

FIRELIGHT EAST

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

July 23, 2026

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

AND REGULAR

MEETING AGENDA

FIRELIGHT EAST
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

AGENDA
LETTER

Firelight East Community Development District
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER
2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W•Boca Raton, Florida 33431
Phone: (561) 571-0010•Toll-free: (877) 276-0889•Fax: (561) 571-0013
<https://firelighteastcdd.net/>

July 16, 2026

Board of Supervisors
Firelight East Community Development District

Dear Board Members:

The Board of Supervisors of the Firelight East Community Development District will hold Public Hearings and a Regular Meeting July 23, 2026 at 1:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, at 4161 Tamiami Trail, Building 5, Unit 501, Port Charlotte, Florida 33952. The agenda is as follows:

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comments
3. Acceptance of Resignation of David Truxton [Seat 3]
4. Consider Appointment to Fill Unexpired Term of Seat 3; *Term Expires November 2026*
 - Administration of Oath of Office *(the following to be provided in a separate package)*
 - A. Required Ethics Training and Disclosure Filing
 - Sample Form 1 2025/Instructions
 - B. Membership, Obligations and Responsibilities
 - C. Guide to Sunshine Amendment and Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees
 - D. Form 8B: Memorandum of Voting Conflict for County, Municipal and other Local Public Officers
5. Consideration of Resolution 2026-06, Electing and Removing Officers of the District and Providing for an Effective Date
6. Public Hearing on Adoption of Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget
 - A. Proof/Affidavit of Publication

ATTENDEES:

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

- B. Consideration of Resolution 2026-07, Relating to the Annual Appropriations and Adopting the Budget(s) for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2026, and Ending September 30, 2027; Authorizing Budget Amendments; and Providing an Effective Date
7. Consideration of Budget Funding Agreement Fiscal Year 2027
8. Public Hearing to Hear Public Comments and Objections to the Adoption of the Revised Rules of Procedure, Pursuant to Sections 120.54 and 190.035, Florida Statutes
 - A. Affidavits of Publication
 - B. Consideration of Resolution 2026-08, Adopting Rules of Procedure; Providing a Severability Clause; and Providing an Effective Date
9. Discussion: Roundabout Cost Share Agreement
10. Acceptance of Unaudited Financial Statements as of June 30, 2026
11. Approval of April 23, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes
12. Staff Reports
 - A. District Counsel: *Kutak Rock LLP*
 - B. District Engineer: *Atwell, LLC*
 - C. District Manager: *Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC*
 - UPCOMING MEETINGS
 - August 27, 2026 at 1:30 PM
 - September 24, 2026 at 1:30 PM
 - QUORUM CHECK

SEAT 1	JOHN LEINAWEAVER	☐ IN PERSON	☐ PHONE	☐ NO
SEAT 2	SANDY FOSTER	☐ IN PERSON	☐ PHONE	☐ NO
SEAT 3		☐ IN PERSON	☐ PHONE	☐ NO
SEAT 4	KRIS WATTS	☐ IN PERSON	☐ PHONE	☐ NO
SEAT 5	JENNINGS DEPRIEST	☐ IN PERSON	☐ PHONE	☐ NO
 - Performance Measures/Standards & Annual Reporting Form (*for informational purposes*)
13. Board Members' Comments/Requests

14. Public Comments

15. Adjournment

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or Raymond Passaro directly at (561) 571-0010.

Sincerely,



Daniel Rom
District Manager

FOR BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF TO ATTEND BY TELEPHONE

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

PARTICIPANT PASSCODE: 528 064 2804

FIRELIGHT EAST

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

4

EMAIL (Alt)

FIRELIGHT EAST

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

5

RESOLUTION 2026-06

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
FIRELIGHT EAST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT ELECTING
AND REMOVING OFFICERS OF THE DISTRICT AND PROVIDING FOR
AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

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

WHEREAS, the District’s Board of Supervisors desires to elect and remove Officers of the District.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS OF FIRELIGHT EAST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DISTRICT THAT:**

SECTION 1. The following is/are elected as Officer(s) of the District effective July 23, 2026:

_____ is elected Chair
_____ is elected Vice Chair
_____ is elected Assistant Secretary
_____ is elected Assistant Secretary
_____ is elected Assistant Secretary

SECTION 2. The following Officer(s) shall be removed as Officer(s) as of July 23, 2026:

David Truxton _____ Vice Chair

SECTION 3. The following prior appointments by the Board remain unaffected by this Resolution:

Craig Wrathell is Secretary

Daniel Rom is Assistant Secretary

Raymond Passaro is Assistant Secretary

Craig Wrathell is Treasurer

Jeff Pinder is Assistant Treasurer

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 23rd day of July, 2026.

ATTEST:

**FIRELIGHT EAST COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

FIRELIGHT EAST

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

6

FIRELIGHT EAST

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

6A

Serial Number
26-00800T

Business Observer

Published Weekly
Port Charlotte, Charlotte County, Florida

COUNTY OF CHARLOTTE

STATE OF FLORIDA

Before the undersigned authority personally appeared Holly Botkin who on oath says that he/she is Publisher's Representative of the Business Observer a weekly newspaper published at Port Charlotte, Charlotte County, Florida; that the attached copy of advertisement,

being a Notice of Public Hearing

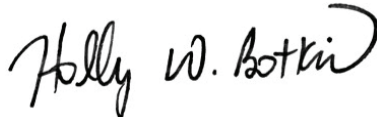
in the matter of Meeting on July 23, 2026 at 1:30pm

in the Court, was published in said newspaper by print in the

issues of 7/3/2026, 7/10/2026

Affiant further says that the Business Observer complies with all legal requirements for publication in chapter 50, Florida Statutes.

*This Notice was placed on the newspaper's website and floridapublicnotices.com on the same day the notice appeared in the newspaper.



Holly Botkin

Sworn to and subscribed, and personally appeared by physical presence before me,

10th day of July, 2026 A.D.

by Holly Botkin who is personally known to me.



Notary Public, State of Florida
(SEAL)



Andrew Pagnotta
Comm.: HH 627562
Expires: Jan. 12, 2029
Notary Public - State of Florida

FIRELIGHT EAST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2027 PROPOSED BUDGET(S); AND NO- TICE OF REGULAR BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETING.

The Board of Supervisors ("Board") of the Firelight East Community Development District ("District") will hold a public hearing and regular meeting as follows:

DATE:	July 23, 2026
TIME:	1:30 p.m.
LOCATION:	4161 Tamiami Trail, Building 5, Unit 501 Port Charlotte, Florida 33952

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive comments and objections on the adoption of the District's proposed budget(s) for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2026, and ending September 30, 2027 ("Proposed Budget"). A regular Board meeting of the District will also be held at the above time where the Board may consider any other business that may properly come before it. A copy of the agenda and Proposed Budget may be obtained at the offices of the District Manager c/o Wrathell, Hunt & Associates, LLC, 2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W, Boca Raton, Florida 33431, 561-571-0010 ("District Manager's Office"), during normal business hours or by visiting the District's website, <https://firelighteastdd.net/>.

The public hearing and meeting are open to the public and will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Florida law. The public hearing and/or meeting may be continued in progress to a date, time certain, and place to be specified on the record at the public hearing and/or meeting. There may be occasions when Board Supervisors or District Staff may participate by speaker telephone.

Any person requiring special accommodations at the public hearing or meeting because of a disability or physical impairment should contact the District Manager's Office at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the public hearing and meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service by dialing 7-1-1, or 1-800-955-8771 (TTY) / 1-800-955-8770 (Voice), for aid in contacting the District Manager's Office.

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

District Manager
July 3, 10, 2026

26-00800T

FIRELIGHT EAST

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

6B

RESOLUTION 2026-07
[FY 2027 APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION]

THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION OF THE FIRELIGHT EAST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (“DISTRICT”) RELATING TO THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS AND ADOPTING THE BUDGET(S) FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2026, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027; AUTHORIZING BUDGET AMENDMENTS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2026, and ending September 30, 2027 (“**FY 2027**”), the District Manager prepared and submitted to the Board of Supervisors (“**Board**”) of the Firelight East Community Development District (“**District**”) prior to June 15, 2026, proposed budget(s) (“**Proposed Budget**”) along with an explanatory and complete financial plan for each fund of the District, pursuant to the provisions of Section 190.008(2)(a), *Florida Statutes*; and

WHEREAS, at least sixty (60) days prior to the adoption of the Proposed Budget, the District filed a copy of the Proposed Budget with the local general-purpose government(s) having jurisdiction over the area included in the District pursuant to the provisions of Section 190.008(2)(b), *Florida Statutes*; and

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

WHEREAS, the District Manager posted the Proposed Budget on the District’s website in accordance with Section 189.016, *Florida Statutes*; and

WHEREAS, Section 190.008(2)(a), *Florida Statutes*, requires that, prior to October 1st of each year, the Board, by passage of the Annual Appropriation Resolution, shall adopt a budget for the ensuing fiscal year and appropriate such sums of money as the Board deems necessary to defray all expenditures of the District during the ensuing fiscal year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE FIRELIGHT EAST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT:

SECTION 1. BUDGET

- a. The Proposed Budget, attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, as amended by the Board, is hereby adopted in accordance with the provisions of Section 190.008(2)(a), *Florida Statutes* (“**Adopted Budget**”), and incorporated herein by reference; provided, however, that the comparative figures contained in the Adopted Budget may be subsequently revised as deemed necessary by the District Manager to reflect actual revenues and expenditures.
- b. The Adopted Budget, as amended, shall be maintained in the office of the District Manager and at the District’s Local Records Office and identified as “The Budget for the Firelight East Community Development District for the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2027.”

- c. The Adopted Budget shall be posted by the District Manager on the District's official website in accordance with Section 189.016, *Florida Statutes* and shall remain on the website for at least two (2) years.

SECTION 2. APPROPRIATIONS

There is hereby appropriated out of the revenues of the District, for FY 2027, the sum(s) set forth in **Exhibit A** to be raised by the levy of assessments and/or otherwise, which sum is deemed by the Board to be necessary to defray all expenditures of the District during said budget year, to be divided and appropriated as set forth in **Exhibit A**.

SECTION 3. BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Pursuant to Section 189.016, *Florida Statutes*, the District at any time within FY 2027 or within 60 days following the end of the FY 2027 may amend its Adopted Budget for that fiscal year as follows:

- a. A line-item appropriation for expenditures within a fund may be decreased or increased by motion of the Board recorded in the minutes, and approving the expenditure, if the total appropriations of the fund do not increase.
- b. The District Manager or Treasurer may approve an expenditure that would increase or decrease a line-item appropriation for expenditures within a fund if the total appropriations of the fund do not increase and if either (i) the aggregate change in the original appropriation item does not exceed the greater of \$15,000 or 15% of the original appropriation, or (ii) such expenditure is authorized by separate disbursement or spending resolution.
- c. Any other budget amendments shall be adopted by resolution and consistent with Florida law. The District Manager or Treasurer must ensure that any amendments to the budget under this paragraph c. are posted on the District's website in accordance with Section 189.016, *Florida Statutes*, and remain on the website for at least two (2) years.

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

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 23rd day of July, 2026.

ATTEST:

**FIRELIGHT EAST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

Exhibit A: FY 2027 Budget

Exhibit A: FY 2027 Budget

**FIRELIGHT EAST
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
PROPOSED BUDGET
FISCAL YEAR 2027**

**FIRELIGHT EAST
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Page Number(s)</u>
General Fund Budget	1
Definitions of General Fund Expenditures	2

**FIRELIGHT EAST
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
GENERAL FUND BUDGET
FISCAL YEAR 2027**

	Fiscal Year 2026				
	Adopted Budget FY 2026	Actual through 2/28/2026	Projected through 9/30/2026	Total Actual & Projected	Proposed Budget FY 2027
REVENUES					
Landowner contribution	105,930	12,199	48,674	60,873	79,837
Total revenues	105,930	12,199	48,674	60,873	79,837
EXPENDITURES					
Professional & administrative					
Supervisors	12,000	-	4,040	4,040	4,000
Management/accounting/recording**	48,000	8,000	22,000	30,000	24,000
Legal	25,000	123	5,000	5,123	25,000
Engineering	2,000	-	2,000	2,000	2,000
Stormwater needs analysis	-	-	-	-	5,000
Annual infrastructure report	-	-	-	-	5,000
Audit	5,500	-	4,600	4,600	3,200
Arbitrage rebate calculation*	500	-	-	-	-
Dissemination agent*	1,000	-	333	333	-
Trustee*	-	-	-	-	-
Telephone	200	67	133	200	200
Postage	500	-	500	500	500
Printing & binding	500	167	333	500	500
Legal advertising	1,750	160	1,590	1,750	1,750
Annual special district fee	175	175	-	175	175
Insurance	6,350	5,565	-	5,565	6,122
Contingencies/bank charges	1,540	406	450	856	1,540
Website hosting & maintenance	705	705	-	705	705
Website ADA compliance	210	145	-	145	145
Total expenditures	105,930	15,513	40,979	56,492	79,837
Excess/(deficiency) of revenues over/(under) expenditures	-	(3,314)	7,695	4,381	-
Fund balance - beginning (unaudited)	-	(4,381)	(7,695)	(4,381)	-
Fund balance - ending (projected)	-	(7,695)	-	-	-
Unassigned	-	(7,695)	-	-	-
Fund balance - ending	\$ -	\$ (7,695)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

*These items will be realized when bonds are issued.

**WHA will charge a reduced management fee of \$2,000 per month until bonds are issued.

**FIRELIGHT EAST
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
DEFINITIONS OF GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES**

EXPENDITURES

Professional & administrative

Supervisors	\$ 4,000
Statutorily set at \$200 for each meeting of the Board of Supervisors not to exceed \$4,800 for each fiscal year.	
Management/accounting/recording**	24,000
Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC (WHA), specializes in managing community development districts by combining the knowledge, skills and experience of a team of professionals to ensure compliance with all of the District's governmental requirements. WHA develops financing programs, administers the issuance of tax exempt bond financings, operates and maintains the assets of the community.	
Legal	25,000
General counsel and legal representation, which includes issues relating to public finance, public bidding, rulemaking, open meetings, public records, real property dedications, conveyances and contracts.	
Engineering	2,000
The District's Engineer will provide construction and consulting services, to assist the District in crafting sustainable solutions to address the long term interests of the community while recognizing the needs of government, the environment and maintenance of the District's facilities.	
Annual infrastructure report	5,000
Annual infrastructure report	5,000
Audit	3,200
Statutorily required for the District to undertake an independent examination of its books, records and accounting procedures.	
Telephone	200
Postage	500
Telephone and fax machine.	
Printing & binding	500
Mailing of agenda packages, overnight deliveries, correspondence, etc.	
Legal advertising	1,750
Letterhead, envelopes, copies, agenda packages	
Annual special district fee	175
The District advertises for monthly meetings, special meetings, public hearings, public bids, etc.	
Insurance	6,122
Annual fee paid to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.	
Contingencies/bank charges	1,540
Bank charges and other miscellaneous expenses incurred during the year and automated AP routing etc.	
Website hosting & maintenance	705
Website ADA compliance	145
Total expenditures	<u><u>\$ 79,837</u></u>

*These items will be realized when bonds are issued.

**WHA will charge a reduced management fee of \$2,000 per month until bonds are issued.

FIRELIGHT EAST

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

7

BUDGET FUNDING AGREEMENT
FISCAL YEAR 2027

This Agreement (the "Agreement") is made and entered into this 23rd day of July, 2026, by and between:

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

Zemel Land Partners, LLC, a Florida limited liability company and the developer of the lands in the District ("**Developer**") with a mailing address of 5800 Lakewood Ranch Boulevard, Sarasota, Florida 34240.

Recitals

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 190, *Florida Statutes*, the District was established for the purpose of planning, financing, constructing, operating and/or maintaining certain infrastructure, and is authorized to levy such taxes, special assessments, fees, and other charges as may be necessary in furtherance of the District's activities and services; and

WHEREAS, Developer presently owns and/or is developing the Property within the District, which Property will benefit from the timely construction and acquisition of the District's facilities, activities, and services and from the continued operations of the District; and

WHEREAS, for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2026, and ending September 30, 2027 ("**FY 2027**"), the Board of Supervisors ("**Board**") of the District adopted its general fund budget ("**Budget**") attached hereto as **Exhibit A** and incorporated herein by reference; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2027 Budget, which both parties recognize may be amended from time to time in the sole discretion of the District, is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as **Exhibit A**; and

WHEREAS, the District has the option of levying non-ad valorem assessments on all land, including the Property owned by the Developer, that will benefit from the activities, operations and services set forth in the FY 2027 Budget, or utilizing such other revenue sources as may be available to it; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Developer and District agree such Budget funding obligation by the Developer may be secured and collection enforced pursuant to the methods provided herein.

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

1. **FUNDING.** The Developer agrees to make available to the District the monies ("**Funding Obligation**") necessary for the operation of the District as called for in the Budget attached hereto as **Exhibit A** within thirty (30) days of written request by the District. **Exhibit A** attached hereto may be amended from time to time pursuant to Florida law, subject to the Developer's consent to such amendments to incorporate them herein; provided however, that amendments adopted by the Board at a duly noticed meeting shall have the effect of amending this Agreement without further action of the Parties. As a point of clarification, the District shall only request as part of the Funding Obligation that the Developer fund the actual expenses of the District, and the Developer is not required to fund the total general fund Budget in the event that actual expenses are less than the projected total general fund Budget, as may be amended as provided herein. The funds shall be placed in the District's general checking account. In the event the Developer sells any of the Property during the term of this Agreement, the Developer's rights and obligations under this Agreement shall remain the same.

2. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.** The District hereby finds, and the Developer acknowledges and agrees, that the activities, operations and services set forth in the Budget provide a special and peculiar benefit to the Property, which benefit is initially allocated on an equal developable acreage basis. These payments are made by the Developer in lieu of taxes, fees, or assessments which might otherwise be levied or imposed by the District. Nothing contained herein shall constitute or be construed as a waiver of the District's right to levy assessments, including on the Property, in the event of a funding deficit.

3. **COLLECTION METHODS.** The District may enforce the collection of funds due under this Agreement using one or more of the following collection methods:

- a. [*Contractual Lien*]. The District shall have the right to file a continuing lien ("**Lien**") upon all or a portion of the Property, which Lien shall be effective as of the date and time of the recording of a "Notice of Lien" in the public records of the County.

- b. *[Enforcement Action]* The District shall have the right to file an action against the Developer in the appropriate judicial forum in and for the County.
- c. *[Uniform Method; Direct]* The District may certify amounts due hereunder as a non-ad valorem assessment on all or any part of the Property for collection, either through the Uniform Method of Collection set forth in Chapter 197, Florida Statutes, or under any method of direct bill and collection authorized by Florida law.

The enforcement of the collection of funds in any of the above manners, including which method(s) to utilize, shall be in the sole discretion of the District Manager on behalf of the District, without the need of further Board action authorizing or directing such.

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

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

6. **ASSIGNMENT.** This Agreement may be assigned, in whole or in part, by either party only upon the written consent of the other. Any purported assignment without such consent shall be void.

7. **DEFAULT.** A default by either Party under this Agreement shall entitle the other to all remedies available at law or in equity, which shall include, but not be limited to, the right of damages, injunctive relief and/or specific performance.

8. **ENFORCEMENT.** In the event that any party is required to enforce this Agreement by court proceedings or otherwise, then the parties agree that the prevailing party shall be entitled to recover from the other all costs incurred, including interest accrued on an unsatisfied Funding Obligation, reasonable fees and costs incurred by the District incident to the collection of the Funding Obligation or for enforcement of the Lien, or reasonable attorneys' fees and costs for trial, alternative dispute resolution, or appellate proceedings.

9. **THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARIES.** This Agreement is solely for the benefit of the formal Parties herein and no right or cause of action shall accrue upon or by reason hereof, to or for the benefit of any third party not a formal party hereto. Nothing in this Agreement expressed or implied is intended or shall be construed to confer upon any person or corporation other than the Parties hereto any right, remedy or claim under or by reason of this Agreement or any provisions or conditions hereof; and all of the provisions, representations, covenants and

conditions herein contained shall inure to the sole benefit of and shall be binding upon the Parties hereto and their respective representatives, successors and assigns.

10. **CHOICE OF LAW.** This Agreement and the provisions contained herein shall be construed, interpreted and controlled according to the laws of the State of Florida.

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

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

ATTEST:

**FIRELIGHT EAST COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

ZEMEL LAND PARTNERS, LLC

Witness

By: _____
Its: _____

Exhibit A: FY 2027 Budget

FIRELIGHT EAST

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

8

FIRELIGHT EAST

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

8A

Serial Number
26-00669T

Business Observer

Published Weekly
Port Charlotte, Charlotte County, Florida

COUNTY OF CHARLOTTE

STATE OF FLORIDA

Before the undersigned authority personally appeared Holly Botkin who on oath says that he/she is Publisher's Representative of the Business Observer a weekly newspaper published at Port Charlotte, Charlotte County, Florida; that the attached copy of advertisement,

being a Notice of Rule Development

in the matter of ROP-2026-1

in the Court, was published in said newspaper by print in the

issues of 6/12/2026

Affiant further says that the Business Observer complies with all legal requirements for publication in chapter 50, Florida Statutes.

*This Notice was placed on the newspaper's website and floridapublicnotices.com on the same day the notice appeared in the newspaper.

NOTICE OF RULE DEVELOPMENT BY THE FIRELIGHT EAST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

In accordance with Chapters 120 and 190, Florida Statutes, the Firelight East Community Development District ("District") hereby gives notice of its intention to develop revised Rules of Procedure to govern the operations of the District. The proposed rule number is ROP-2026-1.

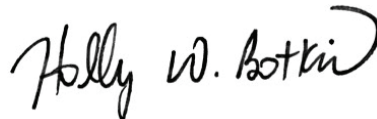
The revised Rules of Procedure will address such areas as the Board of Supervisors, officers and voting, district offices, public information and inspection of records, policies, public meetings, hearings and workshops, rulemaking proceedings, competitive purchase including procedure under the Consultants' Competitive Negotiation Act, procedure regarding auditor selection, purchase of insurance, pre-qualification, construction contracts, goods, supplies and materials, maintenance services, contractual services and protests with respect to proceedings, as well as any other area of the general operation of the District.

The purpose and effect of the revised Rules of Procedure is to provide for efficient and effective District operations and to ensure compliance with recent changes to Florida law. The specific grant of rulemaking authority for the adoption of the proposed revised Rules of Procedure includes Sections 190.011(5), 190.011(15) and 190.035, Florida Statutes. The specific laws implemented in the proposed revised Rules of Procedure include, but are not limited to, Sections 112.08, 112.3143, 112.31446, 112.3145, 119.07, 119.0701, 120.54, 120.542, 120.5435, 120.56, 120.69, 120.81, 189.053, 189.069, 190.006, 190.007, 190.008, 190.011, 190.033, 190.035, 218.33, 218.391, 255.05, 255.0518, 255.0525, 255.20, 286.0105, 286.011, 286.012, 286.0113, 286.0114, 287.017, 287.055, and 287.084, Florida Statutes.

A copy of the proposed revised Rules of Procedure and the related incorporated documents, if any, may be obtained by contacting the District Manager, c/o Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC, 2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W, Boca Raton, Florida 33431, (561) 571-0010 (the "District Manager's Office").

Daniel Rom, District Manager
Firelight East Community Development District
June 12, 2026

26-00669T



Holly Botkin

Sworn to and subscribed, and personally appeared by physical presence before me,

12th day of June, 2026 A.D.

by Holly Botkin who is personally known to me.



Notary Public, State of Florida
(SEAL)



Andrew Pagnotta
Comm.: HH 627562
Expires: Jan. 12, 2029
Notary Public - State of Florida

Published Weekly
Port Charlotte, Charlotte County, Florida

COUNTY OF CHARLOTTE

STATE OF FLORIDA

Before the undersigned authority personally appeared Cate Eschmann who on oath says that he/she is Publisher's Representative of the Business Observer a weekly newspaper published at Port Charlotte, Charlotte County, Florida; that the attached copy of advertisement,

being a Notice of Rulemaking

in the matter of ROP-2026-1

in the Court, was published in said newspaper by print in the issues of 6/19/2026

Affiant further says that the Business Observer complies with all legal requirements for publication in chapter 50, Florida Statutes.

*This Notice was placed on the newspaper's website and floridapublicnotices.com on the same day the notice appeared in the newspaper.



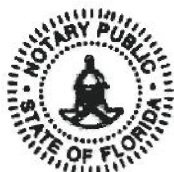
Cate Eschmann

Sworn to and subscribed, and personally appeared by physical presence before me,

19th day of June, 2026 A.D.

by Cate Eschmann who is personally known to me.

Notary Public, State of Florida
(SEAL)



Andrew Pagnotta
Comm.: HH 627562
Expires: Jan. 12, 2029
Notary Public - State of Florida

**NOTICE OF RULEMAKING
REGARDING THE REVISED RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE
FIRELIGHT EAST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

In accordance with Chapters 120 and 190, Florida Statutes, the Firelight East Community Development District (the "District") hereby gives the public notice of its intent to adopt its proposed revised Rules of Procedure (the "Proposed Rule"). The Proposed Rule number is ROP-2026-1. Prior notice of rule development relative to the Proposed Rule was published in the Business Observer on June 12, 2026.

A public hearing will be conducted by the Board of Supervisors (the "Board") District on **July 23, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. at 4161 Tamiami Trail, Building 5 Unit 501, Port Charlotte, Florida 33952** relative to the adoption of the Proposed Rule. Pursuant to Sections 190.011(5) and 190.012(3), Florida Statutes, the Proposed Rule will not require legislative ratification.

The summary of, purpose and effect of the revised Rules of Procedure is to provide for efficient and effective District operations and to ensure compliance with recent changes to Florida law. The specific grant of rulemaking authority for the adoption of the Proposed Rule includes Sections 190.011(5), 190.011(15) and 190.035, Florida Statutes. The specific laws implemented in the Proposed Rule include, but are not limited to, Sections 112.08, 112.3143, 112.31446, 112.3145, 119.07, 119.0701, 120.54, 120.542, 120.5435, 120.56, 120.69, 120.81, 189.053, 189.069, 190.006, 190.007, 190.008, 190.011, 190.033, 190.035, 218.33, 218.391, 255.05, 255.0518, 255.0525, 255.20, 286.0105, 286.011, 286.012, 286.0113, 286.0114, 287.017, 287.055, and 287.084, Florida Statutes.

A statement of estimated regulatory costs, as defined in Section 120.541(2), Florida Statutes, has not been prepared relative to the Proposed Rule. Any person who wishes to provide the District with a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative as provided by Section 120.541(1), Florida Statutes, must do so in writing within twenty-one (21) days after publication of this notice to the District Manager's Office.

For more information regarding the public hearing, the Proposed Rule, or for a copy of the Proposed Rule and the related incorporated documents, if any, please contact the District Manager c/o Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC, 2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W, Boca Raton, Florida 33431, (561) 571-0010, romd@whhassociates.com (the "District Manager's Office").

This public hearing may be continued to a date, time, and place to be specified on the record at the hearing without additional notice. If anyone chooses to appeal any decision of the Board with respect to any matter considered at the public hearing, such person will need a record of the proceedings and should accordingly ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made which includes the testimony and evidence upon which such appeal is to be based. At the public hearing, staff or Supervisors may participate in the public hearing by speaker telephone.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations at this public hearing because of a disability or physical impairment should contact the District Manager's Office at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the public hearing. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8771 or 1-800-955-8770 for aid in contacting the District Manager's Office.

Daniel Rom, District Manager
Firelight East Community Development District
June 19, 2026

26-00690T

FIRELIGHT EAST

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

8B

RESOLUTION 2026-08

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
FIRELIGHT EAST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
ADOPTING RULES OF PROCEDURE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY
CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

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

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

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

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

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS OF THE FIRELIGHT EAST COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT:**

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

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

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

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 23rd day of July, 2026.

ATTEST:

**FIRELIGHT EAST COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

Exhibit A: Rules of Procedure

EXHIBIT A:
RULES OF PROCEDURE

**RULES OF PROCEDURE
FIRELIGHT EAST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
RULE NO. ROP-2026-1**

EFFECTIVE AS OF JULY 23, 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Rule 1.0	General.....	2
Rule 1.1	Board of Supervisors; Officers and Voting.	3
Rule 1.2	District Offices; Public Information and Inspection of Records; Policies; Service Contract Requirements; Financial Disclosure Coordination.	7
Rule 1.3	Public Meetings, Hearings, and Workshops.	10
Rule 1.4	Internal Controls to Prevent Fraud, Waste and Abuse.....	15
Rule 2.0	Rulemaking Proceedings.	16
Rule 3.0	Competitive Purchase.	29
Rule 3.1	Procedure Under the Consultants’ Competitive Negotiations Act.	34
Rule 3.2	Procedure Regarding Auditor Selection.	38
Rule 3.3	Purchase of Insurance.	42
Rule 3.4	Pre-qualification.....	44
Rule 3.5	Construction Contracts, Not Design-Build.	49
Rule 3.6	Construction Contracts, Design-Build.	54
Rule 3.7	Payment and Performance Bonds.	59
Rule 3.8	Goods, Supplies, and Materials.	60
Rule 3.9	Maintenance Services.	64
Rule 3.10	Contractual Services.	67
Rule 3.11	Protests with Respect to Proceedings under Rules 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.8, and 3.9.....	68
Rule 4.0	Effective Date.	71

Rule 1.0 General.

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

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

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

Rule 1.1 Board of Supervisors; Officers and Voting.

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

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

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

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

Secretary prior to participating in any discussion with the Board on the matter. The member shall publicly announce the conflict of interest at the meeting. This announcement shall appear in the minutes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rule 1.3 Public Meetings, Hearings, and Workshops.

- (1) Notice. Except in emergencies, or as otherwise authorized or required by statute or these Rules, at least seven (7) days', but not more than thirty (30) days' public notice shall be given of any public meeting, hearing or workshop of the Board. Public notice shall be given by publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the county or counties in which the District is located. A newspaper is deemed to be a newspaper of "**general circulation**" in the county in which the District is located if such newspaper has been in existence for two (2) years at the time of publication of the applicable notice (unless no newspaper within the county has been published for such length) and satisfies the criteria of section 50.011(1) of the Florida Statutes, or if such newspaper is a direct successor of a newspaper which has been so published, as such provisions may be amended from time to time by law. The annual meeting notice required to be published by Section 189.015 of the Florida Statutes, shall be published as provide in Chapter 50 of the Florida Statutes, and such notice published consistent therewith shall satisfy the requirement to give at least seven (7) days' public notice as required herein. Each Notice shall state, as applicable:
 - (a) The date, time and place of the meeting, hearing or workshop;
 - (b) A brief description of the nature, subjects, and purposes of the meeting, hearing, or workshop;
 - (c) The District office address for the submission of requests for copies of the agenda, as well as a contact name and telephone number for verbal requests for copies of the agenda; and
 - (d) The following or substantially similar language: "Pursuant to provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting/hearing/workshop is asked to advise the District Office at least forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting/hearing/workshop by contacting the District Manager at (561) 571-0010. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 1 (800) 955-8770 or 1 (800) 955-8771, who can aid you in contacting the District Office."
 - (e) The following or substantially similar language: "A person who decides to appeal any decision made at the meeting/hearing/workshop with respect to any matter considered at the meeting/hearing/workshop is advised that person will need a record of the proceedings and that accordingly, the person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based."

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

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

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

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

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

Adjournment

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

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

the names of the persons anticipated to attend the session. The session must commence at an open meeting in which the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson announces the commencement of the session, the estimated length of the session, and the names of the persons who will be attending the session. The discussion during the session is confined to settlement negotiations or strategy related to litigation expenses or as may be authorized by law. Only the Board, the District's attorneys (including outside counsel), the District Manager, and the court reporter may attend an Attorney-Client Session. During the session, no votes may be taken and no final decisions concerning settlement can be made. Upon the conclusion of the session, the public meeting is reopened, and the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson must announce that the session has concluded. The session must be transcribed by a court-reporter and the transcript of the session filed with the District Secretary within a reasonable time after the session. The transcript shall not be available for public inspection until after the conclusion of the litigation.

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

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

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

Rule 1.4 Internal Controls to Prevent Fraud, Waste and Abuse

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

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

Law Implemented: § 218.33(3), Fla. Stat.

Rule 2.0 Rulemaking Proceedings.

- (1) Commencement of Proceedings. Proceedings held for adoption, amendment, or repeal of a District rule shall be conducted according to these Rules, in accordance with the requirements of Section 190.011(5) of the Florida Statutes, and Chapter 120 of the Florida Statutes, including but not limited to Section 120.81(2)(b) of the Florida Statutes. Rulemaking proceedings shall be deemed to have been initiated upon publication of a Notice of Rule Development by the District as required by Section 2 of this Rule. A “**rule**” is a District statement of general applicability that implements, interprets, or prescribes law or policy, or describes the procedure or practice requirements of the District. Nothing herein shall be construed as requiring the District to consider or adopt rules unless required by Chapter 190 of the Florida Statutes. Policies adopted by the District which do not consist of rates, fees, rentals or other monetary charges may be, but are not required to be, implemented through rulemaking proceedings.
- (2) Requirements of a Rule. All District rules as drafted shall:
 - (a) Contain only one subject;
 - (b) Include readable language, meaning it avoids i) the use of obscure words and unnecessarily long or complicated constructions, and ii) the use of unnecessary technical or specialized language that is understood only by members of particular trades or professions;
 - (c) Be indefinite such that the rule does not include a provision whereby the rule, or a portion thereof, automatically expires or is repealed on a specific date or at the end of a specified period, unless otherwise expressly authorized by law; and
 - (d) Only incorporate material by reference in compliance with Section 120.54(1)(i) of the Florida Statutes.
- (3) Statement of Estimated Regulatory Costs. Before adopting, amending, or repealing any rule, other than an emergency rule, the District may prepare a statement of estimated regulatory costs (“**SERC**”) based on the factors set forth in Section 120.541(2) of the Florida Statutes. The District shall prepare a SERC for a proposed rule if in accordance with the requirements of Section 120.541(2) of the Florida Statutes if: i) the proposed rule will have an adverse economic impact on small business; or ii) the proposed rule is likely to directly or indirectly increase regulatory costs in excess of \$200,000 in the aggregate in the state within one (1) year after implementation of the rule.
- (4) Notice of Rule Development.

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

(5) Notice of Rulemaking.

- (a) Prior to the adoption, amendment, or repeal of any rule other than an emergency rule, the District shall provide notice of its intended action (the “**Notice of Rulemaking**”) setting forth the following:
 - (i) A short, plain explanation of the purpose and effect of the proposed rule;
 - (ii) The proposed rule number;
 - (iii) A summary of the proposed rule or amendment;
 - (v) The grant of rulemaking authority for the proposed rule;
 - (vi) The law being implemented or interpreted;
 - (vii) The name, e-mail address, and telephone number of the agency employee who may be contacted regarding the intended action;

- (viii) A concise summary of the District's statement of the estimated regulatory costs, if one has been prepared, based on the factors set forth in Section 120.541(2) of the Florida Statutes, that describes the regulatory impact of the rule in readable language;
 - (ix) The District's website where the statement of estimated regulatory costs can be viewed, in its entirety, if one has been prepared;
 - (x) A statement that any person who wishes to provide the District with a lower cost regulatory alternative as provided by Section 120.541(1), must do so in writing within twenty-one (21) days after publication of the notice;
 - (xi) A statement as to whether, based on the SERC or other information expressly relied upon and described by the District if no statement of regulatory costs is required, the proposed rule is expected to require legislative ratification pursuant to Section 120.541(3) of the Florida Statutes;
 - (x) The date, time, and location of the public hearing on the proposed rule;
 - (xi) The name, address, and telephone number of the District contact person who can provide information about the public hearing; and
 - (xii) A reference to both the date on which and the place where the Notice of Rule Development required by Section 4 of this Rule appeared, except when the intended action is the repeal of a rule.
- (b) The Notice of Rulemaking shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the county or counties in which the District is located at least seven (7) days after the Notice of Rule Development required by Section 4 of this Rule, and at least twenty-eight (28) days prior to the intended action. If the Notice of Rulemaking is not published within one-hundred eighty (180) days of the publication of the Notice of Rule Development, then the District's Board shall approve a concise statement at least seven (7) days prior to the conclusion of the one-hundred eighty (180) day timeframe identifying the reason for the delay, which may be supplemented quarterly until the District has adopted the proposed rule.
- (c) The Notice of Rulemaking shall be mailed or delivered electronically to all persons named in the proposed rule and to all persons who, at least fourteen (14) days before publication of the notice, have made requests of the District for advance notice of its rulemaking proceedings. Any person may file a written request with the District Manager to receive notice of the District's rulemaking proceedings. Such persons must furnish a mailing address or e-

mail address, and may be required to pay the cost of copying and mailing as applicable.

- (d) As of the date of publication of the Notice of Rulemaking, the Board shall make available for public inspection and shall provide, upon request and payment of the cost of copies, the proposed rule, including all material proposed to be incorporated by reference.

(6) Modification of Rules.

(a) Technical Changes.

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

(b) Substantive Changes.

- (i) Prior to rule adoption, the District shall publish a notice of change (“**Notice of Change**”) if there is any substantive change, other than a technical change that corrects citations or grammatical, typographical or similar errors that do not otherwise affect the substance of the rule, to a proposed rule, including any material incorporated by reference, or to a SERC. The Notice of Change must address a summary of the change and shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the county or counties in which the District is located at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the intended action. The Notice of Change shall also be sent to those persons set forth in Section 5(C) of this Rule that have made requests of the District for advance notice of its rulemaking proceedings. Any substantive change must be either be:

- 1. Supported by the record of the public hearing held on the proposed rule;

2. In response to written materials submitted to the District; or
3. In response to an objection with the proposed rule by the District Board.

(ii) After rule adoption, a substantive change to a rule shall be effectuated by initiating rulemaking as set forth in this Rule.

(7) Withdrawal of Proposed Rules.

- (a) Prior to the adoption of a rule, the District may elect to withdraw the proposed rule in whole or in part. After a rule has become effective, the District may only amend or repeal the rule through initiating the rulemaking procedures set forth in this Rule.
- (b) Prior to the adoption of a rule, the District shall withdraw the proposed rule if the District has either failed to adopt such rule within one-hundred eighty (180) days of the publication of the Notice of Rule Development required by Section 4 of this Rule or to approve a concise statement at least seven (7) days prior to the conclusion of the one-hundred eighty (180) day timeframe identifying the reason for the delay, which may be supplemented quarterly until the District has adopted the proposed rule.
- (c) In the event of a withdrawal of a proposed rule, the District shall publish a notice (“**Notice of Rule Withdrawal**”) in a newspaper of general circulation within the county or counties in which the District is located, and shall provide notice to those persons set forth in Section 5(c) of this Rule that have made requests of the District for advance notice of its rulemaking proceedings.
- (d) Within fifteen (15) days after the end of each calendar quarter, the District shall compile and post on its website a list of each failure to publish a Notice of Rulemaking within the timeframe prescribed by Section 5(b) of this Rule, which list shall include the information set forth in Section 120.54(3)(d)(7) of the Florida Statutes. The District is only required to provide such posting in any calendar quarter(s) in which there is an actual failure to timely publish a Notice of Rulemaking, if any.

(8) Rule Development Workshops.

- (a) Whenever requested in writing by any affected person, the District must conduct a rule development workshop prior to proposing rules for adoption for the purposes of rule development or information gathering for the preparation of the SERC, unless the Chairperson explains in writing why a workshop is unnecessary. The District may initiate a rule development workshop, but is not required to do so.

- (b) If a workshop is held, the District must ensure that the person(s) responsible for preparing the rule and the SERC, if applicable, are available to explain the District's proposed rule and to respond to questions or comments regarding the rule being developed.
 - (c) The notice of any workshop shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the county or counties in which the District is located at least fourteen (14) days prior to the workshop setting forth the following:
 - (i) The place, date, and time of the workshop;
 - (ii) The subject area that will be addressed; and
 - (iii) The District Manager's contact information.
- (9) Petitions to Initiate Rulemaking.
- (a) All Petitions to Initiate Rulemaking Proceedings must contain the name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner, the specific action requested, the specific reason for adoption, amendment, or repeal, the date submitted, the text of the proposed rule, and the facts showing that the petitioner is regulated by the District or has a substantial interest in the rulemaking. District staff shall forward a copy of the petition to the District's Board within seven (7) days of its receipt.
 - (b) If the petition is directed to an adopted rule, within thirty (30) days following the date of filing a petition, the District shall either i) initiate rulemaking proceedings, ii) otherwise comply with the requested action, or iii) deny the petition with a written statement of its reasons for the denial.
 - (c) If the petition is directed to an unadopted rule, within thirty (30) days following the date of filing a petition, the District shall either i) initiate rulemaking, or ii) set a public hearing to consider whether the public interest is served adequately by the application of the proposed rule on a case-by-case basis, as contrasted with its formal adoption as a rule.
 - (i) If the District elects to hold a public hearing, notice of the public hearing ("**Notice of Rulemaking Petition Public Hearing**") shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the county or counties in which the District is located. The public hearing shall be held by the District within thirty (30) days after publication of the Notice of Rulemaking Petition Public Hearing.
 - (ii) Not later than thirty (30) days following the date of the public hearing held pursuant to Section 9(c)(i) of this Rule, the District

shall either i) initiate rulemaking proceedings, ii) otherwise comply with the requested action, or iii) deny the petition with a written statement of its reasons for the denial.

1. If the District decides to initiate rulemaking it shall proceed with the rulemaking process as set forth in this Rule.
2. If the District decides to not initiate rulemaking or otherwise comply with the requested action, the District shall publish a statement of its reasons for not initiating rulemaking or otherwise complying with the requested action and of any changes it will make in the scope or application of the unadopted rule (the “**Notice of Denial of Rulemaking Petition**”). The Notice of Denial of Rulemaking Petition shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the county or counties in which the District is located.

- (d) Nothing in this Rule shall be construed as requiring the District to adopt, amend, or repeal a rule as initiated by petition.

(10) Public Hearing.

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

(11) Emergency Rule Adoption.

- (a) The Board may adopt an emergency rule if it finds that immediate danger to the public health, safety, or welfare exists which requires immediate action or if the Legislature authorizes the District to adopt emergency rules. The District may use any procedure which is fair under the circumstances in the adoption of an emergency rule as long as it protects the public interest as determined by the District.
- (b) At the time or prior to the adoption of an emergency rule, the District shall post on its website a notice regarding its adoption of the emergency rule (the “**Notice of Emergency Rule**”) which includes the specific facts and reasons for finding an immediate danger to the public health, safety, or welfare and its reasons for concluding that procedure used is fair under the circumstances. The Notice of Emergency Rule shall thereafter be promptly published in a newspaper of general circulation within the county or counties in which the District is located, and shall include the following information:
 - (i) The full text of the rule(s); and
 - (ii) The District’s findings of immediate danger, necessity, and procedural fairness or a citation to the grant of emergency rulemaking authority.
- (c) An emergency rule shall be effective immediately upon adoption by the District, or on a date less than twenty (20) days thereafter if specified in the emergency rule if the District finds that a later effective date is necessary because of immediate danger to the public health, safety, or welfare. An emergency rule may not be effective for a period of more than ninety (90) days after adoption and may not be renewable, unless the District has initiated rulemaking to adopt rules addressing the subject of the emergency rule and either i) a challenge to the proposed rules has been filed and remains pending or ii) the proposed rules are awaiting ratification by the Legislature, if applicable. Nothing in this paragraph prohibits the District from adopting a rule identical to the emergency rule through the non-emergency rulemaking procedures set forth in this Rule.
 - (i) If an emergency rule is being renewed in accordance with Section 11(d) of this Rule, notice of the renewal of the emergency rule (the “**Notice of Renewal of Emergency Rule**”) shall be published before the expiration of the existing emergency rule. The Notice of Renewal of Emergency Rule shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the county or counties in which the

District is located and shall include the specific facts and reasons for such renewal.

- (ii) For emergency rules with an effective period of longer than ninety (90) days which are intended to replace an existing rule, the Rulemaking Record for the existing rule, as required by Section 13 of this Rule, shall specifically identify the emergency rule that is intended to supersede the existing rule as well as the date that the emergency rule was adopted by the District.
- (d) The District may supersede an emergency rule in effect through the adoption of another emergency rule before the superseded rule expires. The District shall post on its website and publish a Notice of Emergency Rule, in accordance with Section 11(b) of this Rule, identifying the reason for adopting the superseding rule. The superseding rule shall not be in effect longer than the duration of the effective period of the superseded rule.
- (e) The District may make technical changes to an emergency rule within the first seven (7) days after the rule is adopted, and such changes shall be published in a Notice of Correction as set forth in Section 6(a) of this Rule.
- (f) The District may repeal an emergency rule before it expires by publishing a notice (“**Notice of Repeal of Emergency Rule**”) in a newspaper of general circulation within the county or counties in which the District is located. The Notice of Repeal of Emergency Rule shall include the following information:
 - (i) The full text of the emergency rule and a summary thereof;
 - (ii) The rule number; and
 - (iii) A short and plain explanation as to why the conditions specified in the Notice of Emergency Rule no longer require the emergency rule.
- (12) Negotiated Rulemaking. The District may use negotiated rulemaking in developing and adopting rules pursuant to Section 120.54(2)(d) of the Florida Statutes, except that any notices required under Section 120.54(2)(d) of the Florida Statutes, may be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the county or counties in which the District is located.
- (13) Rulemaking Record. In all rulemaking proceedings, the District shall compile and maintain a rulemaking record (“**Rulemaking Record**”) which shall be on file with the District at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the proposed adoption date of the rule. The Rulemaking Record shall include, as applicable:
 - (a) A copy of the rule;

- (b) Any material incorporated by reference in the rule;
- (c) A detailed written statement of the facts and circumstances justifying the proposed rule;
- (d) Any SERC for the rule, if required by Section 120.54(3)(b)1. of the Florida Statutes or otherwise prepared, and any information created or used by the District in determining whether a SERC is required;
- (e) A statement of the extent to which the proposed rule relates to federal standards on rules on the same subject;
- (f) The Notice of Rule Development, Notice of Rulemaking, and notice(s) of any workshops held pursuant to Section 8 of this Rule; and
- (g) If an emergency rule is intended to supersede an existing rule, the emergency rule number and the date that the emergency rule was adopted by the District.

(14) Petitions to Challenge Rules.

- (a) Any person substantially affected by a proposed or existing rule may seek an administrative determination of the invalidity of the rule on the ground that the rule is an invalid exercise of the District's authority.
 - (i) A petition alleging the invalidity of a proposed rule shall be filed within twenty-one (21) days after the date of publication of Notice of Rulemaking, within ten (10) days after the final public hearing is held on the proposed rule; within twenty (20) days after the SERC or revised SERC has been prepared and made available as provided in Section 120.541(1)(d) of the Florida Statutes, if applicable; or within twenty (20) days after the date of publication of the Notice of Rule Withdrawal required by Section 7(c) of this Rule.
 - (ii) A petition alleging the invalidity of an existing rule may be filed at any time during which the rule is in effect.
- (b) The petition seeking an administrative determination must state with particularity the provisions alleged to be invalid with sufficient explanation of the facts or grounds for the alleged invalidity and facts sufficient to show that the person challenging a proposed or existing rule is substantially affected by it. A person who is not substantially affected by the proposed rule as initially noticed, but who is substantially affected by the rule as a result of a change, may challenge any provision of the resulting proposed rule.

- (c) The petition shall be filed with the District. Within ten (10) days after receiving the petition, or seven (7) days if the challenge relates to an emergency rule, the Chairperson shall, if the petition complies with the requirements of subsection (b) of this section, designate any member of the Board (including the Chairperson), District Manager, District Counsel, or other person as a hearing officer who shall conduct a hearing within thirty (30) days thereafter, or fourteen (14) days if the challenge relates to an emergency rule, unless the petition is withdrawn or a continuance is granted by agreement of the parties. The failure of the District to follow the applicable rulemaking procedures or requirements in this Rule shall be presumed to be material; however, the District may rebut this presumption by showing that the substantial interests of the petitioner and the fairness of the proceedings have not been impaired.
- (d) At the hearing, the petitioner and the District shall be adverse parties. Other substantially affected persons may join the proceedings as intervenors on appropriate terms which shall not unduly delay the proceedings.
- (e) Hearings held under this section shall be de novo in nature. For proposed rules, the petitioner has the burden to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that it would be substantially affected by the proposed rule, and the District has the burden to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the proposed rule is not an invalid exercise of delegated legislative authority as to the objections raised. For existing rules, the petitioner has a burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the existing rule is an invalid exercise of District authority as to the objections raised. During the hearing, the hearing officer may:
 - (i) Administer oaths and affirmations;
 - (ii) Rule upon offers of proof and receive relevant evidence;
 - (iii) Regulate the course of the hearing, including any pre-hearing matters;
 - (iv) Enter orders; and
 - (v) Make or receive offers of settlement, stipulation, and adjustment.
- (f) Within thirty (30) days after the hearing, or fourteen (14) days of the challenge relate to an emergency rule, the hearing officer shall render a decision and state the reasons therefor in writing. The hearing officer's order shall be considered final agency action. The hearing officer may declare all or part of a proposed or existing rule invalid. For a proposed rule, the proposed rule or provision thereof declared invalid shall not be adopted unless the decision of the hearing officer is reversed on appeal. In

the event part of a proposed rule is declared invalid, the District may, in its sole discretion, withdraw the proposed rule in its entirety. For an existing rule, the rule or part thereof declared invalid shall become void when the time for filing an appeal expires. In the event that a proposed or existing rule has been declared invalid in whole or part, the District shall promptly publish notice of such occurrence published in a newspaper of general circulation within the county or counties in which the District is located.

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

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

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

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

Law Implemented: §§ 120.54, 120.542, 120.5435, 120.56, 120.81(2), 190.011(5), 190.035(2), Fla. Stat.

Rule 3.0 Competitive Purchase.

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

- (e) **“Design-Build Firm”** means a partnership, corporation or other legal entity that:
 - (i) Is certified under Section 489.119 of the Florida Statutes, to engage in contracting through a certified or registered general contractor or a certified or registered building contractor as the qualifying agent; or
 - (ii) Is certified under Section 471.023 of the Florida Statutes, to practice or to offer to practice engineering; certified under Section 481.219 of the Florida Statutes, to practice or to offer to practice architecture; or certified under Section 481.319 of the Florida Statutes, to practice or to offer to practice landscape architecture.
- (f) **“Design Criteria Package”** means concise, performance-oriented drawings or specifications for a public construction project. The purpose of the Design Criteria Package is to furnish sufficient information to permit Design-Build Firms to prepare a bid or a response to the District’s Request for Proposals, or to permit the District to enter into a negotiated Design-Build Contract. The Design Criteria Package must specify performance-based criteria for the public construction project, including the legal description of the site, survey information concerning the site, interior space requirements, material quality standards, schematic layouts and conceptual design criteria of the project, cost or budget estimates, design and construction schedules, site development requirements, provisions for utilities, stormwater retention and disposal, and parking requirements applicable to the project. Design Criteria Packages shall require firms to submit information regarding the qualifications, availability, and past work of the firms, including the partners and members thereof.
- (g) **“Design Criteria Professional”** means a firm who holds a current certificate of registration under Chapter 481 of the Florida Statutes, to practice architecture or landscape architecture, or a firm who holds a current certificate as a registered engineer under Chapter 471 of the Florida Statutes, to practice engineering, and who is employed by or under contract to the District to provide professional architect services, landscape architect services, or engineering services in connection with the preparation of the Design Criteria Package.
- (h) **“Emergency Purchase”** means a purchase necessitated by a sudden unexpected turn of events (for example, acts of God, riot, fires, floods, hurricanes, accidents, or any circumstances or cause beyond the control of the Board in the normal conduct of its business), where the Board finds that the delay incident to competitive purchase would be detrimental to the interests of the District. This includes, but is not limited to, instances where

the time to competitively award the project will jeopardize the funding for the project, will materially increase the cost of the project, or will create an undue hardship on the public health, safety, or welfare.

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

requiring the manual signature of an authorized representative. It may provide general information, applicable laws and rules, statement of work, functional or general specifications, qualifications, proposal instructions, work detail analysis, and evaluation criteria as necessary.

- (p) **“Responsive and Responsible Bidder”** means an entity or individual that has submitted a bid that conforms in all material respects to the Invitation to Bid and has the capability in all respects to fully perform the contract requirements and the integrity and reliability that will assure good faith performance. **“Responsive and Responsible Vendor”** means an entity or individual that has submitted a proposal, reply, or response that conforms in all material respects to the Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation and has the capability in all respects to fully perform the contract requirements and the integrity and reliability that will assure good faith performance. In determining whether an entity or individual is a Responsive and Responsible Bidder (or Vendor), the District may consider, in addition to factors described in the Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation, the following:
 - (i) The ability and adequacy of the professional personnel employed by the entity/individual;
 - (ii) The past performance of the entity/individual for the District and in other professional employment;
 - (iii) The willingness of the entity/individual to meet time and budget requirements;
 - (iv) The geographic location of the entity’s/individual’s headquarters or office in relation to the project;
 - (v) The recent, current, and projected workloads of the entity/individual;
 - (vi) The volume of work previously awarded to the entity/individual;
 - (vii) Whether the cost components of the bid or proposal are appropriately balanced; and
 - (viii) Whether the entity/individual is a certified minority business enterprise.
- (q) **“Responsive Bid,” “Responsive Proposal,” “Responsive Reply,” and “Responsive Response”** all mean a bid, proposal, reply, or response which conforms in all material respects to the specifications and conditions in the

Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitations to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation document and these Rules, and the cost components of which, if any, are appropriately balanced. A bid, proposal, reply or response is not responsive if the person or firm submitting it fails to meet any material requirement relating to the qualifications, financial stability, or licensing of the bidder.

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

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

Rule 3.1 Procedure Under the Consultants' Competitive Negotiations Act.

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

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

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

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

(4) Competitive Selection.

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

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

(5) Competitive Negotiation.

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

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

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

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

Rule 3.2 Procedure Regarding Auditor Selection.

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

- (1) Establishment of Auditor Selection Committee. Prior to a public announcement under section (3) of this Rule that Auditing Services are required, the Board shall establish an auditor selection committee (“**Committee**”), the primary purpose of which is to assist the Board in selecting an auditor to conduct the annual financial audit required by Section 218.39 of the Florida Statutes. The Committee shall include at least three individuals, at least one of which must also be a member of the Board. The establishment and selection of the Committee must be conducted at a publicly noticed and held meeting of the Board. The Chairperson of the Committee must be a member of the Board. An employee, a chief executive officer, or a chief financial officer of the District may not serve as a member of the Committee; provided however such individual may serve the Committee in an advisory capacity.
- (2) Establishment of Minimum Qualifications and Evaluation Criteria. Prior to a public announcement under section (3) of this Rule that Auditing Services are required, the Committee shall meet at a publicly noticed meeting to establish minimum qualifications and factors to use for the evaluation of Auditing Services to be provided by a certified public accounting firm licensed under Chapter 473 of the Florida Statutes, and qualified to conduct audits in accordance with government auditing standards as adopted by the Florida Board of Accountancy.
 - (a) Minimum Qualifications. In order to be eligible to submit a proposal, a firm must, at all relevant times including the time of receipt of the proposal by the District:
 - (i) Hold all required applicable state professional licenses in good standing;
 - (ii) Hold all required applicable federal licenses in good standing, if any;

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

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

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

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

- (3) **Public Announcement.** After identifying the factors to be used in evaluating the proposals for Auditing Services as set forth in section (2) of this Rule, the Committee shall publicly announce the opportunity to provide Auditing Services. Such public announcement shall include a brief description of the audit and how interested firms can apply for consideration and obtain the RFP. The notice shall appear in at least one (1) newspaper of general circulation within the county or counties in which the District is located. The public announcement shall allow for at least seven (7) days for the submission of proposals.
- (4) **Request for Proposals.** The Committee shall provide interested firms with a Request for Proposals (“**RFP**”). The RFP shall provide information on how proposals are to be evaluated and such other information the Committee determines is necessary for the firm to prepare a proposal. The RFP shall state the time and place for submitting proposals, which may be submitted either electronically or via hard copy as determined by the District and provided for in the RFP. For the avoidance of doubt, the Proposals shall not be required to be publicly opened at the date, time, and place provided for in the RFP relative to the submission of Proposals.

- (5) Committee's Evaluation of Proposals and Recommendation. The Committee shall meet at a publicly held meeting that is publicly noticed for a reasonable time in advance of the meeting to evaluate all qualified proposals and may, as part of the evaluation, require that each interested firm provide a public presentation where the Committee may conduct discussions with the firm, and where the firm may present information, regarding the firm's qualifications. At the public meeting, the Committee shall rank and recommend in order of preference no fewer than three firms deemed to be the most highly qualified to perform the required services after considering the factors established pursuant to subsection (2)(b) of this Rule. If fewer than three firms respond to the RFP or if no firms respond to the RFP, the Committee shall recommend such firm as it deems to be the most highly qualified. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Committee may recommend that any and all proposals be rejected.
- (6) Board Selection of Auditor.
- (a) Where compensation was not selected as a factor used in evaluating the proposals, the Board shall negotiate with the firm ranked first and inquire of that firm as to the basis of compensation. If the Board is unable to negotiate a satisfactory agreement with the first ranked firm at a price deemed by the Board to be fair, competitive, and reasonable, then negotiations with that firm shall be terminated and the Board shall immediately begin negotiations with the second ranked firm. If a satisfactory agreement with the second ranked firm cannot be reached, those negotiations shall be terminated and negotiations with the third ranked firm shall be undertaken. The Board may reopen formal negotiations with any one of the three top-ranked firms, but it may not negotiate with more than one firm at a time. If the Board is unable to negotiate a satisfactory agreement with any of the selected firms, the Committee shall recommend additional firms in order of the firms' respective competence and qualifications. Negotiations shall continue, beginning with the first-named firm on the list, until an agreement is reached or the list of firms is exhausted.
 - (b) Where compensation was selected as a factor used in evaluating the proposals, the Board shall select the highest-ranked qualified firm or document in its public records the reason for not selecting the highest-ranked qualified firm.
 - (c) In negotiations with firms under this Rule, the Board may allow the District Manager, District Counsel, or other designee to conduct negotiations on its behalf.
 - (d) Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board may reject any or all proposals. The Board shall not consider any proposal, or enter into any contract for Auditing Services, unless the proposed agreed-upon compensation is

reasonable to satisfy the requirements of Section 218.39 of the Florida Statutes, and the needs of the District.

- (7) Contract. Any agreement reached under this Rule shall be evidenced by a written contract, which may take the form of an engagement letter signed and executed by both parties. The written contract shall include all provisions and conditions of the procurement of such services and shall include, at a minimum, the following:
- (a) A provision specifying the services to be provided and fees or other compensation for such services;
 - (b) A provision requiring that invoices for fees or other compensation be submitted in sufficient detail to demonstrate compliance with the terms of the contract;
 - (c) A provision setting forth deadlines for the auditor to submit a preliminary draft audit report to the District for review and to submit a final audit report no later than June 30 of the fiscal year that follows the fiscal year for which the audit is being conducted;
 - (d) A provision specifying the contract period, including renewals, and conditions under which the contract may be terminated or renewed. The maximum contract period including renewals shall be five (5) years. A renewal may be done without the use of the auditor selection procedures provided in this Rule but must be in writing.
 - (e) Provisions required by law that require the auditor to comply with public records laws.
- (8) Notice of Award. Once a negotiated agreement with a firm or individual is reached, or the Board authorizes the execution of an agreement with a firm where compensation was a factor in the evaluation of proposals, notice of the intent to award, including the rejection of some or all proposals, shall be provided in writing to all proposers by e-mail (with a delivery and read receipt), United States Mail, hand delivery, or overnight delivery service. The District may alternatively post the notice of intent to award on its website at the conclusion of the Board meeting where the proposals were evaluated if so provided for in the RFP. The notice shall include the following statement: "Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Rule 3.11 of the Rules of the District shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under those Rules," or wording to that effect. Protests regarding the award of contracts under this Rule shall be as provided for in Rule 3.11. No proposer shall be entitled to recover any costs of proposal preparation or submittal from the District.

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

Rule 3.3 Purchase of Insurance.

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

premium stability may be considered. A contract to purchase insurance shall be awarded to that company whose response to the Invitation to Bid best meets the overall needs of the District, its officers, employees, and/or dependents.

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

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

Law Implemented: § 112.08, Fla. Stat.

Rule 3.4 Pre-qualification

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

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

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

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

- (k) Notice of intent to pre-qualify, including rejection of some or all qualifications, shall be provided in writing to all proposers by e-mail (with a delivery and read receipt), United States Mail, hand delivery, or overnight delivery service. The District may alternatively post the notice of intent to award on its website at the conclusion of the Board meeting where the proposals were evaluated if so provided for in the Request for Qualifications. The notice shall include the following statement: “Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Rule 3.11 of the Rules of the District shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under those Rules,” or wording to that effect. Protests of the District’s pre-qualification decisions under this Rule shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in Rule 3.11; provided however, protests related to the pre-qualification criteria and procedures for construction services shall be resolved in accordance with section (2)(b) of this Rule and Section 255.20(1)(b) of the Florida Statutes.

(2) Suspension, Revocation, or Denial of Qualification

- (a) The District, for good cause, may deny, suspend, or revoke a prequalified vendor’s pre-qualified status. A suspension, revocation, or denial for good cause shall prohibit the vendor from bidding on any District construction contract for which qualification is required, shall constitute a determination of non-responsibility to bid on any other District construction or maintenance contract, and shall prohibit the vendor from acting as a material supplier or subcontractor on any District contract or project during the period of suspension, revocation, or denial. Good cause shall include the following:
 - (i) One of the circumstances specified under Section 337.16(2), Fla. Stat., has occurred.
 - (ii) Affiliated contractors submitted more than one proposal for the same work. In this event the pre-qualified status of all of the affiliated bidders will be revoked, suspended, or denied. All bids of affiliated bidders will be rejected.
 - (iii) The vendor made or submitted false, deceptive, or fraudulent statements, certifications, or materials in any claim for payment or any information required by any District contract.
 - (iv) The vendor or its affiliate defaulted on any contract or a contract surety assumed control of financial responsibility for any contract of the vendor.
 - (v) The vendor’s qualification to bid is suspended, revoked, or denied by any other public or semi-public entity, or the vendor has been the

subject of a civil enforcement proceeding or settlement involving a public or semi-public entity.

- (vi) The vendor failed to comply with contract or warranty requirements or failed to follow District direction in the performance of a contract.
- (vii) The vendor failed to timely furnish all contract documents required by the contract specifications, special provisions, or by any state or federal statutes or regulations. If the vendor fails to furnish any of the subject contract documents by the expiration of the period of suspension, revocation, or denial set forth above, the vendor's pre-qualified status shall remain suspended, revoked, or denied until the documents are furnished.
- (viii) The vendor failed to notify the District within 10 days of the vendor, or any of its affiliates, being declared in default or otherwise not completing work on a contract or being suspended from qualification to bid or denied qualification to bid by any other public or semi-public agency.
- (ix) The vendor did not pay its subcontractors or suppliers in a timely manner or in compliance with contract documents.
- (x) The vendor has demonstrated instances of poor or unsatisfactory performance, deficient management resulting in project delay, poor quality workmanship, a history of payment of liquidated damages, untimely completion of projects, uncooperative attitude, contract litigation, inflated claims or defaults.
- (xi) An affiliate of the vendor has previously been determined by the District to be non-responsible, and the specified period of suspension, revocation, denial, or non-responsibility remains in effect.
- (xii) The vendor or affiliate(s) has been convicted of a contract crime.
 - 1. The term "**contract crime**" means any violation of state or federal antitrust laws with respect to a public contract or any violation of any state or federal law involving fraud, bribery, collusion, conspiracy, or material misrepresentation with respect to a public contract.
 - 2. The term "**convicted**" or "**conviction**" means a finding of guilt or a conviction of a contract crime, with or without an adjudication of guilt, in any federal or state trial court of

record as a result of a jury verdict, nonjury trial, or entry of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere.

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

Examples of factors affecting the seriousness of a deficiency are:

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

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

Rule 3.5 Construction Contracts, Not Design-Build.

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

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

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

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

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

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

- (g) The lowest Responsive Bid submitted by a Responsive and Responsible Bidder in response to an Invitation to Bid shall be accepted. In relation to a Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation, the Board shall select the Responsive Proposal, Reply, or Response submitted by a Responsive and Responsible Vendor which is most advantageous to the District. To assure full understanding of the responsiveness to the solicitation requirements contained in a Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation, discussions may be conducted with qualified vendors. Vendors shall be accorded fair treatment prior to the submittal date with respect to any opportunity for discussion, preparation, and revision of bids, proposals, replies, and responses.
- (h) The Board shall have the right to reject all bids, proposals, replies, or responses because they exceed the amount of funds budgeted for the purchase, if there are not enough to be competitive, or if rejection is determined to be in the best interest of the District. No contractor shall be entitled to recover any costs of bid, proposal, response, or reply preparation or submittal from the District.
- (i) The Board may require potential contractors to furnish bid bonds, performance bonds, and/or other bonds with a responsible surety to be approved by the Board.
- (j) If less than three (3) Responsive Bids, Proposals, Replies, or Responses are received, the District may purchase construction services or may reject the bids, proposals, replies, or responses for a lack of competitiveness. If no Responsive Bid, Proposal, Reply, or Response is received, the District may proceed with the procurement of construction services, in the manner the Board determines is in the best interests of the District, which may include but is not limited to a direct purchase of the construction services without further competitive selection processes.
- (k) If the selection process is administered by any person or committee other than the full Board, the selection made will be presented to the full Board

with a recommendation that competitive negotiations be instituted with the selected firms in order of preference listed.

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

- (d) The District, after public notice, conducts a public meeting under Section 286.011 of the Florida Statutes, and finds by a majority vote of the Board that it is in the public's best interest to perform the project using its own services, employees, and equipment.

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

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

Rule 3.6 Construction Contracts, Design-Build.

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

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

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

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

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

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

the Board meeting where the proposals were evaluated if so provided for in the Design Criteria Package. The notice shall include the following statement: "Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Rule 3.11 of the Rules of the District shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under those Rules," or wording to that effect. Protests of the District's rankings under this Rule shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in Rule 3.11.

8. The Board shall negotiate a contract with the firm ranking the highest based on the evaluation standards and shall establish a price which the Board determines is fair, competitive and reasonable. Should the Board be unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with the firm considered to be the most qualified at a price considered by the Board to be fair, competitive, and reasonable, negotiations with that firm must be terminated. The Board shall then undertake negotiations with the second most qualified firm, based on the ranking by the evaluation standards. Should the Board be unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with the firm considered to be the second most qualified at a price considered by the Board to be fair, competitive, and reasonable, negotiations with that firm must be terminated. The Board shall then undertake negotiations with the third most qualified firm. Should the Board be unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with the firm considered to be the third most qualified at a price considered by the Board to be fair, competitive, and reasonable, negotiations with that firm must be terminated. Should the Board be unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with any of the selected firms, the Board shall select additional firms in order of their rankings based on the evaluation standards and continue negotiations until an agreement is reached or the list of firms is exhausted.
9. After the Board contracts with a firm, the firm shall bring to the Board for approval, detailed working drawings of the project.
10. The Design Criteria Professional shall evaluate the compliance of the detailed working drawings and project construction with the Design Criteria Package and shall provide the Board with a report of the same.

- (3) Contracts; Public Records. In accordance with Florida law, each contract entered into pursuant to this Rule shall include provisions required by law that require the contractor to comply with public records laws.

- (4) Emergency Purchase. The Board may, in case of public emergency, declare an emergency and immediately proceed with negotiations with the best qualified Design-Build Firm available at the time. The fact that an Emergency Purchase has occurred shall be noted in the minutes of the next Board meeting.
- (5) Exceptions. This Rule is inapplicable when:
- (a) The project is undertaken as repair or maintenance of an existing public facility;
 - (b) The funding source of the project will be diminished or lost because the time required to competitively award the project after the funds become available exceeds the time within which the funding source must be spent;
 - (c) The District has competitively awarded a project and the contractor has abandoned the project or the District has terminated the contractor; or
 - (d) The District, after public notice, conducts a public meeting under Section 286.011 of the Florida Statutes, and finds by a majority vote of the Board that it is in the public's best interest to perform the project using its own services, employees, and equipment.

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

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

Rule 3.7 Payment and Performance Bonds.

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

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

Law Implemented: § 255.05, Fla. Stat.

Rule 3.8 Goods, Supplies, and Materials.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

may include but is not limited to a direct purchase of the goods, supplies, and materials without further competitive selection processes.

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

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

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

Rule 3.9 Maintenance Services.

- (1) Scope. All contracts for maintenance of any District facility or project shall be set under the terms of this Rule if the cost exceeds the amount provided in Section 287.017 of the Florida Statutes, for CATEGORY FOUR. A contract involving goods, supplies, and materials plus maintenance services may, in the discretion of the Board, be treated as a contract for maintenance services. However, a purchase shall not be divided solely in order to avoid the threshold bidding requirements.
- (2) Procedure. When a purchase of maintenance services is within the scope of this Rule, the following procedures shall apply:
 - (a) The Board shall cause to be prepared an Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation.
 - (b) Notice of the Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation shall be advertised at least once in a newspaper of general circulation within the county or counties in which the District is located. The notice shall also include the amount of the bid bond, if one is required. The notice shall allow at least seven (7) days for submittal of bids, proposals, replies, or responses.
 - (c) The District may maintain lists of persons interested in receiving notices of Invitations to Bid, Requests for Proposals, Invitations to Negotiate, and Competitive Solicitations. The District shall make a good faith effort to provide written notice, by e-mail, United States Mail, hand delivery, to persons who provide their name and address to the District Manager for inclusion on the list. However, failure of a person to receive the notice shall not invalidate any contract awarded in accordance with this Rule and shall not be a basis for a protest of any contract award.
 - (d) If the District has pre-qualified suppliers of maintenance services, then, at the option of the District, only those persons who have been pre-qualified will be eligible to submit bids, proposals, replies, and responses.
 - (e) In order to be eligible to submit a bid, proposal, reply, or response, a firm or individual must, at the time of receipt of the bids, proposals, replies, or responses:
 - (i) Hold all required applicable state professional licenses in good standing;
 - (ii) Hold all required applicable federal licenses in good standing, if any;
 - (iii) Hold a current and active Florida corporate charter or be authorized to do business in the State of Florida in accordance with Chapter 607 of

the Florida Statutes, if the vendor is a corporation; and

- (iv) Meet any special pre-qualification requirements set forth in the Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation.

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

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

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

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

Rule 3.10 Contractual Services.

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

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

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

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

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

(1) Filing.

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

awarded or a set amount, is disclosed in the District's competitive solicitation documents for a particular purchase under Rules 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.8, or 3.9, any person who files a notice of protest must post the protest bond. The amount and form of the protest bond shall be determined by District staff after consultation with the Board and within the limits, if any, imposed by Florida law. In the event the protest is successful, the protest bond shall be refunded to the protestor. In the event the protest is unsuccessful, the protest bond shall be applied towards the District's costs, expenses, and attorney's fees associated with hearing and defending the protest. In the event the protest is settled by mutual agreement of the parties, the protest bond shall be distributed as agreed to by the District and protestor.

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

- (d) Enter orders; and
- (e) Make or receive offers of settlement, stipulation, and adjustment.

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

- (5) Rejection of all Qualifications, Bids, Proposals, Replies and Responses after Receipt of Notice of Protest. If the Board determines there was a violation of law, defect, or an irregularity in the competitive solicitation process, the Bids, Proposals, Replies, and Responses are too high, or if the Board determines it is otherwise in the District's best interest, the Board may reject all qualifications, bids, proposals, replies, and responses and start the competitive solicitation process anew. If the Board decides to reject all qualifications, bids, proposals, replies, and responses and start the competitive solicitation process anew, any pending protests shall automatically terminate.
- (6) Judicial Review. A party who is adversely affected by final District action is entitled to judicial review. Judicial review shall be sought in the county where the District is located. All proceedings shall be instituted by filing a notice of appeal or petition for review in accordance with the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure within thirty (30) calendar days after the rendition of the decision being appealed. The filing of an appeal does not itself stay enforcement of the final District decision. Judicial review of any District action shall be confined to the record transmitted. The record for judicial review shall be compiled in accordance with the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure. Failure to file a notice of appeal or petition for review within the time prescribed herein shall constitute a waiver of judicial review proceedings.
- (7) Intervenors. Other substantially affected persons may join the proceedings as intervenors on appropriate terms which shall not unduly delay the proceedings.
- (8) Settlement. Nothing herein shall preclude the settlement of any protest under this Rule at any time.

Specific Authority: §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), Fla. Stat.
Law Implemented: §§ 120.69(2)(a), 190.033, Fla. Stat.

Rule 4.0 Effective Date.

These Rules shall be effective July 23, 2026, except that no election of officers required by these Rules shall be required until after the next regular election for the Board.

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

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

FIRELIGHT EAST

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**FIRELIGHT EAST
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
UNAUDITED
JUNE 30, 2026**

**FIRELIGHT EAST
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
BALANCE SHEET
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
JUNE 30, 2026**

	General Fund	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 11,037	\$ 11,037
Undeposited funds	5,660	5,660
Total assets	<u>16,697</u>	<u>16,697</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 5,419	\$ 5,419
Accrued taxes payable	92	92
Landowner advance	13,500	13,500
Total liabilities	<u>19,011</u>	<u>19,011</u>
Fund balances:		
Unassigned	<u>(2,314)</u>	<u>(2,314)</u>
Total fund balances	<u>(2,314)</u>	<u>(2,314)</u>
Total liabilities and fund balances	<u>\$ 16,697</u>	<u>\$ 16,697</u>

**FIRELIGHT EAST
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
GENERAL FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES,
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 2026**

	Current Month	Year to Date	Budget	% of Budget
REVENUES				
Landowner contribution	\$ 7,718	\$ 28,134	\$ 105,930	27%
Total revenues	<u>7,718</u>	<u>28,134</u>	<u>105,930</u>	27%
EXPENDITURES				
Professional & administrative				
Supervisors	-	646	12,000	5%
Management/accounting/recording**	2,000	16,000	48,000	33%
Legal	1,302	1,447	25,000	6%
Engineering	-	-	2,000	0%
Audit	-	-	5,500	0%
Arbitrage rebate calculation*	-	-	500	0%
Dissemination agent*	-	-	1,000	0%
Telephone	17	133	200	67%
Postage	-	11	500	2%
Printing & binding	42	333	500	67%
Legal advertising	-	160	1,750	9%
Annual special district fee	-	175	175	100%
Insurance	-	5,565	6,350	88%
Contingencies/bank charges	85	747	1,540	49%
Website hosting & maintenance	-	705	705	100%
Website ADA compliance	-	145	210	69%
Total professional & administrative	<u>3,446</u>	<u>26,067</u>	<u>105,930</u>	25%
Excess/(deficiency) of revenues over/(under) expenditures	4,272	2,067	-	
Fund balances - beginning	(6,586)	(4,381)	-	
Fund balances - ending	<u>\$ (2,314)</u>	<u>\$ (2,314)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	

*These items will be realized when bonds are issued

**These items will be realized the year after the issuance of bonds.

FIRELIGHT EAST

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

MINUTES

DRAFT

**MINUTES OF MEETING
FIRELIGHT EAST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

The Board of Supervisors of the Firelight East Community Development District held a Regular Meeting April 23, 2026 at 1:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, at 4161 Tamiami Trail, Building 5, Unit 501, Port Charlotte, Florida 33952.

Present:

John Leinaweaver	Chair
Kris Watts	Assistant Secretary
Sandy Foster	Assistant Secretary
David Truxton	Assistant Secretary

Also present:

Daniel Rom	District Manager
Raymond Passaro	Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC (WHA)
Kyle Magee (via telephone)	District Counsel
John McKay (via telephone)	Developer Consultant
Rob Bosarge	TLC Land Companies

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call to Order/Roll Call

Mr. Rom called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m. Supervisors Watts, Foster, Leinaweaver and Truxton were present. Supervisor DePriest was absent.

SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS

Public Comments

No members of the public spoke.

THIRD ORDER OF BUSINESS

**Consideration of Resolution 2026-01,
Approving Proposed Budget(s) for FY 2027;
Setting a Public Hearing Thereon and
Directing Publication; Addressing
Transmittal and Posting Requirements;
Addressing Severability and Effective Date**

Mr. Rom presented Resolution 2026-01. He reviewed the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 budget, highlighting increases, decreases and adjustments, compared to the Fiscal Year 2026 budget, and explained the reasons for any changes. Mr. Rom noted it was previously

anticipated that bonds would be issued in Fiscal Year 2027 but, as they are not, he will remove the bond-related expenses.

On MOTION by Mr. Leinaweaver and seconded by Ms. Foster, with all in favor, Resolution 2026-01, Approving Proposed Budget(s) for FY 2027, as amended; Setting a Public Hearing Thereon for July 23, 2026 at 1:30 p.m., at 4161 Tamiami Trail, Building 5, Unit 501, Port Charlotte, Florida 33952 and Directing Publication; Addressing Transmittal and Posting Requirements; Addressing Severability and Effective Date, was adopted.

FOURTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Consideration of Resolution 2026-02, Designating a Date, Time and Location for Landowners' Meeting and Election; Providing for Publication; Establishing Forms for the Landowner Election; and Providing for Severability and an Effective Date [November 3, 2026 - Seats 3, 4 & 5]

Mr. Rom presented Resolution 2026-02. Seats 3, 4 and 5, currently held by Supervisors Truxton, Watts, and DePriest, respectively, will be up for election at the Landowners' Election.

On MOTION by Mr. Leinaweaver and seconded by Mr. Truxton, with all in favor, Resolution 2026-02, Designating November 3, 2026 at 1:30 p.m., at 4161 Tamiami Trail, Building 5, Unit 501, Port Charlotte, Florida 33952 a Date, Time and Location for Landowners' Meeting and Election; Providing for Publication; Establishing Forms for the Landowner Election; and Providing for Severability and an Effective Date, was adopted.

FIFTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Consideration of Resolution 2026-03, Designating Dates, Times and Locations for Regular Meetings of the Board of Supervisors of the District for Fiscal Year 2026/2027 and Providing for an Effective Date

Mr. Rom presented Resolution 2026-03. The following changes were made to the Fiscal Year 2027 Meeting Schedule:

TIME: November 3, 2026: Insert "1:30 PM"

DATE: Change "November 26" to "November 19"

DATE: Change "December 24" to "December 17"

On MOTION by Ms. Watts and seconded by Mr. Leinaweaver, with all in favor, Resolution 2026-03, Designating Dates, Times and Locations for Regular Meetings of the Board of Supervisors of the District for Fiscal Year 2026/2027, as amended, and Providing for an Effective Date, was adopted.

SIXTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Consideration of Resolution 2026-04, to Designate Date, Time and Place of Public Hearing and Authorization to Publish Notice of Such Hearing for the Purpose of Adopting Rules of Procedure; and Providing an Effective Date

A. Rules of Procedure

Mr. Rom presented Resolution 2026-04. The Rules of Procedure are being updated to capture legislative changes over the last few years and other minor updates.

On MOTION by Mr. Leinaweaver and seconded by Ms. Watts, with all in favor, Resolution 2026-04, to Designate July 23, 2026 at 1:30 p.m., at 4161 Tamiami Trail, Building 5, Unit 501, Port Charlotte, Florida 33952 as the Date, Time and Place of Public Hearing and Authorization to Publish Notice of Such Hearing for the Purpose of Adopting Rules of Procedure; and Providing an Effective Date, was adopted.

SEVENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Consideration of Resolution 2026-05, Electing and Removing Officers of the District and Providing an Effective Date

Mr. Rom presented Resolution 2026-05. Ms. Foster nominated the following:

Raymond Passaro	Assistant Secretary
-----------------	---------------------

No other nominations were made.

This Resolution removes the following from the Board:

Kristen Thomas	Assistant Secretary
----------------	---------------------

The following prior appointments by the Board remain unaffected by this Resolution:

John Leinaweaver	Chair
David Truxton	Vice Chair
Kris Watts	Assistant Secretary
Sandy Foster	Assistant Secretary
Jennings DePriest	Assistant Secretary

121 Craig Wrathell Secretary
122 Daniel Rom Assistant Secretary
123 Craig Wrathell Treasurer
124 Jeff Pinder Assistant Treasurer

125 On MOTION by Ms. Watts and seconded by Mr. Leinaweaver, with all in favor,
126 Resolution 2026-05, Electing, as nominated and Removing Officers of the
127 District and Providing an Effective Date, was adopted.

128
129
130 EIGHTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Discussion/Consideration/Ratification:
131 Performance Measures/Standards &
132 Annual Reporting Form

133
134 A. October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025 [Posted]

135 Mr. Rom noted that the 2025 Goals and Objectives Reporting was completed.

136 On MOTION by Mr. Leinaweaver and seconded by Mr. Truxton, with all in
137 favor, the 2025 Goals and Objectives Reporting, was ratified.

138
139 B. October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026

140 Mr. Rom presented the Goals and Objectives Reporting Fiscal Year 2026 Performance
141 Measures and Standards.

142 On MOTION by Mr. Leinaweaver and seconded by Ms. Watts, with all in favor,
143 the Goals and Objectives Reporting Fiscal Year 2026 Performance Measures
144 and Standards, were approved.

145
146
147 NINTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Acceptance of Unaudited Financial
148 Statements as of March 31, 2026

149
150 On MOTION by Mr. Leinaweaver and seconded by Mr. Truxton, with all in
151 favor, the Unaudited Financial Statements as of March 31, 2026, were
152 accepted.

153
154
155 TENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Approval of August 28, 2025 Public Hearing
156 and Regular Meeting Minutes

157
158 On MOTION by Ms. Watts and seconded by Ms. Foster, with all in favor, the
159 August 28, 2025 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented,
160 were approved.

161

162

163 **ELEVENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS****Staff Reports**

164

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

166 If the Board wishes to proceed with issuing bonds, Mr. Magee will provide information
167 so the bond process can commence at the next meeting

168 **B. District Engineer: Atwell, LLC**

169 There was no report.

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

- 171 • **NEXT MEETING DATE: May 21, 2026 at 1:30 PM**

- 172 ○ **QUORUM CHECK**

173 The next meeting will be on May 21, 2026, unless canceled.

174

175 **TWELFTH ORDER OF BUSINESS****Board Members' Comments/Requests**

176

177 There were no Board Members' comments or requests.

178

179 **THIRTEENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS****Public Comments**

180

181 No members of the public spoke.

182

183 **FOURTEENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS****Adjournment**

184

185 **On MOTION by Ms. Foster and seconded by Mr. Truxton, with all in favor, the**
186 **meeting adjourned at 2:16 p.m.**

187
188
189
190

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair

FIRELIGHT EAST
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

STAFF
REPORTS

FIRELIGHT EAST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT		
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026 MEETING SCHEDULE		
LOCATION		
4161 Tamiami Trail, Building 5 Unit 501, Port Charlotte, Florida 33952		
DATE	POTENTIAL DISCUSSION/FOCUS	TIME
October 23, 2025 CANCELED	Regular Meeting	1:30 PM
November 20, 2025* CANCELED	Regular Meeting	1:30 PM
December 18, 2025** CANCELED	Regular Meeting	1:30 PM
January 22, 2026 CANCELED	Regular Meeting	1:30 PM
February 26, 2026 CANCELED	Regular Meeting	1:30 PM
March 26, 2026 CANCELED	Regular Meeting	1:30 PM
April 23, 2026	Regular Meeting <i>Presentation of FY2027 Proposed Budget</i>	1:30 PM
May 21, 2026 CANCELED	Regular Meeting	1:30 PM
June 25, 2026 CANCELED	Regular Meeting	1:30 PM
July 23, 2026	Public Hearings and Regular Meeting <i>Adoption of FY2027 Budget & Revised Rules of Procedure</i>	1:30 PM
August 27, 2026	Regular Meeting	1:30 PM
September 24, 2026	Regular Meeting	1:30 PM

Exception(s)

*November meeting is one (1) week earlier to accommodate the Thanksgiving Day holiday.

**December meeting is one (1) week earlier to accommodate the Christmas Day holiday.

**FIRELIGHT EAST
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
Performance Measures/Standards & Annual Reporting Form
October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026**

1. COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Goal 1.1 Public Meetings Compliance

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

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

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

Achieved: Yes ☐ No ☐

Goal 1.2 Notice of Meetings Compliance

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

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

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

Achieved: Yes ☐ No ☐

Goal 1.3 Access to Records Compliance

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

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

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

Achieved: Yes ☐ No ☐

2. INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

Goal 2.1 District Infrastructure and Facilities Inspections

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

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

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

Achieved: Yes ☐ No ☐

3. FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Goal 3.1 Annual Budget Preparation

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

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

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

Achieved: Yes ☐ No ☐

Goal 3.2 Financial Reports

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

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

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

Achieved: Yes ☐ No ☐

Goal 3.3 Annual Financial Audit

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

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

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

Achieved: Yes ☐ No ☐