TROUT CREEK
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Agenda Package
Audit Committee Meeting

Thursday
October 29, 2026
6:00 p.m.

Meeting Location:
Kayak Club,
100 Kayak Way,
St. Augustine, FL 32092

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

Trout Creek
Community Development District

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

Audit Committee
Trout Creek Community Development District

Dear Audit Committee:

The Audit Committee Meeting of the Audit Committee of the Trout Creek Community Development District is scheduled for **Thursday, October 29, 2026,** at **6:00 p.m.** at the **Kayak Club, 100 Kayak Way, St. Augustine, FL 32092.**

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

Should you have any questions regarding the agenda, please contact me at (904) 386-0186 or Howard@cddmanagers.com. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Sincerely,

Howard McGaffney

Howard McGaffney
District Manager

Cc: Attorney
Engineer
District Records

Trout Creek
Community Development District

Board of Supervisors
Clint Wright, Chairman
Heather Loffredo, Vice Chairman
Jim Breslin, Assistant Supervisor
Ronnie Murphy, Assistant Supervisor
Vincent Sajkowski, Assistant Supervisor

Staff
Howard McGaffney, District Manager
Jennifer Kilinski, District Counsel
Mike Yuro, District Engineer
Belynda Tharpe, General Manager
Jessica Knutelsky, Assistant General Manager

Revised Meeting Agenda
(29-October-2026, 6:00PM)

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call**
2. **Audience Comments –** *(limited to 3 minutes per individual for agenda items)*

Residents, please note that if you are unable to attend the meeting you may send your questions to the District Manager, Howard McGaffney at howard@cddmanagers.com, up until the day before the meeting.

(Live streaming & previously recorded meetings can be found here - https://www.youtube.com/@TroutCreekCDD)

3. **Business Items**
   A. Consideration for Approval – The Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting Held September 24, 2026 — Exhibit 1 Pgs. 5-6
   B. Ranking of Audit Proposals
      1. Summary & Criteria Evaluation — Exhibit 2 Pgs. 8-9
      2. DiBartolomeo, McBee, Hartley & Barnes — Exhibit 3 Pgs. 11-30
      3. Grau & Associates — Exhibit 4 Pgs. 32-54
   C. Audit Committee's Recommendation for Auditor Services
4. **Adjournment**

EXHIBIT 1

MINUTES OF MEETING

TROUT CREEK

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

The Audit Committee Meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Trout Creek Community Development District was held on Thursday, September 24, 2026 at 6:01 p.m., at the Kayak Club, 100 Kayak Way, St. Augustine, FL 32092.

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS – Roll Call

Mr. McGaffney called the meeting to order and conducted roll call.

Present and constituting a quorum were:

Clint Wright	Board Supervisor, Chairman
Heather Loffredo	Board Supervisor, Vice Chairman
Jim Breslin	Board Supervisor, Assistant Secretary
Ronnie Murphy	Board Supervisor, Assistant Secretary
Vincent Sajkowski	Board Supervisor, Assistant Secretary

Also, present were:

Howard McGaffney	District Manager, FCS Management Group
Jennifer Kilinski	District Counsel, Kilinski | Van Wyk PLLC
Belynda Tharpe	General Manager, FirstService Residential
Jessica Knutelsky	Assistant General Manager, FirstService Residential
John Hannigan	Resident

The following is a summary of the discussions and actions taken at the September 24, 2026 Trout Creek CDD Board of Supervisors Audit Committee Meeting. Audio for this meeting is available upon public records request by emailing PublicRecords@vestapropertyservices.com.

SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS – Audience Comments – *(limited to 3 minutes per individual for agenda items)*

This item was skipped to give the District Manager and District Counsel a chance to explain the Audit Committee process to the Board and to the audience.

Supervisor Wright led all present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

THIRD ORDER OF BUSINESS – Administrative Items

A. Exhibit 1: Presentation of Current Auditor Contract for Reference

B. Exhibit 2: Review of RFP & Evaluation Criteria

Ms. Kilinski provided a brief overview of the process for auditor selection.

John Hannigan provided a brief explanation of his questioning of previous audits.

A resident asked if certain language was standard for all auditor RFPs for CDDs.

FOURTH ORDER OF BUSINESS – Business Items

A. Exhibit 3: Authorization to Proceed with Publications of RFP

On a MOTION by Mr. Wright, SECONDED by Mr. Breslin, WITH ALL IN FAVOR, the Board authorized staff to proceed with the RFP publication, for the Trout Creek Community Development District.

B. Scheduling of Next Meeting Date – October 22, 2026

FIFTH ORDER OF BUSINESS – Adjournment

Mr. McGaffney asked for final questions, comments, or corrections before requesting a motion to adjourn the meeting. There being none, Mr. Wright made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

On a MOTION by Mr. Wright, SECONDED by Ms. Murphy, WITH ALL IN FAVOR, the Board adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m. for the Trout Creek Community Development District.

**Each person who decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the meeting is advised that 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.*

Meeting minutes were approved at a meeting by vote of the Board of Supervisors at a publicly noticed meeting held on <u>October 29, 2026</u>.

Signature	**Signature**
Printed Name	**Printed Name**
Title: □ **Secretary** □ **Assistant Secretary**	**Title:** □ **Chairman** □ **Vice Chairman**

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EXHIBIT 2

TROUT CREEK COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
AUDITOR SELECTION
EVALUATION CRITERIA

1. Ability of Personnel. **(20 Points)**

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

2. Proposer's Experience. **(20 Points)**

(E.g., past record and experience of the Proposer in similar projects; volume of work previously performed by the firm; past performance for other or current Community Development District(s) in other contracts; experience with governmental auditing standards and Florida special district reporting requirements; character, integrity, reputation of Proposer, etc.)

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

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

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

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

5. Price. **(20 Points)***

Points will be awarded based upon the lowest total annual proposal for rendering the required audit services over the contract term, and the overall reasonableness and completeness of the fee proposal relative to the scope of work described.

Total **(100 Points)**

*Alternatively, the Board may choose to evaluate firms without considering price, in which case the remaining categories would be assigned 25 points each.

TROUT CREEK - AUDITOR EVALUATION

	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	TOTAL:	Ability of Personnel 20 Pts.	Proposer Experience 20 Pts	Understanding Scope of Work 20 Pts	Ability to Furnish Required Service 20 Pts	Price 20 Points	TOTAL POINTS
DMHB	$3,600	$3,750	$3,860	$3,980	$4,100	$19,290						
Grau & Associates	$6,200	$6,300	$6,400	$6,500	$6,600	$32,000						

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EXHIBIT 3

Trout Creek Community Development District

Proposer

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

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

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

Contact:

Jim Hartley, CPA
Principal

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DMHB

DiBARTOLOMEO, McBEE, HARTLEY & BARNES, P.A.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Trout Creek
Community Development District
Audit Selection Committee

Dear Committee Members:

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

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

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

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

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WWW.DMHBCPA.NET

Timeliness – In order to meet the Districts needs, we will perform interim internal control testing by January 31st from unaudited preliminary general ledgers provided. The remaining testing will be completed no later than May 1st. We will also review all minutes and subsequent needs related to the review of the minutes by January 31st. Follow up review will be completed as necessary.

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

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

Very truly yours,

DiBartolomeo, McBee, Hartley & Barnes

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

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

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

- ***Professional Staff Resources***

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

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

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

- Annual financial and compliance audits including Single Audits of State and Federal financial assistance programs under the OMB A-133 audit criteria

- Issuance of Comfort Letters, consent letters, and parity certificates in conjunction with the issuance of tax-exempt debt obligations, including compiling financial data and interim period financial statement reviews

- Assisting in compiling historical financial data for first-time and subsequent submissions for the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS (CONTINUED)

- ***Professional Staff Resources (Continued)***

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

- ***Current and Near Future Workload***

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

- ***Identification of Audit Team***

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

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

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

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

  Jay McBee, CPA – Technical Reviewer (resume attached)

  Theresa Goldstein - Senior (resume attached)

  Staff – TBA

Jim Hartley

Partner – DiBartolomeo, McBee, Hartley & Barnes

Experience and Training

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

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

Recent Engagements

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

Education and Registrations

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

Professional Affiliations

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

Volunteer Service

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

Jay L. McBee

Partner – DiBartolomeo, McBee, Hartley & Barnes

Experience and Training

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

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

Recent Engagements

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

Education and Registrations

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

Professional Affiliations

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

Volunteer Service

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

Theresa Goldstein

Supervisor – DiBartolomeo, McBee, Hartley & Barnes

Experience and training

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

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

Recent Engagements

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

Education and Registrations

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

Professional Affiliations

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

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS (CONTINUED)

- ***Governmental Audit Experience***

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

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

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

ADDITIONAL DATA

- ***Procedures for Ensuring Quality Control & Confidentiality***

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

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

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

- ***Independence***

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

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

ADDITIONAL DATA (CONTINUED)

- ***Independence (Continued)***

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

- ***Computer Auditing Capabilities***

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

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

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

  This evaluation includes:

  - System hardware and software
  - Organization and administration
  - Access

Contracts of Similar Nature within References

Client	Years	Annual Audit In Accordance With GAAS	Engagement Partner	Incl. Utility Audit/ Consulting	GFOA Cert.	GASB 34 Implementation & Assistance	Total Hours
St. Lucie County Fire District Karen Russell, Clerk-Treasurer (772)462-2300	1984 - Current	√	**Jim Hartley**			√	**250-300**
City of Fort Pierce Johnna Morris, Finance Director (772)-460-2200	2005-current	√	**Mark Barnes**		√	√	**800**
Fort Pierce Utilities Authority Nina Hurtubise, Finance Director (772)-466-1600	2005-current	√	**Jim Hartley**	√	√	√	**600**
Town of Jupiter Island Mike Ventura (772)-545-0104	2010		**Jim Hartley**	√			**200**
Town of Sewall's Point Pamela Walker (772) 287-2455	2010	√	**Jim Hartley**			√	**225**
Town of St. Lucie Village Diane Robertson, Town Clerk (772) 595-0663	1999 – current	√	**Jim Hartley**			√	**100**
City of Okeechobee Pension Trust Funds Marita Rice, Supervisor of Finance (863)763-9460	1998 – current	√	**Jay McBee**				**60**
St. Lucie County Fire District 175 Pension Trust Fund Chris Bushman , Captain (772) 462-2300	1990 – current	√	**Jay McBee**				**60**
Tradition Community Development District 1-10 Alan Mishlove,District Finance Manager (407)382-3256	2002 - current	√	**Jim Hartley**			√	**350**
Legends Bay Community Development District Patricia Comings-Thibault (321)263-0132	2013-current	√	**Jim Hartley**				**50**
Union Park Community Development District Patricia Comings-Thibault (321)263-0132	2013-current	√	**Jim Hartley**				**50**
Deer Island Community Development District Patricia Comings-Thibault (321)263-0132	2013-current	√	**Jim Hartley**				**50**
Park Creek Community Development District Patricia Comings-Thibault (321)263-0132	2013-current	√	**Jim Hartley**				**50**
Waterleaf Community Development District Patricia Comings-Thibault (321)263-0132	2013-current	√	**Jim Hartley**				**50**

TECHNICAL APPROACH

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

1. The audit will be conducted in compliance with the following requirements:

   a. Rules of the Auditor General for form and content of governmental audits

   b. Regulations of the State Department of Banking and Finance

   c. Audits of State and Local Governmental Units-American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

2. The audit report shall contain the opinion of the auditor in reference to all financial statements, and an opinion reflecting compliance with applicable legal provisions.
3. We will also provide the required copies of the audit report, the management letter, any related reports on internal control weaknesses and one copy of the adjusting journal entries and financial work papers.
4. The auditor shall, at no additional charge, make all related work papers available to any Federal or State agency upon request in accordance with Federal and State Laws and Regulations.
5. We will work in cooperation with the District, its underwriters and bond council in regard to any bond issues that may occur during the term of the contract.
6. The financial statements shall be prepared in conformity with Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement Number 34, 63 and 65.

We will commit to issuing the audit for each Fiscal year by June 1st of the following year. In order to ensure this we will perform interim internal control testing as required by January 31st from unaudited preliminary general ledgers provided. The remaining testing will be completed no later than May 1st. We will also review all minutes and subsequent needs related to the review of the minutes by January 30th. Follow up review will be completed as necessary.

b. A Tentative Schedule for Performing the Key phases of the Audit

Audit Phase and Tasks	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.
I. Planning Phase:							
Meetings and discussions with Trout Creek Community Development District personnel regarding operating, accounting and reporting matters							
Discuss management expectations, strategies and objectives							
Review operations							
Develop engagement plan							
Study and evaluate internal controls							
Conduct preliminary analytical review							
II. Detailed Audit Phase:							
Conduct final risk assessment							
Finalize audit approach plan							
Perform substantive tests of account balances							
Perform single audit procedures (if applicable)							
Perform statutory compliance testing							
III. Closing Phase:							
Review subsequent events, contingencies and commitments							
Complete audit work and obtain management representations							
Review proposed audit adjustments with client							
IV. Reporting Phase:							
Review or assist in preparation of financial statement for Trout Creek Community Development District							
Prepare management letter and other special reports							
Exit conference with Trout Creek Plantation Community Development District officials and management							
Delivery of final reports							

b. SPECIFIC AUDIT APPROACH

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

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

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

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

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

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

Planning Phase

Meetings and Expectations:

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

Review Operations and Develop Engagement Plan

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

Study and Evaluate Internal Control

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

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

Conduct Preliminary Analytical Review

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

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

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

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

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

Detailed Audit Phase

Conduct Final Risk Assessment and Prepare Audit Programs

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

Perform Substantive Tests of Account Balances

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

Perform Single Audit Procedures (if applicable)

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

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

Perform Statutory Compliance Testing

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

Closing Phase

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

Reporting Phase

Financial Statement Preparation

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

Management Letters

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

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

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

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

Exit Conferences and Delivery of Reports

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

PROPOSED AUDIT FEE FOR EACH YEAR OF THE FIVE YEARS

DiBartolomeo, McBee, Hartley & Barnes P.A. will perform the annual audit of Trout Creek Community Development District for the five years as follows:

September 30, 2026	$ 3,600
September 30, 2027	$ 3,750
September 30, 2028	$ 3,860
September 30, 2029	$ 3,980
September 30, 2030	$ 4,100

In years of new debt issuance fees will be adjusted in the range of $750-$1,250 depending on the complexity of the issuance.

Return to Agenda

EXHIBIT 4

Grau & Associates
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Proposal to Provide Financial Auditing Services:

TROUT CREEK
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Proposal Due: October 16, 2026
12:00PM

Submitted to:
Trout Creek
Community Development District
c/o District Manager
250 International Parkway, Suite 208
Lake Mary, FL 32746

Submitted by:
Antonio J. Grau, Partner
Grau & Associates
1001 W. Yamato Road, Suite 301
Boca Raton, Florida 33431
Tel (561) 994-9299
Fax (561) 994-5823
tgrau@graucpa.com
www.graucpa.com

Grau & Associates
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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Grau & Associates
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

October 15, 2026

Trout Creek Community Development District
c/o District Manager
250 International Parkway, Suite 208
Lake Mary, FL 32746

Re: Request for Proposal for Professional Auditing Services for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2026, with the option for four (4) annual renewals.

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

Government audits are at the core of our practice: **95% of our work is performing audits for local governments and of that 98% are for special districts.** With our significant experience, we are able to increase efficiency, to provide immediate and continued savings, and to minimize disturbances to your operations.

Why Grau & Associates:

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

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

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

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

Complying With Standards

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

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

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

Very truly yours,
Grau & Associates

Antonio J. Grau

Firm Qualifications

Grau & Associates
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Grau's Focus and Experience

Our Team

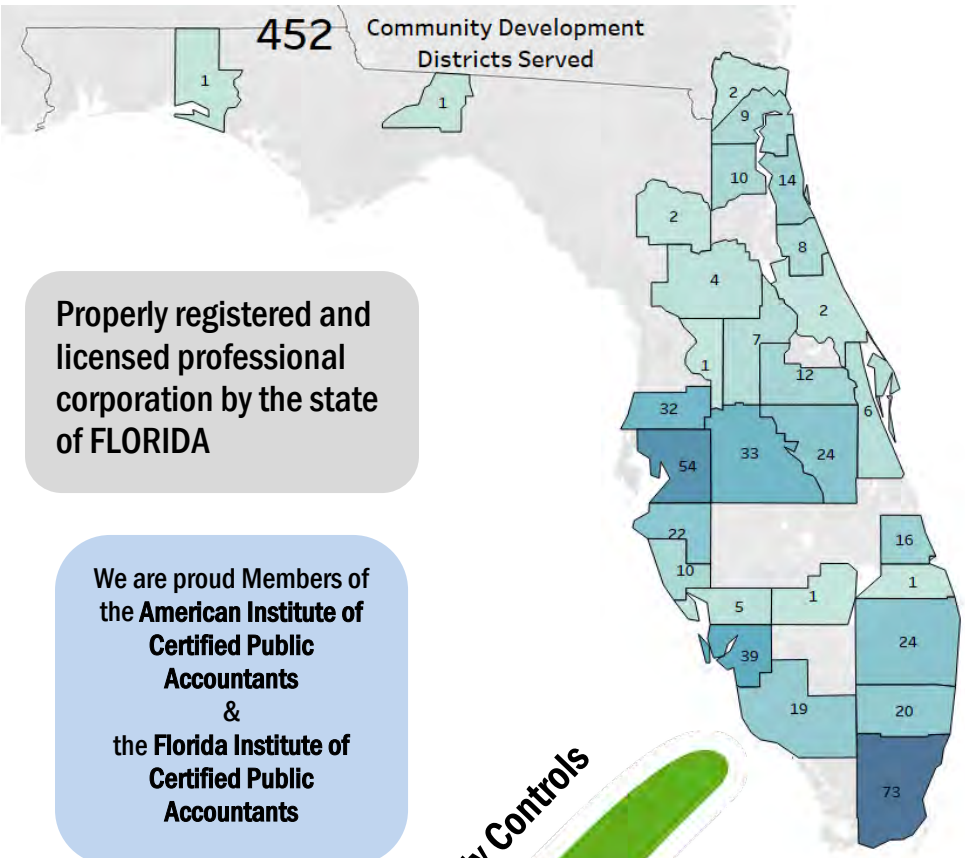
3 Partners

11 Professional Staff

2 Administrative Professionals

2005

Year founded

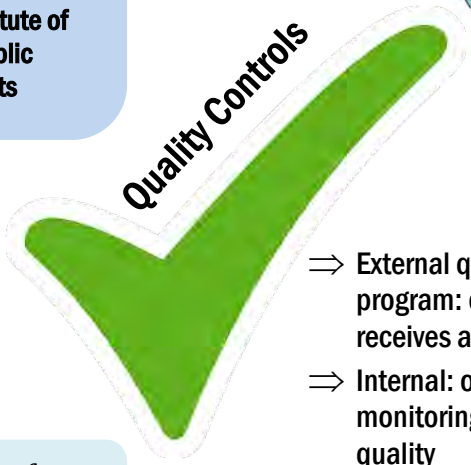


Properly registered and licensed professional corporation by the state of FLORIDA

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

Services Provided

- Financial Auditing
- Compliance Auditing
- Accounting
- Attestation
- Arbitrage Services
- Management Consulting



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

AICPA | FICPA | GFOA | FASD | FGFOA

See next page for report and certificate

FICPA
Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants

AICPA Peer Review Program

Administered in Florida
by the Florida Institute of CPAs

November 18, 2025

Antonio Grau
Grau & Associates
1001 W. Yamato Road, Suite 301
Boca Raton, FL 33431-4403

Dear Antonio Grau:

It is my pleasure to notify you that on November 18, 2025, the Florida Peer Review Committee accepted the report on the most recent System Review of your firm. The due date for your next review is December 31, 2028. This is the date by which all review documents should be completed and submitted to the administering entity.

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

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

FICPA Peer Review Committee

Peer Review Team
FICPA Peer Review Committee
paul@ficpa.org
850.224.2727, x5957

cc: Daniel Hevia, David Caplivski

Firm Number: 900004390114 Review Number: 616829

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

PGP
PRIDA, GUIDA & PEREZ, P.A.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
2504 W. KATHLEEN STREET
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33607
TELEPHONE: (813) 226-6091
FAX: (813) 229-7754

Report on the Firm's System of Quality Control

October 3, 2025

To the Partners of Grau & Associates
And the Peer Review Committee of the
Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants

We have reviewed the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of Grau & Associates (the firm), in effect for the year ended June 30, 2025. Our peer review was conducted in accordance with the Standards for Performing and Reporting on Peer Reviews established by the Peer Review Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (Standards).

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

Firm's Responsibility

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

Peer Reviewer's Responsibility

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

Required Selections and Considerations

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

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

Opinion

In our opinion, the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of Grau & Associates in effect for the year ended June 30, 2025, has been suitably designed and complied with to provide the firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with applicable professional standards in all material respects. Firms can receive a rating of *pass, pass with deficiency(ies)*, or *fail*. Grau & Associates has received a peer review rating of *pass*.

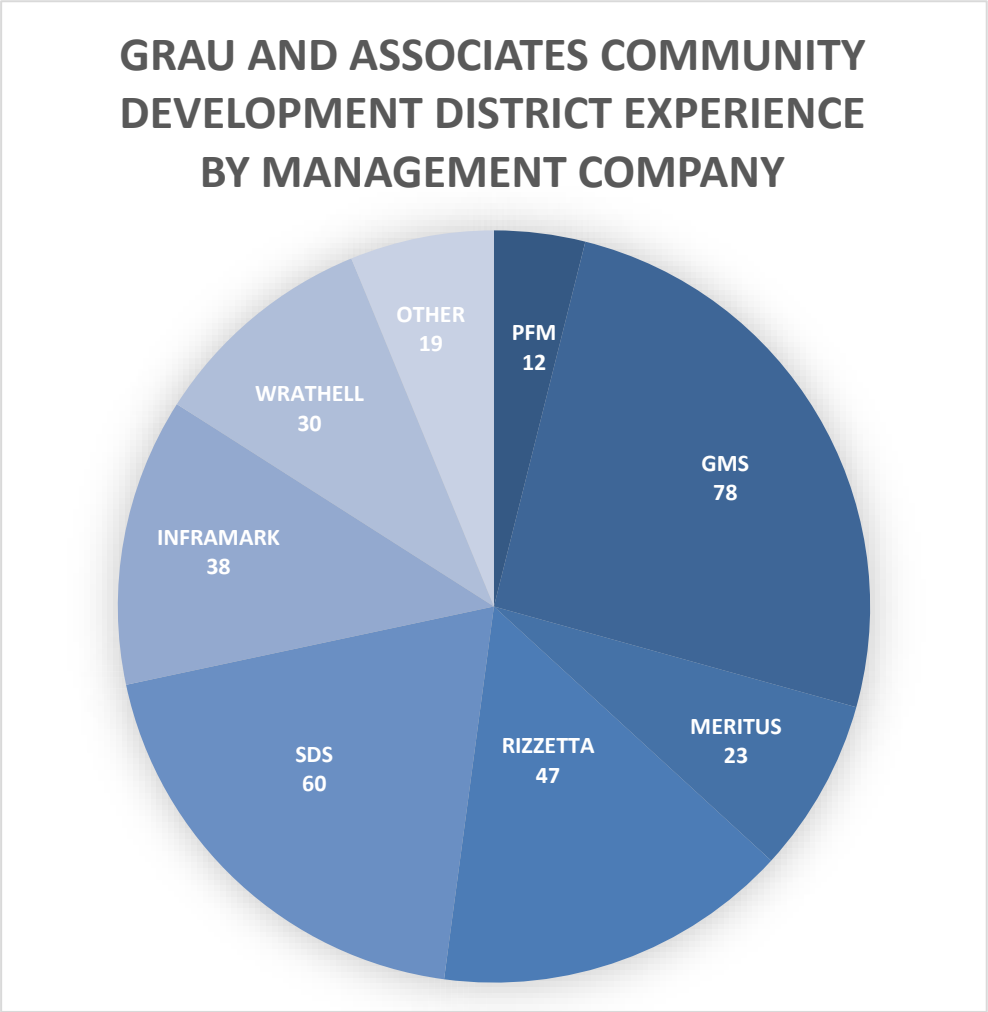
Prida Guida & Perez

Prida Guida & Perez, P.A.

MEMBER AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
MEMBER FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Firm & Staff Experience

Grau & Associates
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS



Profile Briefs:

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

Ben Steets, CPA (Partner)
Years Performing Audits: 9+
CPE (last 2 years): Government Accounting, Auditing: 24 hours; Accounting, Auditing and Other: 64 hours
Professional Memberships: AICPA, FICPA, FGFOA, FASD

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

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

YOUR ENGAGEMENT TEAM

Grau's client-specific engagement team is meticulously organized in order to meet the unique needs of each client. Constant communication within our solution team allows for continuity of staff and audit team. The Certified Information Technology Professional (CITP) Partner will bring a unique blend of IT expertise and understanding of accounting principles to the financial statement audit of the District.

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

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

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

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

Experience

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

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

Education

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

Clients Served (partial list)

(>300) Various Special Districts, including:

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

Professional Associations/Memberships

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

Professional Education *(over the last two years)*

Course	***Hours***
Government Accounting and Auditing	40
Accounting, Auditing and Other	53
Total Hours	93 (*includes of 4 hours of Ethics CPE)*

Ben Steets, CPA, *Partner*

Contact : bsteets@graucpa.com / (561) 939-6669

Experience

Grau & Associates	Partner	2023-Present
Grau & Associates	Manager	2021-2023
Grau & Associates	Senior Auditor	2018-2021
Grau & Associates	Staff Auditor	2016-2018
PCAOB Registered Firm	Staff Auditor	2015-2016

Education

Florida Atlantic University (2015)

Clients Served *(partial list)*

(>300) Various Special Districts
Careersource Polk
Central Broward Water Control District
Dunes Community Development District
Greater Naples Fire Rescue District
Key Marco Community Development District
Lake Worth Drainage District
Mae Volen Senior Center
Port of the Islands Community Improvement District
San Carlos Park Fire and Rescue Service District
Sanibel Fire and Rescue District
South Broward Drainage District
South Trail Fire and Rescue District
Town of Highland Beach
Town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea
Verona Walk Community Development District
West Villages Improvement District
Winding Cypress Community Development District

Professional Education (*over the last two years*)

Course	Hours
Government Accounting and Auditing	28
Accounting, Auditing and Other	88
Total Hours	116 (includes 4 hours of Ethics CPE)

Professional Associations/Memberships

American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants

References

Grau & Associates
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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

Dunes Community Development District

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

Two Creeks Community Development District

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

Journey's End Community Development District

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

Specific Audit Approach

Grau & Associates
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

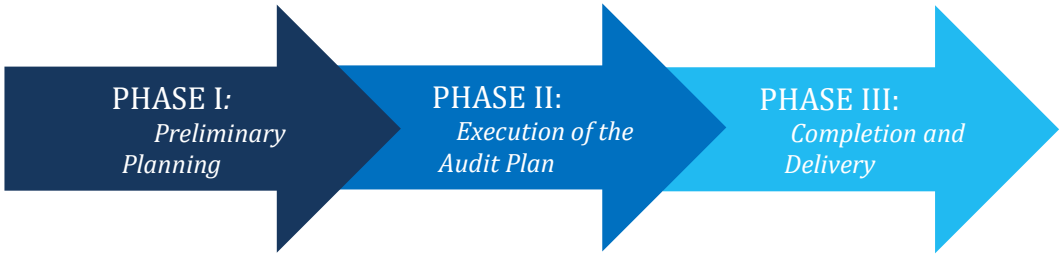
AUDIT APPROACH

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

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

Proposed segmentation of the engagement

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



Phase I - Preliminary Planning

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

During this phase we will perform the following activities:

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

Phase II – Execution of Audit Plan

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

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

Phase III - Completion and Delivery

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Is the recommendation cost effective?

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

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

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

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

Communications

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

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

Cost of Services

Grau & Associates
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Our proposed all-inclusive fees for the financial audit for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2026-2030 are as follows:

Year Ended September 30,	Fee
2026	$6,200
2027	$6,300
2028	$6,400
2029	$6,500
2030	$6,600
TOTAL (2026-2030)	**$32,000**

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

Supplemental Information

Grau & Associates
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

PARTIAL LIST OF CLIENTS

SPECIAL DISTRICTS	Governmental Audit	Single Audit	Utility Audit	Current Client	Year End
Boca Raton Airport Authority	✓	✓		✓	9/30
Captain's Key Dependent District	✓			✓	9/30
Central Broward Water Control District	✓			✓	9/30
Collier Mosquito Control District	✓			✓	9/30
Coquina Water Control District	✓			✓	9/30
East Central Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility	✓		✓		9/30
Florida Green Finance Authority	✓				9/30
Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District	✓			✓	9/30
Greater Naples Fire Control and Rescue District	✓	✓		✓	9/30
Green Corridor P.A.C.E. District	✓			✓	9/30
Hobe-St. Lucie Conservancy District	✓			✓	9/30
Indian River Farms Water Control District	✓			✓	9/30
Indian River Mosquito Control District	✓				9/30
Indian Trail Improvement District	✓			✓	9/30
Key Largo Wastewater Treatment District	✓	✓	✓	✓	9/30
Lake Asbury Municipal Service Benefit District	✓			✓	9/30
Lake Padgett Estates Independent District	✓			✓	9/30
Lake Worth Drainage District	✓			✓	9/30
Lealman Special Fire Control District	✓			✓	9/30
Loxahatchee Groves Water Control District	✓				9/30
Old Plantation Water Control District	✓			✓	9/30
Pal Mar Water Control District	✓			✓	9/30
Pinellas Park Water Management District	✓			✓	9/30
Pine Tree Water Control District (Broward)	✓			✓	9/30
Pinetree Water Control District (Wellington)	✓				9/30
Port of The Islands Community Improvement District	✓		✓	✓	9/30
Ranger Drainage District	✓	✓		✓	9/30
Renaissance Improvement District	✓			✓	9/30
San Carlos Park Fire Protection and Rescue Service District	✓			✓	9/30
Sanibel Fire and Rescue District	✓				9/30
South Central Regional Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Board	✓				9/30
South Indian River Water Control District	✓	✓		✓	9/30
South Trail Fire Protection & Rescue District	✓			✓	9/30
Spring Lake Improvement District	✓			✓	9/30
St. Lucie West Services District	✓		✓	✓	9/30
Sunrise Lakes Phase IV Recreation District	✓			✓	9/30
Sunshine Water Control District	✓			✓	9/30
Sunny Hills Units 12-15 Dependent District	✓			✓	9/30
West Villages Improvement District	✓			✓	9/30
Various Community Development Districts (452)	✓			✓	9/30
TOTAL	**491**	**5**	**4**	**484**	

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

CONSULTING / MANAGEMENT ADVISORY SERVICES

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

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

ARBITRAGE

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

73 Current Arbitrage Calculations

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

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