

**THE GROVES OF
ST. LUCIE COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DISTRICT**

May 15, 2026

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR
MEETING AGENDA**

**THE GROVES OF
ST. LUCIE COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

**AGENDA
LETTER**

The Groves of St. Lucie County Community Development District

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W • Boca Raton, Florida 33431

Phone: (561) 571-0010 • Toll-free: (877) 276-0889 • Fax: (561) 571-0013

<https://thegrovesofstluciecountycdd.net/>

May 8, 2026

Board of Supervisors

The Groves of St. Lucie County Community Development District

Dear Board Members:

The Board of Supervisors of The Groves of St. Lucie County Community Development District will hold a Regular Meeting on May 15, 2026 at 11:00 a.m., at the Fairfield Inn & Suites Ft. Pierce, 6502 Metal Dr., Ft. Pierce, Florida 34945. The agenda is as follows:

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comments
3. Consideration of Resolution 2026-16, Approving Proposed Budget(s) for FY 2027; Setting a Public Hearing Thereon and Directing Publication; Addressing Transmittal and Posting Requirements; Addressing Severability and Effective Date
4. Consideration of Resolution 2026-17, to Designate Date, Time and Place of Public Hearing and Authorization to Publish Notice of Such Hearing for the Purpose of Adopting Rules of Procedure; and Providing an Effective Date
 - A. Amended Rules of Procedure
5. Consideration of Resolution 2026-05, Designating a Date, Time and Location for Landowners' Meeting and Election; Providing for Publication; and Providing for Severability and an Effective Date [**November 3, 2026** - Seats 3, 4 & 5]
6. Consideration of Resolution 2026-09, Designating Dates, Times and Locations for Regular Meetings of the Board of Supervisors of the District for the Remainder of Fiscal Year 2025/2026 and Providing for an Effective Date
7. Consideration of Resolution 2026-15, Designating Dates, Times and Locations for Regular Meetings of the Board of Supervisors of the District for Fiscal Year 2026/2027 and Providing for an Effective Date
8. Consideration of Resolution 2026-10, Designating the Location of the Local District Records Office and Providing an Effective Date

ATTENDEES:

Please identify yourself each time you speak to facilitate accurate transcription of meeting minutes.

- 9. Ratification of Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. Interim Engineering Services Agreement
- 10. Acceptance of Unaudited Financial Statements as of March 31, 2026
- 11. Approval of Minutes
 - A. March 26, 2026 Special Meeting
 - B. March 30, 2026 Public Hearings, Regular Meeting and Audit Committee Meeting

12. Staff Reports

- A. District Counsel: *Kutak Rock LLP*
- B. District Engineer: *Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.*
- C. District Manager: *Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC*
 - Property Insurance on Vertical Assets
 - Form 1 Submission and Ethics Training
 - NEXT MEETING DATE: TBD

○ QUORUM CHECK

SEAT 1	TIM GEE	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PERSON	<input type="checkbox"/> PHONE	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
SEAT 2	JULIET MISCONI	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PERSON	<input type="checkbox"/> PHONE	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
SEAT 3	MICHAEL DULA	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PERSON	<input type="checkbox"/> PHONE	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
SEAT 4	MICHAEL FOLSTEIN	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PERSON	<input type="checkbox"/> PHONE	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
SEAT 5	DEREK YOUNGBLOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PERSON	<input type="checkbox"/> PHONE	<input type="checkbox"/> NO

- Performance Measures/Standards & Annual Reporting Form *(for informational purposes)*

- 13. Public Comments
- 14. Board Members' Comments/Requests
- 15. Adjournment

If you should have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (561) 346-5294 or Chris Conti at (724) 971-8827.

Sincerely,

Cindy Cerbone
 Cindy Cerbone
 District Manager

FOR BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF TO ATTEND BY TELEPHONE

CALL-IN NUMBER: 1-888-354-0094

PARTICIPANT PASSCODE: 354 2519

**THE GROVES OF
ST. LUCIE COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

3

RESOLUTION 2026-16

[FY 2027 BUDGET APPROVAL RESOLUTION]

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE GROVES OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT APPROVING PROPOSED BUDGET(S) FOR FY 2027; SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING THEREON AND DIRECTING PUBLICATION; ADDRESSING TRANSMITTAL AND POSTING REQUIREMENTS; ADDRESSING SEVERABILITY AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2026, and ending September 30, 2027 (“**FY 2027**”), the District Manager prepared and submitted to the Board of Supervisors (“**Board**”) of The Groves of St. Lucie County Community Development District (“**District**”) prior to June 15, 2026, the proposed budget(s) attached hereto as **Exhibit A (“Proposed Budget”)**; and

WHEREAS, the Board now desires to set the required public hearing on the Proposed Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE GROVES OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT:

1. **PROPOSED BUDGET APPROVED.** The Proposed Budget attached hereto as **Exhibit A** is hereby approved preliminarily.

2. **SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING; DIRECTING PUBLICATION.** A public hearing on said approved Proposed Budget is hereby declared and set for the following date, time, and location, and District staff is directed to provide notice of the same in accordance with Florida law:

DATE: _____

TIME: _____

LOCATION: _____

3. **TRANSMITTAL TO LOCAL GENERAL PURPOSE GOVERNMENTS; POSTING OF PROPOSED BUDGET.** The District Manager is hereby directed to (i) submit a copy of the Proposed Budget to the applicable local general-purpose government(s) at least 60 days prior to its adoption, and (ii) post the approved Proposed Budget on the District’s website in accordance with Chapter 189, Florida Statutes.

4. **SEVERABILITY; EFFECTIVE DATE.** The invalidity or unenforceability of any one or more provisions of this Resolution shall not affect the validity or enforceability of the remaining portions of this Resolution, or any part thereof. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 15th day of May, 2026.

ATTEST:

**THE GROVES OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

Exhibit A: Proposed Budget

Exhibit A:
Proposed Budget

**THE GROVES OF ST LUCIE COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
PROPOSED BUDGET
FISCAL YEAR 2027**

**THE GROVES OF ST LUCIE COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
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**THE GROVES OF ST LUCIE COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
GENERAL FUND BUDGET
FISCAL YEAR 2027**

	Fiscal Year 2026				Proposed Budget FY 2027
	Adopted Budget FY 2026	Actual through 2/28/2026	Projected through 9/30/2026	Total Actual & Projected	
REVENUES					
Assessment levy: off-roll	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 70,062
Developer contribution	71,098	3,677	60,223	63,900	343,215
Total revenues	<u>71,098</u>	<u>3,677</u>	<u>60,223</u>	<u>63,900</u>	<u>413,277</u>
EXPENDITURES					
Professional & administrative					
Management/accounting/recording**	26,000	4,000	15,500	19,500	36,000
Legal	25,000	1,284	23,716	25,000	25,000
Engineering	2,000	-	2,000	2,000	5,000
Engineering - stormwater reporting	-	-	-	-	5,000
Audit*	-	-	-	-	5,500
Arbitrage rebate calculation*	-	-	-	-	500
Dissemination agent*	333	-	-	-	333
EMMA software service*	-	-	-	-	-
Trustee*	-	-	-	-	5,500
Telephone	200	83	117	200	200
Postage	500	-	500	500	500
Printing & binding	500	208	292	500	500
Legal advertising	7,500	202	7,298	7,500	1,750
Annual special district fee	175	175	-	175	175
Insurance	5,500	5,000	-	5,000	5,800
Meeting room rental	-	-	-	-	1,800
Contingencies/bank charges	1,500	586	1,114	1,700	1,750
Website hosting & maintenance	1,680	1,680	-	1,680	705
Website ADA compliance	210	145	-	145	145
Total professional & administrative	<u>71,098</u>	<u>13,363</u>	<u>50,537</u>	<u>63,900</u>	<u>96,158</u>
Field operations					
Management	-	-	-	-	10,000
Stormwater management					
Wet pond maintenance	-	-	-	-	6,525
Wet pond erosion repairs	-	-	-	-	2,000
Aquascaping	-	-	-	-	5,000
Entry monuments and features					
Electricity	-	-	-	-	2,500
Pressure washing, painting and maint	-	-	-	-	3,500
Landscape maintenance					
Maintenance contract	-	-	-	-	131,769
Plant replacement	-	-	-	-	7,500
Irrigation repairs	-	-	-	-	5,000
Arbor care	-	-	-	-	10,000

**THE GROVES OF ST LUCIE COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
GENERAL FUND BUDGET
FISCAL YEAR 2027**

	Fiscal Year 2026				Proposed Budget FY 2027
	Adopted Budget FY 2026	Actual through 2/28/2026	Projected through 9/30/2026	Total Actual & Projected	
Maintenance contract	-	-	-	-	3,000
Electricity	-	-	-	-	24,000
Repairs/ maintenance	-	-	-	-	2,500
Open spaces and trails					
Pressure washing	-	-	-	-	3,500
Porter services	-	-	-	-	2,500
Repairs and maintenance	-	-	-	-	2,500
Streetlighting	-	-	-	-	67,500
Amenity complex					
Management complex	-	-	-	-	12,500
Pool maintenance contract	-	-	-	-	2,750
Repairs and maintenance	-	-	-	-	2,500
Electricity	-	-	-	-	1,875
Insurance - property	-	-	-	-	2,500
Internet	-	-	-	-	375
Water, sewer, propane	-	-	-	-	500
Janitorial	-	-	-	-	300
Security amenity center	-	-	-	-	500
Pest control	-	-	-	-	400
Permits, licenses	-	-	-	-	250
Supplies	-	-	-	-	875
Contingency	-	-	-	-	2,500
Total field operations	-	-	-	-	317,119
Total expenditures	<u>71,098</u>	<u>13,363</u>	<u>50,537</u>	<u>63,900</u>	<u>413,277</u>
Excess/(deficiency) of revenues over/(under) expenditures	-	(9,686)	9,686	-	-
Fund balance - beginning (unaudited)	-	-	(9,686)	-	-
Fund balance - ending (projected)					
Assigned					
Working capital	-	-	-	-	-
Unassigned	-	(9,686)	-	-	-
Fund balance - ending	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (9,686)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

*These items will be realized when bonds are issued

**WHA will charge a reduced management fee of \$500 per month during semi-dormancy then \$2,000 per month when the District is active then \$4,000 per month post bond issuance.

**THE GROVES OF ST LUCIE COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
DEFINITIONS OF GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES**

EXPENDITURES

Professional & administrative

Management/accounting/recording**	\$ 36,000
<p>Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC (WHA), specializes in managing community development districts by combining the knowledge, skills and experience of a team of professionals to ensure compliance with all of the District's governmental requirements. WHA develops financing programs, administers the issuance of tax exempt bond financings, operates and maintains the assets of the community.</p>	
Legal	25,000
<p>General counsel and legal representation, which includes issues relating to public finance, public bidding, rulemaking, open meetings, public records, real property dedications, conveyances and contracts.</p>	
Engineering	5,000
<p>The District's Engineer will provide construction and consulting services, to assist the District in crafting sustainable solutions to address the long term interests of the community while recognizing the needs of government, the environment and maintenance of the District's facilities.</p>	
Engineering - stormwater reporting	5,000
Audit	5,500
<p>Statutorily required for the District to undertake an independent examination of its books, records and accounting procedures.</p>	
Arbitrage rebate calculation*	500
<p>To ensure the District's compliance with all tax regulations, annual computations are necessary to calculate the arbitrage rebate liability.</p>	
Dissemination agent*	333
<p>The District must annually disseminate financial information in order to comply with the requirements of Rule 15c2-12 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Wrathell, Hunt & Associates serves as dissemination agent.</p>	
EMMA software service*	-
Trustee*	5,500
Telephone	200
Postage	500
<p>Telephone and fax machine.</p>	
Printing & binding	500
<p>Mailing of agenda packages, overnight deliveries, correspondence, etc.</p>	
Legal advertising	1,750
<p>Letterhead, envelopes, copies, agenda packages</p>	
Annual special district fee	175
<p>The District advertises for monthly meetings, special meetings, public hearings, public bids, etc.</p>	
Insurance	5,800
<p>Annual fee paid to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.</p>	
Meeting room rental	1,800
Contingencies/bank charges	1,750
<p>Bank charges and other miscellaneous expenses incurred during the year and automated AP routing etc.</p>	
Website hosting & maintenance	705
Website ADA compliance	145

**THE GROVES OF ST LUCIE COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
DEFINITIONS OF GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES**

EXPENDITURES (continued)

Management	10,000
Stormwater management	
Wet pond maintenance	6,525
Wet pond erosion repairs	2,000
Aquascaping	5,000
Entry monuments and features	
Electricity	2,500
Pressure washing, painting and maint	3,500
Landscape maintenance	
Maintenance contract	131,769
Plant replacement	7,500
Irrigation repairs	5,000
Arbor care	10,000
Maintenance contract	3,000
Electricity	24,000
Repairs/ maintenance	2,500
Open spaces and trails	
Pressure washing	3,500
Porter services	2,500
Repairs and maintenance	2,500
Streetlighting	67,500
Management complex	12,500
Pool maintenance contract	2,750
Repairs and maintenance	2,500
Electricity	1,875
Insurance - property	2,500
Internet	375
Water, sewer, propane	500
Janitorial	300
Security amenity center	500
Pest control	400
Permits, licenses	250
Supplies	875
Contingency	2,500
Total expenditures	<u><u>\$413,277</u></u>

**THE GROVES OF ST LUCIE COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
ASSESSMENT COMPARISON
PROJECTED FISCAL YEAR 2027 ASSESSMENTS**

Off-Roll Assessments					
	Units	Fiscal Year 2027			Fiscal Year 2026
		O&M	DS	Total	Total
		Assessment per Unit	Assessment per Unit	Assessment per Unit	Assessment per Unit
Townhome	154	\$ 454.95	\$ -	\$ 454.95	n/a
SF 35'	0	-	-	-	n/a
SF 40'	0	-	-	-	n/a
SF 50'	0	-	-	-	n/a
Total	154				

Developer Contributions					
	Units	Fiscal Year 2027			Fiscal Year 2026
		O&M	DS	Total	Total Developer
		Developer Contribution per Unit	Assessment per Unit	Developer Contributions/ Assessments per Unit	Contributions/Ass essments per Unit
Townhome	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	n/a
SF 35'	154	636.93	-	636.93	n/a
SF 40'	173	727.92	-	727.92	n/a
SF 50'	131	909.90	-	909.90	n/a
Total	458				

**THE GROVES OF
ST. LUCIE COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

4

RESOLUTION 2026-17

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE GROVES OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT TO DESIGNATE DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND AUTHORIZATION TO PUBLISH NOTICE OF SUCH HEARING FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING RULES OF PROCEDURE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, The Groves of St. Lucie County Community Development District (the “District”) is a local unit of special-purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 190, *Florida Statutes*; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the District (the “Board”) is authorized by Section 190.011(5), *Florida Statutes*, to adopt rules and orders pursuant to Chapter 120, *Florida Statutes*.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE GROVES OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT:

SECTION 1. A Public Hearing will be held to adopt Rules of Procedure on _____, 2026, at ____:____ __.m, at _____.

SECTION 2. The District Secretary is directed to publish notice of the hearing in accordance with Section 120.54, *Florida Statutes*.

SECTION 3. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 15th day of May, 2026.

ATTEST:

**THE GROVES OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

**THE GROVES OF
ST. LUCIE COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

4A

RULES OF PROCEDURE
THE GROVES AT ST. LUCIE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
RULE NO. 2026-_____
EFFECTIVE AS OF _____, 2026

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Rule 1.0 General. These Rules of Procedure supersede and replace all previously adopted Rules of Procedure.

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

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

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

Rule 1.1 Board of Supervisors; Officers and Voting.

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

contracts on the District's behalf. The Chairperson shall convene and conduct all meetings of the Board. In the event the Chairperson is unable to attend a meeting, the Vice-Chairperson shall convene and conduct the meeting. The Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson may delegate the responsibility of conducting the meeting to the District's manager ("**District Manager**") or District Counsel, in whole or in part.

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

previously approved by the Board, the Secretary or any Assistant Secretary may execute such document.

- (f) The Board may assign additional duties to District officers from time to time, which include, but are not limited to, executing documents on behalf of the District.
 - (g) The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and any other person authorized by District Resolution may sign checks and warrants for the District, countersigned by the Treasurer or other persons authorized by the Board.
- (3) Committees. The Board may establish committees of the Board, either on a permanent or temporary basis, to perform specifically designated functions. Committees may include individuals who are not members of the Board. Such functions may include, but are not limited to, review of bids, proposals, and qualifications, contract negotiations, personnel matters, and budget preparation.
- (4) Record Book. The Board shall keep a permanent record book entitled “**Record of Proceedings**,” in which shall be recorded minutes of all meetings, resolutions, proceedings, certificates, and corporate acts. The Records of Proceedings shall be located at a District office and shall be available for inspection by the public.
- (5) Meetings. For each fiscal year, the Board shall establish a schedule of regular meetings, which shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the county or counties in which the District is located and filed with the local general-purpose governments within whose boundaries the District is located. All meetings of the Board and committees serving an advisory function shall be open to the public in accord with the provisions of Chapter 286 of the Florida Statutes.
- (6) Votes Required. No Board member who is present at any meeting of the District Board at which an official decision, ruling, or other official act is to be taken or adopted may abstain from voting in regard to any such decision, ruling, or act; and a vote shall be recorded or counted for each such Board member present, except when, with respect to any such member, there is, or appears to be, a possible conflict of interest under the provisions of s. 112.311, s. 112.313, or s. 112.3143 of the Florida Statutes.
- (7) Voting Conflict of Interest. The Board shall comply with Section 112.3143 of the Florida Statutes, so as to ensure the proper disclosure of conflicts of interest on matters coming before the Board for a vote. For the purposes of this section, “**voting conflict of interest**” shall be governed by the Florida Constitution and Chapters 112 and 190 of the Florida Statutes, as amended from time to time. Generally, a voting conflict exists when a Board member is called upon to vote on an item which would inure to the Board member’s special private gain or loss or

the Board member knows would inure to the special private gain or loss of a principal by whom the Board member is retained, the parent organization or subsidiary of a corporate principal, a business associate, or a relative including only a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, brother, sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, and daughter-in-law.

- (a) When a Board member knows the member has a conflict of interest on a matter coming before the Board, the member should notify the Board's Secretary prior to participating in any discussion with the Board on the matter. The member shall publicly announce the conflict of interest at the meeting. This announcement shall appear in the minutes.

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

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

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

file a Memorandum of Voting Conflict at any time in which it shall state the nature of the continuing conflict. Only one such continuing Memorandum of Voting Conflict shall be required to be filed for each term the Board member is in office.

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

Law Implemented: §§ 112.3143, 190.006, 190.007, 286.012, Fla. Stat.

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

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

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

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

District's local records office during regular business hours. All written public records requests shall be directed to the Secretary who by these rules is appointed as the District's records custodian. Regardless of the form of the request, any Board member or staff member who receives a public records request shall immediately forward or communicate such request to the Secretary for coordination of a prompt response. The Secretary, after consulting with District Counsel as to the applicability of any exceptions under the public records laws, shall be responsible for responding to the public records request. At no time can the District be required to create records or summaries of records, or prepare opinions regarding District policies, in response to a public records request.

- (3) Service Contracts. Any contract for services, regardless of cost, shall include provisions required by law that require the contractor to comply with public records laws. The District Manager shall be responsible for initially enforcing all contract provisions related to a contractor's duty to comply with public records laws.

- (4) Fees; Copies. Copies of public records shall be made available to the requesting person at a charge of \$0.15 per page for one-sided copies and \$0.20 per page for two-sided copies if not more than 8 ½ by 14 inches. For copies of public records in excess of the sizes listed in this section and for outside duplication services, the charge shall be equal to the actual cost of reproduction. Certified copies of public records shall be made available at a charge of one dollar (\$1.00) per page. If the nature or volume of records requested requires extensive use of information technology resources or extensive clerical or supervisory assistance, the District may charge, in addition to the duplication charge, a special service charge that is based on the cost the District incurs to produce the records requested. This charge may include, but is not limited to, the cost of information technology resource, employee labor, and fees charged to the District by consultants employed in fulfilling the request. In cases where the special service charge is based in whole or in part on the costs incurred by the District due to employee labor, consultant fees, or other forms of labor, those portions of the charge shall be calculated based on the lowest labor cost of the individual(s) who is/are qualified to perform the labor, taking into account the nature or volume of the public records to be inspected or copied. The charge may include the labor costs of supervisory and/or clerical staff whose assistance is required to complete the records request, in accordance with Florida law. For purposes of this Rule, the word "**extensive**" shall mean that it will take more than 15 minutes to locate, review for confidential information, copy and re-file the requested material. In cases where extensive personnel time is determined by the District to be necessary to safeguard original records being inspected, the special service charge provided for in this section shall apply. If the total fees, including but not limited to special service charges, are anticipated to exceed twenty-five dollars (\$25.00), then, prior to commencing work on the request, the District will inform the person

making the public records request of the estimated cost, with the understanding that the final cost may vary from that estimate. If the person making the public records request decides to proceed with the request, payment of the estimated cost is required in advance. Should the person fail to pay the estimate, the District is under no duty to produce the requested records. After the request has been fulfilled, additional payments or credits may be due. The District is under no duty to produce records in response to future records requests if the person making the request owes the District for past unpaid duplication charges, special service charges, or other required payments or credits.

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

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

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

Rule 1.3 Public Meetings, Hearings, and Workshops.

- (1) Notice. Except in emergencies, or as otherwise authorized or required by statute or these Rules, at least seven (7) days' public notice shall be given of any public meeting, hearing or workshop of the Board. Public notice shall be given by publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the county or counties in which the District is located. A newspaper is deemed to be a newspaper of "general circulation" in the county in which the District is located if such newspaper has been in existence for two (2) years at the time of publication of the applicable notice (unless no newspaper within the county has been published for such length) and satisfies the criteria of section 50.011(1) of the Florida Statutes, or if such newspaper is a direct successor of a newspaper which has been so published, as such provisions may be amended from time to time by law. The annual meeting notice required to be published by Section 189.015 of the Florida Statutes, shall be published as provide in Chapter 50 of the Florida Statutes, and such notice published consistent therewith shall satisfy the requirement to give at least seven (7) days' public notice as required herein. Each Notice shall state, as applicable:
- (a) The date, time and place of the meeting, hearing or workshop;
 - (b) A brief description of the nature, subjects, and purposes of the meeting, hearing, or workshop;
 - (c) The District office address for the submission of requests for copies of the agenda, as well as a contact name and telephone number for verbal requests for copies of the agenda; and
 - (d) The following or substantially similar language: "Pursuant to provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting/hearing/workshop is asked to advise the District Office at least forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting/hearing/workshop by contacting the District Manager at _____. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 1 (800) 955-8770 or 1 (800) 955-8771, who can aid you in contacting the District Office."
 - (e) The following or substantially similar language: "A person who decides to appeal any decision made at the meeting/hearing/workshop with respect to any matter considered at the meeting/hearing/workshop is advised that person will need a record of the proceedings and that accordingly, the person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based."

- (f) The following or substantially similar language: “The meeting [or hearing or workshop] may be continued in progress without additional notice to a time, date, and location stated on the record.”

The date, time, and place of each meeting, hearing, or workshop of the Board shall additionally be posted on the District’s website at least seven (7) days prior to such meeting, hearing, or workshop.

- (2) Mistake. In the event that a meeting is held under the incorrect assumption that notice required by law and these Rules has been given, the Board at its next properly noticed meeting shall cure such defect by considering the agenda items from the prior meeting individually and anew.
- (3) Agenda. The District Manager, under the guidance of District Counsel and the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson, shall prepare an agenda of the meeting/hearing/workshop. The agenda and any meeting materials available in an electronic format, excluding any i) confidential and ii) confidential and exempt information, shall be available to the public at least seven (7) days before the meeting/hearing/workshop, except in an emergency. Meeting materials shall be defined as, and limited to, the agenda, meeting minutes, resolutions, and agreements of the District that District staff deems necessary for Board approval. Inclusion of additional materials for Board consideration other than those defined herein as “meeting materials” shall not convert such materials into “meeting materials.” For good cause, the agenda may be changed after it is first made available for distribution, and additional materials may be added or provided under separate cover at the meeting. The requirement of good cause shall be liberally construed to allow the District to efficiently conduct business and to avoid the expenses associated with special meetings.

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

- Call to order
- Roll call
- Public comments
- Organizational matters
- Review of minutes
- Specific items of old business
- Specific items of new business
- Staff reports
 - (a) District Counsel
 - (b) District Engineer
 - (c) District Manager

1. Financial Report
 2. Approval of Expenditures
- Supervisor's requests and comments
Adjournment

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

the annual budget(s). Approval of invoices by the Board in excess of the funds allocated to a particular budgeted line item shall serve to amend the budgeted line item.

- (9) Public Hearings. Notice of required public hearings shall contain the information required by applicable Florida law and by these Rules applicable to meeting notices and shall be mailed and published as required by Florida law. The District Manager shall ensure that all such notices, whether mailed or published, contain the information required by Florida law and these Rules and are mailed and published as required by Florida law. Public hearings may be held during Board meetings when the agenda includes such public hearing.
- (10) Participation by Teleconference/Videoconference. District staff may participate in Board meetings by teleconference or videoconference. Board members may also participate in Board meetings by teleconference or videoconference if in the good judgment of the Board extraordinary circumstances exist; provided however, at least three Board members must be physically present at the meeting location to establish a quorum. Such extraordinary circumstances shall be presumed when a Board member participates by teleconference or videoconference, unless a majority of the Board members physically present determines that extraordinary circumstances do not exist.
- (11) Board Authorization. The District has not adopted Robert's Rules of Order. For each agenda item, there shall be discussion permitted among the Board members during the meeting. Unless such procedure is waived by the Board, approval or disapproval of resolutions and other proposed Board actions shall be in the form of a motion by one Board member, a second by another Board member, and an affirmative vote by the majority of the Board members present. Any Board member, including the Chairperson, can make or second a motion.
- (12) Continuances. Any meeting or public hearing of the Board may be continued without re-notice or re-advertising provided that:
 - (a) The Board identifies on the record at the original meeting a reasonable need for a continuance;
 - (b) The continuance is to a specified date, time, and location publicly announced at the original meeting; and
 - (c) The public notice for the original meeting states that the meeting may be continued to a date and time and states that the date, time, and location of any continuance shall be publicly announced at the original meeting and posted at the District Office immediately following the original meeting.

- (13) Attorney-Client Sessions. An Attorney-Client Session is permitted when the District's attorneys deem it necessary to meet in private with the Board to discuss pending litigation to which the District is a party before a court or administrative agency or as may be authorized by law. The District's attorney must request such session at a public meeting. Prior to holding the Attorney-Client Session, the District must give reasonable public notice of the time and date of the session and the names of the persons anticipated to attend the session. The session must commence at an open meeting in which the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson announces the commencement of the session, the estimated length of the session, and the names of the persons who will be attending the session. The discussion during the session is confined to settlement negotiations or strategy related to litigation expenses or as may be authorized by law. Only the Board, the District's attorneys (including outside counsel), the District Manager, and the court reporter may attend an Attorney-Client Session. During the session, no votes may be taken and no final decisions concerning settlement can be made. Upon the conclusion of the session, the public meeting is reopened, and the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson must announce that the session has concluded. The session must be transcribed by a court-reporter and the transcript of the session filed with the District Secretary within a reasonable time after the session. The transcript shall not be available for public inspection until after the conclusion of the litigation.
- (14) Security and Firesafety Board Discussions. Portions of a meeting which relate to or would reveal a security or firesafety system plan or portion thereof made confidential and exempt by section 119.071(3)(a), Florida Statutes, are exempt from the public meeting requirements and other requirements of section 286.011, Florida Statutes, and section 24(b), Article 1 of the State Constitution. Should the Board wish to discuss such matters, members of the public shall be required to leave the meeting room during such discussion. Any records of the Board's discussion of such matters, including recordings or minutes, shall be maintained as confidential and exempt records in accordance with Florida law.

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

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

Rule 1.4 Internal Controls to Prevent Fraud, Waste and Abuse

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

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

Rule 2.0 Rulemaking Proceedings.

- (1) Commencement of Proceedings. Proceedings held for adoption, amendment, or repeal of a District rule shall be conducted according to these Rules. Rulemaking proceedings shall be deemed to have been initiated upon publication of a Notice of Rule Development by the District as required by Section 2 of this Rule. A “**rule**” is a District statement of general applicability that implements, interprets, or prescribes law or policy, or describes the procedure or practice requirements of the District. Nothing herein shall be construed as requiring the District to consider or adopt rules unless required by Chapter 190 of the Florida Statutes. Policies adopted by the District which do not consist of rates, fees, rentals or other monetary charges may be, but are not required to be, implemented through rulemaking proceedings.
- (2) Requirements of a Rule. All District rules as drafted shall:
 - (a) Contain only one subject;
 - (b) Include readable language, meaning it avoids i) the use of obscure words and unnecessarily long or complicated constructions, and ii) the use of unnecessary technical or specialized language that is understood only by members of particular trades or professions;
 - (c) Be indefinite such that the rule does not include a provision whereby the rule, or a portion thereof, automatically expires or is repealed on a specific date or at the end of a specified period, unless otherwise expressly authorized by law; and
 - (d) Only incorporate material by reference in compliance with Section 120.54(1)(i) of the Florida Statutes.
- (3) Statement of Estimated Regulatory Costs. Before adopting, amending, or repealing any rule, other than an emergency rule, the District may prepare a statement of estimated regulatory costs (“**SERC**”) based on the factors set forth in Section 120.541(2) of the Florida Statutes. The District shall prepare a SERC for a proposed rule if in accordance with the requirements of Section 120.541(2) of the Florida Statutes if: i) the proposed rule will have an adverse economic impact on small business; or ii) the proposed rule is likely to directly or indirectly increase regulatory costs in excess of \$200,000 in the aggregate in the state within one (1) year after implementation of the rule.
- (4) Notice of Rule Development.

- (a) Except when the intended action is the repeal of a rule, the District shall provide notice of the development of a proposed rule (“**Notice of Rule Development**”) setting forth the following:
 - (i) the subject area to be addressed by rule development;
 - (ii) A short, plain explanation of the purpose and effect of the proposed rule;
 - (iii) The grant of rulemaking authority for the proposed rule;
 - (iv) The law being implemented;
 - (v) The proposed rule number; and
 - (vi) If available, either the preliminary text of the proposed rule and any incorporated documents, or a statement of how a person may promptly obtain, without cost, a copy of any preliminary draft of such rule or documents.
- (b) The Notice of Rule Development shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the county or counties in which the District is located at least seven (7) days prior to the Notice of Rulemaking required by Section 5 of this Rule, and at least thirty-five (35) days prior to the intended action.

(5) Notice of Rulemaking.

- (a) Prior to the adoption, amendment, or repeal of any rule other than an emergency rule, the District shall provide notice of its intended action (the “**Notice of Rulemaking**”) setting forth the following:
 - (i) A short, plain explanation of the purpose and effect of the proposed rule;
 - (ii) The proposed rule number;
 - (iii) A summary of the proposed rule or amendment;
 - (iv) The full text of the proposed rule or amendment and a summary thereof, unless not required pursuant to 120.81(2)(b) of the Florida Statutes or other Florida law;
 - (v) The grant of rulemaking authority for the proposed rule;

- (vi) The law being implemented or interpreted;
 - (vii) The name, e-mail address, and telephone number of the agency employee who may be contacted regarding the intended action;
 - (viii) A concise summary of the District's statement of the estimated regulatory costs, if one has been prepared, based on the factors set forth in Section 120.541(2) of the Florida Statutes, that describes the regulatory impact of the rule in readable language;
 - (ix) The District's website where the statement of estimated regulatory costs can be viewed, in its entirety, if one has been prepared;
 - (x) A statement that any person who wishes to provide the District with a lower cost regulatory alternative as provided by Section 120.541(1), must do so in writing within twenty-one (21) days after publication of the notice;
 - (xi) A statement as to whether, based on the SERC or other information expressly relied upon and described by the District if no statement of regulatory costs is required, the proposed rule is expected to require legislative ratification pursuant to Section 120.541(3) of the Florida Statutes;
 - (x) The date, time, and location of the public hearing on the proposed rule;
 - (xi) The name, address, and telephone number of the District contact person who can provide information about the public hearing; and
 - (xii) A reference to both the date on which and the place where the Notice of Rule Development required by Section 4 of this Rule appeared, except when the intended action is the repeal of a rule.
- (b) The Notice of Rulemaking shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the county or counties in which the District is located at least seven (7) days after the Notice of Rule Development required by Section 4 of this Rule, and at least twenty-eight (28) days prior to the intended action. If the Notice of Rulemaking is not published within one-hundred eighty (180) days of the publication of the Notice of Rule Development, then the District's Board shall approve a concise statement at least seven (7) days prior to the conclusion of the one-hundred eighty

(180) day timeframe identifying the reason for the delay, which may be supplemented quarterly until the District has adopted the proposed rule.

- (c) The Notice of Rulemaking shall be mailed or delivered electronically to all persons named in the proposed rule and to all persons who, at least fourteen (14) days before publication of the notice, have made requests of the District for advance notice of its rulemaking proceedings. Any person may file a written request with the District Manager to receive notice of the District's rulemaking proceedings. Such persons must furnish a mailing address or e-mail address, and may be required to pay the cost of copying and mailing as applicable.
- (d) As of the date of publication of the Notice of Rulemaking, the Board shall make available for public inspection and shall provide, upon request and payment of the cost of copies, the proposed rule, including all material proposed to be incorporated by reference.

(6) Modification of Rules.

(a) Technical Changes.

- (i) Prior to rule adoption, the District shall publish a notice of correction ("**Notice of Correction**") if any of the information that is required to be included in the Notice of Rulemaking, including technical changes that correct citations or grammatical, typographical or similar errors that do not otherwise affect the substance of the rule, is omitted or is incorrect. A Notice of Correction cannot be used to make substantive changes to the rule text. The Notice of Correction shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the county or counties in which the District is located at least seven (7) days prior to the intended action.
- (ii) After rule adoption, a technical change to a rule may be approved at any time by the District. Promptly thereafter, a Notice of Correction shall be published by the District in the manner set forth in Section 6(a)(i) of this Rule.

(b) Substantive Changes.

- (i) Prior to rule adoption, the District may publish a notice of change ("**Notice of Change**") if there is any substantive change, other than a technical change that corrects citations or grammatical, typographical or similar errors that do not otherwise affect the

substance of the rule, to a proposed rule, including any material incorporated by reference, or to a SERC. The Notice of Change shall address a summary of the change and may be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the county or counties in which the District is located at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the intended action or as otherwise permissible . The Notice of Change shall also be sent to those persons set forth in Section 5(C) of this Rule that have made requests of the District for advance notice of its rulemaking proceedings. Any substantive change must be either be:

1. Supported by the record of the public hearing held on the proposed rule;
 2. In response to written materials submitted to the District;
- or
3. In response to an objection with the proposed rule by the District Board.
- (ii) After rule adoption, a substantive change to a rule shall be effectuated by initiating rulemaking as set forth in this Rule.

(7) Withdrawal of Proposed Rules.

- (a) Prior to the adoption of a rule, the District may elect to withdraw the proposed rule in whole or in part. After a rule has become effective, the District may only amend or repeal the rule through initiating the rulemaking procedures set forth in this Rule.
- (b) Prior to the adoption of a rule, the District shall withdraw the proposed rule if the District has either failed to adopt such rule within one-hundred eighty (180) days of the publication of the Notice of Rule Development required by Section 4 of this Rule or to approve a concise statement at least seven (7) days prior to the conclusion of the one-hundred eighty (180) day timeframe identifying the reason for the delay, which may be supplemented quarterly until the District has adopted the proposed rule.
- (c) In the event of a withdrawal of a proposed rule, the District shall publish a notice ("**Notice of Rule Withdrawal**") in a newspaper of general circulation within the county or counties in which the District is located, and shall provide notice to those persons set forth in Section 5(c) of this Rule that have made requests of the District for advance notice of its rulemaking proceedings.

- (d) Within fifteen (15) days after the end of each calendar quarter, the District shall compile and post on its website a list of each failure to publish a Notice of Rulemaking within the timeframe prescribed by Section 5(b) of this Rule, which list shall include the information set forth in Section 120.54(3)(d)(7) of the Florida Statutes. The District is only required to provide such posting in any calendar quarter(s) in which there is an actual failure to timely publish a Notice of Rulemaking, if any.

(8) Rule Development Workshops.

- (a) Whenever requested in writing by any affected person, the District must conduct a rule development workshop prior to proposing rules for adoption for the purposes of rule development or information gathering for the preparation of the SERC, unless the Chairperson explains in writing why a workshop is unnecessary. The District may initiate a rule development workshop, but is not required to do so.
- (b) If a workshop is held, the District must ensure that the person(s) responsible for preparing the rule and the SERC, if applicable, are available to explain the District's proposed rule and to respond to questions or comments regarding the rule being developed.
- (c) The notice of any workshop shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the county or counties in which the District is located at least fourteen (14) days prior to the workshop setting forth the following:
 - (i) The place, date, and time of the workshop;
 - (ii) The subject area that will be addressed; and
 - (iii) The District Manager's contact information.

(9) Petitions to Initiate Rulemaking.

- (a) All Petitions to Initiate Rulemaking Proceedings must contain the name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner, the specific action requested, the specific reason for adoption, amendment, or repeal, the date submitted, the text of the proposed rule, and the facts showing that the petitioner is regulated by the District or has a substantial interest in the rulemaking. District staff shall forward a copy of the petition to the District's Board within seven (7) days of its receipt.

- (b) If the petition is directed to an adopted rule, within thirty (30) days following the date of filing a petition, the District shall either i) initiate rulemaking proceedings, ii) otherwise comply with the requested action, or iii) deny the petition with a written statement of its reasons for the denial.
- (c) If the petition is directed to an unadopted rule, within thirty (30) days following the date of filing a petition, the District shall either i) initiate rulemaking, or ii) set a public hearing to consider whether the public interest is served adequately by the application of the proposed rule on a case-by-case basis, as contrasted with its formal adoption as a rule.
 - (i) If the District elects to hold a public hearing, notice of the public hearing (“**Notice of Rulemaking Petition Public Hearing**”) shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the county or counties in which the District is located. The public hearing shall be held by the District within thirty (30) days after publication of the Notice of Rulemaking Petition Public Hearing.
 - (ii) Not later than thirty (30) days following the date of the public hearing held pursuant to Section 9(c)(i) of this Rule, the District shall either i) initiate rulemaking proceedings, ii) otherwise comply with the requested action, or iii) deny the petition with a written statement of its reasons for the denial.
 - 1. If the District decides to initiate rulemaking it shall proceed with the rulemaking process as set forth in this Rule.
 - 2. If the District decides to not initiate rulemaking or otherwise comply with the requested action, the District shall publish a statement of its reasons for not initiating rulemaking or otherwise complying with the requested action and of any changes it will make in the scope or application of the unadopted rule (the “**Notice of Denial of Rulemaking Petition**”). The Notice of Denial of Rulemaking Petition shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the county or counties in which the District is located.
- (d) Nothing in this Rule shall be construed as requiring the District to adopt, amend, or repeal a rule as initiated by petition.

(10) Public Hearing.

- (a) The District may, or, upon the written request of any affected person received within twenty-one (21) days after the date of publication of the Notice of Rulemaking, shall, provide a public hearing for the presentation of evidence, argument, and oral statements, within the reasonable conditions and limitations imposed by the District to avoid duplication, irrelevant comments, unnecessary delay, or disruption of the proceedings. When a public hearing is held, the District shall ensure that staff is available to explain the proposed rule and to respond to questions or comments regarding the proposed rule. Written statements may be submitted by any person prior to or at the public hearing. All timely submitted written statements shall be considered by the District and made part of the rulemaking record.
- (b) The District shall publish notice of the public hearing (“**Notice of Public Hearing**”) in a newspaper of general circulation within the county or counties in which the District is located, either in the text of the Notice of Rulemaking or in a separate publication at least seven (7) days before the scheduled public hearing. The Notice of Public Hearing shall include the following information:
 - (i) The date, time, and location of the public hearing; and
 - (ii) The name, address, and telephone number of the District contact person who can provide information about the public hearing.

(11) Emergency Rule Adoption.

- (a) The Board may adopt an emergency rule if it finds that immediate danger to the public health, safety, or welfare exists which requires immediate action or if the Legislature authorizes the District to adopt emergency rules. The District may use any procedure which is fair under the circumstances in the adoption of an emergency rule as long as it protects the public interest as determined by the District.
- (b) At the time or prior to the adoption of an emergency rule, the District shall post on its website a notice regarding its adoption of the emergency rule (the “**Notice of Emergency Rule**”) which includes the specific facts and reasons for finding an immediate danger to the public health, safety, or welfare and its reasons for concluding that procedure used is fair under the circumstances. The Notice of Emergency Rule shall thereafter be promptly published in a newspaper of general circulation within the county or counties in which the District is located, and shall include the following information:

- (i) The full text of the rule(s); and
 - (ii) The District’s findings of immediate danger, necessity, and procedural fairness or a citation to the grant of emergency rulemaking authority.
- (c) An emergency rule shall be effective immediately upon adoption by the District, or on a date less than twenty (20) days thereafter if specified in the emergency rule if the District finds that a later effective date is necessary because of immediate danger to the public health, safety, or welfare. An emergency rule may not be effective for a period of more than ninety (90) days after adoption and may not be renewable, unless the District has initiated rulemaking to adopt rules addressing the subject of the emergency rule and either i) a challenge to the proposed rules has been filed and remains pending or ii) the proposed rules are awaiting ratification by the Legislature, if applicable. Nothing in this paragraph prohibits the District from adopting a rule identical to the emergency rule through the non-emergency rulemaking procedures set forth in this Rule.
- (i) If an emergency rule is being renewed in accordance with Section 11(d) of this Rule, notice of the renewal of the emergency rule (the “**Notice of Renewal of Emergency Rule**”) shall be published before the expiration of the existing emergency rule. The Notice of Renewal of Emergency Rule shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the county or counties in which the District is located and shall include the specific facts and reasons for such renewal.
 - (ii) For emergency rules with an effective period of longer than ninety (90) days which are intended to replace an existing rule, the Rulemaking Record for the existing rule, as required by Section 13 of this Rule, shall specifically identify the emergency rule that is intended to supersede the existing rule as well as the date that the emergency rule was adopted by the District.
- (d) The District may supersede an emergency rule in effect through the adoption of another emergency rule before the superseded rule expires. The District shall post on its website and publish a Notice of Emergency Rule, in accordance with Section 11(b) of this Rule, identifying the reason for adopting the superseding rule. The superseding rule shall not be in effect longer than the duration of the effective period of the superseded rule.

- (e) The District may make technical changes to an emergency rule within the first seven (7) days after the rule is adopted, and such changes shall be published in a Notice of Correction as set forth in Section 6(a) of this Rule.
 - (f) The District may repeal an emergency rule before it expires by publishing a notice (“**Notice of Repeal of Emergency Rule**”) in a newspaper of general circulation within the county or counties in which the District is located. The Notice of Repeal of Emergency Rule shall include the following information:
 - (i) The full text of the emergency rule and a summary thereof;
 - (ii) The rule number; and
 - (iii) A short and plain explanation as to why the conditions specified in the Notice of Emergency Rule no longer require the emergency rule.
- (12) Negotiated Rulemaking. The District may use negotiated rulemaking in developing and adopting rules pursuant to Section 120.54(2)(d) of the Florida Statutes, except that any notices required under Section 120.54(2)(d) of the Florida Statutes, may be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the county or counties in which the District is located.
- (13) Rulemaking Record. In all rulemaking proceedings, the District shall compile and maintain a rulemaking record (“**Rulemaking Record**”) which shall be on file with the District at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the proposed adoption date of the rule. The Rulemaking Record shall include, as applicable:
- (a) A copy of the rule;
 - (b) Any material incorporated by reference in the rule;
 - (c) A detailed written statement of the facts and circumstances justifying the proposed rule;
 - (d) Any SERC for the rule, if required by Section 120.54(3)(b)1. of the Florida Statutes or otherwise prepared, and any information created or used by the District in determining whether a SERC is required;
 - (e) A statement of the extent to which the proposed rule relates to federal standards on rules on the same subject;

- (f) The Notice of Rule Development, Notice of Rulemaking, and notice(s) of any workshops held pursuant to Section 8 of this Rule; and
- (g) If an emergency rule is intended to supersede an existing rule, the emergency rule number and the date that the emergency rule was adopted by the District.

(14) Petitions to Challenge Rules.

- (a) Any person substantially affected by a proposed or existing rule may seek an administrative determination of the invalidity of the rule on the ground that the rule is an invalid exercise of the District's authority.
 - (i) A petition alleging the invalidity of a proposed rule shall be filed within twenty-one (21) days after the date of publication of Notice of Rulemaking, within ten (10) days after the final public hearing is held on the proposed rule; within twenty (20) days after the SERC or revised SERC has been prepared and made available as provided in Section 120.541(1)(d) of the Florida Statutes, if applicable; or within twenty (20) days after the date of publication of the Notice of Rule Withdrawal required by Section 7(c) of this Rule.
 - (ii) A petition alleging the invalidity of an existing rule may be filed at any time during which the rule is in effect.
- (b) The petition seeking an administrative determination must state with particularity the provisions alleged to be invalid with sufficient explanation of the facts or grounds for the alleged invalidity and facts sufficient to show that the person challenging a proposed or existing rule is substantially affected by it. A person who is not substantially affected by the proposed rule as initially noticed, but who is substantially affected by the rule as a result of a change, may challenge any provision of the resulting proposed rule.
- (c) The petition shall be filed with the District. Within ten (10) days after receiving the petition, or seven (7) days if the challenge relates to an emergency rule, the Chairperson shall, if the petition complies with the requirements of subsection (b) of this section, designate any member of the Board (including the Chairperson), District Manager, District Counsel, or other person as a hearing officer who shall conduct a hearing within thirty (30) days thereafter, or fourteen (14) days if the challenge relates to an emergency rule, unless the petition is withdrawn or a continuance is granted by agreement of the parties. The failure of the District to follow the applicable rulemaking procedures or requirements in this Rule shall be

presumed to be material; however, the District may rebut this presumption by showing that the substantial interests of the petitioner and the fairness of the proceedings have not been impaired.

- (d) At the hearing, the petitioner and the District shall be adverse parties. Other substantially affected persons may join the proceedings as intervenors on appropriate terms which shall not unduly delay the proceedings.
- (e) Hearings held under this section shall be de novo in nature. For proposed rules, the petitioner has the burden to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that it would be substantially affected by the proposed rule, and the District has the burden to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the proposed rule is not an invalid exercise of delegated legislative authority as to the objections raised. For existing rules, the petitioner has a burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the existing rule is an invalid exercise of District authority as to the objections raised. During the hearing, the hearing officer may:
 - (i) Administer oaths and affirmations;
 - (ii) Rule upon offers of proof and receive relevant evidence;
 - (iii) Regulate the course of the hearing, including any pre-hearing matters;
 - (iv) Enter orders; and
 - (v) Make or receive offers of settlement, stipulation, and adjustment.
- (f) Within thirty (30) days after the hearing, or fourteen (14) days of the challenge relate to an emergency rule, the hearing officer shall render a decision and state the reasons therefor in writing. The hearing officer's order shall be considered final agency action. The hearing officer may declare all or part of a proposed or existing rule invalid. For a proposed rule, the proposed rule or provision thereof declared invalid shall not be adopted unless the decision of the hearing officer is reversed on appeal. In the event part of a proposed rule is declared invalid, the District may, in its sole discretion, withdraw the proposed rule in its entirety. For an existing rule, the rule or part thereof declared invalid shall become void when the time for filing an appeal expires. In the event that a proposed or existing rule has been declared invalid in whole or part, the District shall promptly publish notice of such occurrence published in a newspaper of

general circulation within the county or counties in which the District is located.

- (15) Variations and Waivers. A “**variance**” means a decision by the District to grant a modification to all or part of the literal requirements of a rule to a person who is subject to the rule. A “**waiver**” means a decision by the District not to apply all or part of a rule to a person who is subject to the rule. Variations and waivers from District rules may be granted subject to the following:
- (a) Variations and waivers shall be granted when the person subject to the rule demonstrates that the purpose of the underlying statute will be or has been achieved by other means by the person, and when application of the rule would create a substantial hardship or would violate principles of fairness. For purposes of this section, “**substantial hardship**” means a demonstrated economic, technological, legal, or other type of hardship to the person requesting the variance or waiver. For purposes of this section, “**principles of fairness**” are violated when the literal application of a rule affects a particular person in a manner significantly different from the way it affects other similarly situated persons who are subject to the rule.
 - (b) A person who is subject to regulation by a District rule may file a petition with the District, requesting a variance or waiver from the District’s rule. Each petition shall specify:
 - (i) The rule from which a variance or waiver is requested;
 - (ii) The type of action requested;
 - (iii) The specific facts that would justify a waiver or variance for the petitioner; and
 - (iv) The reason why the variance or the waiver requested would serve the purposes of the underlying statute.
 - (c) The District shall review the petition and may request only that information needed to clarify the petition or to answer new questions raised by or directly related to the petition. If the petitioner asserts that any request for additional information is not authorized by law or by rule of the District, the District shall proceed, at the petitioner’s written request, to process the petition.
 - (d) The Board shall grant or deny a petition for variance or waiver and shall announce such disposition at a publicly held meeting of the Board, within ninety (90) days after receipt of the original petition, the last item of timely

requested additional material, or the petitioner’s written request to finish processing the petition. The District’s statement granting or denying the petition shall contain a statement of the relevant facts and reasons supporting the District’s action. The District shall maintain a record of the type and disposition of each petition filed.

- (16) Rates, Fees, Rentals and Other Charges. All rates, fees, rentals, or other charges shall be subject to rulemaking proceedings.

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

Law Implemented: §§ 120.54, 120.542, 120.56, 120.81(2)(b), 190.011(5), 190.035(2), Fla. Stat.

Rule 3.0 Competitive Purchase.

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

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

hurricanes, accidents, or any circumstances or cause beyond the control of the Board in the normal conduct of its business), where the Board finds that the delay incident to competitive purchase would be detrimental to the interests of the District. This includes, but is not limited to, instances where the time to competitively award the project will jeopardize the funding for the project, will materially increase the cost of the project, or will create an undue hardship on the public health, safety, or welfare.

- (i) **“Invitation to Bid”** is a written solicitation for sealed bids with the title, date, and hour of the public bid opening designated specifically and defining the commodity or service involved. It includes printed instructions prescribing conditions for bidding, qualification, evaluation criteria, and provides for a manual signature of an authorized representative. It may include one or more bid alternates.
- (j) **“Invitation to Negotiate”** means a written solicitation for competitive sealed replies to select one or more vendors with which to commence negotiations for the procurement of commodities or services.
- (k) **“Negotiate”** means to conduct legitimate, arm’s length discussions and conferences to reach an agreement on a term or price.
- (l) **“Professional Services”** means those services within the scope of the practice of architecture, professional engineering, landscape architecture, or registered surveying and mapping, as defined by the laws of Florida, or those services performed by any architect, professional engineer, landscape architect, or registered surveyor and mapper, in connection with the firm’s or individual’s professional employment or practice.
- (m) **“Proposal (or Reply or Response) Most Advantageous to the District”** means, as determined in the sole discretion of the Board, the proposal, reply, or response that is:
 - (i) Submitted by a person or firm capable and qualified in all respects to perform fully the contract requirements, who has the integrity and reliability to assure good faith performance;
 - (ii) The most responsive to the Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation as determined by the Board; and
 - (iii) For a cost to the District deemed by the Board to be reasonable.

- (n) **“Purchase”** means acquisition by sale, rent, lease, lease/purchase, or installment sale. It does not include transfer, sale, or exchange of goods, supplies, or materials between the District and any federal, state, regional or local governmental entity or political subdivision of the State of Florida.
- (o) **“Request for Proposals”** or **“RFP”** is a written solicitation for sealed proposals with the title, date, and hour of the public opening designated and requiring the manual signature of an authorized representative. It may provide general information, applicable laws and rules, statement of work, functional or general specifications, qualifications, proposal instructions, work detail analysis, and evaluation criteria as necessary.
- (p) **“Responsive and Responsible Bidder”** means an entity or individual that has submitted a bid that conforms in all material respects to the Invitation to Bid and has the capability in all respects to fully perform the contract requirements and the integrity and reliability that will assure good faith performance. **“Responsive and Responsible Vendor”** means an entity or individual that has submitted a proposal, reply, or response that conforms in all material respects to the Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation and has the capability in all respects to fully perform the contract requirements and the integrity and reliability that will assure good faith performance. In determining whether an entity or individual is a Responsive and Responsible Bidder (or Vendor), the District may consider, in addition to factors described in the Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation, the following:
 - (i) The ability and adequacy of the professional personnel employed by the entity/individual;
 - (ii) The past performance of the entity/individual for the District and in other professional employment;
 - (iii) The willingness of the entity/individual to meet time and budget requirements;
 - (iv) The geographic location of the entity’s/individual’s headquarters or office in relation to the project;
 - (v) The recent, current, and projected workloads of the entity/individual;
 - (vi) The volume of work previously awarded to the entity/individual;

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

Specific Authority: §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), Fla. Stat.
Law Implemented: §§ 190.033, 255.20, 287.055, Fla. Stat.

Rule 3.1 Procedure Under the Consultants' Competitive Negotiations Act.

- (1) Scope. The following procedures are adopted for the selection of firms or individuals to provide Professional Services exceeding the thresholds herein described, for the negotiation of such contracts, and to provide for protest of actions of the Board under this Rule. As used in this Rule, “**Project**” means that fixed capital outlay study or planning activity when basic construction cost is estimated by the District to exceed the threshold amount provided in Section 287.017 of the Florida Statutes, for CATEGORY FIVE, or for a planning study activity when the fee for Professional Services is estimated by the District to exceed the threshold amount provided in Section 287.017 for CATEGORY TWO, as such categories may be amended or adjusted from time to time.

- (2) Qualifying Procedures. In order to be eligible to provide Professional Services to the District, a consultant must, at the time of receipt of the firm’s qualification submittal:
 - (a) Hold all required applicable state professional licenses in good standing;
 - (b) Hold all required applicable federal licenses in good standing, if any;
 - (c) Hold a current and active Florida corporate charter or be authorized to do business in the State of Florida in accordance with Chapter 607 of the Florida Statutes, if the consultant is a corporation; and
 - (d) Meet any qualification requirements set forth in the District’s Request for Qualifications.

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

- (3) Public Announcement. Except in cases of valid public emergencies as certified by the Board, the District shall announce each occasion when Professional Services are required for a Project or a Continuing Contract by publishing a notice providing a general description of the Project, or the nature of the Continuing Contract, and the method for interested consultants to apply for consideration. The notice shall appear in at least one (1) newspaper of general circulation within the county or counties in which the District is located and in such other places as the District deems appropriate. The notice must allow at least fourteen (14) days for submittal of qualifications from the date of publication. The District may maintain lists of consultants interested in receiving such notices. These consultants are encouraged to submit annually statements of qualifications and performance data. The District shall make reasonable efforts to provide copies of any notices

to such consultants, but the failure to do so shall not give such consultants any bid protest or other rights or otherwise disqualify any otherwise valid procurement process. The Board has the right to reject any and all qualifications, and such reservation shall be included in the published notice. Consultants not receiving a contract award shall not be entitled to recover from the District any costs of qualification package preparation or submittal.

(4) Competitive Selection.

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

- (c) If the selection process is administered by any person or committee other than the full Board, the selection made will be presented to the full Board with a recommendation that competitive negotiations be instituted with the selected firms in order of preference listed.
- (d) Notice of the rankings adopted by the Board, including the rejection of some or all qualification packages, shall be provided in writing to all proposers by e-mail (with a delivery and read receipt), United States Mail, hand delivery, or overnight delivery service. The District may alternatively post the notice of intent to award on its website at the conclusion of the Board meeting where the proposals were evaluated if so provided for in the Request for Qualifications. The notice shall include the following statement: "Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Rule 3.11 of the Rules of the District shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under those Rules," or wording to that effect. Protests of the District's ranking decisions under this Rule shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in Rule 3.11.

(5) Competitive Negotiation.

- (a) After the Board has authorized the beginning of competitive negotiations, the District may begin such negotiations with the firm listed as most qualified to perform the required Professional Services at a rate or amount of compensation which the Board determines is fair, competitive, and reasonable.
- (b) In negotiating a lump-sum or cost-plus-a-fixed-fee professional contract for more than the threshold amount provided in Section 287.017 of the Florida Statutes, for CATEGORY FOUR, the firm receiving the award shall be required to execute a truth-in-negotiation certificate stating that "wage rates and other factual unit costs supporting the compensation are accurate, complete and current at the time of contracting." In addition, any professional service contract under which such a certificate is required, shall contain a provision that "the original contract price and any additions thereto, shall be adjusted to exclude any significant sums by which the Board determines the contract price was increased due to inaccurate, incomplete, or noncurrent wage rates and other factual unit costs."
- (c) Should the District be unable to negotiate a satisfactory agreement with the firm determined to be the most qualified at a price deemed by the District to be fair, competitive, and reasonable, then negotiations with that firm shall be terminated and the District shall immediately begin negotiations with the second most qualified firm. If a satisfactory

agreement with the second firm cannot be reached, those negotiations shall be terminated and negotiations with the third most qualified firm shall be undertaken.

- (d) Should the District be unable to negotiate a satisfactory agreement with one of the top three (3) ranked consultants, additional firms shall be selected by the District, in order of their competence and qualifications. Negotiations shall continue, beginning with the first-named firm on the list, until an agreement is reached or the list of firms is exhausted.
- (6) Contracts; Public Records. In accordance with Florida law, each contract entered into pursuant to this Rule shall include provisions required by law that require the contractor to comply with public records laws.
- (7) Continuing Contract. Nothing in this Rule shall prohibit a Continuing Contract between a consultant and the District.
- (8) Emergency Purchase. The District may make an Emergency Purchase without complying with these Rules. The fact that an Emergency Purchase has occurred or is necessary shall be noted in the minutes of the next Board meeting.

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

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

Rule 3.2 Procedure Regarding Auditor Selection.

In order to comply with the requirements of Section 218.391 of the Florida Statutes, the following procedures are outlined for selection of firms or individuals to provide Auditing Services and for the negotiation of such contracts. “**Auditing Services**” means those services within the scope of the practice of a certified public accounting firm licensed under Chapter 473 of the Florida Statutes, and qualified to conduct audits in accordance with government auditing standards as adopted by the Florida Board of Accountancy. For audits required under Chapter 190 of the Florida Statutes but not meeting the thresholds of Chapter 218 of the Florida Statutes, the District need not follow these procedures but may proceed with the selection of a firm or individual to provide Auditing Services and for the negotiation of such contracts in the manner the Board determines is in the best interests of the District.

- (1) Establishment of Auditor Selection Committee. Prior to a public announcement under section (3) of this Rule that Auditing Services are required, the Board shall establish an auditor selection committee (“**Committee**”), the primary purpose of which is to assist the Board in selecting an auditor to conduct the annual financial audit required by Section 218.39 of the Florida Statutes. The Committee shall include at least three individuals, at least one of which must also be a member of the Board. The establishment and selection of the Committee must be conducted at a publicly noticed and held meeting of the Board. The Chairperson of the Committee must be a member of the Board. An employee, a chief executive officer, or a chief financial officer of the District may not serve as a member of the Committee; provided however such individual may serve the Committee in an advisory capacity.

- (2) Establishment of Minimum Qualifications and Evaluation Criteria. Prior to a public announcement under section (3) of this Rule that Auditing Services are required, the Committee shall meet at a publicly noticed meeting to establish minimum qualifications and factors to use for the evaluation of Auditing Services to be provided by a certified public accounting firm licensed under Chapter 473 of the Florida Statutes, and qualified to conduct audits in accordance with government auditing standards as adopted by the Florida Board of Accountancy.
 - (a) Minimum Qualifications. In order to be eligible to submit a proposal, a firm must, at all relevant times including the time of receipt of the proposal by the District:
 - (i) Hold all required applicable state professional licenses in good standing;
 - (ii) Hold all required applicable federal licenses in good standing, if any;

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

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

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

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

- (3) Public Announcement. After identifying the factors to be used in evaluating the proposals for Auditing Services as set forth in section (2) of this Rule, the Committee shall publicly announce the opportunity to provide Auditing Services. Such public announcement shall include a brief description of the audit and how interested firms can apply for consideration and obtain the RFP. The notice shall appear in at least one (1) newspaper of general circulation within the county or counties in which the District is located. The public announcement shall allow for at least seven (7) days for the submission of proposals.
- (4) Request for Proposals. The Committee shall provide interested firms with a Request for Proposals (“RFP”). The RFP shall provide information on how proposals are to be evaluated and such other information the Committee determines is necessary for the firm to prepare a proposal. The RFP shall state the time and place for submitting proposals, which may be submitted either electronically or via hard copy as determined by the District and provided for in

the RFP. For the avoidance of doubt, the Proposals shall not be required to be publicly opened at the date, time, and place provided for in the RFP relative to the submission of Proposals.

(5) Committee's Evaluation of Proposals and Recommendation. The Committee shall meet at a publicly held meeting that is publicly noticed for a reasonable time in advance of the meeting to evaluate all qualified proposals and may, as part of the evaluation, require that each interested firm provide a public presentation where the Committee may conduct discussions with the firm, and where the firm may present information, regarding the firm's qualifications. At the public meeting, the Committee shall rank and recommend in order of preference no fewer than three firms deemed to be the most highly qualified to perform the required services after considering the factors established pursuant to subsection (2)(b) of this Rule. If fewer than three firms respond to the RFP or if no firms respond to the RFP, the Committee shall recommend such firm as it deems to be the most highly qualified. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Committee may recommend that any and all proposals be rejected.

(6) Board Selection of Auditor.

(a) Where compensation was not selected as a factor used in evaluating the proposals, the Board shall negotiate with the firm ranked first and inquire of that firm as to the basis of compensation. If the Board is unable to negotiate a satisfactory agreement with the first ranked firm at a price deemed by the Board to be fair, competitive, and reasonable, then negotiations with that firm shall be terminated and the Board shall immediately begin negotiations with the second ranked firm. If a satisfactory agreement with the second ranked firm cannot be reached, those negotiations shall be terminated and negotiations with the third ranked firm shall be undertaken. The Board may reopen formal negotiations with any one of the three top-ranked firms, but it may not negotiate with more than one firm at a time. If the Board is unable to negotiate a satisfactory agreement with any of the selected firms, the Committee shall recommend additional firms in order of the firms' respective competence and qualifications. Negotiations shall continue, beginning with the first-named firm on the list, until an agreement is reached or the list of firms is exhausted.

(b) Where compensation was selected as a factor used in evaluating the proposals, the Board shall select the highest-ranked qualified firm or document in its public records the reason for not selecting the highest-ranked qualified firm.

- (c) In negotiations with firms under this Rule, the Board may allow the District Manager, District Counsel, or other designee to conduct negotiations on its behalf.
 - (d) Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board may reject any or all proposals. The Board shall not consider any proposal, or enter into any contract for Auditing Services, unless the proposed agreed-upon compensation is reasonable to satisfy the requirements of Section 218.39 of the Florida Statutes, and the needs of the District.
- (7) Contract. Any agreement reached under this Rule shall be evidenced by a written contract, which may take the form of an engagement letter signed and executed by both parties. The written contract shall include all provisions and conditions of the procurement of such services and shall include, at a minimum, the following:
- (a) A provision specifying the services to be provided and fees or other compensation for such services;
 - (b) A provision requiring that invoices for fees or other compensation be submitted in sufficient detail to demonstrate compliance with the terms of the contract;
 - (c) A provision setting forth deadlines for the auditor to submit a preliminary draft audit report to the District for review and to submit a final audit report no later than June 30 of the fiscal year that follows the fiscal year for which the audit is being conducted;
 - (d) A provision specifying the contract period, including renewals, and conditions under which the contract may be terminated or renewed. The maximum contract period including renewals shall be eight (8) years. A renewal may be done without the use of the auditor selection procedures provided in this Rule but must be in writing.
 - (e) Provisions required by law that require the auditor to comply with public records laws.
- (8) Notice of Award. Once a negotiated agreement with a firm or individual is reached, or the Board authorizes the execution of an agreement with a firm where compensation was a factor in the evaluation of proposals, notice of the intent to award, including the rejection of some or all proposals, shall be provided in writing to all proposers by e-mail (with a delivery and read receipt), United States Mail, hand delivery, or overnight delivery service. The District may alternatively post the notice of intent to award on its website at the conclusion of the Board meeting where the proposals were evaluated if so provided for in the RFP. The notice shall

include the following statement: “Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Rule 3.11 of the Rules of the District shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under those Rules,” or wording to that effect. Protests regarding the award of contracts under this Rule shall be as provided for in Rule 3.11. No proposer shall be entitled to recover any costs of proposal preparation or submittal from the District.

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

Law Implemented: §§ 119.0701, 218.33, 218.391, Fla. Stat.

Rule 3.3 Purchase of Insurance.

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

dependents, the geographic location of the company's headquarters and offices in relation to the District, and the ability of the company to guarantee premium stability may be considered. A contract to purchase insurance shall be awarded to that company whose response to the Invitation to Bid best meets the overall needs of the District, its officers, employees, and/or dependents.

- (h) Notice of the intent to award, including rejection of some or all bids, shall be provided in writing to all proposers by e-mail (with a delivery and read receipt), United States Mail, hand delivery, or overnight delivery service. The District may alternatively post the notice of intent to award on its website at the conclusion of the Board meeting where the proposals were evaluated if so provided for in the Invitation to Bid. The notice shall include the following statement: "Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Rule 3.11 of the Rules of the District shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under those Rules," or wording to that effect. Protests of the District's procurement of insurance under this Rule shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in Rule 3.11.

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

Law Implemented: § 112.08, Fla. Stat.

Rule 3.4 Pre-qualification

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

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

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

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

- (g) Qualifications shall be presented to the Board, or a committee appointed by the Board, for evaluation in accordance with the Request for Qualifications and this Rule. Minor variations in the qualifications may be waived by the Board. A variation is minor if waiver of the variation does not create a competitive advantage or disadvantage of a material nature.
- (h) All vendors determined by the District to meet the pre-qualification requirements shall be pre-qualified. To assure full understanding of the responsiveness to the requirements contained in a Request for Qualifications, discussions may be conducted with qualified vendors. Vendors shall be accorded fair treatment prior to the submittal date with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of qualifications. For construction services, any contractor pre-qualified and considered eligible by the Department of Transportation to bid to perform the type of work the project entails shall be presumed to be qualified to perform the project.
- (i) The Board shall have the right to reject all qualifications if there are not enough to be competitive or if rejection is determined to be in the best

interest of the District. No vendor shall be entitled to recover any costs of qualification preparation or submittal from the District.

- (j) If the selection process is administered by any person or committee other than the full Board, the selection made will be presented to the full Board with a recommendation that competitive negotiations be instituted with the selected firms in order of preference listed.
- (k) Notice of intent to pre-qualify, including rejection of some or all qualifications, shall be provided in writing to all proposers by e-mail (with a delivery and read receipt), United States Mail, hand delivery, or overnight delivery service. The District may alternatively post the notice of intent to award on its website at the conclusion of the Board meeting where the proposals were evaluated if so provided for in the Request for Qualifications. The notice shall include the following statement: "Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Rule 3.11 of the Rules of the District shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under those Rules," or wording to that effect. Protests of the District's pre-qualification decisions under this Rule shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in Rule 3.11; provided however, protests related to the pre-qualification criteria and procedures for construction services shall be resolved in accordance with section (2)(b) of this Rule and Section 255.20(1)(b) of the Florida Statutes.

(2) Suspension, Revocation, or Denial of Qualification

- (a) The District, for good cause, may deny, suspend, or revoke a prequalified vendor's pre-qualified status. A suspension, revocation, or denial for good cause shall prohibit the vendor from bidding on any District construction contract for which qualification is required, shall constitute a determination of non-responsibility to bid on any other District construction or maintenance contract, and shall prohibit the vendor from acting as a material supplier or subcontractor on any District contract or project during the period of suspension, revocation, or denial. Good cause shall include the following:
 - (i) One of the circumstances specified under Section 337.16(2), Fla. Stat., has occurred.
 - (ii) Affiliated contractors submitted more than one proposal for the same work. In this event the pre-qualified status of all of the affiliated bidders will be revoked, suspended, or denied. All bids of affiliated bidders will be rejected.

- (iii) The vendor made or submitted false, deceptive, or fraudulent statements, certifications, or materials in any claim for payment or any information required by any District contract.
- (iv) The vendor or its affiliate defaulted on any contract or a contract surety assumed control of financial responsibility for any contract of the vendor.
- (v) The vendor's qualification to bid is suspended, revoked, or denied by any other public or semi-public entity, or the vendor has been the subject of a civil enforcement proceeding or settlement involving a public or semi-public entity.
- (vi) The vendor failed to comply with contract or warranty requirements or failed to follow District direction in the performance of a contract.
- (vii) The vendor failed to timely furnish all contract documents required by the contract specifications, special provisions, or by any state or federal statutes or regulations. If the vendor fails to furnish any of the subject contract documents by the expiration of the period of suspension, revocation, or denial set forth above, the vendor's pre-qualified status shall remain suspended, revoked, or denied until the documents are furnished.
- (viii) The vendor failed to notify the District within 10 days of the vendor, or any of its affiliates, being declared in default or otherwise not completing work on a contract or being suspended from qualification to bid or denied qualification to bid by any other public or semi-public agency.
- (ix) The vendor did not pay its subcontractors or suppliers in a timely manner or in compliance with contract documents.
- (x) The vendor has demonstrated instances of poor or unsatisfactory performance, deficient management resulting in project delay, poor quality workmanship, a history of payment of liquidated damages, untimely completion of projects, uncooperative attitude, contract litigation, inflated claims or defaults.
- (xi) An affiliate of the vendor has previously been determined by the District to be non-responsible, and the specified period of suspension, revocation, denial, or non-responsibility remains in effect.

(xii) The vendor or affiliate(s) has been convicted of a contract crime.

1. The term “**contract crime**” means any violation of state or federal antitrust laws with respect to a public contract or any violation of any state or federal law involving fraud, bribery, collusion, conspiracy, or material misrepresentation with respect to a public contract.
2. The term “**convicted**” or “**conviction**” means a finding of guilt or a conviction of a contract crime, with or without an adjudication of guilt, in any federal or state trial court of record as a result of a jury verdict, nonjury trial, or entry of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere.

- (b) A denial, suspension, or revocation shall prohibit the vendor from being a subcontractor on District work during the period of denial, suspension, or revocation, except when a prime contractor’s bid has used prices of a subcontractor who becomes disqualified after the bid, but before the request for authorization to sublet is presented.
- (c) The District shall inform the vendor in writing of its intent to deny, suspend, or revoke its pre-qualified status and inform the vendor of its right to a hearing, the procedure which must be followed, and the applicable time limits. If a hearing is requested within 10 days after the receipt of the notice of intent, the hearing shall be held within 30 days after receipt by the District of the request for the hearing. The decision shall be issued within 15 days after the hearing.
- (d) Such suspension or revocation shall not affect the vendor’s obligations under any preexisting contract.
- (e) In the case of contract crimes, the vendor’s pre-qualified status under this Rule shall be revoked indefinitely. For all violations of Rule 3.4(3)(a) other than for the vendor’s conviction for contract crimes, the revocation, denial, or suspension of a vendor’s pre-qualified status under this Rule shall be for a specific period of time based on the seriousness of the deficiency.

Examples of factors affecting the seriousness of a deficiency are:

- (i) Impacts on project schedule, cost, or quality of work;
- (ii) Unsafe conditions allowed to exist;

- (iii) Complaints from the public;
- (iv) Delay or interference with the bidding process;
- (v) The potential for repetition;
- (vi) Integrity of the public contracting process;
- (vii) Effect on the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

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

Law Implemented: §§ 190.033, 255.0525, 255.20, Fla. Stat.

Rule 3.5 Construction Contracts, Not Design-Build.

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

shall not invalidate any contract awarded in accordance with this Rule and shall not be a basis for a protest of any contract award.

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

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

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

- (f) Bids, proposals, replies, and responses, or the portions of which that include the price, shall be publicly opened at a meeting noticed in accordance with Rule 1.3, and at which at least one district representative

is present. The name of each bidder and the price submitted in the bid shall be announced at such meeting and shall be made available upon request. Minutes should be taken at the meeting and maintained by the District. Bids, proposals, replies, and responses shall be evaluated in accordance with the respective Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation and these Rules. Minor variations in the bids, proposals, replies, or responses may be waived by the Board. A variation is minor if waiver of the variation does not create a competitive advantage or disadvantage of a material nature. Mistakes in arithmetic extension of pricing may be corrected by the Board. Bids and proposals may not be modified or supplemented after opening; provided however, additional information may be requested and/or provided to evidence compliance, make non-material modifications, clarifications, or supplementations, and as otherwise permitted by Florida law.

- (g) The lowest Responsive Bid submitted by a Responsive and Responsible Bidder in response to an Invitation to Bid shall be accepted. In relation to a Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation, the Board shall select the Responsive Proposal, Reply, or Response submitted by a Responsive and Responsible Vendor which is most advantageous to the District. To assure full understanding of the responsiveness to the solicitation requirements contained in a Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation, discussions may be conducted with qualified vendors. Vendors shall be accorded fair treatment prior to the submittal date with respect to any opportunity for discussion, preparation, and revision of bids, proposals, replies, and responses.
- (h) The Board shall have the right to reject all bids, proposals, replies, or responses because they exceed the amount of funds budgeted for the purchase, if there are not enough to be competitive, or if rejection is determined to be in the best interest of the District. No contractor shall be entitled to recover any costs of bid, proposal, response, or reply preparation or submittal from the District.
- (i) The Board may require potential contractors to furnish bid bonds, performance bonds, and/or other bonds with a responsible surety to be approved by the Board.
- (j) If less than three (3) Responsive Bids, Proposals, Replies, or Responses are received, the District may purchase construction services or may reject the bids, proposals, replies, or responses for a lack of competitiveness. If no Responsive Bid, Proposal, Reply, or Response is received, the District may proceed with the procurement of construction services, in the manner the

Board determines is in the best interests of the District, which may include but is not limited to a direct purchase of the construction services without further competitive selection processes.

- (k) If the selection process is administered by any person or committee other than the full Board, the selection made will be presented to the full Board with a recommendation that competitive negotiations be instituted with the selected firms in order of preference listed.
 - (l) Notice of intent to award, including rejection of some or all bids, proposals, replies, or responses, shall be provided in writing to all proposers by e-mail (with a delivery and read receipt), United States Mail, hand delivery, or overnight delivery service. The District may alternatively post the notice of intent to award on its website at the conclusion of the Board meeting where the proposals were evaluated if so provided for in the Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation. The notice shall include the following statement: "Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Rule 3.11 of the Rules of the District shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under those Rules," or wording to that effect. Protests of the District's purchase of construction services under this Rule shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in Rule 3.11.
- (3) Sole Source; Government. Construction services that are only available from a single source are exempt from this Rule. Construction services provided by governmental agencies are exempt from this Rule. This Rule shall not apply to the purchase of construction services, which may include goods, supplies, or materials, that are purchased under a federal, state, or local government contract that has been competitively procured by such federal, state, or local government in a manner consistent with the material procurement requirements of these Rules. A contract for construction services is exempt from this Rule if state or federal law prescribes with whom the District must contract or if the rate of payment is established during the appropriation process.
 - (4) Contracts; Public Records. In accordance with Florida law, each contract entered into pursuant to this Rule shall include provisions required by law that require the contractor to comply with public records laws.
 - (5) Emergency Purchases. The District may make an Emergency Purchase without complying with these rules. The fact that an Emergency Purchase has occurred or is necessary shall be noted in the minutes of the next Board Meeting.
 - (6) Exceptions. This Rule is inapplicable when:

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

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

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

Rule 3.6 Construction Contracts, Design-Build.

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

competitive proposals from qualified firms shall be solicited pursuant to the design criteria by the following procedure:

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

Any contractor that has been found guilty by a court of any violation of federal labor or employment tax laws regarding

subjects including but not limited to reemployment assistance, safety, tax withholding, worker's compensation, unemployment tax, social security and Medicare tax, wage or hour, or prevailing rate laws within the past 5 years may be considered ineligible by the District to submit a bid, response, or proposal for a District project.

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

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

7. Notice of the rankings adopted by the Board, including the rejection of some or all proposals, shall be provided in writing to all proposers by e-mail (with a delivery and read receipt), United States Mail, hand delivery, or overnight delivery service. The District may alternatively post the notice of intent to award on its website at the conclusion of the Board meeting where the proposals were evaluated if so provided for in the Design Criteria Package. The notice shall include the following statement: "Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Rule 3.11 of the Rules of the District shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under those Rules," or wording to that effect. Protests of the District's rankings under this Rule shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in Rule 3.11.

8. The Board shall negotiate a contract with the firm ranking the highest based on the evaluation standards and shall establish a price which the Board determines is fair, competitive and reasonable. Should the Board be unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with the firm considered to be the most qualified at a price considered by the Board to be fair, competitive, and reasonable, negotiations with that firm must be terminated. The Board shall then undertake negotiations with the second most qualified firm, based on the ranking by the evaluation standards. Should the Board be unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with the firm considered to be the second most qualified at a price considered by the Board to be fair, competitive, and reasonable, negotiations with that firm must be terminated. The Board shall then undertake negotiations with the third most qualified firm. Should the Board be unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with the firm considered to be the third most qualified at a price considered by the Board to be fair, competitive, and reasonable, negotiations with that firm must be terminated. Should the Board be unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with any of the selected firms, the Board shall select additional firms in order of their rankings based on the evaluation standards and continue negotiations until an agreement is reached or the list of firms is exhausted.

9. After the Board contracts with a firm, the firm shall bring to the Board for approval, detailed working drawings of the project.
 10. The Design Criteria Professional shall evaluate the compliance of the detailed working drawings and project construction with the Design Criteria Package and shall provide the Board with a report of the same.
- (3) Contracts; Public Records. In accordance with Florida law, each contract entered into pursuant to this Rule shall include provisions required by law that require the contractor to comply with public records laws.
 - (4) Emergency Purchase. The Board may, in case of public emergency, declare an emergency and immediately proceed with negotiations with the best qualified Design-Build Firm available at the time. The fact that an Emergency Purchase has occurred shall be noted in the minutes of the next Board meeting.
 - (5) Exceptions. This Rule is inapplicable when:
 - (a) The project is undertaken as repair or maintenance of an existing public facility;
 - (b) The funding source of the project will be diminished or lost because the time required to competitively award the project after the funds become available exceeds the time within which the funding source must be spent;
 - (c) The District has competitively awarded a project and the contractor has abandoned the project or the District has terminated the contractor; or
 - (d) The District, after public notice, conducts a public meeting under Section 286.011 of the Florida Statutes, and finds by a majority vote of the Board that it is in the public's best interest to perform the project using its own services, employees, and equipment.

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

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

Rule 3.7 Payment and Performance Bonds.

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

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

Law Implemented: § 255.05, Fla. Stat.

Rule 3.8 Goods, Supplies, and Materials.

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

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

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

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

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

whose principal place of business is located in a foreign state which does not grant a preference in competitive purchase to businesses whose principal place of business are in that foreign state, the lowest Responsible and Responsive Bidder whose principal place of business is in the State of Florida shall be awarded a preference of five (5) percent. If the lowest Responsive Bid is submitted by a Responsive and Responsible Bidder whose principal place of business is located in a foreign state which grants a preference in competitive purchase to businesses whose principal place of business are in that foreign state, the lowest Responsible and Responsive Bidder whose principal place of business is in the State of Florida shall be awarded a preference equal to the preference granted by such foreign state.

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

- (h) The Board shall have the right to reject all bids, proposals, replies, or responses because they exceed the amount of funds budgeted for the purchase, if there are not enough to be competitive, or if rejection is determined to be in the best interest of the District. No vendor shall be entitled to recover any costs of bid, proposal, reply, or response preparation or submittal from the District.
- (i) The Board may require bidders and proposers to furnish bid bonds, performance bonds, and/or other bonds with a responsible surety to be approved by the Board.
- (j) Notice of intent to award, including rejection of some or all bids, proposals, replies, or responses shall be provided in writing to all proposers by e-mail (with a delivery and read receipt), United States Mail, hand delivery, or overnight delivery service. The District may alternatively post the notice of intent to award on its website at the conclusion of the Board meeting where the proposals were evaluated if so provided for in the Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation. The notice shall include the following statement: "Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Rule 3.11 of the Rules of the District shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under those Rules," or wording to that effect. Protests of the District's purchase of goods,

supplies, and materials under this Rule shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in Rule 3.11.

- (k) If less than three (3) Responsive Bids, Proposals, Replies, or Responses are received, the District may purchase goods, supplies, or materials, or may reject the bids, proposals, replies, or responses for a lack of competitiveness. If no Responsive Bid, Proposal, Reply, or Response is received, the District may proceed with the procurement of goods, supplies, and materials, in the manner the Board determines is in the best interests of the District, which may include but is not limited to a direct purchase of the goods, supplies, and materials without further competitive selection processes.
- (3) Goods, Supplies, and Materials included in a Construction Contract Awarded Pursuant to Rule 3.5 or 3.6. There may be occasions where the District has undergone the competitive purchase of construction services which contract may include the provision of goods, supplies, or materials. In that instance, the District may approve a change order to the contract and directly purchase the goods, supplies, and materials. Such purchase of goods, supplies, and materials deducted from a competitively purchased construction contract shall be exempt from this Rule.
- (4) Exemption. Goods, supplies, and materials that are only available from a single source are exempt from this Rule. Goods, supplies, and materials provided by governmental agencies are exempt from this Rule. A contract for goods, supplies, or materials is exempt from this Rule if state or federal law prescribes with whom the District must contract or if the rate of payment is established during the appropriation process. This Rule shall not apply to the purchase of goods, supplies or materials that are purchased under a federal, state, or local government contract that has been competitively procured by such federal, state, or local government in a manner consistent with the material procurement requirements of these Rules.
- (5) Renewal. Contracts for the purchase of goods, supplies, and/or materials subject to this Rule may be renewed for a maximum contract period including renewals of eight (8) years.
- (6) Emergency Purchases. The District may make an Emergency Purchase without complying with these rules. The fact that an Emergency Purchase has occurred or is necessary shall be noted in the minutes of the next Board meeting.

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

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

Rule 3.9 Maintenance Services.

- (1) Scope. All contracts for maintenance of any District facility or project shall be set under the terms of this Rule if the cost exceeds the amount provided in Section 287.017 of the Florida Statutes, for CATEGORY FOUR. A contract involving goods, supplies, and materials plus maintenance services may, in the discretion of the Board, be treated as a contract for maintenance services. However, a purchase shall not be divided solely in order to avoid the threshold bidding requirements.

- (2) Procedure. When a purchase of maintenance services is within the scope of this Rule, the following procedures shall apply:
 - (a) The Board shall cause to be prepared an Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation.

 - (b) Notice of the Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation shall be advertised at least once in a newspaper of general circulation within the county or counties in which the District is located. The notice shall also include the amount of the bid bond, if one is required. The notice shall allow at least seven (7) days for submittal of bids, proposals, replies, or responses.

 - (c) The District may maintain lists of persons interested in receiving notices of Invitations to Bid, Requests for Proposals, Invitations to Negotiate, and Competitive Solicitations. The District shall make a good faith effort to provide written notice, by e-mail, United States Mail, hand delivery, to persons who provide their name and address to the District Manager for inclusion on the list. However, failure of a person to receive the notice shall not invalidate any contract awarded in accordance with this Rule and shall not be a basis for a protest of any contract award.

 - (d) If the District has pre-qualified suppliers of maintenance services, then, at the option of the District, only those persons who have been pre-qualified will be eligible to submit bids, proposals, replies, and responses.

 - (e) In order to be eligible to submit a bid, proposal, reply, or response, a firm or individual must, at the time of receipt of the bids, proposals, replies, or responses:
 - (i) Hold all required applicable state professional licenses in good standing;

 - (ii) Hold all required applicable federal licenses in good standing, if any;

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

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

- (f) Bids, proposals, replies, and responses shall be publicly opened at the time and place noted on the Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation. Bids, proposals, replies, and responses shall be evaluated in accordance with the respective Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation, and these Rules. Minor variations in the bids, proposals, replies, and responses may be waived by the Board. A variation is minor if waiver of the variation does not create a competitive advantage or disadvantage of a material nature. Mistakes in arithmetic extension of pricing may be corrected by the Board. Bids and proposals may not be modified or supplemented after opening; provided however, additional information may be requested and/or provided to evidence compliance, make non-material modifications, clarifications, or supplementations, and as otherwise permitted by Florida law.
- (g) The lowest Responsive Bid submitted in response to an Invitation to Bid by a Responsive and Responsible Bidder shall be accepted. In relation to a Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate or Competitive Solicitation the Board shall select the Responsive Proposal, Reply, or Response submitted by a Responsive and Responsible Vendor which is most advantageous to the District. To assure full understanding of the responsiveness to the solicitation requirements contained in a Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation, discussions may be conducted with qualified vendors. Vendors shall be accorded fair treatment prior to the submittal date with respect to any opportunity for discussion, preparation, and revision of bids, proposals, replies, or responses.
- (h) The Board shall have the right to reject all bids, proposals, replies, or responses because they exceed the amount of funds budgeted for the purchase, if there are not enough to be competitive, or if rejection is

determined to be in the best interest of the District. No Vendor shall be entitled to recover any costs of bid, proposal, reply, or response preparation or submittal from the District.

- (i) The Board may require bidders and proposers to furnish bid bonds, performance bonds, and/or other bonds with a responsible surety to be approved by the Board.
 - (j) Notice of intent to award, including rejection of some or all bids, proposals, replies, or responses shall be provided in writing to all proposers by e-mail (with a delivery and read receipt), United States Mail, hand delivery, or overnight delivery service. The District may alternatively post the notice of intent to award on its website at the conclusion of the Board meeting where the proposals were evaluated if so provided for in the Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation. The notice shall include the following statement: "Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Rule 3.11 of the Rules of the District shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under those Rules," or wording to that effect. Protests of the District's procurement of maintenance services under this Rule shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in Rule 3.11.
 - (k) If less than three (3) Responsive Bids, Proposals, Replies, or Responses are received, the District may purchase the maintenance services or may reject the bids, proposals, replies, or responses for a lack of competitiveness. If no Responsive Bid, Proposal, Reply, or Response is received, the District may proceed with the procurement of maintenance services, in the manner the Board determines is in the best interests of the District, which may include but is not limited to a direct purchase of the maintenance services without further competitive selection processes.
- (3) Exemptions. Maintenance services that are only available from a single source are exempt from this Rule. Maintenance services provided by governmental agencies are exempt from this Rule. A contract for maintenance services is exempt from this Rule if state or federal law prescribes with whom the District must contract or if the rate of payment is established during the appropriation process.
 - (4) Renewal. Contracts for the purchase of maintenance services subject to this Rule may be renewed for a maximum contract period including renewals of eight (8) years.
 - (5) Contracts; Public Records. In accordance with Florida law, each contract entered into pursuant to this Rule shall include provisions required by law that require the contractor to comply with public records laws.

- (6) Emergency Purchases. The District may make an Emergency Purchase without complying with these rules. The fact that an Emergency Purchase has occurred or is necessary shall be noted in the minutes of the next Board meeting.

Specific Authority: §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), 190.033, Fla. Stat.

Law Implemented: §§ 119.0701, 190.033, 287.017, Fla. Stat.

Rule 3.10 Contractual Services.

- (1) Exemption from Competitive Purchase. Pursuant to Section 190.033(3) of the Florida Statutes, Contractual Services shall not be subject to competitive purchasing requirements. If an agreement is predominantly for Contractual Services, but also includes maintenance services or the purchase of goods and services, the contract shall not be subject to competitive purchasing requirements. Regardless of whether an advertisement or solicitation for Contractual Services is identified as an Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation, no rights or remedies under these Rules, including but not limited to protest rights, are conferred on persons, firms, or vendors proposing to provide Contractual Services to the District.

- (2) Contracts; Public Records. In accordance with Florida law, each contract for Contractual Services shall include provisions required by law that require the contractor to comply with public records laws.

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

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

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

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

(1) Filing.

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

- (c) If the requirement for the posting of a protest bond and the amount of the protest bond, which may be expressed by a percentage of the contract to be awarded or a set amount, is disclosed in the District's competitive solicitation documents for a particular purchase under Rules 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.8, or 3.9, any person who files a notice of protest must post the protest bond. The amount and form of the protest bond shall be determined by District staff after consultation with the Board and within the limits, if any, imposed by Florida law. In the event the protest is successful, the protest bond shall be refunded to the protestor. In the event the protest is unsuccessful, the protest bond shall be applied towards the District's costs, expenses, and attorney's fees associated with hearing and defending the protest. In the event the protest is settled by mutual agreement of the parties, the protest bond shall be distributed as agreed to by the District and protestor.
 - (d) The District does not accept documents filed by e-mail or facsimile transmission. Filings are only accepted during normal business hours.
- (2) Contract Execution. Upon receipt of a notice of protest which has been timely filed, the District shall not execute the contract under protest until the subject of the protest is resolved. However, if the District sets forth in writing particular facts and circumstances showing that delay incident to protest proceedings will jeopardize the funding for the project, will materially increase the cost of the project, or will create an immediate and serious danger to the public health, safety, or welfare, the contract may be executed.
- (3) Informal Proceeding. If the Board determines a protest does not involve a disputed issue of material fact, the Board may, but is not obligated to, schedule an informal proceeding to consider the protest. Such informal proceeding shall be at a time and place determined by the Board. Notice of such proceeding shall be sent via e-mail (with a delivery and read receipt), United States Mail, or hand delivery to the protestor and any substantially affected persons or parties not less than three (3) calendar days prior to such informal proceeding. Within thirty (30) calendar days following the informal proceeding, the Board shall issue a written decision setting forth the factual, legal, and policy grounds for its decision.
- (4) Formal Proceeding. If the Board determines a protest involves disputed issues of material fact or if the Board elects not to use the informal proceeding process provided for in section (3) of this Rule, the District shall schedule a formal hearing to resolve the protest. The Chairperson shall designate any member of the Board (including the Chairperson), District Manager, District Counsel, or other person as a hearing officer to conduct the hearing. The hearing officer may:
 - (a) Administer oaths and affirmations;

- (b) Rule upon offers of proof and receive relevant evidence;
- (c) Regulate the course of the hearing, including any pre-hearing matters;
- (d) Enter orders; and
- (e) Make or receive offers of settlement, stipulation, and adjustment.

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

- (5) Rejection of all Qualifications, Bids, Proposals, Replies and Responses after Receipt of Notice of Protest. If the Board determines there was a violation of law, defect, or an irregularity in the competitive solicitation process, the Bids, Proposals, Replies, and Responses are too high, or if the Board determines it is otherwise in the District's best interest, the Board may reject all qualifications, bids, proposals, replies, and responses and start the competitive solicitation process anew. If the Board decides to reject all qualifications, bids, proposals, replies, and responses and start the competitive solicitation process anew, any pending protests shall automatically terminate.
- (6) Judicial Review. A party who is adversely affected by final District action is entitled to judicial review. Judicial review shall be sought in the county where the District is located. All proceedings shall be instituted by filing a notice of appeal or petition for review in accordance with the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure within thirty (30) calendar days after the rendition of the decision being appealed. The filing of an appeal does not itself stay enforcement of the final District decision. Judicial review of any District action shall be confined to the record transmitted. The record for judicial review shall be compiled in accordance with the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure. Failure to file a notice of appeal or petition for review within the time prescribed herein shall constitute a waiver of judicial review proceedings.
- (7) Intervenors. Other substantially affected persons may join the proceedings as intervenors on appropriate terms which shall not unduly delay the proceedings.

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

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

Law Implemented: §§ 120.69(2)(a), 190.033, Fla. Stat.

Rule 4.0 Effective Date.

These Rules shall be effective _____, 2026, except that no election of officers required by these Rules shall be required until after the next regular election for the Board.

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

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

**THE GROVES OF
ST. LUCIE COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

5

RESOLUTION 2026-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE GROVES OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT DESIGNATING A DATE, TIME AND LOCATION FOR LANDOWNERS' MEETING AND ELECTION; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, The Groves of St. Lucie County Community Development District (the "District") is a local unit of special-purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 190, *Florida Statutes*, being situated entirely within St. Lucie County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the District's Board of Supervisors (the "Board") is statutorily authorized to exercise the powers granted to the District; and

WHEREAS, all meetings of the Board shall be open to the public and governed by provisions of Chapter 286, *Florida Statutes*; and

WHEREAS, the effective date of St. Lucie County Ordinance No. 24-030 creating the District (the "Ordinance") is September 23, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the District is statutorily required to hold a meeting of the landowners of the District for the purpose of electing supervisors for the District on the first Tuesday in November, which shall be noticed pursuant to Section 190.006(2)(a), *Florida Statutes*.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE GROVES OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT:

SECTION 1. In accordance with section 190.006(2), *Florida Statutes*, the meeting of the landowners to elect three (3) supervisors of the District, shall be held on the 3rd day of November, 2026 at ____:____ __.m., at

SECTION 2. The District's Secretary is hereby directed to publish notice of this landowners' meeting in accordance with the requirements of Section 190.006(2)(a), *Florida Statutes*.

SECTION 3. Pursuant to Section 190.006(2)(b), *Florida Statutes*, the landowners' meeting and election is hereby announced at the Board's Regular Meeting held on the 15th day of May, 2026. A sample notice of landowners' meeting and election, proxy, ballot form and instructions were presented at such meeting and are attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

[REMAINDER OF PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]

SECTION 4. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 15th day of May, 2026.

Attest:

**THE GROVES OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

Exhibit A

NOTICE OF LANDOWNERS' MEETING AND ELECTION AND MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE GROVES OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given to the public and all landowners within The Groves of St. Lucie County Community Development District (the "District") in St. Lucie County, Florida, advising that a meeting of landowners will be held for the purpose of electing three (3) persons to the District Board of Supervisors. Immediately following the landowners' meeting, there will be convened a meeting of the Board of Supervisors for the purpose of considering certain matters of the Board to include election of certain District officers, and other such business which may properly come before the Board.

DATE: November 3, 2026

TIME: ____:____.m.

PLACE: _____

Each landowner may vote in person or by written proxy. Proxy forms may be obtained upon request at the office of the District Manager, 2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W, Boca Raton, Florida 33431, by emailing wrathellc@whhassociates.com or calling (561) 571-0010. At said meeting, each landowner or his or her proxy shall be entitled to nominate persons for the position of Supervisor and cast one vote per acre of land, or fractional portion thereof, owned by him or her and located within the District for each person to be elected to the position of Supervisor. A fraction of an acre shall be treated as one acre, entitling the landowner to one vote with respect thereto. Platted lots shall be counted individually and rounded up to the nearest whole acre. The acreage of platted lots shall not be aggregated for determining the number of voting units held by a landowner or a landowner's proxy. At the landowners' meeting, the landowners shall select a person to serve as the meeting chair and who shall conduct the meeting.

The landowners' meeting and the Board of Supervisors meeting are open to the public and will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Florida law. One or both of the meetings may be continued to a date, time, and place to be specified on the record at such meeting. A copy of the agenda for these meetings may be obtained from 2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W, Boca Raton, Florida 33431. There may be an occasion where one or more supervisors will participate by telephone.

Any person requiring special accommodations to participate in these meetings is asked to contact the District Office at (877) 276-0889, at least 48 hours before the hearing. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at (800) 955-8770 for aid in contacting the District Office.

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

District Manager

Run Date(s): _____ & _____

PUBLISH: ONCE A WEEK FOR 2 CONSECUTIVE WEEKS, THE LAST DAY OF PUBLICATION TO BE NOT FEWER THAN 14 DAYS OR MORE THAN 28 DAYS BEFORE THE DATE OF ELECTION, IN A NEWSPAPER WHICH IS IN GENERAL CIRCULATION IN THE AREA OF THE DISTRICT

**INSTRUCTIONS RELATING TO LANDOWNERS' MEETING OF
THE GROVES OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
FOR THE ELECTION OF SUPERVISORS**

DATE OF LANDOWNERS' MEETING: **November 3, 2026**

TIME: ___:___ __.m.

LOCATION: _____

Pursuant to Chapter 190, Florida Statutes, and after a Community Development District ("**District**") has been established and the landowners have held their initial election, there shall be a subsequent landowners' meeting for the purpose of electing members of the Board of Supervisors ("**Board**") every two years until the District qualifies to have its board members elected by the qualified electors of the District. The following instructions on how all landowners may participate in the election are intended to comply with Section 190.006(2)(b), Florida Statutes.

A landowner may vote in person at the landowners' meeting, or the landowner may nominate a proxy holder to vote at the meeting in place of the landowner. Whether in person or by proxy, each landowner shall be entitled to cast one vote per acre of land owned by him or her and located within the District, for each position on the Board that is open for election for the upcoming term. A fraction of an acre shall be treated as one (1) acre, entitling the landowner to one vote with respect thereto. Please note that a particular parcel of real property is entitled to only one vote for each eligible acre of land or fraction thereof; therefore, two or more people who own real property in common, that is one acre or less, are together entitled to only one vote for that real property.

At the landowners' meeting, the first step is to elect a chair for the meeting, who may be any person present at the meeting. The landowners shall also elect a secretary for the meeting who may be any person present at the meeting. The secretary shall be responsible for the minutes of the meeting. The chair shall conduct the nominations and the voting. If the chair is a landowner or proxy holder of a landowner, he or she may nominate candidates and make and second motions. Candidates must be nominated and then shall be elected by a vote of the landowners. Nominees may be elected only to a position on the Board that is open for election for the upcoming term.

This year, three (3) seats on the Board will be up for election by landowners. The two candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected for a term of four (4) years. The candidate receiving the next highest number of votes shall be elected for a term of two (2) years. The term of office for each successful candidate shall commence upon election.

A proxy is available upon request. To be valid, each proxy must be signed by one of the legal owners of the property for which the vote is cast and must contain the typed or printed name of the individual who signed the proxy; the street address, legal description of the property or tax parcel identification number; and the number of authorized votes. If the proxy authorizes more than one vote, each property must be listed and the number of acres of each property must be included. The signature on a proxy does not need to be notarized.

LANDOWNER PROXY

**THE GROVES OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FLORIDA
LANDOWNERS' MEETING – November 3, 2026**

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that the undersigned, the fee simple owner of the lands described herein, hereby constitutes and appoints _____ (“Proxy Holder”) for and on behalf of the undersigned, to vote as proxy at the meeting of the landowners of The Groves of St. Lucie County Community Development District to be held at ___:___ __.m., on November 3, 2026 at _____, and at any adjournments thereof, according to the number of acres of unplatted land and/or platted lots owned by the undersigned landowner that the undersigned would be entitled to vote if then personally present, upon any question, proposition, or resolution or any other matter or thing that may be considered at said meeting including, but not limited to, the election of members of the Board of Supervisors. Said Proxy Holder may vote in accordance with his or her discretion on all matters not known or determined at the time of solicitation of this proxy, which may legally be considered at said meeting.

Any proxy heretofore given by the undersigned for said meeting is hereby revoked. This proxy is to continue in full force and effect from the date hereof until the conclusion of the landowners’ meeting and any adjournment or adjournments thereof, but may be revoked at any time by written notice of such revocation presented at the landowners’ meeting prior to the proxy holder’s exercising the voting rights conferred herein.

Printed Name of Legal Owner

Signature of Legal Owner

Date

<u>Parcel Description</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Authorized Votes</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

[Insert above the street address of each parcel, the legal description of each parcel, or the tax identification number of each parcel. If more space is needed, identification of parcels owned may be incorporated by reference to an attachment hereto.]

Total Number of Authorized Votes: _____

NOTES: Pursuant to Section 190.006(2)(b), Florida Statutes, a fraction of an acre is treated as one (1) acre entitling the landowner to one vote with respect thereto. For purposes of determining voting interests, platted lots shall be counted individually and rounded up to the nearest whole acre. Moreover, two (2) or more persons who own real property in common that is one acre or less are together entitled to only one vote for that real property.

If the fee simple landowner is not an individual, and is instead a corporation, limited liability company, limited partnership or other entity, evidence that the individual signing on behalf of the entity has the authority to do so should be attached hereto (e.g., bylaws, corporate resolution, etc.).

OFFICIAL BALLOT

**THE GROVES OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FLORIDA
LANDOWNERS' MEETING – NOVEMBER 3, 2026**

For Election (3 Supervisors): The two (2) candidates receiving the highest number of votes will each receive a four (4)-year term, and the one (1) candidate receiving the next highest number of votes will receive a two (2)-year term, with the term of office for the successful candidates commencing upon election.

The undersigned certifies that he/she/it is the fee simple owner of land, or the proxy holder for the fee simple owner of land, located within The Groves of St. Lucie County Community Development District and described as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Acreage</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

[Insert above the street address of each parcel, the legal description of each parcel, or the tax identification number of each parcel.] [If more space is needed, identification of parcels owned may be incorporated by reference to an attachment hereto.]

or

Attach Proxy.

I, _____, as Landowner, or as the proxy holder of _____ (Landowner) pursuant to the Landowner's Proxy attached hereto, do cast my votes as follows:

SEAT	NAME OF CANDIDATE	NUMBER OF VOTES
3.	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Printed Name: _____

**THE GROVES OF
ST. LUCIE COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

6

RESOLUTION 2026-09

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE GROVES OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT DESIGNATING DATES, TIMES AND LOCATIONS FOR REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE DISTRICT FOR THE REMAINDER OF FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026 AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, The Groves of St. Lucie County Community Development District ("**District**") is a local unit of special-purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 190, *Florida Statutes*; and

WHEREAS, the District is required by Section 189.015, *Florida Statutes*, to file quarterly, semi-annually, or annually a schedule (including date, time, and location) of its regular meetings with local governing authorities; and

WHEREAS, further, in accordance with the above-referenced statute, the District shall also publish quarterly, semi-annually, or annually the District's regular meeting schedule in a newspaper of general paid circulation in the county in which the District is located.

WHEREAS, the Board desires to adopt the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 meeting schedule attached as **Exhibit A**.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE GROVES OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT:

1. ADOPTING FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026 ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE. The Fiscal Year 2025/2026 annual meeting schedule attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein as **Exhibit A** is hereby approved and shall be published in accordance with the requirements of Florida law and also provided to applicable governing authorities.

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

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 15th day of May, 2026.

ATTEST:

**THE GROVES OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

EXHIBIT "A"

THE GROVES OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT		
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026 MEETING SCHEDULE		
LOCATION		
TBD		
DATE	POTENTIAL DISCUSSION/FOCUS	TIME
June __, 2026	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
July __, 2026	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
August __, 2026	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
September __, 2026	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM

**THE GROVES OF
ST. LUCIE COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

7

RESOLUTION 2026-15

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE GROVES OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT DESIGNATING DATES, TIMES AND LOCATIONS FOR REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE DISTRICT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026/2027 AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, The Groves of St. Lucie County Community Development District ("**District**") is a local unit of special-purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 190, *Florida Statutes*; and

WHEREAS, the District is required by Section 189.015, *Florida Statutes*, to file quarterly, semi-annually, or annually a schedule (including date, time, and location) of its regular meetings with local governing authorities; and

WHEREAS, further, in accordance with the above-referenced statute, the District shall also publish quarterly, semi-annually, or annually the District's regular meeting schedule in a newspaper of general paid circulation in the county in which the District is located.

WHEREAS, the Board desires to adopt the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 meeting schedule attached as **Exhibit A**.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE GROVES OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT:

1. ADOPTING FISCAL YEAR 2026/2027 ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE. The Fiscal Year 2026/2027 annual meeting schedule attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein as **Exhibit A** is hereby approved and shall be published in accordance with the requirements of Florida law and also provided to applicable governing authorities.

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

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 15th day of May, 2026.

ATTEST:

**THE GROVES OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

EXHIBIT "A"

THE GROVES OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT		
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FISCAL YEAR 2026/2027 MEETING SCHEDULE		
LOCATION <i>TBD</i>		
DATE	POTENTIAL DISCUSSION/FOCUS	TIME
October __, 2026	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
November 3, 2026	Landowners' Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
November __, 2026	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
December __, 2026	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
January __, 2027	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
February __, 2027	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
March __, 2027	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
April __, 2027	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
May __, 2027	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
June __, 2027	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
July __, 2027	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
August __, 2027	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
September __, 2027	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM

**THE GROVES OF
ST. LUCIE COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

8

RESOLUTION 2026-10

A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE GROVES OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT DESIGNATING THE LOCATION OF THE LOCAL DISTRICT RECORDS OFFICE AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, The Groves of St. Lucie County Community Development District (“District”) is a local unit of special-purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 190, *Florida Statutes*, being situated within St. Lucie County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the District is statutorily required to designate a local district records office location for the purposes of affording citizens the ability to access the District’s records, promoting the disclosure of matters undertaken by the District, and ensuring that the public is informed of the activities of the District in accordance with Chapter 119 and Section 190.006(7), *Florida Statutes*.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE GROVES OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT:

SECTION 1. The District’s local records office shall be located at:

LOCATION: _____

SECTION 2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2026.

ATTEST:

**THE GROVES OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

**THE GROVES OF
ST. LUCIE COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

9

INTERIM ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT ("Agreement") is made and entered into this 3 day of March, 2026, by and between:

The Groves of St. Lucie Community Development District, a local unit of special-purpose government established pursuant to Chapter 190, *Florida Statutes*, and located in St. Lucie County, Florida, with a mailing address of 2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W, Boca Raton, Florida 33431 ("**District**"); and

Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., a North Carolina corporation, with a mailing address of 445 24th St, Suite 200, Vero Beach, FL 32960 ("**Engineer**" and, together with the District, the "**Parties**").

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the District is a local unit of special-purpose government established pursuant to the Uniform Community Development District Act of 1980, as codified in Chapter 190, *Florida Statutes* ("**Uniform Act**"); and

WHEREAS, the District is authorized to plan, finance, construct, install, acquire and/or maintain improvements, facilities and services in conjunction with the development of the lands within the District; and

WHEREAS, the District intends to employ Engineer on an interim basis to perform engineering planning and/or study activities, as defined by separate work authorization(s); and

WHEREAS, the Engineer shall serve as District's professional representative in each service or project to which this Agreement applies and will give consultation and advice to the District during performance of the services.

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the mutual covenants herein contained, the acts and deeds to be performed by the parties and the payments by the District to the Engineer of the sums of money herein specified, it is mutually covenanted and agreed as follows:

1. SCOPE OF SERVICES. The Engineer will provide general engineering planning and/or study services, as authorized by one or more Work Authorization(s) as defined herein, including:

- a. Preparation of any necessary reports and attendance at meetings of the District's Board of Supervisors.
- b. Assistance in meeting with necessary parties involving bond issues, special reports, feasibility studies, or other tasks.

Other items requested by the Board of Supervisors; provided however that any such items shall be subject to the terms of a Work Authorization to be agreed to by the parties.

2. REPRESENTATIONS. The Engineer hereby represents to the District that:

- a. It has the experience and skill to perform the services required to be performed by this Agreement.
- b. It shall design to and comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws, and codes, including without limitation, professional registration and licensing

requirements (both corporate and individual for all required basic disciplines) in effect during the term of this Agreement, and shall, if requested by District, provide certification of compliance with all registration and licensing requirements.

- c. It shall perform said services in accordance with generally accepted professional standards and will use that degree of care and skill ordinarily exercised, under similar circumstances, by reputable members of its profession in the same locality at the time the services are provided (“Standard of Care”)
- d. It is adequately financed to meet any financial obligations it may be required to incur under this Agreement.

3. METHOD OF AUTHORIZATION. Each service or project shall be authorized in writing by the District. The written authorization shall be incorporated in a work authorization which shall include the scope of work, compensation, mutually agreed to project schedule, and special provisions or conditions specific to the service or project being authorized (“**Work Authorization**”). Authorization of services or projects under this Agreement shall be at the sole option of the District. The Work Authorization #1 attached hereto as **EXHIBIT C** is hereby authorized.

4 . COMPENSATION. It is understood and agreed that the payment of compensation for services under this Agreement shall be stipulated in each Work Authorization. Services rendered by Engineer under this contract shall not exceed the lesser of Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars or the amounts specifically authorized by written Work Authorization. The Engineer shall submit invoices for services provided and fees earned on a monthly basis. Such invoices shall be supported by a progress report showing the actual tasks performed and their relation to the percentage of fee claimed. Monthly invoices shall be paid by the District in accordance with Section 218.74, Florida Statutes. Resolution of improper payment requests or disputes between the District and the Engineer will be resolved in accordance with Section 287.76, Florida Statutes. One of the following methods will be utilized:

- a. *Lump Sum Amount* - The District and Engineer shall mutually agree to a lump sum amount for the services to be rendered payable monthly in direct proportion to the work accomplished.
- b. *Hourly Personnel Rates* - For services or projects where scope of services is not clearly defined, or for recurring services or other projects where the District desires to use hourly compensation rates, the District and Engineer shall use the hourly compensation rates outlined in **EXHIBIT A** attached hereto. The District and Engineer may agree to a “not to exceed” amount when utilizing hourly personnel rates for a specific Work Authorization.

5. REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES. Reimbursable expenses consist of actual expenditures made by Engineer, its employees, or its consultants in the interest of the project for the incidental expenses as listed as follows:

- a. Expenses of transportation and living when traveling in connection with a project, for long distance phone calls and telegrams, and fees paid for securing approval of authorities having jurisdiction over the project. All expenditures shall be made in accordance with Chapter 112, *Florida Statutes*, and with the District’s travel policy.
- b. Expense of reproduction, postage and handling of drawings and specifications.

6. TERM OF CONTRACT. It is understood and agreed that this Agreement is for professional engineering services. It is further understood and agreed that the term of this Agreement will be from the time of execution of this Agreement until terminated pursuant the terms herein.

7. SPECIAL SERVICES. When authorized in writing by the District, additional special consulting services may be utilized by Engineer and paid for on a cost basis.

8. BOOKS AND RECORDS. Engineer shall maintain comprehensive books and records relating to any services performed under this Agreement, which shall be retained by Engineer for a period of at least four (4) years from and after completion of any services hereunder, or such other period as required by law. The District, or its authorized representative, shall have the right to audit such books and records at all reasonable times upon prior notice to Engineer.

9. OWNERSHIP OF DOCUMENTS.

- a. All rights in and title to all plans, drawings, specifications, ideas, concepts, designs, sketches, models, programs, reports, or other tangible work product originally developed by Engineer pursuant to this Agreement (“**Work Product**”) shall be and remain the sole and exclusive property of the District upon Engineer’s receipt of payment for services performed, and shall be considered work for hire.
- b. The Engineer shall deliver all Work Product to the District upon completion thereof, and receipt of payment for services performed, unless it is necessary for Engineer in the District’s sole discretion, to retain possession for a longer period of time. Upon early termination of Engineer’s services hereunder, Engineer shall deliver all such Work Product whether complete or not. The District shall have all rights to use any and all Work Product. Engineer shall retain copies of the Work Product for its permanent records, provided the Work Product is not used without the District’s prior express written consent. Engineer agrees not to recreate any Work Product contemplated by this Agreement, or portions thereof, which if constructed or otherwise materialized, would be reasonably identifiable with the project. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Engineer shall retain its rights in its standard drawing details, designs, specifications, databases, computer software and any other proprietary property.
- c. If said work product is used by the District for any purpose other than that purpose which is intended by this Agreement, the District shall indemnify Engineer from any and all claims and liabilities which may result from such re-use.
- d. The District exclusively retains all manufacturing rights to all materials or designs developed under this Agreement. To the extent the services performed under this Agreement produce or include copyrightable or patentable materials or designs, such materials or designs are work made for hire for the District as the author, creator, or inventor thereof upon creation, and the District shall have all rights therein including, without limitation, the right of reproduction, with respect to such work. Engineer hereby assigns to the District any and all rights Engineer may have including, without limitation, the copyright, with respect to such work. The Engineer acknowledges that the District is the motivating factor for, and for the purpose of copyright or patent, has the right to direct and supervise the preparation of such copyrightable or

patentable materials or designs.

10. ACCOUNTING RECORDS. Records of Engineer pertaining to the services provided hereunder shall be kept on a basis of generally accepted accounting principles and shall be available to the District or its authorized representative for observation or audit at mutually agreeable times.

11. REUSE OF DOCUMENTS. All documents including drawings and specifications furnished by Engineer pursuant to this Agreement are instruments of service. They are not intended or represented to be suitable for reuse by District or others on extensions of the work for which they were provided or on any other project. Any reuse without specific written consent by Engineer will be at the District's sole risk and without liability or legal exposure to Engineer. All documents including drawings, plans and specifications furnished by Engineer to District are subject to reuse in accordance with Section 287.055(10), *Florida Statutes*.

12. COST ESTIMATES. Since Engineer has no control over the cost of labor, materials or equipment or over a contractor's methods of determining prices, or over competitive bidding or market conditions, his opinions of probable cost provided as a service hereunder are to be made on the basis of his experience and qualifications and represent his best judgment as a design professional familiar with the construction industry, but Engineer cannot and does not guarantee that proposals, bids, or the construction costs will not vary from opinions of probable cost prepared by him. If the District wishes greater assurance as to the construction costs, it shall employ an independent cost estimator at its own expense. Services to modify approved documents to bring the construction cost within any limitation established by the District will be considered additional services and justify additional fees.

13. INSURANCE. Engineer shall, at its own expense, maintain insurance during the performance of its services under this Agreement, with limits of liability not less than the amounts set forth in **EXHIBIT B**. If any such policy of insurance is a "claims made" policy, and not an "occurrence" policy, the Engineer shall, without interruption, maintain the insurance for at least five (5) years after the termination of this Agreement.

The District, its officers, supervisors, agents, staff, and representatives shall be named as additional insured parties on all of the insurance policies listed in **EXHIBIT B** except with respect to the Worker's Compensation Insurance and the Professional Liability for Errors and Omissions Insurance. The Engineer shall furnish the District with the Certificate of Insurance and any applicable endorsements evidencing compliance with the requirements of this Section. No certificate shall be acceptable to the District unless it provides that any change or termination within the policy periods of the insurance coverage, as certified, shall not be effective without written notice to the District per the terms of the applicable policy. Insurance coverage shall be from a reputable insurance carrier, licensed to conduct business in the state of Florida.

If the Engineer fails to have secured and maintained the required insurance, the District has the right (without any obligation to do so, however), to secure such required insurance in which event, the Engineer shall pay the cost for that required insurance and shall furnish, upon demand, all information that may be required in connection with the District's obtaining the required insurance.

14. CONTINGENT FEE. The Engineer warrants that it has not employed or retained any company or person, other than a bona fide employee working solely for the Engineer, to solicit or secure

this Agreement and that it has not paid or agreed to pay any person, company, corporation, individual, or firm, other than a bona fide employee working solely for the Engineer, any fee, commission, percentage, gift, or other consideration contingent upon or resulting from the award or making of this Agreement.

15. AUDIT. The Engineer agrees that the District or any of its duly authorized representatives shall, until the expiration of three (3) years after expenditure of funds under this Agreement, have access to and the right to examine any books, documents, papers, and records of the Engineer involving transactions related to the Agreement. The Engineer agrees that payment made under the Agreement shall be subject to reduction for amounts charged thereto that are found on the basis of audit examination not to constitute allowable costs. All required records shall be maintained until an audit is completed and all questions arising therefrom are resolved, or three (3) years after completion of all work under the Agreement.

16. INDEMNIFICATION. Engineer agrees to indemnify, and hold the District and the District's officers and employees harmless from liabilities, damages, losses, and costs, including, but not limited to, reasonable attorney's fees, which may come against the District and the District's officers and employees, to the extent caused by negligent, reckless, or intentionally wrongful acts, omissions, or defaults by Engineer or persons employed or utilized by Engineer in its services provided under this Agreement. To the extent a limitation on liability is required by Section 725.06 of the *Florida Statutes* or other applicable law, liability under this section shall in no event exceed (i) One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence or (ii) Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) aggregate. Engineer agrees such limitation bears a reasonable commercial relationship to the contract and was part of the project specifications or bid documents.

17. INDIVIDUAL LIABILITY. UNDER THIS AGREEMENT, AND SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 558.0035, FLORIDA STATUTES, WHICH REQUIREMENTS ARE EXPRESSLY INCORPORATED HEREIN, AN INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYEE OR AGENT MAY NOT BE HELD INDIVIDUALLY LIABLE FOR NEGLIGENCE.

18. SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY. The Engineer agrees and covenants that nothing in this Agreement shall constitute or be construed as a waiver of District's limitations on liability pursuant to Section 768.28, *Florida Statutes*, or any other statute or law.

19. PUBLIC RECORDS. The Engineer agrees and understands that Chapter 119, *Florida Statutes*, may be applicable to documents prepared in connection with work provided to the District and agrees to cooperate with public record requests made thereunder. In connection with this Agreement, Engineer agrees 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, Engineer must:

- 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 Engineer 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 Engineer or keep and maintain public records required by the District to perform the service. If the Engineer transfers all public records to the District upon completion of this Agreement, the Engineer shall destroy any duplicate public records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from public records disclosure requirements. If the Engineer keeps and maintains public records upon completion of the Agreement, the Engineer 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.

IF THE ENGINEER HAS QUESTIONS REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF CHAPTER 119, FLORIDA STATUTES, TO THE ENGINEER'S DUTY TO PROVIDE PUBLIC RECORDS RELATING TO THIS AGREEMENT, CONTACT THE PUBLIC RECORDS CUSTODIAN AT C/O WRATHELL. HUNT AND ASSOCIATES, LLC, 2300 GLADES ROAD, SUITE 410W, BOCA RATON, FLORIDA 33431, PHONE (561) 571-0010, AND E-MAIL CERBONEC@WHHASSOCIATES.COM.

20. EMPLOYMENT VERIFICATION. The Engineer agrees that it shall bear the responsibility for verifying the employment status, under the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, of all persons it employs in the performance of this Agreement.

21. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST. The Engineer shall abide by all applicable ethical canons and professional standards relating to conflicts of interest.

22. SUBCONTRACTORS. The Engineer may subcontract portions of the services, subject to the terms of this Agreement and subject to the prior written consent of the District, which may be withheld for any or no reason. Without in any way limiting any terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement, all subcontractors of Engineer shall be deemed to have made all of the representations and warranties of Engineer set forth herein and shall be subject to any and all obligations of Engineer hereunder. Prior to any subcontractor providing any services, Engineer shall obtain from each subcontractor its written consent to and acknowledgment of the terms of this Agreement. Engineer shall be responsible for all acts or omissions of any subcontractors.

23. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR. The District and the Engineer agree and acknowledge that the Engineer shall serve as an independent contractor of the District. Neither the Engineer nor employees of the Engineer, if any, are employees of the District under the meaning or application of any federal or state unemployment, insurance laws, or any other potentially applicable laws. The Engineer agrees to assume all liabilities or obligations by any one or more of such laws with respect to employees of the Engineer, if any, in the performance of this Agreement. The Engineer shall not have any authority to assume or create any obligation, express or implied, on behalf of the District and the Engineer shall have no authority to represent as agent, employee, or in any other capacity the District unless set forth

differently herein or authorized by vote of the Board.

24. ASSIGNMENT. Neither the District nor the Engineer shall assign, sublet, or transfer any rights under or interest in this Agreement without the express written consent of the other. Nothing in this paragraph shall prevent the Engineer from employing such independent professional associates and consultants as Engineer deems appropriate, pursuant to the terms of this Agreement.

25. THIRD PARTIES. Nothing in the Agreement shall inure to the benefit of any third party for the purpose of allowing any claim which would otherwise be barred by operation of law.

26. CONTROLLING LAW; VENUE. The Engineer and the District agree that this Agreement shall be controlled and governed by the laws of the State of Florida. Venue for any action brought relating to this Agreement shall be in St. Lucie County, Florida.

27. TERMINATION. The District may terminate this Agreement for cause immediately upon notice to Engineer. The District or the Engineer may terminate this Agreement without cause upon thirty (30) days written notice. At such time as the Engineer receives notification of the intent of the District to terminate the contract, the Engineer shall not perform any further services unless directed to do so in writing by the District. In the event of any termination or breach of any kind, the Engineer shall not be entitled to consequential damages of any kind (including but not limited to lost profits), but instead the Engineer's sole remedy will be to recover payment for services rendered to the date of the notice of termination, subject to any offsets.

28. RECOVERY OF COSTS AND FEES. In the event either party is required to enforce this Agreement by court proceedings or otherwise, then the prevailing party shall be entitled to recover from the other party all costs incurred, including reasonable attorneys' fees, at all judicial levels.

29. AMENDMENTS. Amendments to and waivers of the provisions contained in this Agreement may be made only by an instrument in writing which is executed by both of the parties hereto and formally approved by the Board.

30. AGREEMENT. This Agreement reflects the negotiated agreement of the parties, each represented by competent legal counsel. Accordingly, this Agreement shall be construed as if both parties jointly prepared it, and no presumption against one party or the other shall govern the interpretation or construction of any of the provisions of this Agreement.

31. NOTICES. All notices, requests, consents and other communications hereunder ("**Notices**") shall be in writing and shall be delivered, mailed by First Class Mail, postage prepaid, or telecopied to the parties, and at the addresses first set forth above. Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, any Notice shall be deemed received only upon actual delivery at the address set forth above. Notices delivered after 5:00 p.m. (at the place of delivery) or on a non-business day, shall be deemed received on the next business day. If any time for giving Notice contained in this Agreement would otherwise expire on a non-business day, the Notice period shall be extended to the next succeeding business day. Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays recognized by the United States government shall not be regarded as business days. Counsel for the District and counsel for the Engineer may deliver Notice on behalf of the District and the Engineer. Any party or other person to whom Notices are to be sent or copied may notify the other parties and addressees of any change in name or address to which Notices

shall be sent by providing the same on five (5) day's written notice to the parties and addressees set forth herein.

32. RECOVERY OF COSTS AND FEES. In the event either party is required to enforce this Agreement by court proceedings or otherwise, then the prevailing party shall be entitled to recover from the other party all costs incurred, including reasonable attorneys' fees, paralegal fees and expert witness fees and costs.

33. E-VERIFY. The Engineer shall comply with and perform all applicable provisions of Section 448.095, *Florida Statutes*. Accordingly, to the extent required by Florida Statute, Engineer shall register with and use the United States Department of Homeland Security's E-Verify system to verify the work authorization status of all newly hired employees. The District may terminate this Agreement immediately for cause if there is a good faith belief that the Engineer has knowingly violated Section 448.091, *Florida Statutes*. By entering into this Agreement, the Engineer represents that no public employer has terminated a contract with the Engineer under Section 448.095(2)(c), *Florida Statutes*, within the year immediately preceding the date of this Agreement.

34. PURSUANT TO FS 558.0035, EMPLOYEES OF ENGINEER MAY NOT BE HELD INDIVIDUALLY LIABLE FOR DAMAGES RESULTING FROM NEGLIGENCE UNDER THIS AGREEMENT.

[THIS SPACE LEFT BLANK]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused these present to be executed the day and year first above written.

THE GROVES OF ST. LUCIE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Signed by:

Michael Polstein

AFFB9AD3818G47B...

Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

KIMLEY-HORN AND ASSOCIATES, INC.

By: Brooke Arriaga

Its: Regional Contract Lead

- EXHIBIT A:** Rate Schedule
- EXHIBIT B:** Insurance Certificate
- EXHIBIT C:** Approved Work Authorization #1

EXHIBIT A
RATE SCHEDULE



Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.

Hourly Labor Rate Schedule

Classification	<i>Rate</i>
Analyst	\$180 - \$270
Professional	\$260 - \$335
Senior Professional I	\$310 - \$425
Senior Professional II	\$430 - \$450
Senior Technical Support	\$195 - \$310
Support Staff	\$145 - \$175
Technical Support	\$150 - \$215

Effective through June 30, 2026

Subject to adjustment thereafter

Internal Reimbursable Expenses will be charged at 5% of Labor Billings

External Reimbursable Expenses will be charged at 15% mark-up, or per the Contract

Sub-Consultants will be billed per the Contract

EXHIBIT B
INSURANCE CERTIFICATE & ENDORSEMENTS

EXHIBIT C
APPROVED WORK AUTHORIZATION #1

The Groves of St. Lucie Community Development District

Subject: **Work Authorization Number 1**

Dear Chairman, Board of Supervisors:

Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. ("Engineer") is pleased to submit this work authorization to provide interim engineering services for The Groves of St. Lucie Community Development District ("**District**"). We will provide these services pursuant to our current agreement dated _____ ("**Engineering Agreement**") as follows:

I. Scope of Work

The District will engage the services of Engineer on an interim basis to perform those services as necessary for the preparation of a District engineer's report in connection with the issuance of District Bonds, construction phase services, and attendance at meetings and bond validation proceedings regarding the District's issuance of bonds.

If the Engineer is requested to make site observations, for construction phase services, Engineer's visits will be for the purpose of providing the District with a general project status update, and determining in the Engineer's reasonable professional judgment whether, based on the Engineer's observations, the work is part of the District's improvement plan, the work was conducted in general conformance with the design specifications and applicable contract, the Engineer is not aware of defects, and whether it is appropriate for the District to accept and make payment for such work; provided, however, that, in making such determinations, the Engineer does not guarantee contractor's performance or assume responsibility for contractor's failure to perform in accordance with the applicable contract. It is further agreed that the Engineer shall not be responsible for certifying the quality of the work of other design professionals outside of Engineer's firm. The Engineer will not be required to perform construction project observation services on behalf of the District for projects it did not personally design. The Engineer shall have no responsibility for an contractor's means, methods, techniques, equipment choice and usage, sequence, schedule, safety programs, or safety practices, not shall Engineer have any authority or responsibility to stop or direct the work of any contractor, except that, depending on the applicable construction contract, the Engineer may have the role of reviewing change proposals, reviewing payments, and otherwise taking consistent with construction administration services provided for under industry standard AIA, EJCDC and other similar agreements.

II. Fees

The District will compensate Engineer pursuant to the hourly rate schedule contained in the Engineering Agreement. The District will reimburse Engineer all direct costs which include items such as printing, drawings, travel, deliveries, etc., pursuant to the Agreement.

This proposal, together with the Engineering Agreement, represents the entire understanding between the District and Engineer with regard to the referenced work authorization. If you wish to accept this work authorization, please sign both copies where indicated, and return one complete copy to our office. Upon receipt, we will promptly schedule our services.

**THE GROVES OF
ST. LUCIE COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

**UNAUDITED
FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS**

**THE GROVES OF ST LUCIE COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
UNAUDITED
MARCH 31, 2026**

**THE GROVES OF ST LUCIE COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
BALANCE SHEET
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
MARCH 31, 2026**

	General Fund	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 16,338	\$ 16,338
Undeposited funds	3,573	3,573
Total assets	19,911	19,911
 LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 8,017	\$ 8,017
Due to Landowner	63	63
Landowner advance	6,000	6,000
Landowner advance- Legal adv.	5,841	5,841
Total liabilities	19,921	19,921
 Fund balances:		
Unassigned	(10)	(10)
Total fund balances	(10)	(10)
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources and fund balances	\$ 19,911	\$ 19,911

**THE GROVES OF ST LUCIE COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
GENERAL FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES,
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED MARCH 31, 2026**

	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
REVENUES				
Landowner contribution	\$ 16,149	\$ 19,827	\$ 71,098	28%
Total revenues	<u>16,149</u>	<u>19,827</u>	<u>71,098</u>	28%
EXPENDITURES				
Professional & administrative				
Management/accounting/recording**	3,500	7,500	26,000	29%
Legal	-	1,284	25,000	5%
Engineering	-	-	2,000	0%
Dissemination agent*	-	-	333	0%
Telephone	17	100	200	50%
Postage	-	-	500	0%
Printing & binding	42	250	500	50%
Legal advertising	-	202	7,500	3%
Annual special district fee	-	175	175	100%
Insurance	-	5,000	5,500	91%
Contingencies/bank charges	10	596	1,500	40%
Website hosting & maintenance	-	1,680	1,680	100%
Website ADA compliance	-	145	210	69%
Total professional & administrative	<u>3,569</u>	<u>16,932</u>	<u>71,098</u>	24%
Excess/(deficiency) of revenues over/(under) expenditures	12,580	2,895	-	
Fund balances - beginning	<u>(12,590)</u>	<u>(2,905)</u>	-	
Fund balances - ending	<u>\$ (10)</u>	<u>\$ (10)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	

*These items will be realized when bonds are issued

**WHA will charge a reduced management fee of \$500 per month during semi-dormancy then \$2,000 per month when the District is active then \$4,000 per month post bond issuance.

**THE GROVES OF
ST. LUCIE COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

MINUTES

**THE GROVES OF
ST. LUCIE COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

MINUTES

A

DRAFT

MINUTES OF MEETING

THE GROVES OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

The Board of Supervisors of The Groves of St. Lucie County Community Development District held a Special Meeting on March 26, 2026 at 11:00 a.m., at the Fairfield Inn & Suites Ft. Pierce, 6502 Metal Dr., Ft. Pierce, Florida 34945.

Present:

Michael Folstein	Vice Chair
Derek Youngblood	Assistant Secretary
Juliet Misconi	Assistant Secretary

Also present:

Cindy Cerbone	District Manager
Chris Conti	Wrathell, Hunt and Associates (WHA)
Jere Earlywine	District Counsel
Mike Dula	Supervisor-Appointee
Tim Gee	Supervisor-Appointee

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call to Order/Roll Call

Mr. Conti called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. Supervisors Folstein, Misconi and Youngblood were present. Two Seats were vacant.

SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS

Public Comments

No members of the public spoke.

THIRD ORDER OF BUSINESS

Consider Appointment to Fill Unexpired Term of Seat 1; Term Expires December 20, 2028

Ms. Misconi nominated Tim Gee to fill Seat 5. No other nominations were made.

On MOTION by Ms. Misconi and seconded by Mr. Folstein, with all in favor, the appointment of Tim Gee to fill Seat 1, was approved.

- **Administration of Oath of Office to Appointed Supervisor (to be provided under separate cover)**
- A. Updates and Reminders: Ethics Training for Special District Supervisors and Form 1**
- B. Membership, Obligations and Responsibilities**

- 42 C. Guide to Sunshine Amendment and Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees
- 43 D. Form 8B: Memorandum of Voting Conflict for County, Municipal and other Local
- 44 Public Officers

45 These items were presented following the Fourth Order of Business.

46

47 **FOURTH ORDER OF BUSINESS** **Consider Appointment to Fill Unexpired**
 48 **Term of Seat 3; Term Expires December 20,**
 49 **2026**
 50

51 Ms. Misconi nominated Michael Dula to fill Seat 5. No other nominations were made.

52 **On MOTION by Ms. Misconi and seconded by Mr. Folstein, with all in favor, the**
 53 **appointment of Michael Dula to Seat 5, was approved.**

54

- 55 • **Administration of Oath of Office to Appointed Supervisor**

56 Mr. Conti, a Notary of the State of Florida and duly authorized, administered the Oath of
57 Office to Tim Gee and Michael Dula.

58 Mr. Conti and Ms. Cerbone presented and explained the items listed under the Third
59 Order of Business.

60 Ms. Cerbone stated Mr. Gee and Mr. Dula completed Form 8B, which will be kept on file
61 for use when necessary. Mr. Conti paraphrased Form 8B, which states, as follows:

62 "I am a member of the Board of Supervisors of the Groves of St. Lucie County
 63 Community Development District created under Chapter 190, Florida Statutes, and I am a
 64 principal, employee and/or business associate, or relative, of a landowner in the District.
 65 Decisions potentially affecting the landowner may come before the Board from time to time.
 66 Pursuant to Section 112.3143(3)(b), and 190.007(1), Florida Statutes, I understand that I do not
 67 have a conflict of interest when voting on such matters, and that I am not prohibited from
 68 voting on such matters. That said, I am filing this disclosure of voting conflict in an abundance of
 69 caution, and to follow the procedures required by section 112.3143, Florida Statutes, and for
 70 the duration of my term and any subsequent terms."

71

72 **FIFTH ORDER OF BUSINESS** **Consideration of Resolution 2026-11,**
 73 **Electing and Removing Officers of the**
 74 **District and Providing for an Effective Date**
 75

76 Mr. Conti presented Resolution 2026-01. Ms. Misconi nominated the following:

- 77 Tim Gee Chair
- 78 Juliet Misconi Vice Chair
- 79 Derek Youngblood Assistant Secretary
- 80 Michael Folstein Assistant Secretary
- 81 Michael (Mike) Dula Assistant Secretary

82 No other nominations were made.

83 The following prior appointments by the Board remain unchanged by this Resolution:

- 84 Craig Wrathell Secretary
- 85 Cindy Cerbone Assistant Secretary
- 86 Chris Conti Assistant Secretary
- 87 Craig Wrathell Treasurer
- 88 Jeffrey Pinder Assistant Treasurer

89 **On MOTION by Mr. Folstein and seconded by Mr. Youngblood, with all in favor,**
 90 **Resolution 2026-11, Electing, as nominated, and Removing Officers of the**
 91 **District and Providing for an Effective Date, was adopted.**

92
93

94 **SIXTH ORDER OF BUSINESS**

NEXT MEETING DATE: March 30, 2026 at 11:00 AM

95
96

97 The Board and Staff discussed upcoming meeting dates and bond issuance.

98 The consensus was to meet on May 15, 2026 to discuss the proposed Fiscal Year 2027
99 budget. At that time, a recurring meeting date may be set.

100

101 **SEVENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Public Comments

102

103 No members of the public spoke.

104

105 **EIGHTH ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Board Members' Comments/Requests

106

107 There were no Board Members' comments or requests.

108

109 **NINTH ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Adjournment

110

111 **On MOTION by Mr. Folstein and seconded by Ms. Misconi, with all in favor, the**
 112 **meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.**

113

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117 _____
Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair

**THE GROVES OF
ST. LUCIE COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

MINUTES

B

DRAFT

MINUTES OF MEETING

THE GROVES OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

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The Board of Supervisors of The Groves of St. Lucie County Community Development District held Public Hearings, a Regular Meeting and an Audit Committee Meeting on March 30, 2026 at 11:00 a.m., at the Fairfield Inn & Suites Ft. Pierce, 6502 Metal Dr., Ft. Pierce, Florida 34945.

Present:

Tim Gee	Chair
Juliet Misconi	Vice Chair
Michael Dula	Assistant Secretary

Also present:

Cindy Cerbone	District Manager
Chris Conti	Wrathell, Hunt and Associates (WHA)
Jere Earlywine (via telephone)	District Counsel
Kirsten Mood (via telephone)	Kutak Rock LLP
Alex Daugherty	Interim District Engineer

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call to Order/Roll Call

Mr. Conti called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Supervisors Gee, Misconi and Dula were present. Supervisors Folstein and Youngblood were absent.

SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS

Public Comments

No members of the public spoke.

THIRD ORDER OF BUSINESS

Public Hearing Confirming the Intent of the District to Use the Uniform Method of Levy, Collection and Enforcement of Non-Ad Valorem Assessments as Authorized and Permitted by Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes; Expressing the Need for the Levy of Non-Ad Valorem Assessments and Setting Forth the Legal Description of the Real Property Within the District's Jurisdictional Boundaries that May or Shall Be Subject to the Levy of District Non-Ad Valorem Assessments; Providing for

Severability; Providing for Conflict and Providing for an Effective Date

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Mr. Conti stated this is related to utilizing the Uniform Method of levying and collecting special assessments via the services of the Property Appraiser and Tax Collector.

A. Affidavit/Proof of Publication

The affidavit of publication was provided for informational purposes.

B. Consideration of Resolution 2026-12, Expressing its Intent to Utilize the Uniform Method of Levying, Collecting, and Enforcing Non-Ad Valorem Assessments Which May Be Levied by The Groves of St. Lucie County Community Development District in Accordance with Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes; Providing a Severability Clause; and Providing an Effective Date

On MOTION by Ms. Misconi and seconded by Mr. Dula with all in favor, the Public Hearing was opened.

No members of the public spoke.

On MOTION by Mr. Gee and seconded by Mr. Dula, with all in favor, the Public Hearing was closed.

On MOTION by Ms. Misconi and seconded by Mr. Gee, with all in favor, Resolution 2026-12, Expressing its Intent to Utilize the Uniform Method of Levying, Collecting, and Enforcing Non-Ad Valorem Assessments Which May Be Levied by The Groves of St. Lucie County Community Development District in Accordance with Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes; Providing a Severability Clause; and Providing an Effective Date, was adopted.

FOURTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Public Hearing to Consider the Adoption of an Assessment Roll and the Imposition of Special Assessments Relating to the Financing and Securing of Certain Public Improvements

A. Affidavit/Proof of Publication

B. Mailed Notice to Property Owner(s)

These items were included for informational purposes.

C. Master Engineer’s Report (for informational purposes)

The previously approved Engineer’s Report was included for informational purposes.

The following questions were posed and answered:

82 **Ms. Mood:** Based on your professional experience, are the cost estimates in your
83 Engineer’s Report reasonable and proper?

84 **Mr. Daugherty:** Yes. And I verified that the product types listed in Section 1 are correct,
85 per what was approved with St. Lucie County.

86 **Ms. Mood:** And are you aware of any reason to believe the project cannot be carried
87 out by the District?

88 **Mr. Daugherty:** No.

89 **D. Master Special Assessment Methodology Report (for informational purposes)**

90 Mr. Conti presented the Master Special Assessment Methodology Report dated
91 February 20, 2026. He reviewed the Appendix Tables and noted the following:

- 92 ➤ 612 total units are anticipated.
- 93 ➤ The anticipated total CIP costs are estimated at \$70,500,000.
- 94 ➤ The total par amount of bonds, including the costs of financing, capitalized interest and
95 debt service reserve, is \$96,765,000 to finance costs estimated at \$70,500,000.

96 The following question was posed and answered:

97 **Ms. Mood:** Does your assessment Report provide that the lands that are being assessed
98 are receiving special benefits from the Capital Improvement Plan? And, in your professional
99 opinion, those benefits to the assessed property would include and give access to and from the
100 benefited property via the master infrastructure, the low cost tax-exempt financing that is
101 available, eventual resident ownership, operation and control of those capital infrastructure
102 improvements; assurance of continual operation of that capital infrastructure in the facility that
103 protects the property value there; reduced need for personal recreational facilities and
104 equipment, which results in increased enjoyment of this benefited property; the ability to
105 refinance the debt assessments in the future, resulting in potential additional savings; and the
106 Developer’s payment of any debt and O&M that may be involved there; all of those are special
107 benefits to the properties that are being assessed here; and is it your professional opinion that
108 the assessments could cover that Improvement Plan, and be sufficient to cover the debt and
109 everything therein?

110 **Mr. Conti** Yes, that is correct.

111 **On MOTION by Mr. Dula and seconded by Mr. Gee, with all in favor, the Public**
112 **Hearing was opened.**

113

- 114 • Hear testimony from the affected property owners as to the propriety and advisability
- 115 of making the improvements and funding them with special assessments on the
- 116 property.

117 No affected property owners or members of the public spoke.

- 118 • Thereafter, the governing authority shall meet as an equalizing board to hear any and
- 119 all complaints as to the special assessments on a basis of justice and right.

120 The Board, sitting as the Equalizing Board, made no changes to the assessment levels.

121 **On MOTION by Mr. Gee and seconded by Mr. Dula, with all in favor, the Public**

122 **Hearing was closed.**

- 123
- 124 E. **Consideration of Resolution 2026-13, Making Certain Findings; Authorizing a Capital**
- 125 **Improvement Plan; Adopting an Engineer’s Report; Providing an Estimated Cost of**
- 126 **Improvements; Adopting an Assessment Report; Equalizing, Approving, Confirming**
- 127 **and Levying Debt Assessments; Addressing the Finalization of Special Assessments;**
- 128 **Addressing the Payment of Debt Assessments and the Method of Collection; Providing**
- 129 **for the Allocation of Debt Assessments and True-Up Payments; Addressing**
- 130 **Government Property, and Transfers of Property to Units of Local, State and Federal**
- 131 **Government; Authorizing an Assessment Notice; and Providing for Severability,**
- 132 **Conflicts and an Effective Date**

133 Mr. Conti presented Resolution 2026-13 and read the title.

134 **On MOTION by Ms. Misconi and seconded by Mr. Dula, with all in favor,**

135 **Resolution 2026-13, Making Certain Findings; Authorizing a Capital**

136 **Improvement Plan; Adopting an Engineer’s Report; Providing an Estimated**

137 **Cost of Improvements; Adopting an Assessment Report; Equalizing, Approving,**

138 **Confirming and Levying Debt Assessments; Addressing the Finalization of**

139 **Special Assessments; Addressing the Payment of Debt Assessments and the**

140 **Method of Collection; Providing for the Allocation of Debt Assessments and**

141 **True-Up Payments; Addressing Government Property, and Transfers of**

142 **Property to Units of Local, State and Federal Government; Authorizing an**

143 **Assessment Notice; and Providing for Severability, Conflicts and an Effective**

144 **Date, was adopted.**

145

146

147 **FIFTH ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Public Hearing to Hear Public Comments

and Objections to the Adoption of the

Rules of Procedure, Pursuant to Sections

120.54 and 190.035, Florida Statutes

152 **A. Affidavits of Publication**

153 The affidavits of publication were included for informational purposes.

154 **B. Consideration of Resolution 2026-14, Adopting Rules of Procedure; Providing a**
155 **Severability Clause; and Providing an Effective Date**

156 Mr. Conti presented Resolution 2026-14 and Exhibit A, the Rules of Procedure.

157 **On MOTION by Mr. Gee and seconded by Ms. Misconi, with all in favor, the**
158 **Public Hearing was opened.**

159
160 No affected property owners or members of the public spoke.

161 **On MOTION by Ms. Misconi and seconded by Mr. Gee, with all in favor, the**
162 **Public Hearing was closed.**

163
164 **On MOTION by Mr. Dula and seconded by Mr. Gee, with all in favor, Resolution**
165 **2026-14, Adopting Rules of Procedure; Providing a Severability Clause; and**
166 **Providing an Effective Date, was adopted.**

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169 **SIXTH ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**Consideration of U.S. Bank Global
Corporate Trust Services Engagement
Letter**

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173 **On MOTION by Mr. Gee and seconded by Mr. Dula, with all in favor, the U.S.**
174 **Bank Global Corporate Trust Services Engagement Letter.**

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177 **SEVENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Discussion: Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget

178
179 This item was presented following the Eighteenth Order of Business.

180
181 **EIGHTH ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**Consideration of Resolution 2026-09,
Designating Dates, Times and Locations for
Regular Meetings of the Board of
Supervisors of the District for the
Remainder of Fiscal Year 2025/2026 and
Providing for an Effective Date**

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188 This item was deferred.

189
190 **NINTH ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**Consideration of Resolution 2026-15,
Designating Dates, Times and Locations for
Regular Meetings of the Board of
Supervisors of the District for Fiscal Year**

2026/2027 and Providing for an Effective Date

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This item was deferred.

198

199 TENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Recess Regular Meeting/Commencement of Audit Selection Committee Meeting

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201

On MOTION by Mr. Dula and seconded by Ms. Misconi, the Regular Meeting recessed and the Audit Selection Committee Meeting commenced.

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203

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206 ELEVENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Review of Response to Request for Proposals (RFP) for Annual Audit Services

207
208

209 A. Affidavit of Publication

210 B. RFP Package

211 These items were included for informational purposes.

212 C. Respondents

213 Mr. Conti stated that District Management has worked with all the respondents and all
214 are qualified. He discussed his scores and rankings, as follows:

- 215 ➤ Ability of Personnel: All proposers received full points.
- 216 ➤ Proposer’s Experience: All proposers received full points.
- 217 ➤ Understanding of Scope of Work: All proposers received full points.
- 218 ➤ Ability to Furnish Required Services: Ten point were deducted from Berger, Toombs,
219 Elam, Gaines & Frank (BTEGF) for recent delays in submitting timely audits.
- 220 ➤ Price: Grau & Associates (Grau), the lowest bidder, received 20 points; BTEGF and Carr,
221 Riggs & Ingram received 18 points and 15 points, respectively.

222 I. Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank

223 Bid: \$4,900 with bond issuance.

224 II. Carr, Riggs & Ingram

225 Bid: \$8,850 with bond issuance.

226 III. Grau & Associates

227 Bid: \$4,200 with bond issuance.

228 D. Auditor Evaluation Matrix/Ranking

229 The Audit Selection Committee accepted Mr. Conti’s scores and ranking, as follows:

230	#1	Grau & Associates	100 points
231	#2	Carr, Riggs & Ingram	95 points
232	#3	Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank	87 points

On MOTION by Mr. Gee and seconded by Mr. Dula, with all in favor, accepting District Management’s scores and ranking as the Audit Selection Committee’s joint scores and ranking, was approved.

TWELFTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Termination of Audit Selection Committee Meeting/Reconvene Regular Meeting

On MOTION by Mr. Dula and seconded by Mr. Gee, the Audit Selection Committee Meeting terminated and the Regular Meeting reconvened.

THIRTEENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Consider Recommendation of Audit Selection Committee

- **Award of Contract**

On MOTION by Mr. Dula and seconded by Mr. Gee, with all in favor, accepting the Audit Selection Committee’s scores, ranking and recommendation ranking Grau & Associates as the #1 ranked respondent to the RFP for Annual Audit Services, as the Board’s own scores and ranking, and awarding the Annual Audit Services contract to Grau & Associates, the #1 ranked respondent, was approved.

FOURTEENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Consideration of Response(s) to Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Engineering Services

A. Publication

B. RFQ Package

C. Respondent(s)

I. Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.

II. South Florida Engineering and Consulting LLC

These items were included for informational purposes.

Ms. Cerbone stated the RFQ is based on qualifications only, unlike the RFP for Annual Audit Services, which includes pricing. Based on the Board’s actions today, assuming that the

269 highest ranked respondent is awarded the contract, District Counsel will be authorized to
270 negotiate a contract with the highest-ranked respondent.

271 **D. Competitive Selection Criteria/Ranking**

272 Mr. Dula discussed the categories of Ability and Adequacy of Professional Personnel,
273 Consultant’s Past Performance, Geographic Location, Willingness to Meet Time and Budget
274 Requirements, Certified Minority Business Enterprise, Recent, Current and Projected Workloads
275 and Volume of Work Previously Awarded to Consultant by District.

276 Ms. Cerbone stated the Board can score and rank the respondents jointly, accept Mr.
277 Dula’s scores and ranking as the Board’s own, or they can score and rank them individually.

278 Mr. Dula reviewed his scores and discussed his reasoning for his scores, as follows:

279 **I. Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.**

280 Total Score: 95 points

281 **II. South Florida Engineering and Consulting LLC**

282 Total Score: 85 points

283 **On MOTION by Mr. Gee and seconded by Ms. Misconi, with all in favor,**
284 **accepting Mr. Dula’s scores, ranking and recommendation, ranking Kimley-**
285 **Horn and Associates, Inc. as the #1 ranked respondent to the RFQ for**
286 **Engineering Services as the Board’s own scores and ranking, was approved.**

287
288 **E. Award of Contract**

289 **On MOTION by Mr. Gee, and seconded by Mr. Dula, with all in favor, awarding**
290 **the Engineering Services contract to Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., the #1**
291 **ranked respondent, was approved.**

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294 **FIFTEENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Consideration of Resolution 2026-10,
Designating the Location of the Local
District Records Office and Providing an
Effective Date

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299 This item was deferred.

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301 **SIXTEENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Ratification of Kimley-Horn and Associates,
Inc. Interim Engineering Services
Agreement

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On MOTION by Mr. Gee and seconded by Ms. Misconi, with all in favor, the Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. Interim Engineering Services Agreement, was ratified.

SEVENTEENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS Acceptance of Unaudited Financial Statements as of February 28, 2026

On MOTION by Mr. Gee and seconded by Ms. Misconi, with all in favor, the Unaudited Financial Statements as of February 28, 2026, were accepted.

EIGHTEENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS Approval of January 22, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes

The following change was made:

Line 18 and throughout: Change "Dougherty" to "Daugherty"

On MOTION by Mr. Gee and seconded by Mr. Dula, with all in favor, the January 22, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes, as amended, were approved.

▪ **Discussion: Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget**

This item, previously the Seventh Order of Business, was presented out of order.

Discussion ensued about expenditures, infrastructure coming online in Fiscal Year 2027, determining whether the HOA or CDD will maintain infrastructure and who will fund expenses.

Mr. Earlywine recalled previous discussions related to issuing bonds in 2028.

Discussion ensued regarding whether the CDD will own the Amenity, whether roads will be private and use of bonds to pay for stormwater utilities.

Mr. Earlywine recommended the CDD own everything if gates will not be installed.

Ms. Cerbone noted that off-site roadway improvements will be conveyed to the County; internal roads will be owned by the CDD.

Discussion ensued regarding the Tables in the Engineer's Report and Methodology, Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) calculations, bond validation, Non-Ad Valorem Assessments to fund the Operation & Maintenance (O&M) budget, and the recommendation to include Field Operations in the CDD budget when the CDD owns the Amenity.

▪ **Discussion Resumed: Item 4C, Master Engineer's Report**

The following change was made:

Section V, CIP COST ESTIMATE TABLE: Change "Roadways" O&M Entity to "CDD"

342 Ms. Cerbone stated that the O&M Entity for Off-Site Improvements will remain the
343 County. Staff will confirm that the Cost Estimates for “Roadways” and “Off-Site Improvements”
344 will each remain \$7.5 million.

345 ■ **Discussion: Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget**

346 Discussion ensued regarding the need to budget ongoing maintenance costs; prorating
347 the existing buildout budget circulated by Mr. Adams; the intent for the bulk of O&M costs,
348 including stormwater infrastructure and landscape, to be up-front costs; the second phase
349 O&M being limited to roadways and lots; intent for townhomes to be sold; off-roll assessments;
350 conditional assessments on sold lots; the Developer Funding Agreement; unit and lot counts
351 and the Development Plan; implementing off-roll assessments on Townhomes only; Developer
352 Contributions; budgeting considerations; and the intention to sell the Townhomes in bulk.

353 Ms. Cerbone stated the Board will meet on or before June 15, 2026 to present the
354 proposed Fiscal Year 2027 budget and, 60 days later to adopt, but before September 15, 2026.
355 The CDD will own, budget and collect for the Amenity.

356 Discussion ensued regarding property management, a recommendation that the CDD
357 contract with the same company as the HOA, and Ms. Misconi’s request for recommendations.

358 Ms. Cerbone stated she or Mr. Conti will email a list of companies with which they have
359 worked in the area. She disclosed that Craig Wrathell and Pfil Hunt have a partial ownership
360 interest in Atmos; therefore, she will only do an email introduction to Atmos.

361 Ms. Cerbone stated Mr. Conti will adjust the budget based on the modifications
362 discussed, including the Amenity. It was noted that maintenance for stormwater management
363 and landscaping will likely begin in March 2027.

364 The consensus was to schedule the next meeting for May 15, 2026; the Public Hearing
365 will be scheduled no sooner than July 15, 2026.

366 Discussion ensued regarding the anticipated bond issuance date and associated fee
367 increases when bonds are issued.

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369 **NINETEENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Staff Reports

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371 **A. District Counsel: Kutak Rock LLP**

372 Mr. Earlywine discussed the Bond Validation scheduled for April 28, 2026.

373 **B. District Engineer (Interim): Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.**

374 Mr. Daugherty asked if he should issue a revised Report indicating that the CDD will be
375 the O&M Entity for Roadway and if the Permitting Status section should be updated. Mr.
376 Earlywine replied affirmatively.

377 “(Interim)” will be removed from future agendas.

378 **C. District Manager: Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC**

- 379 • **Property Insurance on Vertical Assets**
- 380 • **Form 1 Submission and Ethics Training**

381 Mr. Conti stated Board Members will receive an email from the Florida Commission on
382 Ethics related to filing Form 1 by July 1, 2026. Links to Ethics Training courses were emailed to
383 Board Members; the course requirement must be completed before December 31, 2026.

- 384 • **NEXT MEETING DATE: TBD**
 - 385 ○ **QUORUM CHECK**

386 The next meeting will be held on May 15, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.

- 387 • **Performance Measures/Standards & Annual Reporting Form (for informational**
388 **purposes**

389

390 **TWENTIETH ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Public Comments

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392 No members of the public spoke.

393

394 **TWENTY-FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Board Members’ Comments/Requests

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396 There were no Board Members’ comments or requests.

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398 **TWENTY-SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Adjournment

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400 **On MOTION by Mr. Dula and seconded by Mr. Gee, with all in favor, the**
401 **meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.**

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[SIGNATURES APPEAR ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE]

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Secretary/Assistant Secretary

_____ Chair/Vice Chair

**THE GROVES OF
ST. LUCIE COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

**STAFF
REPORTS**

**THE GROVES OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
Performance Measures/Standards & Annual Reporting Form
October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026**

1. COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Goal 1.1 Public Meetings Compliance

Objective: Hold at least two (2) regular Board of Supervisor meetings per year to conduct CDD related business and discuss community needs.

Measurement: Number of public board meetings held annually as evidenced by meeting minutes and legal advertisements.

Standard: A minimum of two (2) regular board meetings was held during the fiscal year.

Achieved: Yes No

Goal 1.2 Notice of Meetings Compliance

Objective: Provide public notice of each meeting at least seven days in advance, as specified in Section 190.007(1), using at least two communication methods.

Measurement: Timeliness and method of meeting notices as evidenced by posting to CDD website, publishing in local newspaper and via electronic communication.

Standard: 100% of meetings were advertised with 7 days' notice per statute on at least two mediums (i.e., newspaper, CDD website, electronic communications).

Achieved: Yes No

Goal 1.3 Access to Records Compliance

Objective: Ensure that meeting minutes and other public records are readily available and easily accessible to the public by completing monthly CDD website checks.

Measurement: Monthly website reviews will be completed to ensure meeting minutes and other public records are up to date as evidenced by District Management's records.

Standard: 100% of monthly website checks were completed by District Management.

Achieved: Yes No

2. **INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES MAINTENANCE**

Goal 2.1 District Infrastructure and Facilities Inspections

Objective: District Engineer will conduct an annual inspection of the District's infrastructure and related systems.

Measurement: A minimum of one (1) inspection completed per year as evidenced by district engineer's report related to district's infrastructure and related systems.

Standard: Minimum of one (1) inspection was completed in the Fiscal Year by the district's engineer.

Achieved: Yes No

3. **FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

Goal 3.1 Annual Budget Preparation

Objective: Prepare and approve the annual proposed budget by June 15 and final budget was adopted by September 30 each year.

Measurement: Proposed budget was approved by the Board before June 15 and final budget was adopted by September 30 as evidenced by meeting minutes and budget documents listed on CDD website and/or within district records.

Standard: 100% of budget approval and adoption were completed by the statutory deadlines and posted to the CDD website.

Achieved: Yes No

Goal 3.2 Financial Reports

Objective: Publish to the CDD website the most recent versions of the following documents: current fiscal year budget with any amendments, most recent financials within the latest agenda package; and annual audit via link to Florida Auditor General website.

Measurement: Previous years' budgets, financials and annual audit, are accessible to the public as evidenced by corresponding documents and link on the CDD's website.

Standard: CDD website contains 100% of the following information: most recent link to annual audit, most recently adopted/amended fiscal year budget, and most recent agenda package with updated financials.

Achieved: Yes No

Goal 3.3 Annual Financial Audit

Objective: Conduct an annual independent financial audit per statutory requirements, transmit to the State of Florida and publish corresponding link to Florida Auditor General Website on the CDD website for public inspection.

Measurement: Timeliness of audit completion and publication as evidenced by meeting minutes showing board approval and annual audit is transmitted to the State of Florida and available on the Florida Auditor General Website, for which a corresponding link is published on the CDD website.

Standard: Audit was completed by an independent auditing firm per statutory requirements and results were transmitted to the State of Florida and corresponding link to Florida Auditor General Website is published on CDD website.

Achieved: Yes No