



Rizzetta & Company

# Somerset Community Development District

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## Audit Committee Meeting October 12, 2023

District Office:  
120 Richard Jackson Blvd, Suite 220  
Panama City Beach, Florida 32407  
850-334-9055

[www.somersetcdd.org](http://www.somersetcdd.org)

**SOMERSET COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**  
District Office · Panama City Beach, Florida · (850) 334-9055  
Mailing Address · 3434 Colwell Avenue, Suite 200, Tampa, Florida 33614  
[www.Somersetcdd.org](http://www.Somersetcdd.org)

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October 5, 2023

**Audit Committee  
Somerset Community  
Development District**

**AGENDA**

Dear Committee Members:

The second meeting of the Audit Committee of the Somerset Community Development District will be held on **Thursday, October 12, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. (Central Time)**, at Alys Beach Conference Room C, Building 1, located at 84 Elbow Beach Road, Alys Beach, FL 32459. The following is the agenda for this meeting:

- 1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**
- 2. AUDIENCE COMMENTS**
- 3. BUSINESS ITEMS**
  - A. Review and Ranking of Proposals Received in Response to the RFP for Auditing Services and Recommendation to the Board of Supervisors..... Tab 1
    1. Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank
    2. Grau & Associates
- 3. COMMENTS/ADJOURNMENT**

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at (850) 334-9055.

Respectfully,

*Kimberly O'Mera*  
Kimberly O'Mera  
District Manager

# **Tab 1**

**SOMERSET  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT  
PROPOSAL FOR AUDIT SERVICES**

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**PROPOSED BY:**

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

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600 Citrus Avenue, Suite 200  
Fort Pierce, Florida 34950

(772) 461-6120

**CONTACT PERSON:**

J. W. Gaines, CPA, Director

**DATE OF PROPOSAL:**

September 27, 2023

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# Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank

Certified Public Accountants PL

600 Citrus Avenue  
Suite 200  
Fort Pierce, Florida 34950

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

September 27, 2023

Somerset Community Development District  
Rizzetta & Company, Inc.  
120 Richard Jackson Blvd, Suite 220  
Panama City, FL 32407

Dear District Manager:

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

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

## **Experience**

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

Fort Pierce / Stuart

Member AICPA

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

Member FICPA

Somerset Community Development District  
September 27, 2023

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

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

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit this proposal to Somerset Community Development District.

Very truly yours,



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

## **PROFILE OF THE PROPOSER**

### **Description and History of Audit Firm**

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Professional Staff Resources

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

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

Following is a brief description of each employee classification:

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

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

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

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

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

## **Professional Staff Resources (Continued)**

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

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

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

Chapter 21A-1, Florida Administrative Code;

Section 473.315, Florida Statutes; and,

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

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

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

### **Ability to Furnish the Required Services**

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

## **ADDITIONAL SERVICES PROVIDED**

### **Arbitrage Rebate Services**

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

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

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

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

## **GOVERNMENTAL AUDITING EXPERIENCE**

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

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

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

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

### **Continuing Professional Education**

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

## **GOVERNMENTAL AUDITING EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)**

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

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

### **Quality Control Program**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **GOVERNMENTAL AUDITING EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)**

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

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

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

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

### **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (CAFR)**

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

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

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

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

## **GOVERNMENTAL AUDIT EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)**

### References

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

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

The Reserve Community Development District  
  
Darrin Mossing, Governmental Management  
Services LLC  
(407) 841-5524

Clearwater Cay Community Development  
District  
Cal Teague, Premier District Management  
  
(239) 690-7100 ext 101

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

### Community Development Districts

Aberdeen Community Development  
District

Beacon Lakes Community  
Development District

Alta Lakes Community Development  
District

Beaumont Community Development  
District

Amelia Concourse Community  
Development District

Bella Collina Community Development  
District

Amelia Walk Community  
Development District

Bonnet Creek Community  
Development District

Aqua One Community Development  
District

Buckeye Park Community  
Development District

Arborwood Community Development  
District

Candler Hills East Community  
Development District

Arlington Ridge Community  
Development District

Cedar Hammock Community  
Development District

Bartram Springs Community  
Development District

Central Lake Community  
Development District

Baytree Community Development  
District

Channing Park Community  
Development District

## GOVERNMENTAL AUDIT EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

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



## GOVERNMENTAL AUDIT EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

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

## GOVERNMENTAL AUDIT EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

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

**GOVERNMENTAL AUDIT EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)**

Triple Creek Community  
Development District

Vizcaya in Kendall  
Development District

TSR Community Development  
District

Waterset North Community  
Development District

Turnbull Creek Community  
Development District

Westside Community Development  
District

Twin Creeks North Community  
Development District

WildBlue Community Development  
District

Urban Orlando Community  
Development District

Willow Creek Community  
Development District

Verano #2 Community  
Development District

Willow Hammock Community  
Development District

Viera East Community  
Development District

Winston Trails Community  
Development District

VillaMar Community  
Development District

Zephyr Ridge Community  
Development District

## **GOVERNMENTAL AUDIT EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)**

### Other Governmental Organizations

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

### Current or Recent Single Audits.

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

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

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

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

### Counties

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

Indian River  
Martin  
Okeechobee  
Palm Beach

### Municipalities

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

## **GOVERNMENTAL AUDIT EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)**

### Special Districts

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

### Schools and Colleges

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

### State and County Agencies

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

## **FEE SCHEDULE**

We propose the fee for our audit services described below to be \$3,285 for the years ended September 30, 2023, 2024, and 2025, and \$3,515 for the years ended September 30, 2026 and 2027. The fee is contingent upon the financial records and accounting systems of Somerset Community Development District being "audit ready" and the financial activity for the District is not materially increased. If we discover that additional preparation work or subsidiary schedules are needed, we will consult with your authorized representative. We can assist with this additional work at our standard rates should you desire.

## **SCOPE OF WORK TO BE PERFORMED**

If selected as the District's auditors, we will perform a financial and compliance audit in accordance with Section 11.45, Florida Statutes, in order to express an opinion on an annual basis on the financial statements of Somerset Community Development District as of September 30, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, and 2027. The audits will be performed to the extent necessary to express an opinion on the fairness in all material respects with which the financial statements present the financial position, results of operations and changes in financial position in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles and to determine whether, for selected transactions, operations are properly conducted in accordance with legal and regulatory requirements. Reportable conditions that are also material weaknesses shall be identified as such in the Auditors' Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters. Other (non-reportable) conditions discovered during the course of the audit will be reported in a separate letter to management, which will be referred to in the Auditors' Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters.

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

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

## ***Commitment to Quality Service***

### **Personnel Qualifications and Experience**

#### **J. W. Gaines, CPA, CITP**

Director – 44 years

#### **Education**

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

#### **Registrations**

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

#### **Professional Affiliations/Community Service**

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

#### **Professional Experience**

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

## ***Commitment to Quality Service***

### **Personnel Qualifications and Experience**

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

Director

#### **Continuing Professional Education**

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



## ***Commitment to Quality Service***

### **Personnel Qualifications and Experience**

#### **David S. McGuire, CPA, CITP**

Director – 36 years experience

#### **Education**

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

#### **Registrations**

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

#### **Professional Affiliations/Community Service**

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

#### **Professional Experience**

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

## ***Commitment to Quality Service***

### **Personnel Qualifications and Experience**

**David S. McGuire, CPA, CITP (Continued)**

Director

#### **Continuing Professional Education**

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

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

- Update: Government Accounting Reporting and Auditing

- Annual Update for Accountants and Auditors

## ***Commitment to Quality Service***

### **Personnel Qualifications and Experience**

#### **Matthew Gonano, CPA**

Director – 13 years total experience

#### **Education**

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

#### **Professional Affiliations/Community Service**

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

#### **Professional Experience**

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

#### **Continuing Professional Education**

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

## ***Commitment to Quality Service***

### **Personnel Qualifications and Experience**

#### **David F. Haughton, CPA**

Accounting and Audit Manager – 33 years

#### **Education**

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

#### **Registrations**

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

#### **Professional Affiliations/Community Service**

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

#### **Professional Experience**

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

##### **Counties:**

St. Lucie County

##### **Municipalities:**

City of Fort Pierce

City of Stuart

# ***Commitment to Quality Service***

<b>Personnel Qualifications and Experience</b>
--

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

**Professional Experience (Continued)**

**Special Districts:**

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

**Non-Profits:**

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

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

**Continuing Professional Education**

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

## ***Commitment to Quality Service***

### **Personnel Qualifications and Experience**

#### **Paul Daly**

Staff Accountant – 11 years

#### **Education**

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

#### **Professional Experience**

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

#### **Continuing Professional Education**

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

## ***Commitment to Quality Service***

### **Personnel Qualifications and Experience**

#### **Melissa Marlin, CPA**

Senior Staff Accountant – 9 years

#### **Education**

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

#### **Professional Experience**

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

#### **Continuing Professional Education**

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

## ***Commitment to Quality Service***

### **Personnel Qualifications and Experience**

#### **Bryan Snyder**

Staff Accountant – 8 years

#### **Education**

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

#### **Professional Experience**

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

#### **Continuing Professional Education**

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



## ***Commitment to Quality Service***

### **Personnel Qualifications and Experience**

#### **Maritza Stonebraker, CPA**

Senior Accountant – 7 years

#### **Education**

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

#### **Professional Experience**

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

#### **Continuing Professional Education**

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

## ***Commitment to Quality Service***

### **Personnel Qualifications and Experience**

#### **Jonathan Herman, CPA**

Senior Staff Accountant – 9 years

#### **Education**

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

#### **Professional Experience**

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

#### **Continuing Professional Education**

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

## ***Commitment to Quality Service***

### **Personnel Qualifications and Experience**

#### **Sean Stanton, CPA**

Staff Accountant – 5 years

#### **Education**

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

#### **Professional Experience**

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

#### **Continuing Professional Education**

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

## ***Commitment to Quality Service***

<b>Personnel Qualifications and Experience</b>
--

### **Tifanee Terrell**

Staff Accountant – 3 years

#### **Education**

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

#### **Professional Experience**

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

#### **Continuing Professional Education**

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

## ***Commitment to Quality Service***

### **Personnel Qualifications and Experience**

#### **Dylan Dixon**

Staff Accountant – 1 year

#### **Education**

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

#### **Professional Experience**

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

#### **Continuing Professional Education**

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

## ***Commitment to Quality Service***

### **Personnel Qualifications and Experience**

#### **Brennen Moore**

Staff Accountant

#### **Education**

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

#### **Professional Experience**

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

#### **Continuing Professional Education**

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

## ***Commitment to Quality Service***

### **Personnel Qualifications and Experience**

#### **Jordan Wood**

Staff Accountant – 1 year

#### **Education**

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

#### **Professional Experience**

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

#### **Continuing Professional Education**

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

## ***Commitment to Quality Service***

### **Personnel Qualifications and Experience**

#### **Katie Gifford**

Staff Accountant

#### **Education**

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

#### **Professional Experience**

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

#### **Continuing Professional Education**

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



## ***Commitment to Quality Service***

### **Personnel Qualifications and Experience**

#### **Rayna Zicari**

Staff Accountant

#### **Education**

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

#### **Professional Experience**

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

#### **Continuing Professional Education**

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



6815 Dairy Road  
Zephyrhills, FL 33542

813.788.2155  
[BodinePerry.com](http://BodinePerry.com)

### Report on the Firm's System of Quality Control

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

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

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

#### Firm's Responsibility

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

#### Peer Reviewer's Responsibility

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

#### Required Selections and Considerations

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

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

#### Opinion

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

*Bodine Perry*

Bodine Perry

(BERGER\_REPORT22)





**Grau & Associates**  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

# Proposal to Provide Financial Auditing Services:

## **SOMERSET**

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

Proposal Due: September 27, 2023

**Submitted to:**

Somerset  
Community Development District  
c/o District Manager  
120 Richard Jackson Blvd Suite 220  
Panama City Beach, Florida, 32407

---

**Submitted by:**

Antonio J. Grau, Partner  
Grau & Associates  
951 Yamato Road, Suite 280  
Boca Raton, Florida 33431  
**Tel** (561) 994-9299  
(800) 229-4728  
**Fax** (561) 994-5823

[tgrau@graucpa.com](mailto:tgrau@graucpa.com)

[www.graucpa.com](http://www.graucpa.com)



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# Grau & Associates

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

September 27, 2023

Somerset Community Development District  
c/o District Manager  
120 Richard Jackson Blvd, Suite 220  
Panama City Beach, Florida, 32407

Re: Request for Proposal for Professional Auditing Services for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023-2027.

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

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

## Why Grau & Associates:

### Knowledgeable Audit Team

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

### Servicing your Individual Needs

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

### Developing Relationships

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

### Maintaining an Impeccable Reputation

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

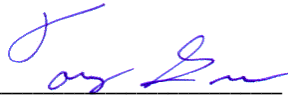
### Complying With Standards

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

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

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

Very truly yours,  
Grau & Associates



Antonio J. Grau

# Firm Qualifications



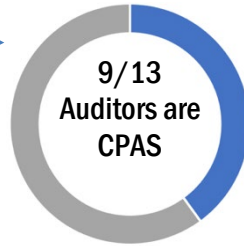
**Grau & Associates**  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

# Grau's Focus and Experience

## Our Team



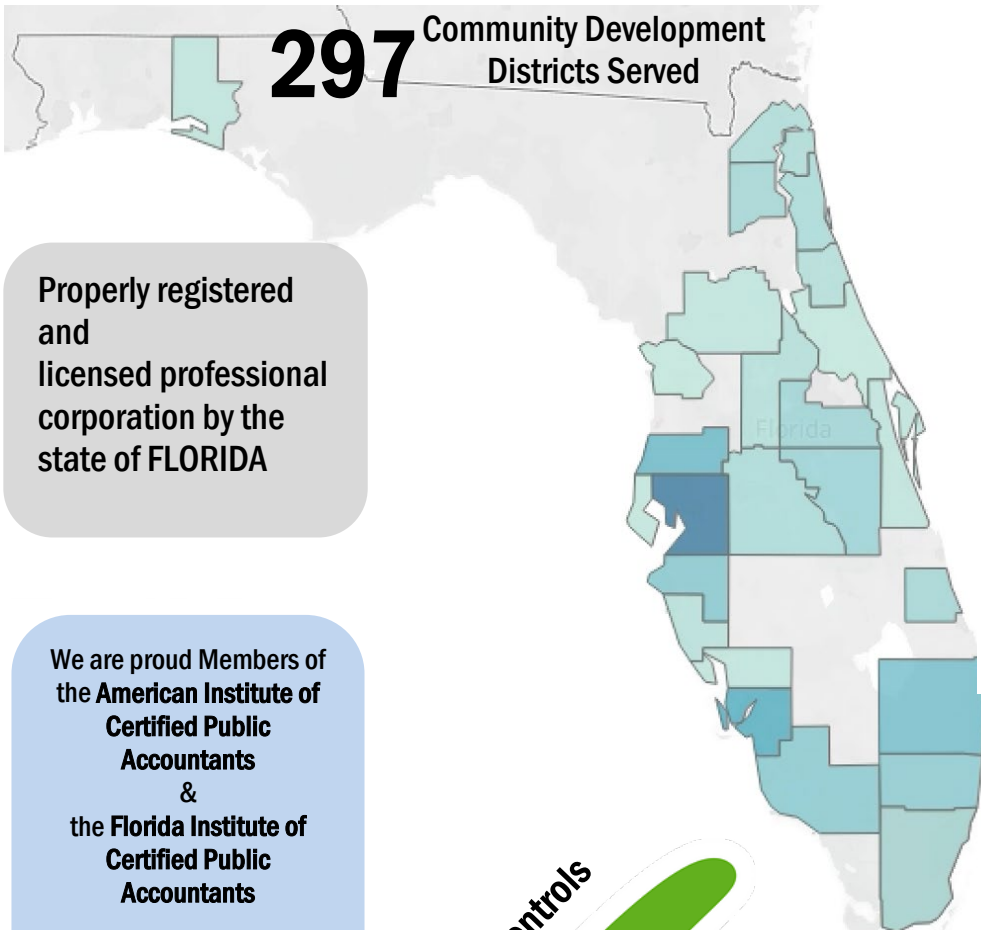
3 Partners  
10 Professional Staff  
2 Administrative Professionals



# 2005

Year founded

## Services Provided



Properly registered and licensed professional corporation by the state of FLORIDA

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

Quality Controls

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



AICPA | FICPA | GFOA | FASD | FGFOA

See next page for report and certificate





Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants

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



Peer Review  
Program

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

**March 17, 2023**

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

**Dear Antonio Grau:**

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

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

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

*FICPA Peer Review Committee*

Peer Review Team  
FICPA Peer Review Committee

850.224.2727, x5957

cc: Daniel Hevia, Racquel McIntosh

Firm Number: 900004390114

Review Number: 594791

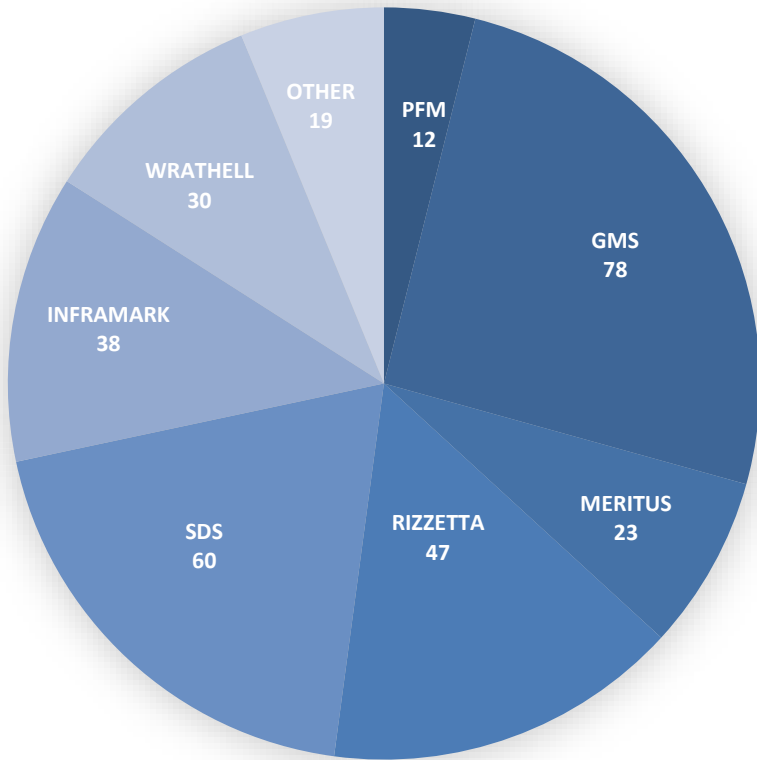
119 S Monroe Street, Suite 121 | Tallahassee, FL 32301 | 850.224.2727, in Florida | [www.ficpa.org](http://www.ficpa.org)

# Firm & Staff Experience



**Grau & Associates**  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

## GRAU AND ASSOCIATES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT EXPERIENCE BY MANAGEMENT COMPANY



### *Profile Briefs:*

**Antonio J GRAU, CPA (Partner)**

*Years Performing Audits: 35+  
CPE (last 2 years): Government Accounting, Auditing: 24 hours; Accounting, Auditing and Other: 58 hours  
Professional Memberships: AICPA, FICPA, FGFOA, GFOA*

**Racquel McIntosh, CPA (Partner)**

*Years Performing Audits: 18+  
CPE (last 2 years): Government Accounting, Auditing: 38 hours; Accounting, Auditing and Other: 56 hours  
Professional Memberships: AICPA, FICPA, FGFOA, FASD*

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

Tony Grau

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

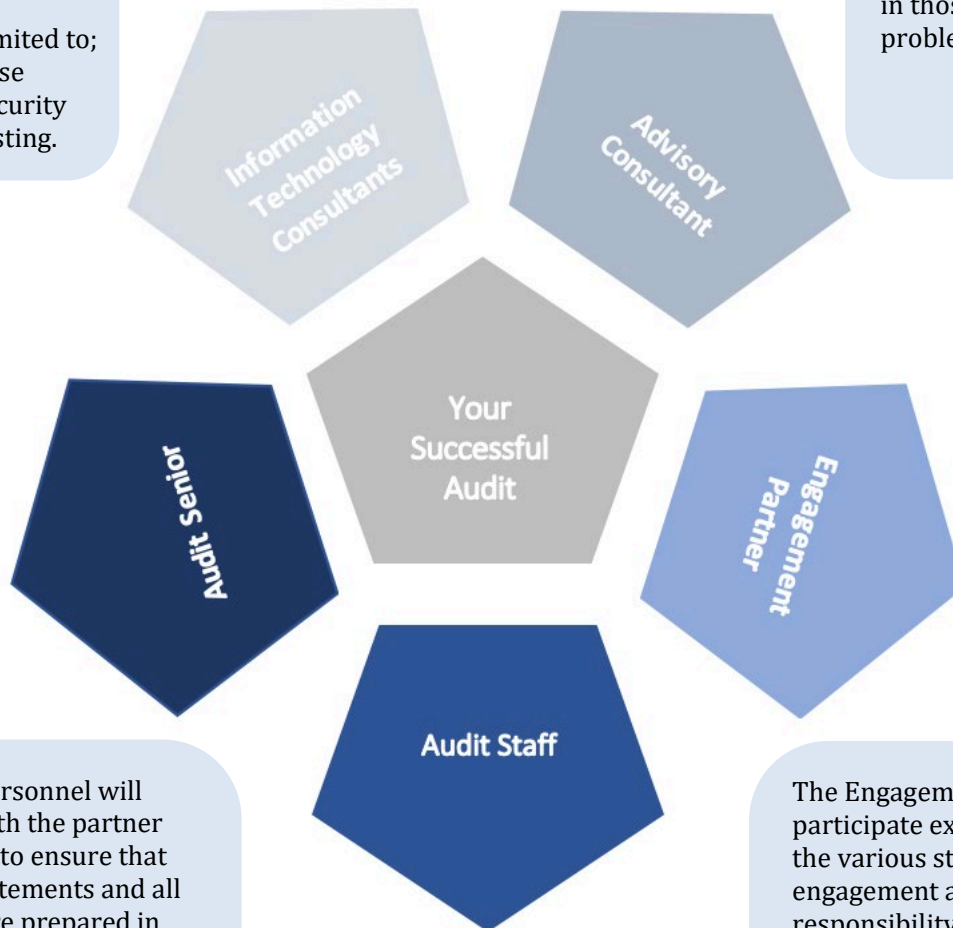
Racquel McIntosh

# YOUR ENGAGEMENT TEAM

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

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

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



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

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



**Antonio 'Tony' J. Grau, CPA**  
**Partner**

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

**Experience**

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

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

**Education**

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

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**Clients Served** (partial list)

(>300) Various Special Districts, including:

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

**Professional Associations/Memberships**

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

**Professional Education** (over the last two years)

<u>Course</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Government Accounting and Auditing	24
Accounting, Auditing and Other	58
Total Hours	82 (includes of 4 hours of Ethics CPE)





# Racquel C. McIntosh, CPA

## Partner

Contact : [rmcintosh@graucpa.com](mailto:rmcintosh@graucpa.com) | (561) 939-6669

### Experience

Racquel has been providing government audit, accounting and advisory services to our clients for over 14 years. She serves as the firm’s quality control partner; in this capacity she closely monitors engagement quality ensuring standards are followed and maintained throughout the audit.

Racquel develops in-house training seminars on current government auditing, accounting, and legislative topics and also provides seminars for various government organizations. In addition, she assists clients with implementing new accounting software, legislation, and standards.

### Education

- Florida Atlantic University (2004)  
Master of Accounting
- Florida Atlantic University (2003)  
Bachelor of Arts:  
Finance, Accounting

### Clients Served (partial list)

(>300) Various Special Districts, including:  
 Carlton Lakes Community Development District  
 Golden Lakes Community Development District  
 Rivercrest Community Development District  
 South Fork III Community Development District  
 TPOST Community Development District

Westchase Community Development District  
 Monterra Community Development District  
 Palm Coast Park Community Development District  
 Long Leaf Community Development District  
 Watergrass Community Development District

East Central Regional Wastewater Treatment Facilities  
 Indian Trail Improvement District  
 Pinellas Park Water Management District  
 Ranger Drainage District  
 South Trail Fire Protection and Rescue Service District

### Professional Associations/ Memberships

- American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
- Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants
- FICPA State & Local Government Committee
- FGFOA Palm Beach Chapter

### Professional Education (over the last two years)

<u>Course</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Government Accounting and Auditing	38
Accounting, Auditing and Other	56
Total Hours	<u>94</u> (includes of 4 hours of Ethics CPE)

# References



**Grau & Associates**  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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

## Dunes Community Development District

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

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## Two Creeks Community Development District

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

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## Journey's End Community Development District

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

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# **Specific Audit Approach**



**Grau & Associates**  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

# **AUDIT APPROACH**

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

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

## **Proposed segmentation of the engagement**

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



### **Phase I - Preliminary Planning**

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

#### **During this phase we will perform the following activities:**

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

## Phase II – Execution of Audit Plan

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

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

## Phase III - Completion and Delivery

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Is the recommendation cost effective?

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

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

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

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

### **Communications**

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

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

# Cost of Services



**Grau & Associates**  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Our proposed all-inclusive fees for the financial audit for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2023-2027 are as follows:

<b>Year Ended September 30,</b>	<b>Fee</b>
2023	\$3,800
2024	\$3,900
2025	\$4,000
2026	\$4,100
2027	\$4,200
<b>TOTAL (2023-2027)</b>	<b><u>\$20,000</u></b>

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

# Supplemental Information



**Grau & Associates**  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

## PARTIAL LIST OF CLIENTS

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



## **ADDITIONAL SERVICES**

### **CONSULTING / MANAGEMENT ADVISORY SERVICES**

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

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

### **ARBITRAGE**

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

**73**

Current  
Arbitrage  
Calculations

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

**For even more information on Grau & Associates  
please visit us on [www.graucpa.com](http://www.graucpa.com).**