Manager and at the District’s Local Records Office and identified as “The Budget for the Seaton Creek Reserve Community Development District for the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2022.”
- d. The Adopted Budget shall be posted by the District Manager on the District’s official website within thirty (30) days after adoption, and shall remain on the website for at least 2 years.

## **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATIONS**

There is hereby appropriated out of the revenues of the District, for Fiscal Year 2021/2022, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to be raised by the levy of assessments and/or otherwise, which sum is deemed by the Board to be necessary to defray all expenditures of the District during said budget year, to be divided and appropriated in the following fashion:

TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$_____
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	\$_____

## **SECTION 3. BUDGET AMENDMENTS**

Pursuant to Section 189.016, *Florida Statutes*, the District at any time within Fiscal Year 2021/2022 or within 60 days following the end of the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 may amend its Adopted Budget for that fiscal year as follows:

- a. A line-item appropriation for expenditures within a fund may be decreased or increased by motion of the Board recorded in the minutes, and approving the expenditure, if the total appropriations of the fund do not increase.
- b. The District Manager or Treasurer may approve an expenditure that would increase or decrease a line-item appropriation for expenditures within a fund if the total appropriations of the fund do not increase and if either (i) the aggregate change in the original appropriation item does not exceed the greater of \$15,000 or 15% of the original appropriation, or (ii) such expenditure is authorized by separate disbursement or spending resolution.
- c. Any other budget amendments shall be adopted by resolution and consistent with Florida law.

The District Manager or Treasurer must ensure that any amendments to the budget under paragraph c. above are posted on the District's website within 5 days after adoption and remain on the website for at least 2 years.

**SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 28<sup>th</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER, 2021.**

ATTEST:

**SEATON CREEK RESERVE  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
DISTRICT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary/Assistant Secretary

By:\_\_\_\_\_

Its:\_\_\_\_\_

**Exhibit A:** Fiscal Year 2022 Budget

2022



# SEATON CREEK

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

**FISCAL YEAR 2022**  
FINAL ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET

OCTOBER 28, 2021



# SEATON CREEK

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

## FISCAL YEAR 2022 FINAL ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
I.	BUDGET INTRODUCTION .....	1
II.	PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET .....	2
III.	GENERAL FUND 001 DESCRIPTIONS.....	3
IV.	SCHEDULE OF ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS .....	5

OCTOBER 28, 2021

# SEATON CREEK

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

### BUDGET INTRODUCTION

#### Background Information

The Seaton Creek Community Development District is a local special purpose government authorized by Chapter 190, Florida Statutes, as amended. The Community Development District (CDD) is an alternative method for planning, financing, acquiring, operating and maintaining community-wide infrastructure in master planned communities. The CDD **also is a mechanism that provides a “solution” to the State’s needs for delivery of capital infrastructure to service projected growth without overburdening other governments and their taxpayers. CDDs represent a major advancement in Florida’s effort to manage its growth effectively and efficiently.** This allows the community to set a higher standard for construction along with providing a long-term solution to the operation and maintenance of community facilities.

The following report represents the District budget for Fiscal Year 2022, which begins on October 1, 2021. The District budget is organized by fund to segregate financial resources and ensure that the segregated resources are used for their intended purpose, and the District has established the following funds.

<u>Fund Number</u>	<u>Fund Name</u>	<u>Services Provided</u>
001	General Fund	Operations and Maintenance of Community Facilities

#### Facilities of the District

**The District’s existing facilities include storm-water management (lake and water control structures), wetland preserve areas, street lighting, landscaping, entry signage, entry features, irrigation distribution facilities, recreational center, parks, pool facility, tennis courts and other related public improvements.**

#### Maintenance of the Facilities

In order to maintain the facilities, the District conducts hearings to adopt an operating budget each year. This budget includes a detailed description of the maintenance program along with an estimate of the cost of the program. The funding of the maintenance budget is levied as a non-ad valorem assessment on your property by the District Board of Supervisors.

# SEATON CREEK

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Fiscal Year 2022  
**Final** Operating  
Budget

<b>REVENUES</b>	
<b>SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS - SERVICE CHARGES</b>	
Operations & Maintenance Assmts-Tax Roll	60,000.00
<b>TOTAL SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS - SERVICE CHARGES</b>	<b>\$ 60,000.00</b>
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS &amp; DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE SOURCES</b>	
Developer Contributions	-
<b>TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS &amp; DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE SOURCES</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>OTHER MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES</b>	
Miscellaneous	-
<b>TOTAL OTHER MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 60,000.00</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	
<b>FINANCIAL &amp; ADMINISTRATIVE</b>	
District Management	18,000.00
District Engineer	5,000.00
Disclosure Report	2,400.00
Supervisor Fees	2,400.00
Trustees Fees	4,000.00
Auditing Services	5,000.00
Accounting Services	4,500.00
Postage, Phone, Faxes, Copies	100.00
Public Officials Insurance	2,500.00
Legal Advertising	2,675.00
Bank Fees	150.00
Email Hosting Vendor	600.00
Website Administration	1,500.00
ADA Website Fee	1,900.00
Dues, Licenses & Fees	175.00
Miscellaneous Fees	100.00
<b>TOTAL FINANCIAL &amp; ADMINISTRATIVE</b>	<b>\$ 51,000.00</b>
<b>LEGAL COUNSEL</b>	
District Counsel	3,500.00
<b>TOTAL DISTRICT COUNSEL</b>	<b>\$ 3,500.00</b>
<b>UTILITY SERVICES</b>	
Electric Utility Services - Streetlights	-
Electric Utility Services - All Others	-
<b>TOTAL UTILITY SERVICES</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>WATER-SEWER COMBINATION SERVICES</b>	
Water Utility Services	-
<b>TOTAL WATER-SEWER COMBINATION SERVICES</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>OTHER PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</b>	
Waterway Management Contract	-
Waterway Improvements & Repair	-
Entrance, Monument & Wall Maintenance Repair	-
General, Property & Casualty Insurance	5,500.00
Garbage Collection	-
Landscape Maintenance - Contract	-
Miscellaneous Landscape	-
Plant Replacement Program	-
Irrigation Maintenance	-
Pool Maintenance - other	-
Pool Maintenance - contract	-
Amenity Center Cleaning & Supplies	-
Amenity Center Pest Control	-
Amenity Center Maintenance & Repair	-
<b>TOTAL OTHER PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</b>	<b>\$ 5,500.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 60,000.00</b>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER/(UNDER) EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

\*\*\* EXCLUDES 2% DUVAL COUNTY COLLECTION COST

\*\*\* EXCLUDES 4% EARLY PAYMENT DISCOUNT

**FISCAL YEAR 2022**  
**FINAL ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET**

# SEATON CREEK

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

### GENERAL FUND 001

#### Financial & Administrative

##### District Manager

The District retains the services of a consulting manager, who is responsible for the daily administration of the District's business, including any and all financial work related to the Bond Funds and Operating Funds of the District, and preparation of the minutes of the Board of Supervisors. In addition, the District Manager prepares the Annual Budget(s), implements all policies of the Board of Supervisors, and attends all meetings of the Board of Supervisors.

##### District Engineer

Consists of attendance at scheduled meetings of the Board of Supervisors, offering advice and consultation on all matters related to the works of the District, such as bids for yearly contracts, operating policy, compliance with regulatory permits, etc.

##### Disclosure Reporting

On a quarterly and annual basis, disclosure of relevant district information is provided to the Muni Council, as required within the bond indentures.

##### Trustees Fees

This item relates to the fee assessed for the annual administration of bonds outstanding, as required within the bond indentures.

##### Auditing Services

The District is required to annually undertake an independent examination of its books, records and accounting procedures. This audit is conducted pursuant to State Law and the Rules of the Auditor General.

##### Postage, Phone, Fax, Copies

This item refers to the cost of materials and service to produce agendas and conduct day-to-day business of the District.

##### Public Officials Insurance

The District carries Public Officials Liability in the amount of \$1,000,000.

##### Legal Advertising

This is required to conduct the official business of the District in accordance with the Sunshine Law and other advertisement requirements as indicated by the Florida Statutes.

##### Bank Fees

The District operates a checking account for expenditures and receipts.

##### Dues, Licenses & Fees

The District is required to file with the County and State each year.

##### Miscellaneous Fees

To provide for unbudgeted administrative expenses.

##### Office Supplies

Cost of daily supplies required by the District to facilitate operations.

##### Website Administration

This is for maintenance and administration of the District's official website.

# SEATON CREEK

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

### GENERAL FUND 001

#### Legal Counsel

##### District Counsel

Requirements for legal services are estimated at an annual expenditures on an as needed and also cover such items as attendance at scheduled meetings of the Board of Supervisor's, Contract preparation and review, etc.

#### Electric Utility Services

##### Electric Utility Services

This item is for street lights, pool, recreation facility and other common element electricity

#### Other Physical Environment

##### Waterway Management System

This item is for maintaining the multiple waterways that compose the District's waterway management system and aids in controlling nuisance vegetation that may otherwise restrict the

##### Property & Casualty Insurance

The District carries \$1,000,000 in general liability and also has sovereign immunity.

##### Entry & Walls Maintenance

This item is for maintaining the main entry feature and other common area walls.

##### Landscape Maintenance

The District contracts with a professional landscape firm to provide service through a public bid process. This fee does not include replacement material or irrigation repairs.

##### Miscellaneous Landscape

This item is for any unforeseen circumstances that may effect the appearance of the landscape program.

##### Plant Replacement Program

This item is for landscape items that may need to be replaced during the year.

# SEATON CREEK

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

## SCHEDULE OF ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS<sup>(1)</sup>

Lot Size	EAU Value	Unit Count	Debt Service Per Unit	O&M Per Unit <sup>(2)</sup>	FY 2021 Total Assessment
SERIES 2021					
Single Family 40'	1.00	900	\$0.00	\$70.93	\$70.93
TOTAL		900			

Notations:

<sup>(1)</sup> Annual assessments include Duval County collection costs and statutory discounts for early payment.

**FISCAL YEAR 2022**  
FINAL ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET

**SEATON CREEK RESERVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT  
FISCAL YEAR 2021/2022 BUDGET FUNDING AGREEMENT**

This Agreement (the "Agreement") is made and entered into this 28th day of October, 2021, by and between:

**SEATON CREEK RESERVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**, a local unit of special-purpose government established pursuant to Chapter 190, *Florida Statutes*, being situated in the City of Jacksonville, Florida with a mailing address of 2005 Pan Am Circle, Suite 300, Tampa, Florida 33607 (the "District"), and

**PECAN ENTERPRISES, LLC**, a Florida limited liability company and the developer of the lands in the District with a mailing address of 22700 Royalton Road, Strongsville, Ohio 44149 (the "Developer"; and together with the District, the "Parties").

**Recitals**

**WHEREAS**, the District was established by an ordinance adopted by the City Council of the City of Jacksonville, Florida, for the purpose of planning, financing, constructing, operating and/or maintaining certain infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, the District, pursuant to Chapter 190, Florida Statutes, is authorized to levy such taxes, special assessments, fees and other charges as may be necessary in furtherance of the District's activities and services; and

**WHEREAS**, Developer presently is developing the majority of all real property ("**Property**") within the District, which Property will benefit from the timely construction and acquisition of the District's facilities, activities and services and from the continued operations of the District; and

**WHEREAS**, the District is adopting its general fund budget for Fiscal Year 2021/2022, which year commences on October 1, 2021, and concludes on September 30, 2022 (the "FY 2022 Budget"); and

**WHEREAS**, the FY 2022 Budget, which both parties recognize may be amended from time to time in the sole discretion of the District, is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as **Exhibit A**; and

**WHEREAS**, the District has the option of levying non-ad valorem assessments on all land, including the Property owned by the Developer, that will benefit from the activities, operations and services set forth in the FY 2022 Budget, or utilizing such other revenue sources as may be available to it; and

**WHEREAS**, in lieu of levying assessments on the Property, the Developer is willing to provide such funds as are necessary to allow the District to proceed with its operations as described in **Exhibit A**; and

**WHEREAS**, the Developer agrees that the activities, operations and services provide a special and peculiar benefit equal to or in excess of the costs reflected on **Exhibit A** to the Property; and

**WHEREAS**, the Developer has agreed to enter into this Agreement in lieu of having the District levy and collect any non-ad valorem assessments as authorized by law against the Property located within the District for the activities, operations and services set forth in **Exhibit A**;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, based upon good and valuable consideration and the mutual covenants of the parties, the receipt of which and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

**SECTION 1.** The Developer agrees to make available to the District the monies necessary for the operation of the District, as called for in the FY 2022 Budget attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, within fifteen (15) days of written request by the District. Amendments to the FY 2022 Budget as shown on **Exhibit A** adopted by the District at a duly noticed meeting shall have the effect of amending this Agreement without further action of the parties. Funds provided hereunder shall be placed in the District's general checking account. In no way shall the foregoing in any way affect the District's ability to levy special assessments upon the property within the District, including the Property, in accordance with Florida law, to provide funds for any unfunded expenditures whether such expenditures are the result of an amendment to the District's FY 2022 Budget or otherwise. These payments are made by Developer in lieu of operation and maintenance assessments which might otherwise be levied or imposed by the District.

**SECTION 2.** The District shall have the right to file a continuing lien (the "Lien") upon the Property described in **Exhibit B** for all payments due and owing under the terms of this Agreement and for interest thereon, and for reasonable attorneys' fees, paralegals' fees, expenses and court costs incurred by the District incident to the collection of funds under this Agreement or for enforcement of this Lien, and all sums advanced and paid by the District for taxes and payment on account of superior interests, liens and encumbrances in order to preserve and protect the District's Lien. The Lien shall be effective as of the date and time of the recording of a "Notice of Lien for the FY 2022 Budget" in the public records of Duval County, Florida, stating among other things, the description of the real property and the amount due as of the recording of the Notice, and the existence of this Agreement. The District Manager, in its sole discretion, is hereby authorized by the District to file the Notice of Lien for the FY 2022 Budget on behalf of the District, without the need of further Board action authorizing or directing such filing. At the District Manager's direction, the District may also bring an action at law against the record title holders to the Property to pay the amount due under this Agreement, or may foreclose the Lien against the Property in any manner authorized by law. The District may partially release any filed

Lien for portions of the Property subject to a plat if and when the Developers have demonstrated, in the District's sole discretion, such release will not materially impair the ability of the District to enforce the collection of funds hereunder. In the event the Developers sell any of the Property described in **Exhibit B** after the execution of this Agreement, the Developers' rights and obligations under this Agreement shall remain the same, provided however that the District shall only have the right to file a Lien upon the remaining Property owned by the Developers.

**SECTION 3.** In the event Developer fails to make payments as and when due to the District pursuant to this Agreement, the District shall have the following remedies, in addition to other remedies available at law and equity:

**A.** At the Board's direction, the District may bring an action at law against the record title holder to the Property to pay the amount due under this Agreement, or may foreclose the Lien against the Property in any manner authorized by law. The District may enforce the collection of funds due under this Agreement by action against Developer in the appropriate judicial forum in and for Duval County, Florida. The enforcement of the collection of funds in this manner shall be in the sole discretion of the District Manager on behalf of the District.

**B.** The District hereby finds that the activities, operations and services set out in **Exhibit A** provide a special and peculiar benefit to the Property, which benefit is initially allocated on an equal developable acreage basis. Developer agrees that the activities, operations and services set forth in **Exhibit A** provide a special and peculiar benefit to the Property equal to or in excess of the costs set out in **Exhibit A**, on an equal developable acreage basis. Therefore, in the alternative, or in addition to the other methods of collection set forth in this Agreement, the District, in its sole discretion, may choose to certify amounts due hereunder as a non ad valorem assessment on all or any part of the Property for collection, either through the Uniform Method of Collection set forth in Chapter 197 or under any method of direct bill and collection authorized by Florida law. Such assessment, if imposed, may be certified on the next available tax roll of the Duval County property appraiser. Developer hereby waives and/or relinquishes any rights it may have to challenge or object to such assessments if imposed, as well as the means of collection thereof.

**SECTION 4.** This instrument shall constitute the final and complete expression of the agreement between the parties relating to the subject matter of this Agreement. Amendments to and waivers of the provisions contained in this Agreement may be made only by an instrument in writing which is executed by both of the parties hereto.

**SECTION 5.** The execution of this Agreement has been duly authorized by the appropriate body or official of all parties hereto, each party has complied with all the requirements of law, and each party has full power and authority to comply with the terms and provisions of this instrument.

**SECTION 6.** This Agreement may be assigned, in whole or in part, by either party only upon the written consent of the other, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld. In the

event that Developer sells or otherwise disposes of its business or of all or substantially all of its assets relating to the lands within the District, including the Property, Developer will expressly require that the purchaser agree to be bound by the terms of this Agreement. In the event of such sale or disposition, Developer may place into escrow an amount equal to the then unfunded portion of the adopted FY 2022 Budget to fund any budgeted expenses that may arise during the remainder of the fiscal year and provide the District evidence of assignment of this Agreement to the purchaser. Upon confirmation of the deposit of said funds into escrow, and evidence of such assignment to, and assumption by the purchaser, the Developer's obligation under this Agreement shall be deemed fulfilled and this Agreement terminated with respect to Developer's obligations. The parties hereto recognize that Developer is responsible for expenditures of the District in the FY 2022 Budget and that expenditures approved by the Board may exceed the amount adopted in the FY 2022 Budget. Developer shall notify the District in writing ninety (90) days prior to an anticipated sale or disposition of all or substantially all of the Property.

**SECTION 7.** A default by either party under this Agreement shall entitle the other to all remedies available at law or in equity, which shall include, but not be limited to, the right of damages, injunctive relief and specific performance and specifically including the ability of the District to enforce any and all payment obligations under this Agreement in the manner described in Paragraph 3 above.

**SECTION 8.** This Agreement is solely for the benefit of the parties hereto and no right or cause of action shall accrue upon or by reason hereof, to or for the benefit of any person or entity not a party hereto. Nothing in this Agreement expressed or implied is intended or shall be construed to confer upon any person or entity other than the parties hereto any right, remedy or claim under or by reason of this Agreement or any provisions or conditions hereof; and all of the provisions, representations, covenants and conditions herein contained shall inure to the sole benefit of and shall be binding upon the parties hereto and their respective representatives, successors and assigns subject to the terms of Paragraph 6 above.

**SECTION 9.** This Agreement and the provisions contained herein shall be construed, interpreted and controlled according to the laws of the State of Florida. Venue shall be in Duval County, Florida.

**SECTION 10.** This Agreement has been negotiated fully between the parties as an arm's length transaction. The parties participated fully in the preparation of this Agreement with the assistance of their respective counsel. In the case of a dispute concerning the interpretation of any provision of this Agreement, the parties are each deemed to have drafted, chosen and selected the language, and the doubtful language will not be interpreted or construed against any party.

**SECTION 11.** The Agreement shall be effective after execution by both parties hereto. The enforcement provisions of this Agreement shall survive its termination, until all payments due under this Agreement are paid in full.

**SECTION 12.** In the event that either party is required to enforce this Agreement by court proceedings or otherwise, then the parties agree that the substantially prevailing party shall be entitled to recover from the other all costs incurred, including reasonable attorneys' fees, paralegal fees and expert witness fees and costs for trial, alternative dispute resolution, or appellate proceedings.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties execute this Agreement the day and year first written above.

**ATTEST:**

**SEATON CREEK RESERVE COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary/Assistant Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman/Vice Chairman

**PECAN ENTERPRISES, LLC,**  
a Florida limited liability company

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its: \_\_\_\_\_

**Exhibit A:** Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Budget

**Exhibit B:** Description of the Property

**Exhibit A**

Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Budget

**Exhibit B**

Description of the Property

October 28, 2021

To: Seaton Creek Reserve CDD – Audit Committee  
**Audit Committee Selection Process**

As noted above, we suggest appointing the entire Board as the Committee. This will allow for an easy quorum and the Committee can meet before or during the regular Board meeting. You may, however, appoint as few as two persons such as the District manager (“Manager”) and the Board Chairman.

Consider the following:

1. At a regular Board meeting, have the Board, by motion, appoint the Committee members. The Board should designate one person as the Chair of the committee.
2. If you have already advertised a meeting of the Committee, you may have the Committee meeting during or after the regular Board meeting.
3. You cannot have a Committee meeting until you publicly notice the meeting of the Committee, either within the same published notice as the regular meeting or separately.

After you have provided notice, you may convene the Committee meeting. The purpose of the meeting will be to select the criteria by which responses to the RFP will be evaluated and announce publicly that the District is soliciting proposals. The actions to be taken by the Committee include:

1. Selection of the criteria by which proposals will be evaluated. You are statutorily required to consider: (a) ability of personnel; (b) experience; and (c) ability to furnish the required services. Additional criteria, such as price, should be determined by the Committee.
2. Determination of the date, time, and location that the RFP will be required to be received by the District. While there is no exact time required for this RFP to be out, it should be at least two weeks to give firms an opportunity to put together a proposal.
3. Public announcement of the opportunity to provide auditing services. Such announcement must include, at minimum: (a) a brief description of the audit and (b) how interested firms can apply for consideration (where they can obtain an RFP). The Manager will then publish the notice of the RFP. A sample notice is attached.
4. Provide interested firms, through the Manager, an RFP that must include information on how proposals are to be evaluated and other information necessary to enable interested firms to respond.

At the date, time, and location announced in the RFP, the Manager must open the proposals and read them aloud. The Manager should then evaluate them for completeness. There should be the proper number of copies, the correct documents, and all should be properly completed. The Manager should then schedule, or have already scheduled, a meeting of the Committee. The following is an outline of that process:

1. The Committee meeting should be noticed. The published notice of the Committee meeting may be with the same published notice as the regular Board meeting but must specifically state that the audit Committee will be meeting. A separate published notice of just the Committee meeting may also be used.
2. The Committee will evaluate the proposals that are determined complete (responsive) and will rank them in accordance with the evaluation criteria established by the Committee and adjourn.
3. The Committee Chairman will make a report to the Board, at a properly noticed Board meeting, the ranking assigned by the Committee to the responses to the RFP.
4. If compensation is a criteria on the Evaluation Criteria Sheet, the Board shall negotiate a contract with the highest ranked firm or it must document in its public record the reason for not selecting the highest ranked qualified firm. If compensation is not a criteria on the Evaluation Criteria Sheet, the Board will then authorize staff to enter into negotiations with the firms in order of ranking or as directed.

After successful negotiations, staff must return to the Board for authorization to enter into a contract with one of the auditing firms. The Contract must meet the following criteria:

It must, as a minimum, include provisions that:

1. Specify the services to be provided and fees, or other compensation for such services;
2. Require that invoices for fees or other compensation be submitted in sufficient detail to demonstrate compliance with the terms of the Contract
3. Specify the contract period, including renewals and conditions, under which the Contract may be terminated or renewed.

An engagement letter that contains the above provisions and that is signed and executed by both parties can be used to satisfy the requirements of a written contract. It is our recommendation that the Contract provide for only two (2) annual renewals.

In summation, you must do the following:

1. The Board must appoint an audit committee.
2. The Committee meeting must be noticed.
3. The Committee must establish the RFP evaluation criteria which must include (a) ability of personnel, (b) experience, and (c) ability to furnish the required services.
4. The Committee must issue the RFP in compliance with the above criteria.
5. The Committee must evaluate and rank the proposals to the RFP in accord with evaluation criteria.
6. The Board must select the firm to negotiate with.
7. The Board must approve the Contract, as negotiated, that meets the above criteria.

**RESOLUTION 2022-05**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF SEATON CREEK RESERVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT CANVASSING AND CERTIFYING THE RESULTS OF THE LANDOWNERS ELECTION OF SUPERVISORS HELD PURSUANT TO SECTION 190.006(2), FLORIDA STATUTES, ADDRESSING SEAT NUMBER DESIGNATIONS ON THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, Seaton Creek Reserve Community Development District (the “District”) is a local unit of special-purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 190, Florida Statutes; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 190.006(2), Florida Statutes, a landowners meeting is required to be held following the creation of a community development district for the purpose of electing supervisors of the District; and

**WHEREAS**, following proper publication and notice thereof, on October 28, 2021, the owners of land within the District held a meeting for the purpose of electing supervisors to the District’s Board of Supervisors (“Board”); and

**WHEREAS**, at the October 28, 2021, meeting, the below recited persons were duly elected by virtue of the votes cast in their respective favor; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board, by means of this Resolution, desires to canvas the votes, declare and certify the results of the landowner’s election, and announce the Board Members, seat number designations on the Board.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF SEATON CREEK RESERVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT:**

**SECTION 1.** The recitals as stated above are true and correct and by this reference are incorporated into and form a material part of this Resolution.

**SECTION 2.** The following persons are found, certified, and declared to have been duly elected as Supervisors of and for the District, having been elected by the votes cast in their favor as shown, to wit:

Seat 1	_____	Votes: _____
Seat 2	_____	Votes: _____
Seat 3	_____	Votes: _____
Seat 4	_____	Votes: _____
Seat 5	_____	Votes: _____

**SECTION 3.** In accordance with Section 190.006(2), Florida Statutes, and by virtue of the number of votes cast for the respective Supervisors, they are declared to have been elected for the following terms of office:

Seat 1	_____	Years: _____
Seat 2	_____	Years: _____
Seat 3	_____	Years: _____
Seat 4	_____	Years: _____
Seat 5	_____	Years: _____

**SECTION 4.** Said terms of office commenced on October 28, 2021.

**SECTION 5.** If any provision of this Resolution is held to be illegal or invalid, the other provisions shall remain in full force and effect. To the extent the provisions of this Resolution conflict with the provisions of any other resolution of the District, the provisions of this Resolution shall prevail.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 28TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2021.**

**ATTEST:**

**SEATON CREEK RESERVE COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary/ Assistant Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair/ Vice Chair of the Board of Supervisors

**RESOLUTION 2022-06**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
DESIGNATING THE OFFICERS OF SEATON CREEK RESERVE  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, AND PROVIDING  
FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, Seaton Creek Reserve Community Development District (the “District”), is a local unit of special-purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 190, Florida Statutes, being situated entirely within the County of Duval; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 190.006(2), Florida Statutes, a landowners meeting was held for the purpose of electing supervisors of the District; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors (hereinafter the “Board”) now desires to designate the Officers of the District per F.S. 190.006(6).

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF  
SUPERVISORS OF SEATON CREEK RESERVE COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT:**

1. The following persons are elected to the offices shown, to wit:

_____	Chairman
_____	Vice-Chairman
<u>Brian Lamb</u>	Secretary
<u>Eric Davidson</u>	Treasurer
<u>Brian Howell</u>	Assistant Secretary
_____	Assistant Secretary
_____	Assistant Secretary
_____	Assistant Secretary

2. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 28TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2021.**

**ATTEST:**

**SEATON CREEK RESERVE COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary/ Assistant Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair/ Vice Chair of the Board of Supervisors

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-07**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE SEATON CREEK RESERVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT EXTENDING THE TERMS OF THE DISTRICT'S SUPERVISORS TO ALIGN WITH THE NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 190, FLORIDA STATUTES.**

**WHEREAS**, the Seaton Creek Reserve Community Development District (the "**District**") is a local unit of special-purpose government organized and existing in accordance with Chapter 190, Florida Statutes; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 190.006 (3)(a)2.c, Florida Statutes, the Board of Supervisors of the District (the "**Board**") is authorized to amend the terms of office for the District's supervisors for the purpose of aligning the District's election cycle with the general election held in November; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board desires to align the terms of the District's supervisors with the general election cycle:

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD, THAT:**

1. The current term of office for each of the District's supervisors is hereby modified and amended to expire on the following dates:
  - a. The term for Seat #1 will expire November 2026.
  - b. The term for Seat #2 will expire November 2026.
  - c. The term for Seat #3 will expire November 2024.
  - d. The term for Seat #4 will expire November 2024.
  - e. The term for Seat #5 will expire November 2024.
2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED ON OCTOBER 28, 2021.**

**Attest:**

**Seaton Creek Reserve Community  
Development District**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary/Assistant Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair / Vice Chair of the Board of Supervisors

# Hopping Green & Sams

Attorneys and Counselors

October 21, 2021

VIA EMAIL

Brian K. Lamb, District Manager

brian.lamb@merituscorp.com

Ross Puzzitiello, Chairperson

[Ross@parkviewhomesfla.com](mailto:Ross@parkviewhomesfla.com)

**RE: Seaton Creek Reserve Community Development District ("Client")**

**JOINT LETTER BY HOPPING GREEN & SAMs, P.A. AND KUTAK ROCK LLP, ANNOUNCING THE DEPARTURE OF JONATHAN JOHNSON, KATIE BUCHANAN, MIKE ECKERT, TUCKER MACKIE, WES HABER, LINDSAY WHELAN, JOE BROWN, SARAH SANDY, ALYSSA WILLSON AND MICHELLE RIGONI TO KUTAK ROCK LLP**

Dear Brian/Ross,

As of November 15, 2021, Jonathan Johnson, Katie Buchanan, Mike Eckert, Tucker Mackie, Wes Haber, Lindsay Whelan, Joe Brown, Sarah Sandy, Alyssa Willson and Michelle Rigoni (the "Special District Practice Group") will be withdrawing as attorneys from Hopping Green & Sams, P.A. ("HGS") and will be joining Kutak Rock LLP ("Kutak"). The members of the Special District Practice Group have provided services in connection with HGS's representation of the Client on the above referenced matter(s) (the "Client Matters").

In the coming months, HGS will no longer be providing legal services. Kutak is prepared to continue as the Client's legal counsel with respect to the Client Matters; however, it is the Client's choice as to who should serve as its legal counsel, and whether the Client Matters and all electronic files and active and closed hardcopy files (collectively, the "Files") should be transferred to Kutak.

Please select one of the following alternatives; however, please be advised that as of November 15, 2021, HGS will no longer be competent to provide legal services to the Client; accordingly, representation by HGS will cease on November 15, 2021, whether or not the Client makes an election below:

**1. ALTERNATIVE #1.** The Client asks that the Client Matters be transferred with the Special District Practice Group to their new firm, Kutak. Please transfer all Files relating to the Client Matters. HGS's legal representation of the Client will cease on the date of HGS's receipt of their written notice. After that date, the Special District Practice Group and their new firm, Kutak, will be responsible for legal representation of the Client in the Client Matters. To the extent that HGS is holding any trust funds or other property of the Client, HGS is further instructed to transfer such funds and/or property to Kutak.

---

**(Please sign if you want Alternative #1; [DATE]  
otherwise, do not sign on this line.)**

**2. ALTERNATIVE #2.** If you do not want Alternative #1, please advise us what HGS should do regarding the Client Matters and all Files relating to the Client Matters by December 1, 2021. HGS's legal representation of the Client will cease on November 15, 2021. If HGS does not receive a response by December 1, 2021, that will confirm HGS's understanding that all Files are not needed or desired and HGS will shred them.

---

(Please sign here if you have [DATE]  
given instructions under Alternative  
#2; otherwise do not sign on this line.)

After you have completed and signed this form, please send a copy via electronic mail to [JasonM@hgslaw.com](mailto:JasonM@hgslaw.com) [MarkS@hgslaw.com](mailto:MarkS@hgslaw.com) [wesh@hgslaw.com](mailto:wesh@hgslaw.com) and [KimH@hgslaw.com](mailto:KimH@hgslaw.com).

Thank you for your consideration and assistance.

HOPPING GREEN & SAMS, P.A.



By: Jonathan Johnson

Its: President

Date: October 21, 2021

## ADA Site Compliance, LLC



---

### Statement of Work (SOW) Agreement to Perform Consulting Services

**Date**

October 6, 2021

**Services Performed By:**

ADA Site Compliance, LLC

**Services Performed For:**Seaton Creek CDD

---

This Statement of Work (SOW) is issued pursuant to the Master Services Agreement (“MSA”) between Seaton Creek CDD (“Customer”) and ADA Site Compliance, LLC (“Contractor”), effective October 6, 2021 (the “Agreement”). This SOW is subject to the terms and conditions contained in the Agreement between the parties and is made a part thereof. Any term not otherwise defined herein shall have the meaning specified in the Agreement. In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between the terms of this SOW and the terms of the Agreement, the terms of the MSA shall govern and prevail.

This SOW, effective as of October 6, 2021, is entered into by and between Contractor and Customer for Customer’s website and is subject to the terms and conditions specified below. The exhibit(s) to this SOW, if any, shall be deemed to be a part hereof. In the event of any inconsistencies between the terms of the body of this SOW and the terms of the exhibit(s) hereto, the terms of the SOW shall prevail.

## Process & Engagement

---

Contractor uses both technological (i.e. software-based) and human expert auditing to detect compliance failures for websites, mobile applications, PDFs, and other digital assets. Contractor evaluates their accessibility against evolving web content accessibility guidelines (currently WCAG 2.1) and offers the solutions below. Contractor will deliver a website that has been audited and remediated for substantial compliance with current standards.

Contractor will migrate Customer’s existing site to an accessible and compliant theme that Contractor has built and maintains. Customer will own all site content and provide hosting, backup, and document management for the site. Post-migration, Contractor’s audit and design teams will continuously monitor Customer’s new website for its substantial compliance with current standards.

Throughout the process and afterward, Customer will receive technological audit reports that identify all errors that software can detect. As noted above, software-based reports alone cannot identify 100% of accessibility failures; at

best, they can uncover about one-third of them. As such, Customer's technological reports are intended only as a general diagnostic of the site's ongoing compliance health – not as a measure of its overall accessibility.

## Scope of Work & Deliverables

---

Contractor shall provide the following services/deliverables for Customer and its site:

### Technological Auditing

- Customized software-based auditing of the entire web domain.
- Detailed quarterly audit reports including the precise location in the code of each failure, a description of the error, a picture for visual context, and a suggested remediation step.
- Technological audit reports capture approximately one-third of known failures and are intended as a broad diagnostic and accountability tool, not as a full compliance blueprint.

### Site Migration

- Contractor will migrate the content of Customer's existing website to one built on Contractor's own themes that are known to be accessible and compliant with WCAG 2.1 standards.
- Some existing functionality and content, including that provided by third-party vendors, may be impossible to migrate "as is" from the existing site to the new one, in which case another solution may be required.
- Review by Contractor's technical team leaders of the migrated site for quality assurance.

### Customized Accessibility Policy & Compliance Shield

- Indication of Customer's active engagement with recognized experts in the field of website accessibility and compliance; the deliverable is uploaded to the footer of Customer's website and acts as a deterrent to litigation from trolling plaintiffs and/or attorneys.
- Statement of Customer's specific ongoing strides toward compliance with current WCAG standards – to be posted on the website (links to ADA Compliance Shield).
- Alternate contact info for users to report inaccessible areas of Customer's website and to request assistance – to be posted on the website (links to ADA Compliance Shield).

### Technical Support

- Two (2) hours of technical support via email, phone, video, and (where feasible) in-person contact.

## Fee Schedule

---

The fee for services described in this SOW is \$2,900, which is due within 14 days of the Agreement's execution by both parties. The annual fee for Customer's continued use of Contractor's Compliance Shield and accessibility policy; updates made to the accessibility policy to reflect changing standards and laws; quarterly technological auditing and reporting, and continued consulting is \$1,500, to be paid in full one (1) year after the execution date of this SOW.

# Signatures

---

In witness whereof, the Parties have, by their duly authorized representatives, executed this SOW as of the date first set forth above.

**ADA SITE COMPLIANCE, LLC**

By: Jeremy Horelick

Name: Jeremy Horelick

Title: V.P. Business Development

**SEATON CREEK CDD**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

MASTER SERVICES AGREEMENT  
ADA SITE COMPLIANCE, LLC

This Master Services Agreement (this "Agreement") is entered into as of October 06, 2021, between Seaton Creek CDD, a unit of government, with a place of business and notice address at 2005 Pan Am Circle, Suite 300, Tampa, FL 33607 ("Customer") and ADA Site Compliance, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company authorized to do business in Florida, with a place of business and notice address at 6400 Boynton Beach Boulevard, No. 742721, Boynton Beach, FL 33474 ("ADASC"), and shall become effective upon Customer and ADASC executing a Statement of Work, which shall be attached to this Agreement and incorporated herein by this reference. Customer and ADASC may also each be referred to herein individually as a "Party," and collectively as the "Parties."

IN CONSIDERATION of the mutual covenants contained herein, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties, wishing to be legally bound by this Agreement, agree as follows:

1. PRODUCTS AND SERVICES.

1.1. Statement(s) of Work. Pursuant to this Agreement, ADASC shall provide Customer with ADASC's website and web application technological and/or human expert accessibility auditing and related services ("Services") and products and/or software (collectively, as applicable, the "Products") set forth in one or more Statements of Work to be mutually executed by the Parties that reference and are subject to the terms of this Agreement (each, a "SOW"). In return for such Services, Products, and Deliverables (hereinafter defined) **(collectively, the "Services")**, Customer shall pay ADASC the fees and expenses set forth in the applicable SOW/Proposal in accordance with the payment terms set forth therein.

1.2. Customer Requested Changes. At any time, Customer may request a change to the Services that have been described in a SOW (in each case, a "Change"). Upon receipt of a Change request from Customer, ADASC agrees to respond in writing within five (5) business days of its receipt thereof, advising Customer of any additional cost, scheduling, or other impacts on the Services arising from the requested Change. If the Parties agree to proceed with any requested Change, the terms associated with such Change must be incorporated into an amendment to the applicable SOW that is mutually executed by the Parties prior to ADASC's **implementation of the Change**. If the Parties do not agree to proceed with any requested Change, the Parties shall continue to operate in accordance with the terms of the then-existing Agreement and SOW(s).

1.3. Deliverables. Unless otherwise provided in a SOW, with respect to any compliance audit reports, data, software, tools, remediation services or other works of any kind designated to be made, conceived, or developed by ADASC in connection with a SOW (collectively, as applicable, the "Deliverables"), Customer shall have the right to review such Deliverables upon their

completion by ADASC only to determine if they conform to the applicable written specifications stated in the SOW (collectively, the "Acceptance Criteria"). Customer will notify ADASC within seven (7) business days of delivery of the Deliverables if, **in Customer's good faith determination**, the Deliverables have not met the Acceptance Criteria, and that therefore acceptance has not occurred. In the event acceptance of any Deliverables does not occur, ADASC will, at its cost, make any necessary changes to the Deliverable within a commercially reasonable time frame so that they conform to the Acceptance Criteria, and resubmit the Deliverables to Customer. If Customer does not, however, notify ADASC within seven (7) business days of the delivery of any Deliverables that such Deliverables have not met the Acceptance Criteria, the Deliverable shall be deemed to conform to the specifications in the applicable SOW, and to have been accepted by Customer.

## 2. INVOICES AND PAYMENTS.

2.1. Invoices. All payments are due within Thirty (30) days of the execution of the proposal. Customer will reimburse ADASC for travel and other pre-approved expenses. All payments required by this Agreement are exclusive of federal, state or other governmental taxes and excises, and Customer will be responsible for all such taxes and amounts and agrees to defend and hold ADASC harmless from any claim against ADASC for any such amount.

2.2. Disputed Amounts. Late payments (other than Disputed Amounts that are determined not to be in fact due or owing to ADASC) not received within five (5) days of the due date stated in all applicable SOWs will be subject to a late fee of 1.5% per month on all unpaid balances. Customer agrees that it will be responsible for all of ADASC's costs and expenses, including collection agency fees, court costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees, incurred by ADASC to collect any monies owed by Customer or to otherwise enforce the terms of this Agreement. ADASC reserves the right to suspend or terminate Services and to withhold Deliverables immediately without notice for non-payment of monies owed under this Agreement.

Customer may only withhold payment of amounts that it in good faith disputes to be due or owing ("Disputed Amounts"). In such case, Customer shall nonetheless pay any undisputed amounts and provide to ADASC a sufficiently detailed written explanation of the basis for its withholding of the Disputed Amounts no later than ten (10) days after their due date. Any controversy relating to amounts owed by Customer hereunder shall be considered a "Dispute" (defined below) and subject to the resolution procedures provided in this Agreement. If it is determined that any Disputed Amounts are in fact owed to ADASC, Customer shall pay to ADASC such Disputed Amounts within five (5) days of such resolution, plus any applicable late fees, interest, and/or **ADASC's reasonable costs of collection**. To the extent the provisions of this section conflict with the **State's** Prompt Payment Act or the **Customer's** adopted

dispute resolution procedures pursuant thereto, the Prompt Payment Act and such adopted procedures shall control.

### 3. TERM AND TERMINATION.

3.1. Term. This Agreement shall become effective when Customer and ADASC first execute a Proposal or SOW and shall remain in effect until terminated as provided herein ("Term").

3.2. Termination by either Party for Cause. This Agreement and/or any individual SOW may be terminated by either Party (i) in the event the other Party fails to cure or take reasonable steps to cure a breach of any material term of this Agreement or any applicable SOW within ten (10) business days of receipt of written notice describing such breach; or (ii) immediately upon the giving of written notice by such Party in the event the other Party is adjudged insolvent or bankrupt, or upon the institution of any proceeding against the other Party seeking relief, reorganization, or arrangement under any laws relating to insolvency, or upon the appointment of a receiver, liquidator, or trustee of any of the other Party's property or assets, or upon liquidation, dissolution, or winding up of the other Party's business.

3.3 Termination Without Cause. Either Party may terminate without cause upon sixty (60) days prior written notice to the other Party. However, upon any termination of this Agreement, ADASC shall be entitled to payment for all Services rendered up until the effective termination of this Agreement, subject to any amounts being under Dispute, which shall be addressed in accordance with Section 8.3 of this Agreement.

3.4 Transition Services. ADASC shall work with the Customer to ensure a seamless and smooth transition in the event of termination, with or without **cause, to the Customer's contracted entity ("Contracted Entity")** assisting with the transition of the Services after termination ("Transition Services"); provided, however, that ADASC shall only be required to provide such Transition Services for a reasonable amount of time, not to exceed one (1) month after the effective date of the termination. **Upon Customer's request**, ADASC shall include as part of its Transition Services consultations with the Contracted Entity, provided that ADASC shall be entitled to payment for such consultations at a rate of \$250 per hour. If any other Transition Services are provided, ADASC shall be reimbursed for such services at a price mutually agreed to by the Parties.

3.5 Support Services. Notwithstanding any of the provisions under Section 3.4, in the event of termination of this Agreement by either party for any reason, all Services performed by ADASC shall immediately cease. ADASC will not continue to provide support for the ADASC Theme, including but not limited to, any updates, modifications, improvements, audits, use of the ADASC

compliance shield, or any Services more particularly set forth in the Proposal or SOW.

#### 4. REPRESENTATIONS, WARRANTIES & COVENANTS

4.1. General. The essence of this Agreement is the following: ADASC represents, warrants, and covenants that (a) the Services shall be performed and/or provided by qualified personnel in a professional and workmanlike manner; and (b) the Services provided by ADASC shall not infringe, misappropriate, or otherwise violate the intellectual property rights of any third party. Each Party also represents and warrants that it has the full right and authority to enter into this Agreement and perform its obligations hereunder.

4.2. Disclaimer of All Other Warranties. CUSTOMER ACKNOWLEDGES THAT ASSESSING ACCESSIBILITY AND REMEDIATION IS HIGHLY COMPLEX, SUBJECTIVE AND CHANGEABLE, AND AS SUCH, ACHIEVING ABSOLUTE OR TOTAL COMPLIANCE IS DIFFICULT WITHOUT CLEAR REGULATORY GUIDANCE. THEREFORE, ADASC MAKES NO WARRANTY THAT THE SERVICES WILL FIND ALL **ACCESSIBILITY CONCERNS IN CUSTOMER'S WEBSITES, APPS, PDFS, OR SERVER(S)**, OR THAT THE SOLUTIONS SUGGESTED AND ADVICE PROVIDED IN ANY REPORT ADASC MAY PROVIDE TO CUSTOMER FROM TIME TO TIME WILL BE COMPLETE OR ERROR-FREE. WHILE TECHNOLOGICAL AUDITING SUCH AS THAT PROVIDED BY ADASC (WHICH TYPICALLY CAN DETECT APPROXIMATELY 30% OF ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES) MAY BE A GOOD STARTING POINT IN **CUSTOMER'S EFFORTS TOWARD COMPLIANCE, HUMAN EXPERT** AUDITING IS ALSO NECESSARY. ADASC STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT CUSTOMER REGULARLY ENGAGE IN HUMAN EXPERT AUDITING AND TECHNOLOGICAL AUDITING OF ITS WEBSITE(S), APPLICATION(S), AND SERVER(S) IN ORDER TO ASSURE THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL OF ACCESSIBILITY, COMPLIANCE, AND USABILITY; NEVERTHELESS CUSTOMER ACKNOWLEDGES THAT EVEN WITH THE RECOMMENDED UTILIZATION OF BOTH TECHNOLOGICAL AUDITING SERVICES AND ROUTINE HUMAN AUDITS, ABSOLUTE OR TOTAL COMPLIANCE REMAINS DIFFICULT WITHOUT CLEAR REGULATORY GUIDANCE. ADASC DOES NOT GUARANTY ANY SPECIFIC LEVEL OF ACCESSIBILITY OR COMPLIANCE AND ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY IN THE EVENT A CLAIM IS MADE AGAINST CUSTOMER BASED UPON OR ALLEGING A LACK OF OR FAILURE IN ACCESSIBILITY OR COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE ACCESSIBILITY LAWS, REGULATIONS, AND/OR STANDARDS. ADASC SPECIFICALLY DISCLAIMS ANY REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, ANY REPRESENTATIONS OR

WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, NON-INFRINGEMENT OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.

**4.3. Customer's Covenant of Compliance with Laws.** Customer is responsible for complying with applicable laws pertaining to Customer's website, web applications, and business, including, without limitation, tax laws, laws governing electronic commerce, and US Export laws.

## 5. CONFIDENTIALITY.

5.1 Confidentiality. Customer and ADASC each agree to hold Confidential Information in confidence and not to disclose it to any third party without the prior written consent of the other party. Customer and ADASC agree to use the Confidential Information only for the purpose of performing under this Agreement. Further, the receiving party shall use the same degree of care it uses with respect to its own Confidential Information to prevent the unauthorized disclosure to a third party of any Confidential Information of the disclosing party, but in no event less than reasonable care. As used in this Agreement, "Confidential Information" shall mean non-public, proprietary ADASC Material, and which is considered non-public and confidential under State Statutes, and other law, and which is disclosed by ADASC or on its behalf whether before, on or after the date hereof, directly or indirectly, in writing, orally, by visual inspection or otherwise, to Customer or any of its employees or agents. The ADASC Theme (as defined herein) is deemed Confidential Information. Customer Confidential Information shall mean any material made confidential pursuant to State Statutes. The obligations to protect Confidential Information under this section shall not apply to information which: (a) is or becomes publicly known through no act or failure to act on the part of the receiving party; (b) was rightfully in the receiving party's possession prior to disclosure by the disclosing party; (c) became rightfully known to the receiving party, without confidentiality restrictions, from a source other than the disclosing party; (d) is approved by the disclosing party for disclosure; (e) is or was developed independently by the receiving party without use of the Confidential Information and without violation of any confidentiality restriction; (f) is required to be disclosed by law; or (g) is work product paid for by the Customer pursuant to this Agreement and not deemed ADASC Material hereunder.

## 6. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.

6.1. ADASC Materials. Except as provided herein, as between the Parties, ADASC shall retain all right, title, and interest in and to (i) all patents, trademarks, service marks, copyrights, trade secrets, know-hows, and other intellectual property or proprietary rights (collectively, "IP") of ADASC used in or otherwise associated with the Services provided to Customer hereunder, and (ii) all trade secrets, technical specifications, and data to the extent they are IP

and inventions which are authored, conceived, devised, developed, reduced to practice, or otherwise performed by ADASC, none of which shall be deemed a "work made for hire" under the Copyright Act of 1976 (collectively "ADASC Materials"), and nothing contained herein shall be construed to restrict, impair, transfer, license, convey, or otherwise alter or deprive ADASC of any of its intellectual property or other proprietary interests associated therewith. The ADASC Materials shall include (i) any website theme and specialized coding for such theme authored, conceived, devised, developed, modified, and/or reduced to practice by ADASC **outside of ADASC's performance** under this Agreement (**the "ADASC Theme"**) and (ii) any specialized coding for the ADASC Theme authored, conceived, devised, developed, modified, and/or reduced to practice by ADASC under this Agreement, but shall not include any other website theme and the coding of such theme authored, conceived, devised, developed, modified, and/or reduced to practice by ADASC pursuant to an SOW or Customer as a derivative work. Subject to the foregoing, and **Customer's payment of the** applicable fees set forth in an SOW or Proposal, ADASC grants Customer a non-exclusive, non-transferable worldwide limited right and license to access and use the Deliverables and the ADASC Materials in connection with the ordinary and intended use by Customer thereof as provided hereunder and in the applicable SOW ("Single Use License"). The Single Use License set forth in the immediately preceding sentence (x) includes **Customer's right to view, download, and print the Deliverables for Customer's** use, and without in any case removing ADASC's **copyright, trademark**, or other intellectual property ownership notices; (y) is limited to only one Customer website, **and (z) includes Customer's right to use the ADASC Theme, in whole or in part, to develop derivative works on Customer's one website.** Notwithstanding the Single Use License granted to Customer under this Section, under no circumstances may the Products, Deliverables, or ADASC Materials, or any portion thereof or any derivative work, be used as the basis for creating a product that is intended for sale, license, or distribution to others (regardless of whether such distribution is for profit or free) in a manner that would compete, directly or indirectly, with ADASC in offering the Products, Deliverables, or ADASC Materials for sale, license or distribution. Customer has no right to distribute the ADASC Theme, whether modified or unmodified, to any third party. The use of the Products, Deliverables and/or ADASC Materials in contravention of the Single Use License granted under this Section is strictly prohibited and will be deemed a material breach of this Agreement.

6.2. Customer Materials; Publicity and Trademarks. (A) Notwithstanding anything else provided in this Agreement, Customer shall own the website, **the website's** domain name and all related uniform resource locators, and all website and application content, including without limit, all documents, content, pictures, video, audio, and text on the website, authored, conceived, devised, developed, modified, and/or reduced to practice by ADASC pursuant to this Agreement, and all metadata associated therewith, created or modified by ADASC pursuant to this Agreement and/or provided or made available by Customer to ADASC, under all circumstances ("Customer

Materials”). In the event of a termination of this Agreement for any reason, ADASC shall take all necessary steps to transfer, or otherwise allow Customer to retain such Customer Materials as further provided in Section 3.

(B) Notwithstanding anything provided in Section 6.2(A), the ADASC Theme and any specialized coding for the ADASC Theme authored, conceived, devised, developed, modified, and/or reduced to practice by ADASC under this Agreement is ADASC Material. In the event of termination of this Agreement for any reason, the Single Use License defined under Section 6.1 of this Agreement shall immediately terminate, and the Transition Services under Section 3.4 shall come into effect.

(C) Customer will not, at any time, have the right or license to, and agrees that **it will not, without ADASC’s prior written consent, manufacture, sell, or** otherwise distribute a device, service, or product that was developed or manufactured using any ADASC Intellectual Property, either for its own account or for any third party, or assist any third party in so doing. Customer agrees that it will not engage in, nor will it authorize others to engage in, the reverse engineering, disassembly, decompilation, or the recompilation of any ADASC Intellectual Property except as permitted under this Agreement.

(D) Additionally, to the extent applicable, ADASC shall take commercially reasonable precautions consistent with industry standards to protect confidential information, including, e.g., credit card information and other sensitive information protected under the State’s Public Records Laws. Except as provided herein, as between the Parties, Customer shall retain all right, title, and interest in and to all IP of Customer provided or made available to ADASC in connection with ADASC’s **Services (collectively** in this paragraph, “Customer IP”) and nothing contained herein shall be construed to restrict, impair, transfer, license, convey, or otherwise alter or deprive Customer of any of its IP or other proprietary interests associated therewith, if any. Subject to the foregoing, Customer grants ADASC a non-exclusive, non-transferable worldwide limited right and license to access and use such Customer IP in connection with the provision of the Services to Customer hereunder. Further, Customer permits ADASC to identify Customer as a customer of ADASC in ADASC’s **marketing materials (including using Customer’s name and logo for** such limited purposes).

(E) Customer further acknowledges and agrees that for ADASC to perform the Services, it must, in some cases, give ADASC remote access to areas behind logins that are to be audited hereunder, including, without limitation to content **management systems and/or servers (collectively, the “System”), and agrees** that it will furnish to ADASC all necessary information and/or user names and passwords required to do so. ADASC agrees to follow commercially reasonable **security policies for accessing Customer’s System including any specific** security procedures as may be communicated to ADASC by Customer in writing prior to ADASC accessing the System. ADASC hereby recognizes that all data

may be a public record and therefore is required to be retained unless otherwise directed in writing by the Customer.

**6.3 Right to Display ADASC Compliance Shield / Accessibility Policy.** Customer may display an ADASC-provided compliance shield and customized accessibility policy on its websites or web applications. The provided ADASC compliance shield and customized accessibility policy shall remain under the full ownership and control of ADASC. ADASC shall retain the right at any time and in its sole discretion to withdraw its authorization to display such compliance shield and customized accessibility policy. Customer is expressly prohibited from using an ADASC compliance shield and customized accessibility policy for any purpose not specifically authorized by this Agreement or by an applicable SOW, and in no event may use such shield for or on behalf of any other party or in connection with any domain name and/or organization name other than those being serviced in connection with the Services.

**6.4 Recording of Training Sessions.** Customer shall not record any training session(s) relating to the Services provided without the prior written consent of ADASC. ADASC shall retain all intellectual property rights to the recorded material and grants Customer a Limited License to display, share, and/or incorporate into its own training material, the recorded material for current and future employees of Customer. Customer shall not, including but not limited to, display, share, assign, license, sell, or otherwise disseminate the recorded material to any third party, including but not limited to, any parent company, subsidiary, associated department, subdivision, affiliates, committee, officer, board of directors, governing body, or any entity not in direct privity of this Agreement, any recorded materials under this Limited License.

This Limited License shall remain in effect in perpetuity, or so long as Customer, as an entity, remains intact and has not altered its structure. In the event of, including but not limited to, any merger, buy-out, acquisition, or any event that may change, alter, or compromise the status of Customer, Customer shall request and obtain a new license from ADASC prior to the continued use of any and all recorded materials.

**6.5 Derivative Works.** All rights, title, copyright, and interest in all Derivative Works and improvements created by, or on behalf of, Customer will be the property of Customer so long as the Works do not violate the language set forth in Section 5 or Section 6 of this Agreement. Customer shall be entitled to protect intellectual property in all such derivative works and improvements as it may see fit, including by seeking copyright or patent protection. Notwithstanding the immediately preceding sentence, Customer may mark with its own copyright notice and register copyrights in derivative works as works that constitute original works of authorship, so long as such derivative

works are identified in such registration as based upon pre-existing works of ADASC.

## 7. INDEMNITY.

7.1 ADASC agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Customer and its officers, supervisors, staff, employees, successors, assigns, members, affiliates, attorneys or representatives from any and all liability, claims, actions, suits, liens, demands, costs, interest, expenses, damages, penalties, fines, or judgments against the Customer, or loss or damage, whether monetary or otherwise, including but not limited to an ADA website related claim by a third-party, arising out of, wholly or in part by, ADASC's willfully reckless or willfully negligent act or omission.

7.2 Neither Party shall be liable to the other Party for consequential damages or lost profits pursuant to this Agreement.

7.3 Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary within this Agreement, Customer does not waive any Sovereign Immunity or the limitations contained in State Statutes, or any successor statute or statutes thereto, or other provisions of law.

## 8. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

8.1. Order of Precedence. The terms of this Agreement and any SOW are intended to complement each other, and to the extent they conflict, the terms of any SOW shall supersede conflicting terms and conditions in this Agreement, but solely with respect to Services provided pursuant to such SOW.

8.2. Subcontractors. Unless otherwise provided in a SOW, ADASC may provide Services hereunder through subcontractors and/or affiliates and such subcontractors and/or affiliates shall be bound by the terms of this Agreement.

8.3. Dispute Resolution. Before initiating any legal claim or action (except with respect to equitable relief), the Parties agree to attempt in good faith to settle any dispute, controversy, or claim arising out of or related to this Agreement or the Services (collectively, a "Dispute") through discussions which shall be initiated upon written notice of a Dispute by either Party to the other Party. If the Parties cannot resolve the Dispute within fifteen (15) business days, then the Parties shall attempt to settle the Dispute by mediation. If mediation is unsuccessful, the Parties may then proceed to filing a claim in the appropriate jurisdictional court. The Parties hereby consent to the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal and state courts in Palm Beach County, Florida for purposes of any claims for equitable relief or claim in anyway related to this Agreement and waive any defense of inconvenient forum or venue. The prevailing party in any such dispute shall be entitled to claim its costs and fees

**incurred in litigating any such dispute, including reasonable attorney's fees, court, and experts' costs through all appeals.**

8.4. Status. ADASC is an independent contractor and not an employee, agent or representative of Customer. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as creating an employer-employee, partnership, joint venture or agency relationship.

8.5. Notices. Any notice required or permitted hereunder shall be in writing and shall be deemed duly given if delivered to a Party at its address set forth in the preamble of this Agreement (or the most recent address provided by such Party for notice purposes) by (i) hand delivery, (ii) certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, or (iii) recognized overnight delivery service. A notice shall be deemed received on date of delivery, if hand delivered or **delivered by overnight delivery service (as reflected in the carrier's records), or** five (5) days from date of mailing, if mailed by certified mail.

8.6. Entire Agreement; Severability. This Agreement, together with any SOWs, sets forth the entire agreement of the Parties, and supersedes any prior agreements or statements with respect to the subject matter hereof. If any part of this Agreement is determined to be invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, then the remaining provisions of this Agreement will remain in full force and effect and the invalid or unenforceable provision will be deemed superseded by a valid, enforceable provision that most closely matches the intent of the original provision.

8.7. Assignment. This Agreement may not be assigned by Customer except with the prior written consent of ADASC. ADASC may assign this Agreement **without Customer's consent** to the purchaser in connection with a sale of ADASC's business, provided the purchaser agrees to assume all obligations of ADASC hereunder. This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the Parties' successors and lawful permitted assigns.

8.8. Amendments and Waivers. This Agreement may be amended or modified only by a written instrument duly executed by each Party. No breach of any term of this Agreement shall be deemed waived unless expressly waived in writing by the Party who might assert such breach. Any failure or delay by either Party to exercise any right, power, or privilege under the Agreement shall not be deemed a waiver of any such right, power, or privilege under the Agreement on that or any subsequent occasion.

8.9. Governing Law. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Florida, without reference to conflicts of law principles that would cause the application of the law of any other jurisdiction.

8.10. Force Majeure. If either Party is prevented from performing any of its obligations under this Agreement due to any cause beyond the Party's

**reasonable control, including, without limitations, an “act of God,” fire, flood, war, strike, government regulation, civil or military authority, acts or omissions of transmitters, utilities, providers or hackers, the time for that Party's performance will be extended for the period of the delay or inability to perform due to such occurrence.**

8.11. Survival. In addition to such other provisions hereof which, by their terms, survive any termination or expiration of this Agreement, Section 4 (Representations, Warranties & Covenants), Section 5 (Confidentiality), Section 6 (Intellectual Property), Section 7 (Indemnity), Section 8 (General Provisions), **and Customer's payment obligations under any Proposal or SOW** shall survive any termination or expiration of this Agreement.

8.12 Waiver Any waiver by either Party, whether express or implied, of any provision of this Agreement, any waiver of default, or any course of dealing **hereunder, shall not affect such Party's right to thereafter enforce such** provision or to exercise any right or remedy in the event of any other default or breach, whether or not similar.

8.13 Counterparts. By using ADASC's **Services**, Customer consents to have this Agreement provided in electronic/digital form. Please print a copy of this document for your records. This Agreement and any modification may be executed and delivered (including by facsimile, portable document format (.pdf) transmission, or via any online e-signature platform) in one or more counterparts, and by each Party in separate counterparts, each of which when executed will be deemed to be an original, and all of which taken together will constitute one and the same Agreement.

8.14 No Construction Against the Drafter. In the interpretation of this **Agreement, the ‘contra proferentem’** rule of contract construction shall not apply, this Agreement being the product of negotiations between commercially sophisticated Parties, and therefore shall not be interpreted in favor of or against any Party by the sole reason of the extent to which such Party or its professional advisors participated or did not participate in the drafting of this Agreement.

8.15 Headings. Headings included herein are for convenience only and shall not be used to construe or interpret this Agreement.

8.16 Public Records. ADASC understands and agrees that all documents of any kind provided to the Customer in connection with this Agreement may be public records, and accordingly, ADASC agrees to comply with all applicable provisions of State law in handling such records. ADASC acknowledges that the designated public records custodian for the Customer is \_\_\_\_\_ **(“Public Records Custodian”). Among other** requirements and to the extent applicable by law, ADASC shall: 1) keep and maintain public records required by the Customer to perform the service; 2)

upon request by the Public Records Custodian, provide the Customer with the requested public records or allow the records to be inspected or copied within a reasonable time period at a cost that does not exceed the cost provided in State Statutes; 3) ensure that public records which are exempt or confidential, and exempt from public records disclosure requirements, are not disclosed except as authorized by law for the duration of the contract term and following the contract term if ADASC does not transfer the records to the Public Records Custodian of the Customer; and 4) upon completion of the contract, transfer to **the Customer, at no cost, all public records in ADASC's possession or**, alternatively, keep, maintain and meet all applicable requirements for retaining public records pursuant to State laws. When such public records are transferred by ADASC, ADASC shall destroy any duplicate public records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from public records disclosure requirements. All records stored electronically must be provided to Customer in a format that is compatible with Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF formats.

IF ADASC HAS QUESTIONS REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF STATE **STATUTES, TO ADASC'S DUTY TO PROVIDE PUBLIC** RECORDS RELATING TO THIS CONTRACT, CONTACT THE PUBLIC RECORDS CUSTODIAN AT

\_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_.COM, OR  
\_\_\_\_\_.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have, by their duly authorized representatives, executed this Master Services Agreement as of the date first set forth above.

ADA SITE COMPLIANCE, LLC

SEATON CREEK CDD

By: Jeremy Horelick

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Jeremy Horelick

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: V.P. Business Development

Title: \_\_\_\_\_