# TARA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

## 2<sup>nd</sup> AUDIT MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. Meeting to be held at:

The Tara Community Center 7340 Tara Preserve Lane, Bradenton, Florida 34203



2654 Cypress Ridge Blvd. Suite 101 Wesley Chapel, FL 33544 (813) 652-2454

# **Tara Community Development District**

#### **Board of Supervisors**

Joseph DiBartolomeo, Audit Committee Member Darby Connor, Audit Committee Member Mark Gough, Audit Committee Member Peyton Phillips, Audit Committee Member Christopher Morris, Audit Committee Member

#### Kristee Cole, District Manager David Jackson, District Counsel Rick Schappacher, District Engineer Paul Kelley, Field Manager Mike Kaighin, Admiral Environmental Thomas Bryant, Sunrise Landscape

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Audit Meeting Agenda Tuesday, May 21, 2024 – 9:30 a.m.

1.	Call to Order and Roll Call
2.	Business Administration
	A. Consideration of Audit RFP ProposalsPage 3
3.	Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 25, 2024

#### Staff:



Certified Public Accountants PL

600 Citrus Avenue Suite 200 Fort Pierce, Florida 34950

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

May 3, 2024

Tara Community Development District District Manager 210 N University Drive, Suite 702 Coral Springs, FL 33071

Re: Request for Proposals for Audit Services

Dear District manager:

Enclosed please find one (1) electronic copy of our proposal to perform audit services for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023 for Tara Community Development District.

We appreciate your consideration of our firm. Should you have any questions, or need additional information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

J. W. Gaines

JWG:snw Enclosures

Fort Pierce / Stuart

## TARA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

PROPOSAL FOR AUDIT SERVICES

## **PROPOSED BY:**

Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS, PL

600 Citrus Avenue, Suite 200 Fort Pierce, Florida 34950 (772) 461-6120

## **CONTACT PERSON:**

J. W. Gaines, CPA, Director

DATE OF PROPOSAL:

May 3, 2024

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Certified Public Accountants PL

600 Citrus Avenue Suite 200 Fort Pierce, Florida 34950

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May 3, 2024

Tara Community Development District Inframark Infrastructure Management 210 N University Drive, Suite 702 Coral Springs, FL 33071

Dear District Manager:

Thank you very much for the opportunity to present our professional credentials to provide audit services for Tara 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 Tara 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.



Tara Community Development District May 3, 2024

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

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

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit this proposal to Tara 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	5
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 Tara 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 taxexempt 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.

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.

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.

#### **References**

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

The Reserve Community Development District

Darrin Mossing, Governmental Management Services LLC (407) 841-5524 Gateway Community Development District Stephen Bloom, Severn Trent Management (954) 753-5841

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

Alta Lakes Community Development District

Amelia Concourse Community Development District

Amelia Walk Communnity Development District

Aqua One Community Development District

Arborwood Community Development District

Arlington Ridge Community Development District

Bartram Springs Community Development District

Baytree Community Development District Beacon Lakes Community Development District

Beaumont Community Development District

Bella Collina Community Development District

Bonnet Creek Community Development District

Buckeye Park Community Development District

Candler Hills East Community Development District

Cedar Hammock Community Development District

Central Lake Community Development District

Channing Park Community Development District

Cheval West Community Development District

Coconut Cay Community Development District

Colonial Country Club Community Development District

Connerton West Community Development District

Copperstone Community Development District

Creekside @ Twin Creeks Community Development District

Deer Run Community Development District

Dowden West Community Development District

DP1 Community Development District

Eagle Point Community Development District

East Nassau Stewardship District

Eastlake Oaks Community Development District

Easton Park Community Development District

Estancia @ Wiregrass Community Development District Evergreen Community Development District

Forest Brooke Community Development District

Gateway Services Community Development District

Gramercy Farms Community Development District

Greenway Improvement District

Greyhawk Landing Community Development District

Griffin Lakes Community Development District

Habitat Community Development District

Harbor Bay Community Development District

Harbourage at Braden River Community Development District

Harmony Community Development District

Harmony West Community Development District

Harrison Ranch Community Development District

Hawkstone Community Development District

Heritage Harbor Community Development District

Heritage Isles Community Development District

Heritage Lake Park Community Development District

Heritage Landing Community Development District

Heritage Palms Community Development District

Heron Isles Community Development District

Heron Isles Community Development District

Highland Meadows II Community Development District

Julington Creek Community Development District

Laguna Lakes Community Development District

Lake Bernadette Community Development District

Lakeside Plantation Community Development District

Landings at Miami Community Development District

Legends Bay Community Development District

Lexington Oaks Community Development District

Live Oak No. 2 Community Development District Madeira Community Development District

Marhsall Creek Community Development District

Meadow Pointe IV Community Development District

Meadow View at Twin Creek Community Development District

Mediterra North Community Development District

Midtown Miami Community Development District

Mira Lago West Community Development District

Montecito Community Development District

Narcoossee Community Development District

Naturewalk Community Development District

New Port Tampa Bay Community Development District

Overoaks Community Development District

Panther Trace II Community Development District

Paseo Community Development District

Pine Ridge Plantation Community Development District

Piney Z Community Development District

Poinciana Community Development District

Poinciana West Community Development District

Port of the Islands Community Development District

Portofino Isles Community Development District

Quarry Community Development District

Renaissance Commons Community Development District

Reserve Community Development District

Reserve #2 Community Development District

River Glen Community Development District

River Hall Community Development District

River Place on the St. Lucie Community Development District

Rivers Edge Community Development District

Riverwood Community Development District

Riverwood Estates Community Development District

Rolling Hills Community Development District

Rolling Oaks Community Development District Sampson Creek Community Development District

San Simeon Community Development District

Six Mile Creek Community Development District

South Village Community Development District

Southern Hills Plantation I Community Development District

Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District

South Fork Community Development District

St. John's Forest Community Development District

Stoneybrook South Community Development District

Stoneybrook South at ChampionsGate Community Development District

Stoneybrook West Community Development District

Tern Bay Community Development District

Terracina Community Development District

Tison's Landing Community Development District

TPOST Community Development District

Triple Creek Community Development District

TSR Community Development District

Turnbull Creek Community Development District

Twin Creeks North Community Development District

Urban Orlando Community Development District

Verano #2 Community Development District

Viera East Community Development District

VillaMar Community Development District Vizcaya in Kendall Development District

Waterset North Community Development District

Westside Community Development District

WildBlue Community Development District

Willow Creek Community Development District

Willow Hammock Community Development District

Winston Trails Community Development District

Zephyr Ridge Community Development District

#### Other Governmental Organizations

City of Westlake

Florida Inland Navigation District

Fort Pierce Farms Water Control District

Indian River Regional Crime Laboratory, District 19, Florida Office of the Medical Examiner, District 19

Rupert J. Smith Law Library of St. Lucie County

St. Lucie Education Foundation

Seminole Improvement District

Troup Indiantown Water Control District

Viera Stewardship 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

#### 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 \$3,315for the years ended September 30, 2023 and 2024, \$3,510 for the year ended September 30, 2025, and \$3,645 for the years ended September 30, 2026 and 2027 The fee is contingent upon the financial records and accounting systems of Tara 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 Tara 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 Reporting and on Compliance set on Internal Control over Financial Report on Internal Control over Financial Report to in the Auditors' Report on Internal 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.

## 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.

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

## 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.

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

## 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.

## 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

## 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.

# **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.

## **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.

# **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.

## 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.

## 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.

# **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.

## **Personnel Qualifications and Experience**

## Tifanee Terrell

Staff Accountant – 3 years

#### Education

• Florida Atlantic University, M.A.C.C. – Accounting

#### **Professional Experience**

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

#### **Continuing Professional Education**

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

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### Personnel Qualifications and Experience

#### Rayna Zicari

Staff Accountant

#### Education

Stetson University, B.B.A. – Accounting

#### **Professional Experience**

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

#### **Continuing Professional Education**

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



6815 Dairy Road Zephyrhills, FL 33542

813.788.2155 BodinePerry.com

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

To the Partners of

November 30, 2022

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

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

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

#### Firm's Responsibility

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

#### Peer Reviewer's Responsibility

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

#### Required Selections and Considerations

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

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

#### Opinion

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

Bodine Perg

Bodine Perry

(BERGER\_REPORT22)



#### TARA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

#### District Auditing Services for Fiscal Year 2023, 2024 and 2025 Manatee County, Florida

#### **INSTRUCTIONS TO PROPOSERS**

**SECTION 1. DUE DATE.** Proposals must be received by 12:00 p.m. on Monday, May 3, 2024 via electronic copy to the District Manager at 313 Campus Street, Celebration, Florida 34747.

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

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

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

**SECTION 5. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL.** Submit the Proposal Documents via electronic version, and other requested attachments at the time and place indicated herein, "Auditing Services – Tara Community Development District".

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

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

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

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

**SECTION 10. CONTRACT AWARD.** Within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the Notice of Award from the District, the Proposer shall enter into and execute a Contract (Engagement Letter) with the District.

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

**SECTION 12. MISCELLANEOUS.** All proposals shall include the following information in addition to any other requirements of the proposal documents.

- A. List position or title of all personnel to perform work on the District audit. Include resumes for each person listed; list years of experience in present position for each party listed and years of related experience.
- B. Describe proposed staffing levels, including resumes with applicable certifications.
- C. Three references from projects of similar size and scope. The Proposer should include information relating to the work it conducted for each reference as well as a name, address and phone number of a contact person.
- D. The lump sum cost of the provision of the services under the proposal.
- E. Must perform the audit fieldwork at the office where the District records are maintained.

**SECTION 13. PROTESTS.** Any protest regarding the Proposal Documents, must be filed in writing, at the Offices of the District Manager, within seventy-two (72) hours after the receipt of the proposed contract documents. The formal protest setting forth with particularity the facts and law upon which the protest is based shall be filed within seven (7) calendar days after the initial notice of protest was filed. Failure to timely file a notice of protest or failure to timely file a formal written protest shall constitute a waiver of any right to object or protest with respect to the Proposal Documents.

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

#### AUDITOR SELECTION EVALUATION CRITERIA

#### 1. Ability of Personnel.

(E.g., geographic locations of the firm's headquarters or permanent office in relation to the project; capabilities and experience of key personnel; present ability to manage this project; evaluation of existing workload; proposed staffing levels, etc.)

#### 2. Proposer's Experience.

(E.g. past record and experience of the Proposer in similar projects; volume of work previously performed by the firm; past performance for other Community Development Districts in other contracts; character, integrity, reputation, of respondent, etc.)

#### 3. Understanding of Scope of Work.

Extent to which the proposal demonstrates an understanding of the District's needs for the services requested.

#### 4. Ability to Furnish the Required Services.

Extent to which the proposal demonstrates the adequacy of Proposer's financial resources and stability as a business entity necessary to complete the services required (E.g., the existence of any natural disaster plan for business operations).

#### 5 Price.

Points will be awarded based upon the price bid for the rendering of the services and reasonableness of the price to the services.

### (20 Points)

## (20 Points)

(20 Points)

(20 Points)

(20 Points)



## Proposal to Provide Financial Auditing Services:

## TARA

## **Community Development District**

Proposal Due: May 3, 2024 12:00PM

### Submitted to:

Tara Community Development District c/o Kristee Cole, District Manager 313 Campus Street Celebration, FL 34747

Submitted by: Antonio J. Grau, Partner Grau & Associates 951 Yamato Road, Suite 280 Boca Raton, Florida 33431 Tel (561) 994-9299 (800) 229-4728 Fax (561) 994-5823 tgrau@graucpa.com WWW.graucpa.com



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May 3, 2024

Tara Community Development District c/o Kristee Cole, District Manager 313 Campus Street Celebration, FL 34747

## 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 Tara 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 (<u>tgrau@graucpa.com</u>) or David Caplivski, CPA (<u>dcaplivski@graucpa.com</u>) at 561.994.9299. We thank you for considering our firm's qualifications and experience.

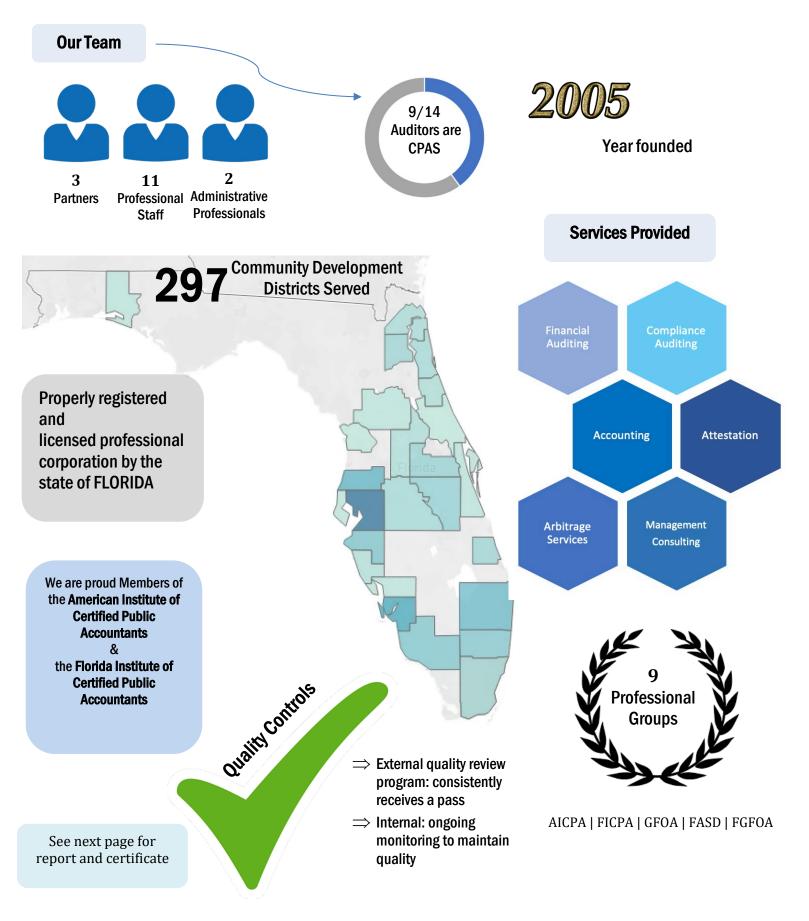
Very truly yours, Grau & Associates

Antonio J. Grau

# **Firm Qualifications**



## **Grau's Focus and Experience**









Peer Review Program

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

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

March 17, 2023

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

Dear Antonio Grau:

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

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

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

FICPA Peer Review Committee

Peer Review Team FICPA Peer Review Committee

850.224.2727, x5957

cc: Daniel Hevia, Racquel McIntosh

Firm Number: 900004390114

Review Number: 594791

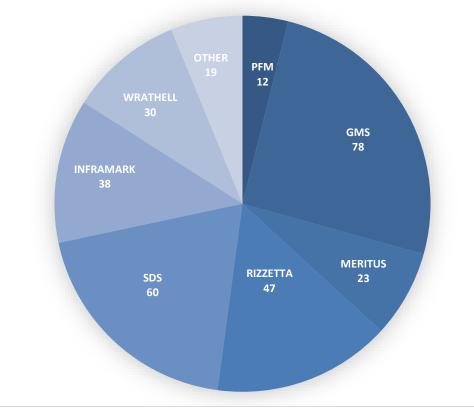
119 S Monroe Street, Suite 121 | Tallahassee, FL 32301 | 850.224.2727, in Florida | www.ficpa.org



# **Firm & Staff Experience**



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



### **Profile Briefs:**

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

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

#### David Caplivski, CPA (Partner)

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

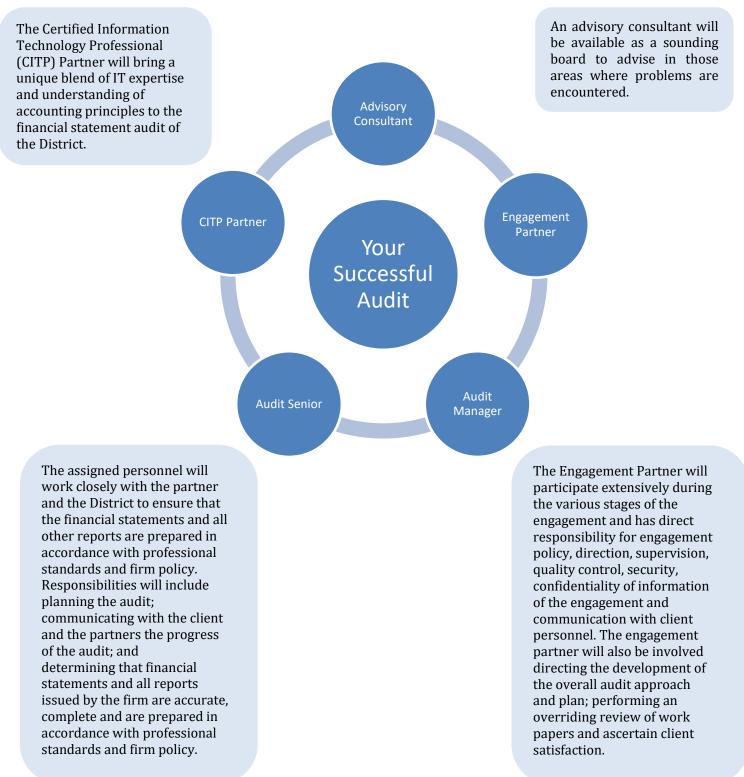
"Here at Grau & Associates, staying up to date with the current technological landscape is one of our top priorities. Not only does it provide a more positive experience for our clients, but it also allows us to perform a more effective and efficient audit. With the every changing technology available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

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



## **YOUR ENGAGEMENT TEAM**

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







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

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

#### Experience

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

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

#### Education

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

**Clients Served** (partial list) (>300) Various Special Districts, including:

Bayside Improvement Community Development District Dunes Community Development District Fishhawk Community Development District (I, II, IV) Grand Bay at Doral Community Development District Heritage Harbor North Community Development District St. Lucie West Services District Ave Maria Stewardship Community District Rivers Edge II Community Development District Bartram Park 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 AccountantsFlorida Government Finance Officers AssociationFlorida Institute of Certified Public AccountantsGovernment Finance Officers Association MemberCity of Boca Raton Financial Advisory Board Member

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

<u>Course</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Government Accounting and Auditing	32
Accounting, Auditing and Other	<u>41</u>
Total Hours	$\underline{73}$ (includes of 4 hours of Ethics CPE)





## David Caplivski, CPA/CITP, Partner

#### Contact : dcaplivski@graucpa.com / 561-939-6676

#### Experience

Grau & As	sociates	Partner
Grau & As	sociates	Manager
Grau & As	sociates	Senior Auditor
Grau & As	sociates	Staff Auditor

2014-2020 ditor 2013-2014 for 2010-2013

2021-Present

#### Education

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

#### **Certifications and Certificates**

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

#### Clients Served (partial list)

(>300) Various Special Districts Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse **Boca Raton Airport Authority Broward Education Foundation CareerSource Brevard** CareerSource Central Florida 403 (b) Plan **City of Lauderhill GERS City of Parkland Police Pension Fund City of Sunrise GERS Coquina Water Control District Central County Water Control District** City of Miami (program specific audits) City of West Park **Coquina Water Control District** East Central Regional Wastewater Treatment Facl. East Naples Fire Control & Rescue District

Hispanic Human Resource Council Loxahatchee Groves Water Control District Old Plantation Water Control District Pinetree Water Control District San Carlos Park Fire & Rescue Retirement Plan South Indian River Water Control District South Trail Fire Protection & Rescue District Town of Haverhill Town of Haverhill Town of Hypoluxo Town of Hillsboro Beach Town of Lantana Town of Lauderdale By-The–Sea Volunteer Fire Pension Town of Pembroke Park Village of Wellington Village of Golf

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

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

#### **Professional Associations**

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



# References



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

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

## **Two Creeks Community Development District**

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

## Journey's End Community Development District

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



# Specific Audit Approach



## 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 <u>commit all firm resources</u> to provide the level and quality of services (as described below) which not only meet the requirements set forth in the RFP but will <u>exceed those expectations</u>. Grau & Associates fully understands the scope of professional services and work products requested. Our audit will follow the Auditing Standards of the AICPA, <i>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 of 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.

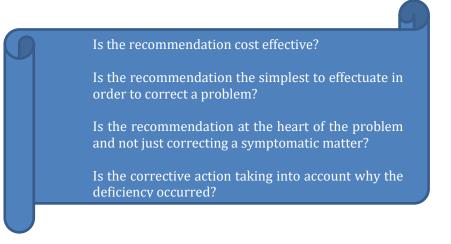
In preparing this management letter, we will initially review any draft comments or recommendations with management. In addition, we will take necessary steps to ensure that matters are communicated to those charged with governance.

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:



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**



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

Year Ended September 30,	Fee
2023	\$3,600
2024	\$3,700
2025	\$3,800
2026	\$3,900
2027	<u>\$4,000</u>
TOTAL (2023-2027)	<u>\$19,000</u>

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



# **Supplemental Information**



## **PARTIAL LIST OF CLIENTS**

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



## **ADDITIONAL SERVICES**

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

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

- Accounting systems
- Development of budgets
- Organizational structures
- Financing alternatives
- IT Auditing

- Fixed asset records
- Cost reimbursement
- Indirect cost allocation
- Grant administration and compliance

#### **ARBITRAGE**

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

Current Arbitrage Calculations

We look forward to providing Tara 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 <u>www.graucpa.com</u>.



## AUDIT PROPOSAL COMMITTEE EVALUATION SPREADSHEET (with Price)

		1	2	3	4	5	6
		Ability of Personnel	Proposer's Experience	Understanding of Scope of Work	Ability to Furnish Required Services	Price	Total Points
_		20 Points	20 Points	20 Points	20 Points	20 Points	100 Points
Α	Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank						
в	Grau & Associates						

Auditor	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank	\$3,315	\$3,315	\$3,510	\$3,645	\$3,645	\$17,430
Grau & Associates	\$3,600	\$3,700	\$3,800	\$3,900	\$4,000	\$19,000

Supervisor:

Signature

Name Printed

Date