



CASCADES AT GROVELAND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Advanced Meeting Package

Audit Committee Meeting

*Wednesday
April 17, 2024
2:00 p.m.*

*Location:
Magnolia House Sports Pavilion,
100 Falling Acorn Av.,
Groveland, FL 34736*

*Note: The Advanced Meeting Package is a working document and thus all materials are considered **DRAFTS** prior to presentation and Board acceptance, approval, or adoption.*

Cascades at Groveland Community Development District

250 International Parkway, Suite 208
Lake Mary, FL 32746
321-263-0132

Audit Committee
Cascades at Groveland Community Development District

Dear Audit Committee:

The Audit Committee Meeting of the Audit Committee of the Cascades at Groveland Community Development District is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.** at the **Magnolia House Sports Pavilion, 100 Falling Acorn Av., Groveland, FL 34736.**

An advanced copy of the agenda for the meeting is attached along with associated documentation for your review and consideration. Any additional support material will be distributed at the meeting.

Should you have any questions regarding the agenda, please contact me at (321) 263-0132 X-193 or dmcinnes@vestapropertyservices.com. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Sincerely,

David McInnes

David McInnes
District Manager

Cascades at Groveland Community Development District

Meeting Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 Call-in Number: +1 (929) 205-6099
Time: 2:00 PM Meeting ID: 705 571 4830#
Location: Magnolia House Sports (Listen Only)
Pavilion, 100 Falling Acorn
Av., Groveland, FL 34736

Audit Committee Agenda

I. Roll Call

II. Audience Comments – *(limited to 3 minutes per individual for agenda items-Supervisors will respond during agenda item presentation)*

III. Business Items

A. Consideration for Approval – The Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting Held January 17, 2024

[Exhibit 1](#)

B. Presentation of Current Auditor Contract

[Exhibit 2](#)

C. Ranking of Audit Proposals

1. Summary & Criteria Evaluation

[Exhibit 3](#)

2. Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank

[Exhibit 4](#)

3. DiBartolomeo, McBee, Hartley & Barnes

[Exhibit 5](#)

4. Grau & Associates

[Exhibit 6](#)

D. Audit Committee's Recommendations for Auditor Services

IV. Adjournment

EXHIBIT 1

1 **MINUTES OF MEETING**
2 **CASCADES AT GROVELAND**
3 **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

4 The Audit Committee Meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Cascades at Groveland
5 Community Development District was held on Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 2:02 p.m. at the Magnolia
6 House Sports Pavilion, 100 Falling Acorn Ave., Groveland, FL 34736.

7 **FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS – Call to Order/Roll Call**

8 Mr. McInnes called the meeting to order and conducted roll call.

9 Present and constituting a quorum were:

10 James Pekarek	Board Supervisor, Chairman
11 William Houppermans	Board Supervisor, Assistant Secretary
12 Hubert Jackson Jr.	Board Supervisor, Assistant Secretary
13 Alan Martin	Board Supervisor, Assistant Secretary

14 Also, present were:

15 David McInnes	District Manager, DPFM Management & Consulting
16 Scott Clark (<i>via phone</i>)	District Counsel, Clark & Albaugh, LLP

17 *The following is a summary of the discussions and actions taken at the January 17, 2024 Cascades at*
18 *Groveland CDD Board of Supervisors Audit Committee Meeting.*

19 **SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS – Audience Comments – (limited to 3 minutes per individual for**
20 **agenda items – Supervisors will respond during agenda item presentation)**

21 There being none, the next item followed.

22 **THIRD ORDER OF BUSINESS – Administrative Items**

23 A. Exhibit 1: Review of RFP & Evaluation Criteria

24 Mr. McInnes provided a brief explanation of the reason for the audit committee meeting.

25 **FOURTH ORDER OF BUSINESS – Business Items**

26 A. Authorization to Proceed with Publications of RFP

27 On a MOTION by Mr. Martin, SECONDED by Mr. Pekarek, WITH ALL IN FAVOR, the Board authorized
28 proceeding with publication of the RFP, for the Cascades at Groveland Community Development District.

29 B. Schedule of Next Meeting Date – April 17, 2024

30 **FIFTH ORDER OF BUSINESS – Adjournment**

31 Mr. McInnes asked for final questions, comments, or corrections before requesting a motion to
32 adjourn the meeting. There being none, Mr. Houppermans made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

33 On a MOTION by Mr. Houppermans, SECONDED by Mr. Jackson, WITH ALL IN FAVOR, the Board
34 adjourned the meeting at 2:06 p.m. for the Cascades at Groveland Community Development District.

35 **Each person who decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered*
36 *at the meeting is advised that person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made,*
37 *including the testimony and evidence upon which such appeal is to be based.*

38 **Meeting minutes were approved at a meeting by vote of the Board of Supervisors at a publicly noticed**
39 **meeting held on April 17, 2024.**

40

41

Signature

Signature

Printed Name

Printed Name

42 **Title:** **Secretary** **Assistant Secretary**

Title: **Chairman** **Vice Chairman**

EXHIBIT 2

December 6, 2021

Cascades at Groveland Community Development District
Board of Supervisors

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the services we are to provide Cascades at Groveland Community Development District, ("the District") for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2021, 2022, and 2023. We will audit the financial statements of the governmental activities, including the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements (General, Special Revenue, Debt Service and Capital Project Funds) of Cascades at Groveland Community Development District as of and for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2021, 2022, and 2023. In addition, we will examine the District's compliance with the requirements of Section 218.415 Florida Statutes.

Accounting standards generally accepted in the United States of America provide for certain required supplementary information (RSI), such as management's discussion and analysis (MD&A), to supplement the District's basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to the District's RSI in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. These limited procedures will consist of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We will not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

The following RSI is required by generally accepted accounting principles and will be subjected to certain limited procedures, but will not be audited:

- 1) Management's Discussion and Analysis.
- 2) Budgetary comparison schedule

Audit Objectives

The objective of our audit is the expression of opinions as to whether your financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and to report on the fairness of the supplementary information referred to in the second paragraph when considered in relation to the financial statements as a whole. Our audit will be conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and will include tests of the accounting records of the District and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions. We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of the District's financial statements. We cannot provide assurance that an unmodified opinion will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinion or add emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraphs. If our opinion on the financial statements is other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed an opinion, we may decline to express an opinion or issue a report, or may withdraw from this engagement.

We will also provide a report (that does not include an opinion) on internal control related to the financial statements and compliance with the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements as required by *Government Auditing Standards*. The report on internal control and on compliance and other matters will include a paragraph that states (1) that the purpose of the report is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control and compliance, and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control on compliance, and (2) that the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the District's internal control and compliance. The paragraph will also state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose. If during our audit we become aware that the District is subject to an audit requirement that is not encompassed in the terms of this engagement, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance that an audit in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* may not satisfy the relevant legal, regulatory, or contractual requirements.

Examination Objective

The objective of our examination is the expression of an opinion as to whether the District is in compliance with Florida Statute 218.415 in accordance with Rule 10.556(10) of the Auditor General of the State of Florida. Our examination will be conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and will include tests of your records and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such an opinion. We will issue a written report upon completion of our examination of the District's compliance. The report will include a statement that the report is intended solely for the information and use of management, those charged with governance, and the Florida Auditor General, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties. We cannot provide assurance that an unmodified opinion will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinion or add emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraphs. If our opinion on the District's compliance is other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the examination or are unable to form or have not formed an opinion, we may decline to express an opinion or issue a report, or may withdraw from this engagement.

Management Responsibilities

Management is responsible for the financial statements and all accompanying information as well as all representations contained therein. Further, management is responsible for compliance with Florida Statute 218.415 and will provide us with the information required for the examination. The accuracy and completeness of such information is also management's responsibility. As part of the audit, we will assist with preparation of your financial statements and related notes in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles based on information provided by you. These nonaudit services do not constitute an audit under *Government Auditing Standards* and such services will not be conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. You agree to assume all management responsibilities relating to the financial statements and related notes and any other nonaudit services we provide. You will be required to acknowledge in the management representation letter our assistance with preparation of the financial statements and related notes and that you have reviewed and approved the financial statements and related notes prior to their issuance and have accepted responsibility for them. In addition, you will be required to make certain representations regarding compliance with Florida Statute 218.415 in the management representation letter. Further, you agree to oversee the nonaudit services by designating an individual, preferably from senior management, who possesses suitable skill, knowledge, or experience; evaluate the adequacy and results of those services; and accept responsibility for them.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls, including evaluating and monitoring ongoing activities, to help ensure that appropriate goals and objectives are met; following laws and regulations; and ensuring that management is reliable and financial information is reliable and properly reported. Management is also responsible for implementing systems designed to achieve compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements. You are also responsible for the selection and application of accounting principles, for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and all accompanying information in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, and for compliance with applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements.

Management is also responsible for making all financial records and related information available to us and for the accuracy and completeness of that information. You are also responsible for providing us with (1) access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, (2) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit, and (3) unrestricted access to persons within the government from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

Your responsibilities include adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and for confirming to us in the written representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole. As part of our engagement, we may propose standard adjusting, or correcting journal entries to your financial statements. You are responsible for reviewing the entries and understanding the nature of the proposed entries and the impact they have on the financial statements.

You are responsible for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud, and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud affecting the government involving (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. Your responsibilities include informing us of your knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the government received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the government complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants and for taking timely and appropriate steps to remedy fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts or grant agreements, or abuse that we report.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining a process for tracking the status of audit findings and recommendations. Management is also responsible for identifying and providing report copies of previous financial audits, attestation engagements, performance audits or other studies related to the objectives discussed in the Audit Objectives section of this letter. This responsibility includes relaying to us corrective actions taken to address significant findings and recommendations resulting from those audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or other studies. You are also responsible for providing management's views on our current findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as your planned corrective actions, for the report, and for the timing and format for providing that information.

With regard to the electronic dissemination of audited financial statements, including financial statements published electronically on your website, you understand that electronic sites are a means to distribute information and, therefore, we are not required to read the information contained in these sites or to consider the consistency of other information in the electronic site with the original document.

Audit Procedures—General

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; therefore, our audit will involve judgment about the number of transactions to be examined and the areas to be tested. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable rather than absolute assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the government or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the government. Because the determination of abuse is subjective, *Government Auditing Standards* do not expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting abuse.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, combined with the inherent limitations of internal control, and because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, there is a risk that material misstatements may exist and not be detected by us, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*. In addition, an audit is not designed to detect immaterial misstatements or violations of laws or governmental regulations that do not have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

Our procedures will include tests of documentary evidence supporting the transactions recorded in the accounts, and may include tests of the physical existence of inventories, and direct confirmation of receivables and certain other assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected individuals, funding sources, creditors, and financial institutions. We will request written representations from your attorneys as part of the engagement, and they may bill you for responding to this inquiry. At the conclusion of our audit, we will require certain written representations from you about your responsibilities for the financial statements; compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements; and other responsibilities required by generally accepted auditing standards.

Audit Procedures—Internal Control

Our audit will include obtaining an understanding of the government and its environment, including internal control, sufficient to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and to design the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures. Tests of controls may be performed to test the effectiveness of certain controls that we consider relevant to preventing and detecting errors and fraud that are material to the financial statements and to preventing and detecting misstatements resulting from illegal acts and other noncompliance matters that have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. Our tests, if performed, will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on internal control and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. However, during the audit, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance internal control related matters that are required to be communicated under AICPA professional standards and *Government Auditing Standards*.

Audit Procedures—Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of the District's compliance with the provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants. However, the objective of our audit will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion in our report on compliance issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

Engagement Administration, Fees, and Other

We understand that your employees will prepare all cash or other confirmations we request and will locate any documents selected by us for testing.

Subject to applicable laws and regulations, audit documentation and appropriate individuals will be made available upon request and in a timely manner to a cognizant or oversight agency or its designee, a federal agency providing direct or indirect funding, or the U.S. Government Accountability Office for purposes of a quality review of the audit, to resolve audit findings, or to carry out oversight responsibilities. We will notify you of any such request. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of DiBartolomeo, McBee, Hartley & Barnes, P.A. personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to the aforementioned parties. These parties may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies or information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the parties acknowledge that various documents reviewed or produced during the conduct of the audit may be public records under Florida law.

We will complete the audit within prescribed statutory deadlines, with the understanding that your employees will provide information needed to perform the audit on a timely basis.

The audit documentation for this engagement will be retained for a minimum of five years after the report release date. If we are aware that a federal awarding agency or auditee is contesting an audit finding, we will contact the party(ies) contesting the audit finding for guidance prior to destroying the audit documentation.

Jim Hartley is the engagement partner and is responsible for supervising the engagement and signing the report or authorizing another individual to sign it. Our fees for these services are not to exceed \$3,400 for the year ending 2021, \$3,500 for the year ending 2022 and \$3,600 for the year ending 2023, respectively. The fee estimate is based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel and the assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered during the audit. If significant additional time is necessary or if additional Bonds are issued, we will discuss it with you and arrive at a new fee estimate before we incur the additional costs. Our invoices for these fees will be rendered each month as work progresses and are payable on presentation. If we elect to terminate our services for nonpayment, our engagement will be deemed to have been completed upon written notification of termination, even if we have not completed our report. You will be obligated to compensate us for all time expended and to reimburse us for all out-of-pocket expenditures through the date of termination.

Either party may unilaterally terminate this agreement, with or without cause, upon thirty (30) days written notice. Upon any termination of this Agreement, the District will pay all invoices for services rendered prior to the date of the notice of termination but subject to any offsets that the District may have. Pursuant to Section 218.391, Florida Statutes, all invoices for fees or other compensation must be submitted in sufficient detail to demonstrate compliance with the terms of this engagement.

We shall take all necessary steps to ensure that the audit is completed in a timely fashion so that the financial reports and audits may be approved by the District's Board of Supervisors within 180 days after the end of the fiscal year under review.

We agree and understand that Chapter 119, *Florida Statutes*, may be applicable to documents prepared in connection with the services provided hereunder and agree to cooperate with public record requests made there under. In connection with this Agreement, we agree to comply with all provisions of Florida's public records laws, including but not limited to Section 119.0701, *Florida Statutes*, the terms of which are incorporated herein. Among other requirements, we will:

- a. Keep and maintain public records required by the District to perform the service.
- b. Upon request from the District's custodian of public records, provide the District with a copy of the requested records or allow the records to be inspected or copied within a reasonable time at a cost that does not exceed the cost provided in Chapter 119, *Florida Statutes* or as otherwise provided by law.
- c. Ensure that public records that 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 completion of the Agreement if the auditor does not transfer the records to the District.
- d. Upon completion of this Agreement, transfer, at no cost, to the District all public records in possession of the auditor or keep and maintain public records required by the District to perform the service. If the auditor transfers all public records to the District upon completion of this Agreement, the auditor shall destroy any duplicate public records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from public records disclosure requirements. If the auditor keeps and maintains public records upon completion of the Agreement, the auditor shall meet all applicable requirements for retaining public records. All records stored electronically must be provided to the District, upon request from the District's custodian of public records, in a format that is compatible with the information technology systems of the District.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to Cascades at Groveland Community Development District and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of our engagement. If you have any questions, please let us know. If you agree with the terms of our engagement as described in this letter, please sign the enclosed copy and return it to us.

DiBartolomeo, McBee, Hartley & Barnes

DiBartolomeo, McBee, Hartley & Barnes, P.A.

RESPONSE:

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of Cascades at Groveland Community Development District.

By: *Patricia C. Tregune*

Title: *Tregune*

Date: *11/6/21*

EXHIBIT 3

CASCADES AT GROVELAND - AUDITOR EVALUATION

	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	Ability of Personnel 20 Pts.	Proposer Experience 20 Pts	Understanding Scope of Work 20 Pts	Ability to Furnish Required Service 20 Pts	Price 20 Points	TOTAL POINTS
Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank	\$3,285	\$3,285	\$3,285						
DiBartolomeo, McBee, Hartley & Barnes	\$3,800	\$3,950	\$4,100						
Grau & Associates	\$4,000	\$4,100	\$4,200						

EXHIBIT 4

**CASCADES AT GROVELAND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

PROPOSAL FOR AUDIT SERVICES

PROPOSED BY:

Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS, PL

600 Citrus Avenue, Suite 200
Fort Pierce, Florida 34950

(772) 461-6120

CONTACT PERSON:

J. W. Gaines, CPA, Director

DATE OF PROPOSAL:

February 7, 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>DESCRIPTION OF SECTION</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
A. Letter of Transmittal	1-2
B. Profile of the Proposer	
Description and History of Audit Firm	3
Professional Staff Resources	4-5
Ability to Furnish the Required Services	5
Arbitrage Rebate Services	6
A. Governmental Auditing Experience	7-16
B. Fee Schedule	17
C. Scope of Work to be Performed	17
D. Resumes	18-36
E. Peer Review Letter	37
Instructions to Proposers	38-40
Evaluation Criteria	41



Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank

Certified Public Accountants PL

600 Citrus Avenue
Suite 200
Fort Pierce, Florida 34950

772/461-6120 // 461-1155
FAX: 772/468-9278

February 7, 2024

Cascades at Groveland Community Development District
Vesta District Services
250 International Parkway, Suite 208
Lake Mary, FL 32746

Dear District Manager:

Thank you very much for the opportunity to present our professional credentials to provide audit services for Cascades at Groveland Community Development District.

Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank, Certified Public Accountants, PL has assembled a team of governmental and nonprofit specialists second to none to serve our clients. Our firm has the necessary qualifications and experience to serve as the independent auditors for Cascades at Groveland Community Development District. We will provide you with top quality, responsive service.

Experience

Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank, Certified Public Accountants, PL is a recognized leader in providing services to governmental and nonprofit agencies throughout Florida. We have been the independent auditors for a number of local governmental agencies and through our experience in performing their audits, we have been able to increase our audit efficiency and; therefore, reduce costs. We have continually passed this cost savings on to our clients and will continue to do so in the future. As a result of our experience and expertise, we have developed an effective and efficient audit approach designed to meet or exceed the performance specifications in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the standards for financial and compliance audits. We will conduct the audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; "Government Auditing Standards" issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; the provisions of the Single Audit Act, Subpart F of Title 2 US Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*, with minimal disruption to your operations. Our firm has frequent technical updates to keep our personnel informed and up-to-date on all changes that are occurring within the industry.

Fort Pierce / Stuart

Member AICPA

- 1 -
Member AICPA Division for CPA Firms
Private Companies practice Section

Member FICPA

Cascades at Groveland Community Development District
February 7, 2024

Our firm is a member of the Government Audit Quality Center, an organization dedicated to improving government audit quality. We also utilize the audit program software of a nationally recognized CPA firm to assure us that we are up to date with all auditing standards and to assist us maintain maximum audit efficiencies.

To facilitate your evaluation of our qualifications and experience, we have arranged this proposal to include a resume of our firm, including our available staff, our extensive prior governmental and nonprofit auditing experience and clients to be contacted.

You need a firm that will provide an efficient, cost-effective, high-quality audit within critical time constraints. You need a firm with the prerequisite governmental and nonprofit experience to perform your audit according to stringent legal and regulatory requirements, a firm that understands the complex nature of community development districts and their unique compliance requirements. You need a firm with recognized governmental and nonprofit specialists within the finance and governmental communities. And, certainly, you need a firm that will provide you with valuable feedback to enhance your current and future operations. Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank, Certified Public Accountants, PL is that firm. J. W. Gaines is the person authorized to make representations for the firm.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit this proposal to Cascades at Groveland Community Development District.

Very truly yours,

*Berger Toombs Elam
Gaines + Frank*

Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank
Certified Public Accountants PL
Fort Pierce, Florida

PROFILE OF THE PROPOSER

Description and History of Audit Firm

Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank, Certified Public Accountants, PL is a Treasure Coast public accounting firm, which qualifies as a small business firm, as established by the Small Business Administration (13 CFR 121.38), with offices in Fort Pierce and Stuart. We are a member of the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The firm was formed from the merger of Edwards, Berger, Harris & Company (originated in 1972) and McAlpin, Curtis & Associates (originated in 1949). J. W. Gaines and Associates (originated in 1979) merged with the firm in 2004. Our tremendous growth rate experienced over the last 69 years is directly attributable to the firm's unrelenting dedication to providing the highest quality, responsive professional services attainable to its clients.

We are a member of the Private Companies Practice Section (PCPS) of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) to assure we meet the highest standards. Membership in this practice section requires that our firm meet more stringent standards than standard AICPA membership. These rigorous requirements include the requirement of a triennial peer review of our firm's auditing and accounting practice and annual Continuing Professional Education (CPE) for all accounting staff (whether CPA or non-CPA). For standard AICPA membership, only a quality review is required and only CPAs must meet CPE requirements.

We are also a member of the Government Audit Quality Center ("the Center") of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants to assure the quality of our government audits. Membership in the Center, which is voluntary, requires our firm to comply with additional standards to promote the quality of government audits.

We have been extensively involved in serving local government entities with professional accounting, auditing and consulting services throughout the entire 69 year history of our firm. Our substantial experience over the years makes us uniquely qualified to provide accounting, auditing, and consulting services to these clients. We are a recognized leader in providing services to governmental and nonprofit agencies on the Treasure Coast and in Central and South Florida, with extensive experience in auditing community development districts and water control districts. We were the independent auditors of the City of Fort Pierce for over 37 years and currently, we are the independent auditors for St. Lucie County since 2002, and for 34 of the 38 years that the county has been audited by CPA firms. Additionally, we have performed audits of the City of Stuart, the City of Vero Beach, Indian River County and Martin County. We also presently audit over 75 Community Development Districts throughout Florida.

Our firm was founded on the belief that we are better able to respond to our clients needs through education, experience, independence, quality control, and personal service. Our firm's commitment to quality is reflected in our endeavor of professional excellence via continuing education, the use of the latest computer technology, professional membership in PCPS and peer review.

We believe our approach to audit engagements, intelligence and innovation teamed with sound professional judgment enables us to explore new concepts while remaining sensitive to the fundamental need for practical solutions. We take pride in giving you the assurance that the personal assistance you receive comes from years of advanced training, technical experience and financial acumen.

Professional Staff Resources

Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank, Certified Public Accountants, PL has a total of 27 professional and administrative staff (including 12 professional staff with extensive experience servicing government entities). The work will be performed out of our Fort Pierce office with a proposed staff of one senior accountant and one or two staff accountants supervised by an audit manager and audit partner. With the exception of the directors of the firm's offices, the professional staff is not specifically assigned to any of our individual offices. The professional and administrative staff resources available to you through Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank, Certified Public Accountants, PL are as follows:

	<u>Total</u>
Partners/Directors (CPA's)	6
Managers (2 CPA's)	2
Senior/Supervisor Accountants (3 CPA's)	3
Staff Accountants (2 CPA)	11
Computer Specialist	1
Paraprofessional	7
Administrative	<u>5</u>
Total – all personnel	35

Following is a brief description of each employee classification:

Staff Accountant – Staff accountants work directly under the constant supervision of the auditor-in-charge and, are responsible for the various testing of documents, account analysis and any other duties as his/her supervisor believes appropriate. Minimum qualification for a staff accountant is graduation from an accredited university or college with a degree in accounting or equivalent.

Senior Accountant – A senior accountant must possess all the qualifications of the staff accountant, in addition to being able to draft the necessary reports and financial statements, and supervise other staff accountants when necessary.

Managers – A manager must possess the qualifications of the senior accountant, plus be able to work without extensive supervision from the auditor-in-charge. The manager should be able to draft audit reports from start to finish and to supervise the audit team, if necessary.

Principal – A principal is a partner/director in training. He has been a manager for several years and possesses the technical skills to act as the auditor-in-charge. A principal has no financial interest in the firm.

Partner/Director – The director has extensive governmental auditing experience and acts as the auditor-in-charge. Directors have a financial interest in the firm.

Professional Staff Resources (Continued)

Independence – Independence of the public accounting firm, with respect to the audit client, is the foundation from which the public gains its trust in the opinion issued by the public accounting firm at the end of the audit process. This independence must be in appearance as well as in fact. The public must perceive that the accounting firm is independent of the audit entity to ensure that nothing would compromise the opinion issued by the public accounting firm. **Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank, Certified Public Accountants, PL** is independent of Cascades at Groveland Community Development District, including its elected officials and related parties, at the date of this proposal, as defined by the following rules, regulations, and standards:

AuSection 220 – Statements on Auditing Standards issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants;

ET Sections 101 and 102 – Code of Professional Conduct of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants;

Chapter 21A-1, Florida Administrative Code;

Section 473.315, Florida Statutes; and,

Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

On an annual basis, all members of the firm are required to confirm, in writing, that they have no personal or financial relationships or holding that would impair their independence with regard to the firm's clients.

Independence is a hallmark of our profession. We encourage our staff to use professional judgment in situations where our independence could be impaired or the perception of a conflict of interest might exist. In the governmental sector, public perception is as important as professional standards. Therefore, the utmost care must be exercised by independent auditors in the performance of their duties.

Ability to Furnish the Required Services

As previously noted in the Profile of the Proposer section of this document, our firm has been in existence for over 74 years. We have provided audit services to some clients for over 30 years continually. Our firm is insured against physical loss through commercial insurance and we also carry liability insurance. The majority of our audit documentation is stored electronically, both on our office network and on each employee laptop or computer assigned to each specific job. Our office computer network is backed up on tape, so in the event of a total equipment loss, we can restore all data as soon as replacement equipment is acquired. In addition, our field laptop computers carry the same data and can be used in the event of emergency with virtually no delay in completing the required services.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES PROVIDED

Arbitrage Rebate Services

Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank, Certified Public Accountants, PL also provides arbitrage rebate compliance and related services to governmental issuers. The Tax Reform Act of 1986 requires issuers of most tax-exempt obligations to pay (i.e., “rebate”) to the United States government any arbitrage profits. Arbitrage profits are earnings on the investment of bond proceeds and certain other monies in excess of what would have been earned had such monies been invested at a yield equal to the yield on the bonds.

Federal tax law requires that interim rebate calculations and payments are due at the end of every fifth bond year. Final payment is required upon redemption of the bonds. More frequent calculations may be deemed advisable by an issuer’s auditor, trustee or bond counsel or to assure that accurate and current records are available. These more frequent requirements are usually contained in the Arbitrage or Rebate Certificate with respect to the bonds.

Our firm performs a comprehensive rebate analysis and includes the following:

- Verifying that the issue is subject to rebate;
- Calculating the bond yield;
- Identifying, and separately accounting for, all “Gross Proceeds” (as that term is defined in the Code) of the bond issue, including those requiring analysis due to “transferred proceeds” and/or “commingled funds” circumstances;
- Determining what general and/or elective options are available to Gross proceeds of the issue;
- Calculating the issue’s excess investment earning (rebate liability), if any;
- Delivering appropriate documentation to support all calculations;
- Providing an executive summary identifying the methodology employed, major assumptions, conclusions, and any other recommendations for changes in recordkeeping and investment policies;
- Assisting as necessary in the event of an Internal Revenue Service inquiry; and,
- Consulting with issue staff, as necessary, regarding arbitrage related matters.

GOVERNMENTAL AUDITING EXPERIENCE

Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank, Certified Public Accountants, PL has been practicing public accounting in Florida for 69 years. Our success over the years has been the result of a strong commitment to providing personalized quality service to our clients.

The current members of our firm have performed audits of over 1,100 community development districts, and over 2,100 audits of municipalities, counties and other governmental entities such as the City of Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County.

Our firm provides a variety of accounting, auditing, tax litigation support, and consulting services. Some of the professional accounting, auditing and management consulting services that are provided by our firm are listed below:

- Performance of annual financial and compliance audits, including Single Audits of state and federal financial assistance programs, under the provisions of the Single Audit Act, Subpart F of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance), with minimal disruptions to your operations;
- Performance of special compliance audits to ascertain compliance with the applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations;
- Issuance of comfort letters and consent letters in conjunction with the issuance of tax-exempt debt obligations, including compiling financial data and interim period financial statement reviews;
- Calculation of estimated and actual federal arbitrage rebates;
- Assistance in compiling historical financial data for first-time and supplemental submissions for GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting;
- Preparation of indirect cost allocation systems in accordance with Federal and State regulatory requirements;
- Providing human resource and employee benefit consulting;
- Performance of automation feasibility studies and disaster recovery plans;
- Performance feasibility studies concerning major fixed asset acquisitions and utility plant expansion plans (including electric, water, pollution control, and sanitation utilities); and
- Assistance in litigation, including testimony in civil and criminal court.
- Assist clients who utilize QuickBooks software with their software needs. Our Certified QuickBooks Advisor has undergone extensive training through QuickBooks and has passed several exams to attain this Certification.

Continuing Professional Education

All members of the governmental audit staff of our firm, and audit team members assigned to this engagement, are in compliance with the Continuing Professional Education (CPE) requirements set forth in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. In addition, our firm is in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Florida Statutes that require CPA's to have met certain CPE requirements prior to proposing on governmental audit engagements.

GOVERNMENTAL AUDITING EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

The audit team has extensive experience in performing governmental audits and is exposed to intensive and continuing concentration on these types of audits. Due to the total number of governmental audits our team performs, each member of our governmental staff must understand and be able to perform several types of governmental audits. It is our objective to provide each professional employee fifty hours or more of comprehensive continuing professional education each year. This is accomplished through attending seminars throughout Florida and is reinforced through in-house training.

Our firm has made a steadfast commitment to professional education. Our active attendance and participation in continuing professional education is a major part of our objective to obtain the most recent knowledge on issues which are of importance to our clients. We are growing on the reputation for work that our firm is providing today.

Quality Control Program

Quality control requires continuing commitment to professional excellence. **Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank, Certified Public Accountants, PL** is formally dedicated to that commitment.

To ensure maintaining the standards of working excellence required by our firm, we joined the Private Companies Practice Section (PCPS) of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). To be a participating member firm of this practice section, a firm must obtain an independent Peer Review of its quality control policies and procedures to ascertain the firm's compliance with existing auditing standards on the applicable engagements.

The scope of the Peer Review is comprehensive in that it specifically reviews the following quality control policies and procedures of the participating firm:

- Professional, economic, and administrative independence;
- Assignment of professional personnel to engagements;
- Consultation on technical matters;
- Supervision of engagement personnel;
- Hiring and employment of personnel;
- Professional development;
- Advancement;
- Acceptance and continuation of clients; and,
- Inspection and review system.

We believe that our commitment to the program is rewarding not only to our firm, but primarily to our clients.

The external independent Peer Review of the elements of our quality control policies and procedures performed by an independent certified public accountant, approved by the PCPS of the AICPA, provides you with the assurance that we continue to conform to standards of the profession in the conduct of our accounting and auditing practice.

GOVERNMENTAL AUDITING EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

Our firm is also a member of Governmental Audit Quality Center (GAQC), a voluntary membership center for CPA firms that perform governmental audits. This center promotes the quality of governmental audits.

Our firm has completed successive Peer Reviews. These reviews included a representative sample of our firm's local governmental auditing engagements. As a result of these reviews, our firm obtained an unqualified opinion on our quality control program and work procedures. On page 31 is a copy of our most recent Peer Review report. It should be noted that we received a pass rating.

Our firm has never had any disciplinary actions by state regulatory bodies or professional organizations.

As our firm performs approximately one hundred audits each year that are reviewed by federal, state or local entities, we are constantly dealing with questions from these entities about our audits. We are pleased to say that any questions that have been raised were minor issues and were easily resolved without re-issuing any reports.

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (CAFR)

We are proud and honored to have been involved with the City of Fort Pierce and the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority when they received their first Certificates of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the fiscal years ended September 30, 1988 and 1994, respectively. We were also instrumental in the City of Stuart receiving the award, in our first year of performing their audit, for the year ended September 30, 1999.

We also assisted St. Lucie County, Florida for the year ended September 30, 2003, in preparing their first Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, and St. Lucie County has received their Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting every year since.

As continued commitment to insuring that we are providing the highest level of experience, we have had at least one employee of our firm serve on the GFOA – Special Review Committee since the mid-1980s. This committee is made up of selective Certified Public Accountants throughout the United States who have demonstrated their high level of knowledge and expertise in governmental accounting. Each committee member attends a special review meeting at the Annual GFOA Conference. At this meeting, the committee reports on the Certificate of Achievement Program's most recent results, future goals, and common reporting deficiencies.

We feel that our previous experience in assisting the City of Fort Pierce, the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority and St. Lucie County obtain their first CAFRs, and the City of Stuart in continuing to receive a CAFR and our firm's continued involvement with the GFOA, and the CAFR review committee make us a valued asset for any client in the field of governmental financial reporting.

GOVERNMENTAL AUDIT EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

References

Terracina Community Development
District
Jeff Walker, Special District Services
(561) 630-4922

Gateway Community Development
District
Stephen Bloom, Severn Trent Management
(954) 753-5841

The Reserve Community Development District

Darrin Mossing, Governmental Management
Services LLC
(407) 841-5524

Clearwater Cay Community Development
District
Cal Teague, Premier District Management

(239) 690-7100 ext 101

In addition to the above, we have the following additional governmental audit experience:

Community Development Districts

Aberdeen Community Development
District

Beacon Lakes Community
Development District

Alta Lakes Community Development
District

Beaumont Community Development
District

Amelia Concourse Community
Development District

Bella Collina Community Development
District

Amelia Walk Community
Development District

Bonnet Creek Community
Development District

Aqua One Community Development
District

Buckeye Park Community
Development District

Arborwood Community Development
District

Candler Hills East Community
Development District

Arlington Ridge Community
Development District

Cedar Hammock Community
Development District

Bartram Springs Community
Development District

Central Lake Community
Development District

Baytree Community Development
District

Channing Park Community
Development District

GOVERNMENTAL AUDIT EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

Cheval West Community Development District	Evergreen Community Development District
Coconut Cay Community Development District	Forest Brooke Community Development District
Colonial Country Club Community Development District	Gateway Services Community Development District
Connerton West Community Development District	Gramercy Farms Community Development District
Copperstone Community Development District	Greenway Improvement District
Creekside @ Twin Creeks Community Development District	Greyhawk Landing Community Development District
Deer Run Community Development District	Griffin Lakes Community Development District
Dowden West Community Development District	Habitat Community Development District
DP1 Community Development District	Harbor Bay Community Development District
Eagle Point Community Development District	Harbourage at Braden River Community Development District
East Nassau Stewardship District	Harmony Community Development District
Eastlake Oaks Community Development District	Harmony West Community Development District
Easton Park Community Development District	Harrison Ranch Community Development District
Estancia @ Wiregrass Community Development District	Hawkstone Community Development District

GOVERNMENTAL AUDIT EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

Heritage Harbor Community Development District	Madeira Community Development District
Heritage Isles Community Development District	Marhsall Creek Community Development District
Heritage Lake Park Community Development District	Meadow Pointe IV Community Development District
Heritage Landing Community Development District	Meadow View at Twin Creek Community Development District
Heritage Palms Community Development District	Mediterra North Community Development District
Heron Isles Community Development District	Midtown Miami Community Development District
Heron Isles Community Development District	Mira Lago West Community Development District
Highland Meadows II Community Development District	Montecito Community Development District
Julington Creek Community Development District	Narcoossee Community Development District
Laguna Lakes Community Development District	Naturewalk Community Development District
Lake Bernadette Community Development District	New Port Tampa Bay Community Development District
Lakeside Plantation Community Development District	Overoaks Community Development District
Landings at Miami Community Development District	Panther Trace II Community Development District
Legends Bay Community Development District	Paseo Community Development District
Lexington Oaks Community Development District	Pine Ridge Plantation Community Development District
Live Oak No. 2 Community Development District	Piney Z Community Development District

GOVERNMENTAL AUDIT EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

Poinciana Community Development District	Sampson Creek Community Development District
Poinciana West Community Development District	San Simeon Community Development District
Port of the Islands Community Development District	Six Mile Creek Community Development District
Portofino Isles Community Development District	South Village Community Development District
Quarry Community Development District	Southern Hills Plantation I Community Development District
Renaissance Commons Community Development District	Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District
Reserve Community Development District	South Fork Community Development District
Reserve #2 Community Development District	St. John's Forest Community Development District
River Glen Community Development District	Stoneybrook South Community Development District
River Hall Community Development District	Stoneybrook South at ChampionsGate Community Development District
River Place on the St. Lucie Community Development District	Stoneybrook West Community Development District
Rivers Edge Community Development District	Tern Bay Community Development District
Riverwood Community Development District	Terracina Community Development District
Riverwood Estates Community Development District	Tison's Landing Community Development District
Rolling Hills Community Development District	TPOST Community Development District
Rolling Oaks Community Development District	

GOVERNMENTAL AUDIT EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

Triple Creek Community
Development District

Vizcaya in Kendall
Development District

TSR Community Development
District

Waterset North Community
Development District

Turnbull Creek Community
Development District

Westside Community Development
District

Twin Creeks North Community
Development District

WildBlue Community Development
District

Urban Orlando Community
Development District

Willow Creek Community
Development District

Verano #2 Community
Development District

Willow Hammock Community
Development District

Viera East Community
Development District

Winston Trails Community
Development District

VillaMar Community
Development District

Zephyr Ridge Community
Development District

GOVERNMENTAL AUDIT EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

Other Governmental Organizations

City of Westlake	Office of the Medical Examiner, District 19
Florida Inland Navigation District	Rupert J. Smith Law Library of St. Lucie County
Fort Pierce Farms Water Control District	St. Lucie Education Foundation
Indian River Regional Crime Laboratory, District 19, Florida	Seminole Improvement District
Viera Stewardship District	Troup Indiantown Water Control District

Current or Recent Single Audits.

St. Lucie County, Florida
Early Learning Coalition, Inc.
Gateway Services Community Development District.

Members of our audit team have acquired extensive experience from performing or participating in over 1,800 audits of governments, independent special taxing districts, school boards, and other agencies that receive public money and utilize fund accounting.

Much of our firm's auditing experience is with compliance auditing, which is required for publicly financed agencies. In this type of audit, we do a financial examination and also confirm compliance with various statutory and regulatory guidelines.

Following is a summary of our other experience, including Auditor General experience, as it pertains to other governmental and fund accounting audits.

Counties

(Includes elected constitutional officers, utilities and dependent taxing districts)

Indian River
Martin
Okeechobee
Palm Beach

Municipalities

City of Port St. Lucie
City of Vero Beach
Town of Orchid

GOVERNMENTAL AUDIT EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

Special Districts

Bannon Lakes Community Development District
Boggy Creek Community Development District
Capron Trail Community Development District
Celebration Pointe Community Development District
Coquina Water Control District
Diamond Hill Community Development District
Dovera Community Development District
Durbin Crossing Community Development District
Golden Lakes Community Development District
Lakewood Ranch Community Development District
Martin Soil and Water Conservation District
Meadow Pointe III Community Development District
Myrtle Creek Community Development District
St. Lucie County – Fort Pierce Fire District
The Crossings at Fleming Island
St. Lucie West Services District
Indian River County Mosquito Control District
St. John's Water Control District
Westchase and Westchase East Community Development Districts
Pier Park Community Development District
Verandahs Community Development District
Magnolia Park Community Development District

Schools and Colleges

Federal Student Aid Programs – Indian River Community College
Indian River Community College
Okeechobee County District School Board
St. Lucie County District School Board

State and County Agencies

Central Florida Foreign-Trade Zone, Inc. (a nonprofit organization affiliated with the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners)
Florida School for Boys at Okeechobee
Indian River Community College Crime Laboratory
Indian River Correctional Institution

FEE SCHEDULE

We propose the fee for our audit services described below to be \$3,285 for the years ended September 30, 2024, 2025, and 2026. The fee is contingent upon the financial records and accounting systems of Cascades at Groveland Community Development District being “audit ready” and the financial activity for the District is not materially increased. If we discover that additional preparation work or subsidiary schedules are needed, we will consult with your authorized representative. We can assist with this additional work at our standard rates should you desire.

SCOPE OF WORK TO BE PERFORMED

If selected as the District's auditors, we will perform a financial and compliance audit in accordance with Section 11.45, Florida Statutes, in order to express an opinion on an annual basis on the financial statements of Cascades at Groveland Community Development District as of September 30, 2024, 2025, and 2026. The audits will be performed to the extent necessary to express an opinion on the fairness in all material respects with which the financial statements present the financial position, results of operations and changes in financial position in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles and to determine whether, for selected transactions, operations are properly conducted in accordance with legal and regulatory requirements. Reportable conditions that are also material weaknesses shall be identified as such in the Auditors' Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters. Other (non-reportable) conditions discovered during the course of the audit will be reported in a separate letter to management, which will be referred to in the Auditors' Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters.

Our audit will be performed in accordance with standards for financial and compliance audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, as well as in compliance with rules and regulations of audits of special districts as set forth by the State Auditor General in Chapter 10.550, Local Governmental Entity Audits, and other relevant federal, state and county orders, statutes, ordinances, charter, resolutions, bond covenants, Administrative Code and procedures, or rules and regulations which may pertain to the work required in the engagement.

The primary purpose of our audit will be to express an opinion on the financial statements discussed above. It should be noted that such audits are subject to the inherent risk that errors or irregularities may not be detected. However, if conditions are discovered which lead to the belief that material errors, defalcations or other irregularities may exist or if other circumstances are encountered that require extended services, we will promptly notify the appropriate individual.

Commitment to Quality Service

Personnel Qualifications and Experience

J. W. Gaines, CPA, CITP

Director – 44 years

Education

- ◆ Stetson University, B.B.A. – Accounting

Registrations

- ◆ Certified Public Accountant – State of Florida, State Board of Accountancy
- ◆ Certified Information Technology Professional (CITP) – American Institute of Certified Public Accountants

Professional Affiliations/Community Service

- ◆ Member of the American and Florida Institutes of Certified Public Accountants
- ◆ Affiliate member Government Finance Officers Association
- ◆ Past President, Vice President-Campaign Chairman, Vice President and Board Member of United Way of St. Lucie County, 1989 - 1994
- ◆ Past President, President Elect, Secretary and Treasurer of the Treasure Coast Chapter of the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants, 1988 - 1991
- ◆ Past President of Ft. Pierce Kiwanis Club, 1994 - 95, Member/Board Member since 1982
- ◆ Past President, Vice President and Treasurer of St. Lucie County Chapter of the American Cancer Society, 1980 -1986
- ◆ Member of the St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce, Member Board of Directors, Treasurer, September 2002 - 2006, Chairman Elect 2007, Chairman 2008, Past Chairman 2009
- ◆ Member Lawnwood Regional Medical Center Board of Trustees, 2000 – Present, Chairman 2013 - Present
- ◆ Member of St. Lucie County Citizens Budget Committee, 2001 – 2002
- ◆ Member of Ft. Pierce Citizens Budget Advisory Committee, 2010 – 2011
- ◆ Member of Ft. Pierce Civil Service Appeals Board, 2013 - Present

Professional Experience

- ◆ Miles Grant Development/Country Club – Stuart, Florida, July 1975 – October 1976
- ◆ State Auditor General's Office – Public Accounts Auditor – November 1976 through September 1979
- ◆ Director - Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank, Certified Public Accountants PL, responsible for numerous government and nonprofit audits.
- ◆ Over 40 years experience in all phases of public accounting and auditing experience, with a concentration in financial and compliance audits. Mr. Gaines has been involved in all phases of the audits listed on the preceding pages.

Commitment to Quality Service

Personnel Qualifications and Experience

J. W. Gaines, CPA, CITP (Continued)

Director

Continuing Professional Education

- ◆ Has participated in numerous continuing professional education courses provided by nationally recognized sponsors over the last two years to keep abreast of the latest developments in accounting and auditing such as:
 - Governmental Accounting Report and Audit Update
 - Analytical Procedures, FICPA
 - Annual Update for Accountants and Auditors
 - Single Audit Sampling and Other Considerations

Commitment to Quality Service

Personnel Qualifications and Experience

David S. McGuire, CPA, CITP

Director – 36 years experience

Education

- ◆ University of Central Florida, B.A. – Accounting
- ◆ Barry University – Master of Professional Accountancy

Registrations

- ◆ Certified Public Accountant – State of Florida, State Board of Accountancy
- ◆ Certified Information Technology Professional (CITP) – American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
- ◆ Certified Not-For-Profit Core Concepts 2018

Professional Affiliations/Community Service

- ◆ Member of the American and Florida Institutes of Certified Public Accountants
- ◆ Associate Member, Florida Government Finance Office Associates
- ◆ Assistant Coach – St. Lucie County Youth Football Organization (1994 – 2005)
- ◆ Assistant Coach – Greater Port St. Lucie Football League, Inc. (2006 – 2010)
- ◆ Board Member – Greater Port St. Lucie Football League, Inc. (2011 – 2017)
- ◆ Treasurer, AIDS Research and Treatment Center of the Treasure Coast, Inc. (2000 – 2003)
- ◆ Board Member/Treasurer, North Treasure Coast Chapter, American Red Cross (2004 – 2010)
- ◆ Member/Board Member of Port St. Lucie Kiwanis (1994 – 2001)
- ◆ President (2014/15) of Sunrise Kiwanis of Fort Pierce (2004 – 2017)
- ◆ St. Lucie District School Board Superintendent Search Committee (2013 – present)
- ◆ Board Member – Phrozen Pharoes (2019-2021)

Professional Experience

- ◆ Twenty-eight years public accounting experience with an emphasis on nonprofit and governmental organizations.
- ◆ Audit Manager in-charge on a variety of audit and review engagements within several industries, including the following government and nonprofit organizations:
 - St. Lucie County, Florida
 - 19th Circuit Office of Medical Examiner
 - Troup Indiantown Water Control District
 - Exchange Club Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse, Inc.
 - Healthy Kids of St. Lucie County
 - Mustard Seed Ministries of Ft. Pierce, Inc.
 - Reaching Our Community Kids, Inc.
 - Reaching Our Community Kids - South
 - St. Lucie County Education Foundation, Inc.
 - Treasure Coast Food Bank, Inc.
 - North Springs Improvement District
- ◆ Four years of service in the United States Air Force in computer operations, with a top secret (SCI/SBI) security clearance.

Commitment to Quality Service

Personnel Qualifications and Experience

David S. McGuire, CPA, CITP (Continued)

Director

Continuing Professional Education

- ◆ Mr. McGuire has attended numerous continuing professional education courses and seminars taught by nationally recognized sponsors in the accounting auditing and single audit compliance areas. He has attended courses over the last two years in those areas as follows:

- Not-for-Profit Auditing Financial Results and Compliance Requirements

- Update: Government Accounting Reporting and Auditing

- Annual Update for Accountants and Auditors

Commitment to Quality Service

Personnel Qualifications and Experience

Matthew Gonano, CPA

Director – 13 years total experience

Education

- ◆ University of North Florida, B.B.A. – Accounting
- ◆ University of Alicante, Spain – International Business
- ◆ Florida Atlantic University – Masters of Accounting

Professional Affiliations/Community Service

- ◆ American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
- ◆ Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants

Professional Experience

- ◆ Senior Accountant with Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines, & Frank providing professional services to nonprofit and governmental entities.
- ◆ Performed audits of nonprofit and governmental organizations in accordance with Governmental Accounting Auditing Standards (GAAS)
- ◆ Performed Single Audits of nonprofit organizations in accordance with OMB Circular A-133, Audits of State, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations.

Continuing Professional Education

- ◆ Mr. Gonano has participated in numerous continuing professional education courses.

Commitment to Quality Service

Personnel Qualifications and Experience

David F. Haughton, CPA

Accounting and Audit Manager – 33 years

Education

- ◆ Stetson University, B.B.A. – Accounting

Registrations

- ◆ Certified Public Accountant – State of Florida, State Board of Accountancy

Professional Affiliations/Community Service

- ◆ Member of the American and Florida Institutes of Certified Public Accountants
- ◆ Former Member of Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants Committee on State and Local Government
- ◆ Affiliate Member Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for over 10 years
- ◆ Affiliate Member Florida Government Finance Officers Association (FGFOA) for over 10 years
- ◆ Technical Review – 1997 FICPA Course on State and Local Governments in Florida
- ◆ Board of Directors – Kiwanis of Ft. Pierce, Treasurer – 1994-1999; Vice President – 1999-2001

Professional Experience

- ◆ Twenty-seven years public accounting experience with an emphasis on governmental and nonprofit organizations.
- ◆ State Auditor General's Office – West Palm Beach, Staff Auditor, June 1985 to September 1985
- ◆ Accounting and Audit Manager of Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank, Certified Public Accountants PL, responsible for audit and accounting services including governmental and not-for-profit audits.
- ◆ Over 20 years of public accounting and governmental experience, specializing in governmental and nonprofit organizations with concentration in special districts, including Community Development Districts which provide services including water and sewer utilities. Governmental and non-profit entities served include the following:

Counties:

St. Lucie County

Municipalities:

City of Fort Pierce

City of Stuart

Commitment to Quality Service

Personnel Qualifications and Experience

David F. Haughton, CPA (Continued)
Accounting and Audit Manager

Professional Experience (Continued)

Special Districts:

- Bluewaters Community Development District
- Country Club of Mount Dora Community Development District
- Fiddler’s Creek Community Development District #1 and #2
- Indigo Community Development District
- North Springs Improvement District
- Renaissance Commons Community Development District
- St. Lucie West Services District
- Stoneybrook Community Development District
- Summerville Community Development District
- Terracina Community Development District
- Thousand Oaks Community Development District
- Tree Island Estates Community Development District
- Valencia Acres Community Development District

Non-Profits:

- The Dunbar Center, Inc.
- Hibiscus Children’s Foundation, Inc.
- Hope Rural School, Inc.
- Maritime and Yachting Museum of Florida, Inc.
- Tykes and Teens, Inc.
- United Way of Martin County, Inc.
- Workforce Development Board of the Treasure Coast, Inc.

- ◆ While with the Auditor General’s Office he was on the staff for the state audits of the Martin County School District and Okeechobee County School District.
- ◆ During 1997 he performed a technical review of the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants state CPE course on Audits of State and Local Governments in Florida. His comments were well received by the author and were utilized in future updates to the course.

Continuing Professional Education

- ◆ During the past several years, he has participated in numerous professional development training programs sponsored by the AICPA and FICPA, including state conferences on special districts and governmental auditing in Florida. He averages in excess of 100 hours bi-annually of advanced training which exceeds the 80 hours required in accordance with the continuing professional education requirements of the Florida State Board of accountancy and the AICPA Private Companies Practice Section. He has over 75 hours of governmental CPE credit within the past two years.

Commitment to Quality Service

Personnel Qualifications and Experience

Paul Daly

Staff Accountant – 11 years

Education

- ◆ Florida Atlantic University, B.S. – Accounting

Professional Experience

- ◆ Staff Accountant with Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines, & Frank providing professional services to nonprofit and governmental entities.

Continuing Professional Education

- ◆ Working to attain the requirements to take the Certified Public Accounting (CPA) exam.

Commitment to Quality Service

Personnel Qualifications and Experience

Melissa Marlin, CPA

Senior Staff Accountant – 9 years

Education

- ◆ Indian River State College, A.A. – Accounting
- ◆ Florida Atlantic University, B.B.A. – Accounting

Professional Experience

- ◆ Staff accountant with Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines, & Frank providing professional services to nonprofit and governmental entities.

Continuing Professional Education

- ◆ Mrs. Marlin participates in numerous continuing professional education courses provided by nationally recognized sponsors to keep abreast of the latest developments.

Commitment to Quality Service

Personnel Qualifications and Experience

Bryan Snyder

Staff Accountant – 8 years

Education

- ◆ Florida Atlantic University, B.B.A. – Accounting

Professional Experience

- ◆ Accountant beginning his professional auditing career with Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines, & Frank.
- ◆ Mr. Snyder is gaining experience auditing governmental & nonprofit entities.

Continuing Professional Education

- ◆ Mr. Snyder participates in numerous continuing education courses and plans on working to acquire his CPA certificate.
- ◆ Mr. Snyder is currently studying to pass the CPA exam.

Commitment to Quality Service

Personnel Qualifications and Experience

Maritza Stonebraker, CPA
Senior Accountant – 7 years

Education

- ◆ Indian River State College, B.S. – Accounting

Professional Experience

- ◆ Staff Accountant beginning her professional auditing career with Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines, & Frank.

Continuing Professional Education

- ◆ Mrs. Stonebraker participates in numerous continuing professional education courses provided by nationally recognized sponsors to keep abreast of the latest developments.

Commitment to Quality Service

Personnel Qualifications and Experience

Jonathan Herman, CPA

Senior Staff Accountant – 9 years

Education

- ◆ University of Central Florida, B.S. – Accounting
- ◆ Florida Atlantic University, MACC

Professional Experience

- ◆ Accounting graduate with nine years experience with Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines, & Frank providing professional services to nonprofit and governmental entities.

Continuing Professional Education

- ◆ Mr. Herman participates in numerous continuing professional education courses provided by nationally recognized sponsors to keep abreast of the latest developments.

Commitment to Quality Service

Personnel Qualifications and Experience

Sean Stanton, CPA

Staff Accountant – 5 years

Education

- ◆ University of South Florida, B.S. – Accounting
- ◆ Florida Atlantic University, M.B.A. – Accounting

Professional Experience

- ◆ Staff accountant with Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines, & Frank auditing governmental and non-profit entities.

Continuing Professional Education

- ◆ Mr. Stanton participates in numerous continuing professional education courses provided by nationally recognized sponsors to keep abreast of the latest developments.

Commitment to Quality Service

Personnel Qualifications and Experience

Tifanee Terrell

Staff Accountant – 3 years

Education

- ◆ Florida Atlantic University, M.A.C.C. – Accounting

Professional Experience

- ◆ Staff Accountant with Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines, & Frank providing professional services to nonprofit and governmental entities.

Continuing Professional Education

- ◆ Ms. Terrell participates in numerous continuing professional education courses provided by nationally recognized sponsors to keep abreast of the latest developments.
- ◆ Ms. Terrell is currently studying to pass the CPA exam.

Commitment to Quality Service

Personnel Qualifications and Experience

Dylan Dixon

Staff Accountant – 1 year

Education

- ◆ Indian River State College, B.S. – Accounting

Professional Experience

- ◆ Staff Accountant with Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines, & Frank providing professional services to nonprofit and governmental entities.

Continuing Professional Education

- ◆ Mr. Dixon participates in numerous continuing professional education courses provided by nationally recognized sponsors to keep abreast of the latest developments.

Commitment to Quality Service

Personnel Qualifications and Experience

Brennen Moore

Staff Accountant

Education

- ◆ Indian River State College, B.S. – Accounting

Professional Experience

- ◆ Staff Accountant with Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines, & Frank providing professional services to nonprofit and governmental entities.

Continuing Professional Education

- ◆ Mr. Moore participates in numerous continuing professional education courses provided by nationally recognized sponsors to keep abreast of the latest developments.

Commitment to Quality Service

Personnel Qualifications and Experience

Jordan Wood

Staff Accountant – 1 year

Education

- ◆ Indian River State College, A.A. – Accounting

Professional Experience

- ◆ Staff Accountant with Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines, & Frank providing professional services to nonprofit and governmental entities.

Continuing Professional Education

- ◆ Ms. Wood is currently enrolled at Indian River State College to complete her bachelor's degree.
- ◆ Ms. Wood participates in numerous continuing professional education courses provided by nationally recognized sponsors to keep abreast of the latest developments.
- ◆ Ms. Wood is currently working towards completing an additional 30 hours of education to qualify to sit for CPA exam.

Commitment to Quality Service

Personnel Qualifications and Experience

Katie Gifford

Staff Accountant

Education

- ◆ Indian River State College, B.S. – Accounting

Professional Experience

- ◆ Staff Accountant with Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines, & Frank providing professional services to nonprofit and governmental entities.

Continuing Professional Education

- ◆ Ms. Gifford participates in numerous continuing professional education courses provided by nationally recognized sponsors to keep abreast of the latest developments.

Commitment to Quality Service

Personnel Qualifications and Experience

Rayna Zicari
Staff Accountant

Education

- ◆ Stetson University, B.B.A. – Accounting

Professional Experience

- ◆ Staff Accountant with Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines, & Frank providing professional services to nonprofit and governmental entities.

Continuing Professional Education

- ◆ Ms. Zicari participates in numerous continuing professional education courses provided by nationally recognized sponsors to keep abreast of the latest developments.
- ◆ Ms. Zicari is currently working towards completing an additional 30 hours of education to qualify to sit for CPA exam.



6815 Dairy Road
Zephyrhills, FL 33542

813.788.2155
BodinePerry.com

Report on the Firm's System of Quality Control

To the Partners of November 30, 2022
Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank, CPAs, PL
and the Peer Review Committee of the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants

We have reviewed the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank, CPAs, PL (the firm), in effect for the year ended May 31, 2022. Our peer review was conducted in accordance with the Standards for Performing and Reporting on Peer Reviews established by the Peer Review Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (Standards).

A summary of the nature, objectives, scope, limitations of, and the procedures performed in a System Review as described in the Standards may be found at aicpa.org/prsummary. The summary also includes an explanation of how engagements identified as not performed or reported in conformity with applicable professional standards, if any, are evaluated by a peer reviewer to determine a peer review rating.

Firm's Responsibility

The firm is responsible for designing a system of quality control and complying with it to provide the firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with applicable professional standards in all material respects. The firm is also responsible for evaluating actions to promptly remediate engagements deemed as not performed or reported in conformity with professional standards, when appropriate, and for remediating weaknesses in its system of quality control, if any.

Peer Reviewer's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the design of the system of quality control, and the firm's compliance therewith based on our review.

Required Selections and Considerations

Engagements selected for review included engagements performed under *Government Auditing Standards*, including a compliance audit under the Single Audit Act.

As a part of our peer review, we considered reviews by regulatory entities as communicated by the firm, if applicable, in determining the nature and extent of our procedures.

Opinion

In our opinion, the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank, CPAs, PL, in effect for the year ended May 31, 2022, has been suitably designed and complied with to provide the firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with applicable professional standards in all material respects. Firms can receive a rating of *pass*, *pass with deficiency(ies)*, or *fail*. Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank, CPAs, PLC, has received a peer review rating of *pass*.

Bodine Perry

Bodine Perry

(BERGER_REPORT22)



**CASCADES AT GROVELAND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

District Auditing Services
Lake County, Florida

INSTRUCTIONS TO PROPOSERS

SECTION 1. DUE DATE. Sealed proposals ("Proposal") must be received no later than February 7 at 2 p.m., at the offices of the District Manager, David McInnes, c/o Vesta District Services located at 250 International Parkway Suite 208, Lake Mary, FL 32746

SECTION 2. FAMILIARITY WITH THE LAW. By submitting a proposal, each proposer ("Proposer") is assumed to be familiar with all federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, rules and regulations that in any manner affect the work. Ignorance on the part of the Proposer will in no way relieve it from responsibility to perform the work covered by the proposal in compliance with all such laws, ordinances and regulations.

SECTION 3. QUALIFICATIONS OF PROPOSER. The contract, if awarded, will only be awarded to a responsible Proposer who is qualified by experience and licensing to do the work specified herein. The Proposer shall submit with its proposal satisfactory evidence of experience in similar work and show that it is fully prepared to complete the work to the satisfaction of the District.

SECTION 4. SUBMISSION OF ONLY ONE PROPOSAL. Proposers shall be disqualified and their proposals rejected if the District has reason to believe that collusion may exist among the Proposers, the Proposer has defaulted on any previous contract or is in arrears on any previous or existing contract, or for failure to demonstrate proper licensure and business organization.

SECTION 5. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL. Each Proposer shall submit seven (7) copies of the Proposal Documents (defined below), and other requested attachments at the time and place indicated herein, which shall be enclosed in an opaque sealed envelope, marked with the title "Auditing Services – Cascades at Groveland Community Development District" on the face of it.

SECTION 6. MODIFICATION AND WITHDRAWAL. Proposals may be modified or withdrawn by an appropriate document duly executed and delivered to the place where proposals are to be submitted at any time prior to the time and date the proposals are due. No proposal may be withdrawn after opening for a period of ninety (90) days.

SECTION 7. PROPOSAL DOCUMENTS. The proposal documents shall consist of the notice announcing the request for proposals, these instructions, the evaluation criteria and a proposal with all required documentation pursuant to Section 12 of these instructions (the "Proposal Documents").

SECTION 8. PROPOSAL. In making its proposal, each Proposer represents that it has read and understands the Proposal Documents and that the proposal is made in accordance therewith.

SECTION 9. BASIS OF AWARD/RIGHT TO REJECT. The District reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, make modifications to the work, and waive any informalities or irregularities in proposals as it is deemed in the best interests of the District.

SECTION 10. CONTRACT AWARD. Within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the Notice of Award from the District, the Proposer shall enter into and execute a contract/engagement letter with the District.

SECTION 11. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY. Nothing herein shall be construed as or constitute a waiver of District's limited waiver of liability contained in section 768.28, Florida Statutes, or any other statute or law.

SECTION 12. CONTENTS OF PROPOSALS. All proposals shall include the following information in addition to any other requirements of the Proposal Documents.

- A. Information regarding the proposer's authority to do business in Florida; proof of all applicable state and federal professional licenses; and proof of the proposer's qualifications to conduct audits in accordance with Government Auditing Standards as adopted by the Florida Board of Accountancy.
- B. List position or title of all personnel to perform work on the District audit. Include resumes for each person listed; list years of experience in present position for each party listed and years of related experience.
- C. Information regarding the geographic location of the firm's headquarters or permanent office in relation to the project.
- D. Describe proposed staffing levels.
- E. Provide three references from projects of similar size and scope. The Proposer should include information relating to the work it conducted for each reference as well as a name, address and phone number of a contact person. Identify any work previously conducted for other community development districts.
- F. Describe approach to the project.
- G. Provide information regarding the adequacy of Proposer's financial resources and stability as a business entity necessary to complete the services required.
- H. The lump sum cost of the provision of the services under the proposal, plus the cost of any renewals.

SECTION 13. PROTESTS. Any protest regarding the Proposal Documents, must be filed in writing, at the offices of the District Manager, within seventy-two (72) hours after issuance of the Notice of Request for Proposals. The formal protest setting forth with particularity the facts and law upon which the protest is based shall be filed within seven (7) calendar days after the initial notice of protest was filed. Any person who files a notice of protest challenging the Proposal Documents or any resulting Notice of Award shall provide to the District, simultaneous with the filing of the notice, a protest bond with a responsible surety to be approved by the District and in the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00). 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. Failure to timely file a notice of protest or failure to timely file a formal written protest shall constitute a waiver of any right to object or protest with respect to aforesaid contract award.

SECTION 14. EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS. The criteria to be used in the evaluation of proposals are presented in the evaluation criteria, contained within the Proposal Documents.

AUDITOR SELECTION EVALUATION CRITERIA

1. Ability of Personnel. (20 Points)

This includes the geographic locations of the firm's headquarters or permanent office in relation to the project; capabilities and experience of key personnel; present ability to manage this project; evaluation of existing work load; proposed staffing levels, etc.

2. Proposer's Experience. (20 Points)

This includes past record and experience of the Proposer in similar projects; volume of work previously performed by the firm; past performance for other community development districts in other contracts; character, integrity, reputation, of respondent, etc.

3. Understanding of Scope of Work. (20 Points)

This category addresses the extent to which the proposal demonstrates an understanding of the District's needs for the services requested.

4. Ability to Furnish the Required Services. (20 Points)

This category addresses the extent to which the proposal demonstrates the adequacy of Proposer's financial resources and stability as a business entity necessary to complete the services required.

5. Price. (20 Points)

Points will be awarded based upon the lowest total bid for rendering the services and the reasonableness of the bid.

EXHIBIT 5

Cascades at Groveland Community Development District

Proposer

DiBartolomeo, McBee, Hartley & Barnes, P.A.
Certified Public Accountants

**2222 Colonial Road, Suite 200
Fort Pierce, Florida 34950
(772) 461-8833**

**591 SE Port St. Lucie Boulevard
Port Saint Lucie, Florida 34984
(772) 878-1952**

Contact:

**Jim Hartley, CPA
Principal**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter of Transmittal

Professional Qualifications

➤ Professional Staff Resources	1-2
➤ Current and Near Future Workload.....	2
➤ Identification of Audit Team	2
➤ Resumes	3-5
➤ Governmental Audit Experience	6

Additional Data

➤ Procedures for Ensuring Quality Control & Confidentiality	7
➤ Independence	7-8
➤ Computer Auditing Capabilities.....	8
➤ Contracts of Similar Nature	9

Technical Approach

➤ Agreement to Meet or Exceed the Performance Specifications.....	10
➤ Tentative Audit Schedule	11
➤ Description of Audit Approach	12-15
➤ Proposed Audit Fee.....	16

Cascades at Groveland
Community Development District
Audit Selection Committee

Dear Committee Members:

We are pleased to have this opportunity to present the qualifications of DiBartolomeo, McBee, Hartley & Barnes, P.A. (DMHB) to serve as Cascades at Groveland Community Development District's independent auditors. The audit is a significant engagement demanding various professional resources, governmental knowledge and expertise, and, most importantly, experience serving Florida local governments. DMHB understands the services required and is committed to performing these services within the required time frame. We have the staff available to complete this engagement in a timely fashion. We audit several entities across the State making it feasible to schedule and provide services at the required locations.

Proven Track Record— Our clients know our people and the quality of our work. We have always been responsive, met deadlines, and been willing to go the extra mile with the objective of providing significant value to mitigate the cost of the audit. This proven track record of successfully working together to serve governmental clients will enhance the quality of services we provide.

Experience—DMHB has a history of providing quality professional services to an impressive list of public sector clients in Florida. We currently serve a large number of public sector entities in Florida, including cities, villages, special districts, as well as a large number of community development districts. Our firm has performed in excess of 100 community development district audits. In addition, our senior management team members have between 25 and 35 years experience in serving Florida governments. DMHB is a recognized leader in providing services to governmental and non-profit agencies within the State of Florida. Through our experience in performing audits, we have been able to increase our audit efficiency and therefore reduce cost. We have continually passed this cost saving on to our clients and will continue to do so in the future. As a result of our experience and expertise, we have developed an effective and efficient audit approach designed to meet or exceed the performance specifications in accordance with audit standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States with minimal disruption to your operations. Our firm has frequent technical updates to keep our personnel informed and up to date on all changes that are occurring within the industry.

2222 Colonial Road, Suite 200 • Fort Pierce, Florida 34950 • 772-461-8833 • Fax: 772-461-8872
591 S.E. Port St. Lucie Blvd., • Port St. Lucie, Florida 34984 • 772-878-1952 • Fax: 772-878-1709

Member AICPA

Member AICPA Division for CPA Firms
Private Company Practice Section

Member AICPA

WWW.DMHBPCPA.NET

Timeliness – In order to meet the Districts needs, we will perform interim internal control testing as required by January 31st from unaudited preliminary general ledgers provided. The remaining testing will be completed no later than March 15th. We will also review all minutes and subsequent needs related to the review of the minutes by January 30th. Follow up review will be completed as necessary. Our audit report will be issued no later than April 15, 2022.

Communication and Knowledge Sharing— Another driving force behind our service approach is frequent, candid and open communication with management with no surprises. During the course of the audit, we will communicate with management on a regular basis to provide you with a status report on the audit and to discuss any issues that arise, potential management letter comments, or potential audit differences.

In the accompanying proposal, you will find additional information upon which you can evaluate DMHB's qualifications. Our full team is in place and waiting to serve you. Please contact us at 2222 Colonial Road, Suite 200 Fort Pierce, FL 34950. Our phone number is (772) 461-8833. We look forward to further discussion on how our team can work together with you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "DiBartolomeo, McBee, Hartley & Barnes". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

DiBartolomeo, McBee, Hartley & Barnes, P.A.

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

DiBartolomeo, McBee, Hartley & Barnes, P.A. is a local public accounting firm with offices in the cities of Fort Pierce and Port St. Lucie. The firm was formed in 1982.

➤ *Professional Staff Resources*

Our services will be delivered through personnel in both our Port St. Lucie and Ft. Pierce offices, located at 591 S.E. Port St. Lucie Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL 34984 and 2222 Colonial Road, Suite 200, Fort Pierce, Florida 34950, respectively. DMHB has a total of 19 professional staff including 9 with extensive experience serving governmental entities.

Professional Staff Classification	Number of Professionals
Partner	4
Managers	2
Senior	2
Staff	11
	19

DiBartolomeo, McBee, Hartley & Barnes provides a variety of accounting, auditing, tax litigation support, estate planning, and consulting services. Some of the governmental, non-profit accounting, auditing and advisory services currently provided to clients include:

- Annual financial and compliance audits including Single Audits of State and Federal financial assistance programs under the OMB A-133 audit criteria
- Issuance of Comfort Letters, consent letters, and parity certificates in conjunction with the issuance of tax-exempt debt obligations, including compiling financial data and interim period financial statement reviews
- Assisting in compiling historical financial data for first-time and subsequent submissions for the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS (CONTINUED)

➤ *Professional Staff Resources (Continued)*

- Audits of franchise fees received from outside franchisees
- Preparation of annual reports to the State Department of Banking and Finance
- Audits of Internal Controls – Governmental Special Project
- Assistance with Implementation of current GASB pronouncements

➤ *Current and Near Future Workload*

In order to better serve and provide timely and informative financial data, we have comprised an experienced audit team. Our present and future workloads will permit the proposed audit team to perform these audits within the time schedule required and meet all deadlines.

➤ *Identification of Audit Team*

The team is composed of people who are experienced, professional, and creative. They fully understand your business and will provide you with reliable opinions. In addition, they will make a point to maintain ongoing dialogue with each other and management about the status of our services.

The auditing firm you select is only as good as the people who serve you. We are extremely proud of the outstanding team we have assembled for your engagement. Our team brings many years of relevant experience coupled with the technical skill, knowledge, authority, dedication, and most of all, the commitment you need to meet your government reporting obligations and the challenges that will result from the changing accounting standards.

A flow chart of the audit team and brief resumes detailing individual team members' experience in each of the relevant areas follow.

Jim Hartley, CPA – Engagement Partner (resume attached)
Will assist in the field as main contact

Jay McBee, CPA – Technical Reviewer (resume attached)

Theresa Goldstein - Senior (resume attached)

Staff – TBA

Jim Hartley

Partner – DiBartolomeo, McBee, Hartley & Barnes

Experience and Training

Jim has over 25 years of public accounting experience and would serve as the engagement partner. His experience and training include:

- 25 years of non-profit and governmental experience.
- Specializing in serving entities ranging from Government to Associations and Special District audits.
- Has performed audits and advisory services for a variety of public sector entities.
- Has extensive experience performing audits of federal grant recipients in accordance with the Single Audit Act and the related Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidelines.
- Experienced in maintaining the GFOA Certificate of Achievement.
- 120 hours of CPE credits over the past 3 years.

Recent Engagements

Has provided audit services on governmental entities including towns, villages, cities, counties, special districts and community development districts. Jim has assisted with financial statement preparation, system implementation, and a variety of services to a wide range of non-profit and governmental entities. Jim currently provides internal audit and consulting services to governmental entities and non-profit agencies to assist in implementing and maintaining “best practice” accounting policies and procedures. Jim provides auditing services to the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority, St. Lucie County Fire District, City of Port St. Lucie, Tradition CDD #1 – 10, Southern Groves CDD #1-6, Multiple CDD audits, Town of St. Lucie Village, Town of Sewall’s Point, Town of Jupiter Island along with several other entities, including Condo and Homeowner Associations.

Education and Registrations

- Bachelor of Science in Accounting – Sterling College.
- Certified Public Accountant

Professional Affiliations

- Member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
- Member of the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants
- Member of the Florida Government Finance Officers Association

Volunteer Service

- Treasurer & Executive Board - St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce
- Budget Advisory Board - St. Lucie County School District
- Past Treasurer - Exchange Club for Prevention of Child Abuse & Exchange Foundation Board
- Board of Directors – State Division of Juvenile Justice

Jay L. McBee

Partner – DiBartolomeo, McBee, Hartley & Barnes

Experience and Training

Jay has over 35 years of public accounting experience and would serve as the technical reviewer on the audit. His experience and training include:

- 35 years of government experience.
- Specializing in serving local government entities.
- Has performed audits and advisory services for a variety of public sector entities including counties, cities, special districts, and school districts.
- Has experience performing audits of federal grant recipients in accordance with the Single Audit Act and the related Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidelines, including Circular A-133 and the Rules of the Auditor General.
- Has extensive experience in performing pension audits.
- Experienced in developing and maintaining the GFOA Certificate of Achievement.
- 120 Hours of relevant government CPE credits over the past 3 years.
- Experience in municipal bond and other governmental-financing options and offerings.

Recent Engagements

Has provided auditing services on local governmental entities including towns, villages, cities, counties, special district and community development districts. Jay has assisted with financial preparation, system implementation, and a variety of government services to a wide range of governmental entities. Jay currently provides auditing services to the City of Port St. Lucie, City of Okeechobee Pension Trust Funds, St. Lucie County Fire District Pension funds, along with several other non-profit and governmental entities.

Education and Registrations

- Bachelor of Science in Accounting and Quantitative Business Management – West Virginia University.
- Certified Public Accountant

Professional Affiliations

- Member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
- Member of the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants
- Member of the Florida Government Finance Officers Association

Volunteer Service

- Member of the St. Lucie County Citizens Budget Committee
- Finance committee for the First United Methodist Church
- Treasurer of Boys & Girls Club of St. Lucie County

Theresa Goldstein

Supervisor – DiBartolomeo, McBee, Hartley & Barnes

Experience and training

Theresa has over 15 years of public accounting experience and would serve as the supervisor for the Constitutional Officers. Her experience and training include:

- 15 years of government experience.
- Specializing in serving local government entities.
- Has performed audits and advisory services for a variety of public sector entities including counties, cities, towns and special districts.
- Has extensive experience performing audits of federal grant recipients in accordance with the Single Audit Act and the related Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidelines, including Circular A-133 and the Rules of the Auditor General.
- Experienced in maintaining the GFOA Certificate of Achievement.
- 100 hours of relevant government CPE credits over the past 3 years.

Recent Engagements

Has provided audit services on governmental entities including towns, villages, cities, counties, special districts and community development districts. Theresa has assisted with financial statement preparation, system implementation, and a variety of services to a wide range of non-profit and governmental entities. Theresa currently provides internal audit and consulting services to multiple agencies to assist in implementing and maintaining “best practice” accounting policies and procedures. Engagements include City of Port St. Lucie, St. Lucie County Fire District, Town of Sewall’s Point, Town of Jupiter Island, Multiple CDD audits, Tradition CDD #1-10, Southern Groves CDD #1-6 and Town of St. Lucie Village.

Education and Registrations

- Bachelor of Science in Finance – University of Central Florida
- Masters of Business Administration with concentration in Accounting – Bryant College

Professional Affiliations

- Associate Member of the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants
- Member of the Florida Government Finance Officers Association

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS (CONTINUED)

➤ *Governmental Audit Experience*

DiBartolomeo, McBee, Hartley & Barnes, P.A., through its principals and members, has provided continuous in-depth professional accounting, auditing, and consulting services to local government units, nonprofit organizations, and commercial clients. Our professionals have developed considerable expertise in performing governmental audits and single audits and in preparing governmental financial statements in conformance with continually evolving GASB pronouncements, statements, and interpretations. All of the public sector entities we serve annually are required to be in accordance with GASB pronouncements and government auditing standards. We currently perform several Federal and State single audits in compliance with OMB Circular A-133 and under the Florida Single Audit Act. Our professionals are also experienced in assisting their clients with preparing Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports (GFOA).

All work performed by our firm is closely supervised by experienced certified public accountants. Only our most seasoned CPA's perform consulting services. Some of the professional accounting, auditing, and management consulting services currently provided to our local governmental clients include:

- Annual financial and compliance audits including Single Audits of State and Federal financial assistance programs under OMB A-133 audit criteria and the Florida Single Audit Act
- Assisting in compiling historical financial data for first-time and supplemental submissions for GFOA Certificate of Achievement of Excellence in Financial Reporting
- Audits of franchise fees received from outside franchisees
- Assistance with Implementation of GASB-34
- Internal audit functions
- Fixed assets review and updating cost/depreciation allocations and methods

ADDITIONAL DATA

➤ *Procedures for Ensuring Quality Control & Confidentiality*

Quality control in any CPA firm can never be taken for granted. It requires a continuing commitment to professional excellence. DiBartolomeo, McBee, Hartley & Barnes is formally dedicated to that commitment.

In an effort to continue to maintain the standards of working excellence required by our firm, DiBartolomeo, McBee, Hartley & Barnes, P.A. joined the Quality Review Program of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. To be a participating member firm, a firm must obtain an independent compliance review of its quality control policies and procedures to ascertain the firm's compliance with existing auditing standards on the applicable engagements. The scope of peer review is comprehensive in that it specifically reviews the following quality control policies and procedures of the participating firm:

- Professional, economic, and administrative independence
- Assignment of professional personnel to engagements
- Consultation on technical matters
- Supervision of engagement personnel
- Hiring and employment of personnel
- Professional development
- Advancement
- Acceptance and continuance of clients
- Inspection and review system

➤ *Independence*

Independence is a hallmark of our profession. We encourage our staff to use professional judgment in situations where our independence could be impaired or the perception of a conflict of interest might exist. In the governmental sector, public perception is as important as professional standards. Therefore, independent auditors must exercise utmost care in the performance of their duties.

Our firm has provided continuous certified public accounting services in the government sector for 31 years, and we are independent of the Community Development Districts as defined by the following rules, regulations, and standards:

ADDITIONAL DATA (CONTINUED)

➤ *Independence (Continued)*

- Au Section 220 – Statements on Auditing Standards issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
- ET Sections 101 and 102 – Code of Professional Conduct of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
- Chapter 21A-21, Florida Administrative Code
- Section 473.315, Florida Statutes
- Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States

➤ *Computer Auditing Capabilities*

DiBartolomeo, McBee, Hartley & Barnes' strong computer capabilities as demonstrated by our progressive approach to computer auditing and extensive use of microcomputers. Jay McBee is the MIS partner for DMHB. Jay has extensive experience in auditing and evaluating various computer systems and would provide these services in this engagement.

We view the computer operation as an integral part of its accounting systems. We would evaluate the computer control environment to:

- Understand the computer control environment's effect on internal controls
- Conclude on whether aspects of the environment require special audit attention
- Make preliminary determination of comments for inclusion in our management letter

This evaluation includes:

- System hardware and software
- Organization and administration
- Access

Contracts of Similar Nature within References

Client	Years	Annual Audit In Accordance With GAAS	Engagement Partner	Incl. Utility Audit/ Consulting	GFOA Cert.	GASB 34 Implementation & Assistance	Total Hours
St. Lucie County Fire District Patty Marston-Duva, Clerk-Treasurer (772)462-2300	1984 - Current	√	Jim Hartley			√	250-300
City of Fort Pierce Johnna Morris, Finance Director (772)-460-2200	2005-current	√	Mark Barnes		√	√	800
Fort Pierce Utilities Authority Barbara Mika, Finance Director (772)-466-1600	2005-current	√	Jim Hartley	√	√	√	600
Town of Jupiter Island Mike Ventura (772)-545-0104	2010		Jim Hartley	√			200
Town of Sewall's Point Michelle Berger, Town Manager (772) 287-2455	2010	√	Jim Hartley			√	225
Town of St. Lucie Village Donna Dennis, Town Clerk (772) 466-6900	1999 – current	√	Jim Hartley			√	100
Tradition Community Development District 1-10 Andrew Karmeris, District Accountant (561)630-4922	2002 - current	√	Jim Hartley			√	350
Solterra Resort Community Development District Patricia Comings-Thibault (321)263-0132	2016-current	√	Jim Hartley				50
Union Park Community Development District Patricia Comings-Thibault (321)263-0132	2013-current	√	Jim Hartley				50
Anthem Park Community Development District Patricia Comings-Thibault (321)263-0132	2017-current	√	Jim Hartley				50
Stonebrier Community Development District Patricia Comings-Thibault (321)263-0132	2016-current	√	Jim Hartley				50
Waterleaf Community Development District Patricia Comings-Thibault (321)263-0132	2013-current	√	Jim Hartley				50

TECHNICAL APPROACH

a. *An Express Agreement to Meet or Exceed the Performance Specifications.*

1. The audit will be conducted in compliance with the following requirements:
 - a. Rules of the Auditor General for form and content of governmental audits
 - b. Regulations of the State Department of Banking and Finance
 - c. Audits of State and Local Governmental Units-American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.
2. The audit report shall contain the opinion of the auditor in reference to all financial statements, and an opinion reflecting compliance with applicable legal provisions.
3. We will also provide the required copies of the audit report, the management letter, any related reports on internal control weaknesses and one copy of the adjusting journal entries and financial work papers.
4. The auditor shall, at no additional charge, make all related work papers available to any Federal or State agency upon request in accordance with Federal and State Laws and Regulations.
5. We will work in cooperation with the District, its underwriters and bond council in regard to any bond issues that may occur during the term of the contract.
6. The financial statements shall be prepared in conformity with Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement Number 34, 63 and 65.

We will commit to issuing the audit for each Fiscal year by April 15th of the following year. In order to ensure this we will perform interim internal control testing as required by January 31st from unaudited preliminary general ledgers provided. The remaining testing will be completed no later than March 15th. We will also review all minutes and subsequent needs related to the review of the minutes by January 30th. Follow up review will be completed as necessary.

b. SPECIFIC AUDIT APPROACH

Our partners are not strangers who show up for an entrance conference and an exit conference. We have developed an audit plan that allows the partners to directly supervise our staff in the field. By assigning two partners to the audit, we will have a partner on-site for a significant portion of the fieldwork. This also gives the District an additional contact individual for questions or problems that may arise during the audit.

The scope of our services will include a financial, as well as, a compliance audit of the District's financial statements. Our audit will be conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Additionally, our audit will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Auditor General, which govern the conduct of local government entity audits performed in the State of Florida.

Our audit approach places emphasis on the accounting information system and how the data is recorded, rather than solely on the verification of numbers on a financial statement. This approach enables us to:

- Maximize our understanding of the District's operating environment
- Minimize time required conducting the audit since we start with broad considerations and narrow to specific audit objectives in critical areas

Our audit approach consists of four phases encompassing our audit process:

- Planning Phase
- Detailed Audit Phase
- Closing Phase
- Reporting

Planning Phase

Meetings and Expectations:

Our first step in this phase will be to set up a planning meeting with the financial and operating management of Cascades at Groveland Community Development District. Our goal here is to eliminate "surprises." By meeting with responsible officials early on we can discuss significant accounting policies, closing procedures and timetables, planned timing of our audit procedures and expectations of our work. This will also be the starting point for our discussions with management related to *SAS No. 99-Consideration of Fraud in a Financial Statement Audit*. Inquiries will be made regarding managements knowledge of fraud and on management's views regarding the risk of fraud.

Review Operations and Develop Engagement Plan

It is critical that we understand the District's operating environment. To do this we will obtain and review such items as, organizational charts, recent financial statements, budget information, major contracts and lease agreements. We will also gather other information necessary to increase our understanding of the District's operations, organization, and internal control.

Study and Evaluate Internal Control

As part of general planning, we will obtain an understanding and assessment of the District's control environment. This assessment involves a review of management's operating style, written internal control procedures, and the District's accounting system. The assessment is necessary to determine if we can rely on control procedures and thus reduce the extent of substantive testing.

We then test compliance with established control procedures by ascertaining that the significant strengths within the system are functioning as described to us. Generally, transactions are selected and reviewed in sufficient detail to permit us to formulate conclusions regarding compliance with control procedures and the extent of operation compliance with pertinent laws and regulations. This involves gaining an understanding of the District's procedures, laws and regulations, and testing systems for compliance by examining contracts, invoices, bid procedures, and other documents. After testing controls, we then evaluate the results of those tests and decide whether we can rely on controls and thus reduce other audit procedures.

Conduct Preliminary Analytical Review

Also during the planning stage, we undertake analytical procedures that aid us in focusing our energies in the right direction. We call these analytical reviews.

A properly designed analytical review can be a very effective audit procedure in audits of governmental units. Analytical reviews consist of more than just a comparison of current-year actual results to prior-year actual results. Very effective analytical review techniques include trend analysis covering a number of years and comparisons of information not maintained totally within the financial accounting system, such as per capita information, prevailing market interest rates, housing statistics, etc.

Some examples of effective analytical reviews performed together and/or individually include:

- Comparison of current-year actual results with current-year budget for the current and past years with investigation of significant differences and/or trends
- Trend analysis of the percentage of current-year revenues to current-year rates for the current and previous years with investigation of significant changes in the collection percentage
- Trend analysis of the percentage of expenditures by function for the current and previous years with investigation of significant changes in percentages by department
- Monthly analysis of receipts compared to prior years to detect trends that may have audit implications

Conclusions reached enable us to determine the nature, timing and extent of other substantive procedures.

Detailed Audit Phase

Conduct Final Risk Assessment and Prepare Audit Programs

Risk assessment requires evaluating the likelihood of errors occurring that could have a material affect on the financial statements being audited. The conclusions we reach are based on many evaluations of internal control, systems, accounts, and transactions that occur throughout the audit. After evaluating the results of our tests of control and our final risk assessment we can develop detailed audit programs.

Perform Substantive Tests of Account Balances

These tests are designed to provide reasonable assurance as to the validity of the information produced by the accounting system. Substantive tests involve such things as examining invoices supporting payments, confirmation of balances with independent parties, analytical review procedures, and physical inspection of assets. All significant accounts will be subjected to substantive procedures. Substantive tests provide direct evidence of the completeness, accuracy, and validity of data.

Perform Single Audit Procedures (if applicable)

During the planning phase of the audit we will request and review schedules of expenditures of federal awards and state financial assistance. These schedules will be the basis for our determination of the specific programs we will test.

In documenting our understanding of the internal control system for the financial statement audit, we will identify control activities that impact major federal and state programs as well. This will allow us to test certain controls for the financial audit and the single audit concurrently. We will then perform additional tests of controls for each federal and state program selected for testing. We will then evaluate the results of the test of controls to determine the nature, timing and extent of substantive testing necessary to determine compliance with major program requirements.

Perform Statutory Compliance Testing

We have developed audit programs for Cascades at Groveland Community Development District designed to test Florida Statutes as required by the Auditor General. These programs include test procedures such as general inquiries, confirmation from third parties, and examination of specific documents.

Closing Phase

During the closing phase we perform detail work paper reviews, request legal letters, review subsequent events and proposed audit adjustments. Communication with the client is critical in this phase to ensure that the information necessary to prepare financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States has been obtained.

Reporting Phase

Financial Statement Preparation

As a local firm, we spend a considerable amount of time on financial statement preparation and support. With this in mind, we can assist in certain portions of the preparation of financial statements or simply review a draft of financials prepared by your staff. We let you determine our level of involvement.

Management Letters

We want to help you solve problems before they become major.

Our management letters go beyond citing possible deficiencies in the District's internal control structures. They identify opportunities for increasing revenues, decreasing costs, improving management information, protecting assets and improving operational efficiency.

The diversity of experience of our personnel and their independent and objective viewpoints make the comments, observations, and conclusions presented in our management letters a valuable source of information. We have provided positive solution-oriented objective recommendations to our governmental clients regarding investments, accounting accuracy, data processing, revenue bonds, payroll, utility billing, purchasing, budgeting, risk management, and internal auditing.

This review ensures the integrity of the factual data in the management letter but does not influence or impair our independence.

Exit Conferences and Delivery of Reports

We anticipate meeting with appropriate District personnel in February and issuing the final required reports by the May meeting of each year.

PROPOSED AUDIT FEE FOR EACH YEAR OF THE THREE YEARS

DiBartolomeo, McBee, Hartley & Barnes P.A. will perform the annual audit of Cascades at Groveland Community Development District for the years as follows:

September 30, 2024	\$3,800
September 30, 2025	\$3,950
September 30, 2026	\$4,100

In years of new debt issuance fees may be adjusted as mutually agreed upon.

EXHIBIT 6



Grau & Associates
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Proposal to Provide Financial Auditing Services:

CASCADES AT GROVELAND

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Proposal Due: February 7, 2024
2:00PM

Submitted to:

Cascades at Groveland
Community Development District
c/o District Manager
250 International Parkway Suite 208
Lake Mary, FL 32746

Submitted by:

Antonio J. Grau, Partner
Grau & Associates
951 Yamato Road, Suite 280
Boca Raton, Florida 33431

Tel (561) 994-9299
(800) 229-4728

Fax (561) 994-5823

tgrau@graucpa.com

www.graucpa.com



Table of Contents

Page

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY / TRANSMITTAL LETTER 1

FIRM QUALIFICATIONS.....3

FIRM & STAFF EXPERIENCE.....6

REFERENCES..... 11

SPECIFIC AUDIT APPROACH..... 13

COST OF SERVICES 17

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION 19



Grau & Associates

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

February 7, 2024

Cascades at Groveland Community Development District
c/o District Manager
250 International Parkway, Suite 208
Lake Mary, FL 32746

Re: Request for Proposal for Professional Auditing Services for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, with an option for two (2) additional annual renewals.

Grau & Associates (Grau) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Cascades at Groveland Community Development District's (the "District") Request for Proposal (RFP), and we look forward to working with you on your audit. We are an energetic and robust team of knowledgeable professionals and are a recognized leader of providing services to Community Development Districts. As one of Florida's few firms to primarily focus on government, we are especially equipped to provide you an effective and efficient audit.

Special district audits are at the core of our practice: **we have a total of 360 clients, 329 or 91% of which are special districts.** We know the specifics of the professional services and work products needed to meet your RFP requirements like no other firm. With this level of experience, we are able to increase efficiency, to provide immediate and continued savings, and to minimize disturbances to client operations.

Why Grau & Associates:

Knowledgeable Audit Team

Grau is proud that the personnel we assign to your audit are some of the most seasoned auditors in the field. Our staff performs governmental engagements year round. When not working on your audit, your team is refining their audit approach for next year's audit. Our engagement partners have decades of experience and take a hands-on approach to our assignments, which all ensures a smoother process for you.

Servicing your Individual Needs

Our clients enjoy personalized service designed to satisfy their unique needs and requirements. Throughout the process of our audit, you will find that we welcome working with you to resolve any issues as swiftly and easily as possible. In addition, due to Grau's very low turnover rate for our industry, you also won't have to worry about retraining your auditors from year to year.

Developing Relationships

We strive to foster mutually beneficial relationships with our clients. We stay in touch year round, updating, collaborating and assisting you in implementing new legislation, rules and standards that affect your organization. We are also available as a sounding board and assist with technical questions.

Maintaining an Impeccable Reputation

We have never been involved in any litigation, proceeding or received any disciplinary action. Additionally, we have never been charged with, or convicted of, a public entity crime of any sort. We are financially stable and have never been involved in any bankruptcy proceedings.

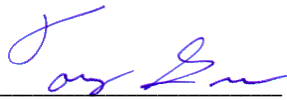
Complying With Standards

Our audit will follow the Auditing Standards of the AICPA, Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Rules of the Auditor General of the State of Florida, and any other applicable federal, state and local regulations. We will deliver our reports in accordance with your requirements.

This proposal is a firm and irrevocable offer for 90 days. We certify this proposal is made without previous understanding, agreement or connection either with any previous firms or corporations offering a proposal for the same items. We also certify our proposal is in all respects fair, without outside control, collusion, fraud, or otherwise illegal action, and was prepared in good faith. Only the person(s), company or parties interested in the project as principals are named in the proposal. Grau has no existing or potential conflicts, and anticipates no conflicts during the engagement. Our Federal I.D. number is 20-2067322.

We would be happy to answer any questions or to provide any additional information. We are genuinely excited about the prospect of serving you and establishing a long-term relationship. Please do not hesitate to call or email either of our Partners, Antonio J. Grau, CPA (tgrau@graucpa.com) or David Caplivski, CPA (dcaplivski@graucpa.com) at 561.994.9299. We thank you for considering our firm's qualifications and experience.

Very truly yours,
Grau & Associates



Antonio J. Grau

Firm Qualifications



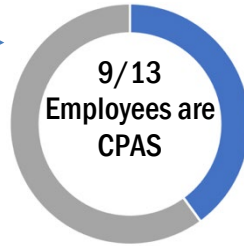
Grau & Associates
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Grau's Focus and Experience

Our Team



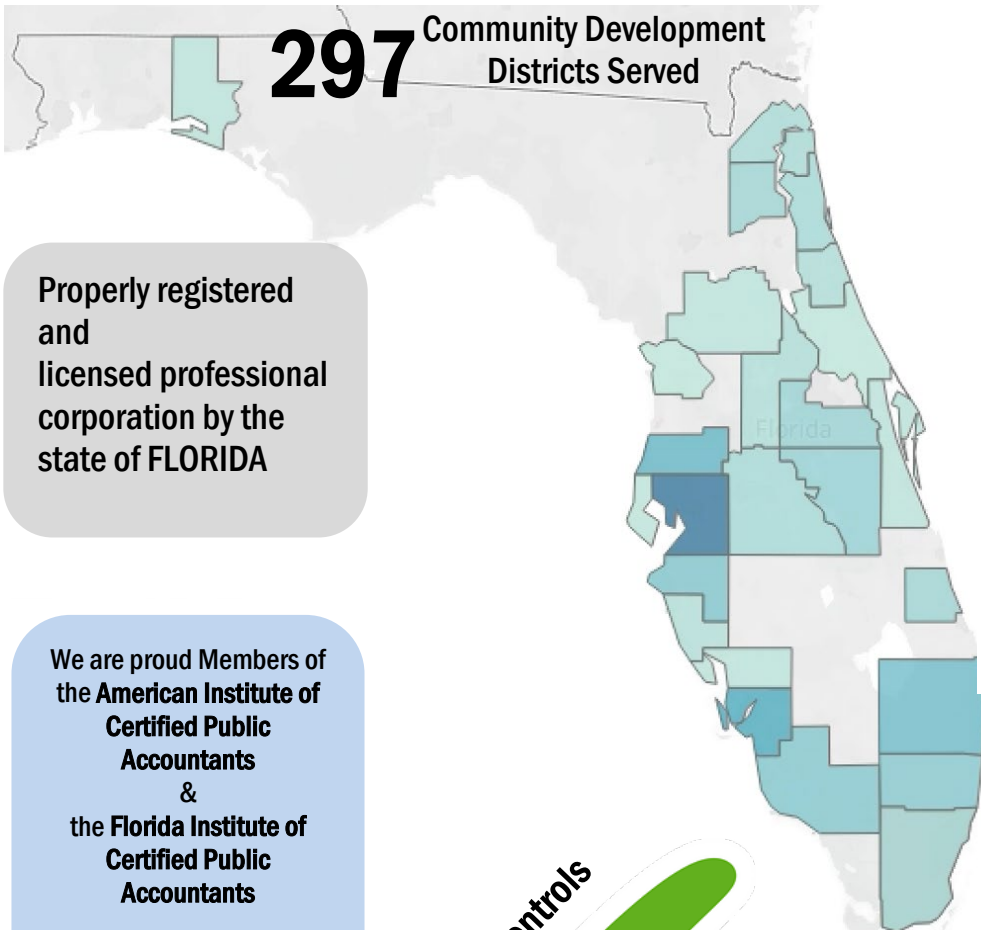
3 Partners
10 Professional Staff
2 Administrative Professionals



2005

Year founded

Services Provided



Properly registered and licensed professional corporation by the state of FLORIDA

We are proud Members of the **American Institute of Certified Public Accountants** & the **Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants**

Quality Controls

- ⇒ External quality review program: consistently receives a pass
- ⇒ Internal: ongoing monitoring to maintain quality



AICPA | FICPA | GFOA | FASD | FGFOA

See next page for report and certificate



Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants

FICPA Peer Review Program
Administered in Florida
by The Florida Institute of CPAs



Peer Review
Program

AICPA Peer Review Program
Administered in Florida
by the Florida Institute of CPAs

March 17, 2023

Antonio Grau
Grau & Associates
951 Yamato Rd Ste 280
Boca Raton, FL 33431-1809

Dear Antonio Grau:

It is my pleasure to notify you that on March 16, 2023, the Florida Peer Review Committee accepted the report on the most recent System Review of your firm. The due date for your next review is December 31, 2025. This is the date by which all review documents should be completed and submitted to the administering entity.

As you know, the report had a peer review rating of pass. The Committee asked me to convey its congratulations to the firm.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

FICPA Peer Review Committee

Peer Review Team
FICPA Peer Review Committee

850.224.2727, x5957

cc: Daniel Hevia, Racquel McIntosh

Firm Number: 900004390114

Review Number: 594791

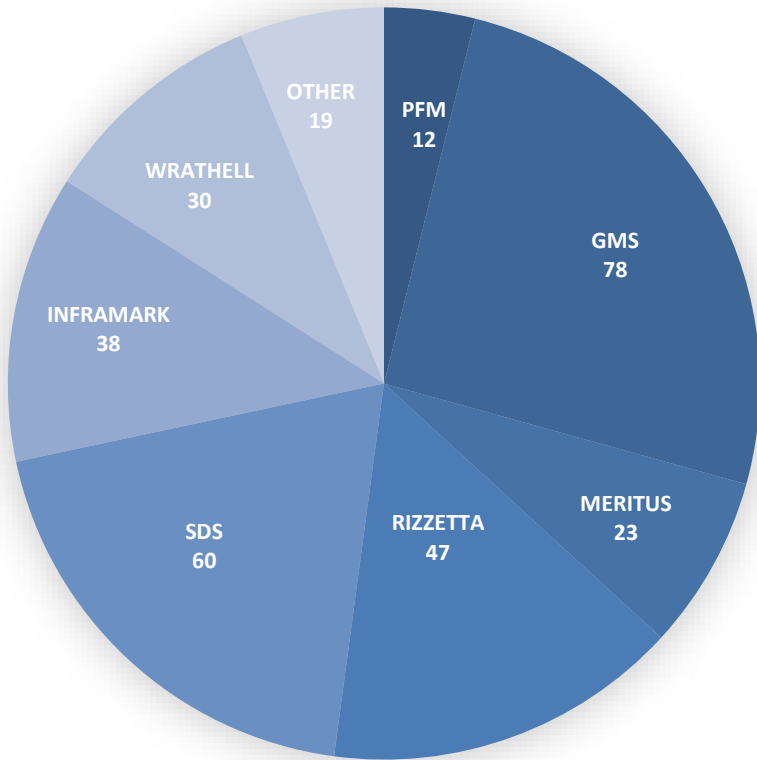
119 S Monroe Street, Suite 121 | Tallahassee, FL 32301 | 850.224.2727, in Florida | www.ficpa.org

Firm & Staff Experience



Grau & Associates
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

GRAU AND ASSOCIATES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT EXPERIENCE BY MANAGEMENT COMPANY



Profile Briefs:

Antonio J GRAU, CPA (Partner)

*Years Performing Audits: 35+
CPE (last 2 years): Government Accounting, Auditing: 24 hours; Accounting, Auditing and Other: 56 hours
Professional Memberships: AICPA, FICPA, FGFOA, GFOA*

David Caplivski, CPA (Partner)

*Years Performing Audits: 13+
CPE (last 2 years): Government Accounting, Auditing: 24 hours; Accounting, Auditing and Other: 64 hours
Professional Memberships: AICPA, FICPA, FGFOA, FASD*

“Here at Grau & Associates, staying up to date with the current technological landscape is one of our top priorities. Not only does it provide a more positive experience for our clients, but it also allows us to perform a more effective and efficient audit. With the every changing technology available and utilized by our clients, we are constantly innovating our audit process.”

- Tony Grau

“Quality audits and exceptional client service are at the heart of every decision we make. Our clients trust us to deliver a quality audit, adhering to high standards and assisting them with improvements for their organization.”

- David Caplivski

YOUR ENGAGEMENT TEAM

Grau's client-specific engagement team is meticulously organized in order to meet the unique needs of each client. Constant communication within our solution team allows for continuity of staff and audit team.

Grau contracts with an outside group of IT management consultants to assist with matters including, but not limited to; network and database security, internet security and vulnerability testing.

An advisory consultant will be available as a sounding board to advise in those areas where problems are encountered.



The assigned personnel will work closely with the partner and the District to ensure that the financial statements and all other reports are prepared in accordance with professional standards and firm policy. Responsibilities will include planning the audit; communicating with the client and the partners the progress of the audit; and determining that financial statements and all reports issued by the firm are accurate, complete and are prepared in accordance with professional standards and firm policy.

The Engagement Partner will participate extensively during the various stages of the engagement and has direct responsibility for engagement policy, direction, supervision, quality control, security, confidentiality of information of the engagement and communication with client personnel. The engagement partner will also be involved directing the development of the overall audit approach and plan; performing an overriding review of work papers and ascertain client satisfaction.



Antonio 'Tony' J. Grau, CPA

Partner

Contact: tgrau@graucpa.com | (561) 939-6672

Experience

For over 30 years, Tony has been providing audit, accounting and consulting services to the firm's governmental, non-profit, employee benefit, overhead and arbitrage clients. He provides guidance to clients regarding complex accounting issues, internal controls and operations.

As a member of the Government Finance Officers Association Special Review Committee, Tony participated in the review process for awarding the GFOA Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting. Tony was also the review team leader for the Quality Review of the Office of Management Audits of School Board of Miami-Dade County. Tony received the AICPA advanced level certificate for governmental single audits.

Education

University of South Florida (1983)
Bachelor of Arts
Business Administration

Clients Served (partial list)

(>300) Various Special Districts, including:

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Bayside Improvement Community Development District | St. Lucie West Services District |
| Dunes Community Development District | Ave Maria Stewardship Community District |
| Fishhawk Community Development District (I,II,IV) | Rivers Edge II Community Development District |
| Grand Bay at Doral Community Development District | Bartram Park Community Development District |
| Heritage Harbor North Community Development District | Bay Laurel Center Community Development District |
| | |
| Boca Raton Airport Authority | |
| Greater Naples Fire Rescue District | |
| Key Largo Wastewater Treatment District | |
| Lake Worth Drainage District | |
| South Indian River Water Control | |

Professional Associations/Memberships

American Institute of Certified Public Accountants Florida Government Finance Officers Association
Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants Government Finance Officers Association Member
City of Boca Raton Financial Advisory Board Member

Professional Education (over the last two years)

<u>Course</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Government Accounting and Auditing	24
Accounting, Auditing and Other	<u>56</u>
Total Hours	<u>80</u> (includes of 4 hours of Ethics CPE)



David Caplivski, CPA/CITP, Partner
 Contact : dcaplivski@graucpa.com / 561-939-6676

Experience

Grau & Associates	Partner	2021-Present
Grau & Associates	Manager	2014-2020
Grau & Associates	Senior Auditor	2013-2014
Grau & Associates	Staff Auditor	2010-2013

Education

Florida Atlantic University (2009)
 Master of Accounting
 Nova Southeastern University (2002)
 Bachelor of Science
 Environmental Studies

Certifications and Certificates

Certified Public Accountant (2011)
 AICPA Certified Information Technology Professional (2018)
 AICPA Accreditation COSO Internal Control Certificate (2022)

Clients Served (partial list)

(>300) Various Special Districts	Hispanic Human Resource Council
Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse	Loxahatchee Groves Water Control District
Boca Raton Airport Authority	Old Plantation Water Control District
Broward Education Foundation	Pinetree Water Control District
CareerSource Brevard	San Carlos Park Fire & Rescue Retirement Plan
CareerSource Central Florida 403 (b) Plan	South Indian River Water Control District
City of Lauderdale GERS	South Trail Fire Protection & Rescue District
City of Parkland Police Pension Fund	Town of Haverhill
City of Sunrise GERS	Town of Hypoluxo
Coquina Water Control District	Town of Hillsboro Beach
Central County Water Control District	Town of Lantana
City of Miami (program specific audits)	Town of Lauderdale By-The-Sea Volunteer Fire Pension
City of West Park	Town of Pembroke Park
Coquina Water Control District	Village of Wellington
East Central Regional Wastewater Treatment Fac.	Village of Golf
East Naples Fire Control & Rescue District	

Professional Education (over the last two years)

<u>Course</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Government Accounting and Auditing	24
Accounting, Auditing and Other	64
Total Hours	<u>88</u> (includes 4 hours of Ethics CPE)

Professional Associations

Member, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
Member, Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants
Member, Florida Government Finance Officers Association
Member, Florida Association of Special Districts

References



Grau & Associates
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

We have included three references of government engagements that require compliance with laws and regulations, follow fund accounting, and have financing requirements, which we believe are similar to the District.

Dunes Community Development District

Scope of Work	Financial audit
Engagement Partner	Antonio J. Grau
Dates	Annually since 1998
Client Contact	Darrin Mossing, Finance Director 475 W. Town Place, Suite 114 St. Augustine, Florida 32092 904-940-5850

Two Creeks Community Development District

Scope of Work	Financial audit
Engagement Partner	Antonio J. Grau
Dates	Annually since 2007
Client Contact	William Rizzetta, President 3434 Colwell Avenue, Suite 200 Tampa, Florida 33614 813-933-5571

Journey's End Community Development District

Scope of Work	Financial audit
Engagement Partner	Antonio J. Grau
Dates	Annually since 2004
Client Contact	Todd Wodraska, Vice President 2501 A Burns Road Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 33410 561-630-4922

Specific Audit Approach



Grau & Associates
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

AUDIT APPROACH

Grau's Understanding of Work Product / Scope of Services:

We recognize the District is an important entity and we are confident our firm is eminently qualified to meet the challenges of this engagement and deliver quality audit services. ***You would be a valued client of our firm and we pledge to commit all firm resources to provide the level and quality of services (as described below) which not only meet the requirements set forth in the RFP but will exceed those expectations.*** Grau & Associates fully understands the scope of professional services and work products requested. Our audit will follow the Auditing Standards of the AICPA, *Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Rules of the Auditor General of the State of Florida and any other applicable Federal, State or Local regulations. **We will deliver our reports in accordance with your requirements.**

Proposed segmentation of the engagement

Our approach to the audit engagement is a risk-based approach which integrates the best of traditional auditing techniques and a total systems concept to enable the team to conduct a more efficient and effective audit. The audit will be conducted in three phases, which are as follows:



Phase I - Preliminary Planning

A thorough understanding of your organization, service objectives and operating environment is essential for the development of an audit plan and for an efficient, cost-effective audit. During this phase, we will meet with appropriate personnel to obtain and document our understanding of your operations and service objectives and, at the same time, give you the opportunity to express your expectations with respect to the services that we will provide. Our work effort will be coordinated so that there will be minimal disruption to your staff.

During this phase we will perform the following activities:

- » Review the regulatory, statutory and compliance requirements. This will include a review of applicable federal and state statutes, resolutions, bond documents, contracts, and other agreements;
- » Read minutes of meetings;
- » Review major sources of information such as budgets, organization charts, procedures, manuals, financial systems, and management information systems;
- » Obtain an understanding of fraud detection and prevention systems;
- » Obtain and document an understanding of internal control, including knowledge about the design of relevant policies, procedures, and records, and whether they have been placed in operation;
- » Assess risk and determine what controls we are to rely upon and what tests we are going to perform and perform test of controls;
- » Develop audit programs to incorporate the consideration of financial statement assertions, specific audit objectives, and appropriate audit procedures to achieve the specified objectives;
- » Discuss and resolve any accounting, auditing and reporting matters which have been identified.

Phase II – Execution of Audit Plan

The audit team will complete a major portion of transaction testing and audit requirements during this phase. The procedures performed during this period will enable us to identify any matter that may impact the completion of our work or require the attention of management. Tasks to be performed in Phase II include, but are not limited to the following:

- » Apply analytical procedures to further assist in the determination of the nature, timing, and extent of auditing procedures used to obtain evidential matter for specific account balances or classes of transactions;
- » Perform tests of account balances and transactions through sampling, vouching, confirmation and other analytical procedures; and
- » Perform tests of compliance.

Phase III - Completion and Delivery

In this phase of the audit, we will complete the tasks related to year-end balances and financial reporting. All reports will be reviewed with management before issuance, and the partners will be available to meet and discuss our report and address any questions. Tasks to be performed in Phase III include, but are not limited to the following:

- » Perform final analytical procedures;
- » Review information and make inquiries for subsequent events; and
- » Meeting with Management to discuss preparation of draft financial statements and any potential findings or recommendations.

You should expect more from your accounting firm than a signature in your annual financial report. Our concept of truly responsive professional service emphasizes taking an active interest in the issues of concern to our clients and serving as an effective resource in dealing with those issues. In following this approach, we not only audit financial information with hindsight but also consider the foresight you apply in managing operations.

Application of this approach in developing our management letter is particularly important given the increasing financial pressures and public scrutiny facing today's public officials. We will prepare the management letter at the completion of our final procedures.

In preparing this management letter, we will initially review any draft comments or recommendations with management. In addition, we will take necessary steps to ensure that matters are communicated to those charged with governance.

In addition to communicating any recommendations, we will also communicate the following, if any:

- » Significant audit adjustments;
- » Significant deficiencies or material weaknesses;
- » Disagreements with management; and
- » Difficulties encountered in performing the audit.

Our findings will contain a statement of condition describing the situation and the area that needs strengthening, what should be corrected and why. Our suggestions will withstand the basic tests of corrective action:

Is the recommendation cost effective?

Is the recommendation the simplest to effectuate in order to correct a problem?

Is the recommendation at the heart of the problem and not just correcting a symptomatic matter?

Is the corrective action taking into account why the deficiency occurred?

To assure full agreement with facts and circumstances, we will fully discuss each item with Management prior to the final exit conference. This policy means there will be no “surprises” in the management letter and fosters a professional, cooperative atmosphere.

Communications

We emphasize a continuous, year-round dialogue between the District and our management team. We regularly communicate through personal telephone calls and electronic mail throughout the audit and on a regular basis.

Our clients have the ability to transmit information to us on our secure client portal with the ability to assign different staff with separate log on and viewing capability. This further facilitates efficiency as all assigned users receive electronic mail notification as soon as new information has been posted into the portal.

Cost of Services



Grau & Associates
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Our proposed all-inclusive fees for the financial audit for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2024-2026 are as follows:

<u>Year Ended September 30,</u>	<u>Fee</u>
2024	\$4,000
2025	\$4,100
2026	<u>\$4,200</u>
TOTAL (2024-2026)	<u>\$12,300</u>

The above fees are based on the assumption that the District maintains its current level of operations. Should conditions change or Bonds are issued the fees would be adjusted accordingly upon approval from all parties concerned.

Supplemental Information



Grau & Associates
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

PARTIAL LIST OF CLIENTS

SPECIAL DISTRICTS	Governmental Audit	Single Audit	Utility Audit	Current Client	Year End
Boca Raton Airport Authority	✓	✓		✓	9/30
Captain's Key Dependent District	✓			✓	9/30
Central Broward Water Control District	✓			✓	9/30
Collier Mosquito Control District	✓			✓	9/30
Coquina Water Control District	✓			✓	9/30
East Central Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility	✓		✓		9/30
Florida Green Finance Authority	✓				9/30
Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District	✓			✓	9/30
Greater Naples Fire Control and Rescue District	✓	✓		✓	9/30
Green Corridor P.A.C.E. District	✓			✓	9/30
Hobe-St. Lucie Conservancy District	✓			✓	9/30
Indian River Mosquito Control District	✓				9/30
Indian Trail Improvement District	✓			✓	9/30
Key Largo Wastewater Treatment District	✓	✓	✓	✓	9/30
Lake Padgett Estates Independent District	✓			✓	9/30
Lake Worth Drainage District	✓			✓	9/30
Lealman Special Fire Control District	✓			✓	9/30
Loxahatchee Groves Water Control District	✓				9/30
Old Plantation Control District	✓			✓	9/30
Pal Mar Water Control District	✓			✓	9/30
Pinellas Park Water Management District	✓			✓	9/30
Pine Tree Water Control District (Broward)	✓			✓	9/30
Pinetree Water Control District (Wellington)	✓				9/30
Ranger Drainage District	✓	✓		✓	9/30
Renaissance Improvement District	✓			✓	9/30
San Carlos Park Fire Protection and Rescue Service District	✓			✓	9/30
Sanibel Fire and Rescue District	✓			✓	9/30
South Central Regional Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Board	✓			✓	9/30
South-Dade Venture Development District	✓			✓	9/30
South Indian River Water Control District	✓	✓		✓	9/30
South Trail Fire Protection & Rescue District	✓			✓	9/30
Spring Lake Improvement District	✓			✓	9/30
St. Lucie West Services District	✓		✓	✓	9/30
Sunshine Water Control District	✓			✓	9/30
West Villages Improvement District	✓			✓	9/30
Various Community Development Districts (297)	✓			✓	9/30
TOTAL	333	5	3	328	

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

CONSULTING / MANAGEMENT ADVISORY SERVICES

Grau & Associates also provide a broad range of other management consulting services. Our expertise has been consistently utilized by Governmental and Non-Profit entities throughout Florida. Examples of engagements performed are as follows:

- Accounting systems
- Development of budgets
- Organizational structures
- Financing alternatives
- IT Auditing
- Fixed asset records
- Cost reimbursement
- Indirect cost allocation
- Grant administration and compliance

ARBITRAGE

The federal government has imposed complex rules to restrict the use of tax-exempt financing. Their principal purpose is to eliminate any significant arbitrage incentives in a tax-exempt issue. We have determined the applicability of these requirements and performed the rebate calculations for more than 150 bond issues, including both fixed and variable rate bonds.

73

Current
Arbitrage
Calculations

We look forward to providing *Cascades at Groveland Community Development District* with our resources and experience to accomplish not only those minimum requirements set forth in your Request for Proposal, but to exceed those expectations!

**For even more information on Grau & Associates
please visit us on www.graucpa.com.**