

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) 2021-3343

Martin County Board of County Commissioners
Attn: Purchasing Division
2401 S.E. Monterey Road
Stuart, Florida 34996
pur_div@martin.fl.us
www.martin.fl.us

The Board of County Commissioners, Martin County, Florida, will receive sealed proposals for:

UTILITY RATE & FINANCIAL CONSULTING

Sealed proposals will be received by the Information Desk on the 1st Floor at the address above or via DemandStar until **2:30 PM** local time, on **Wednesday, July 21, 2021**.

The complete bid document may be downloaded from www.demandstar.com (online bidding site).

Martin County is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

By order of the Board of County Commissioners of Martin County, Florida.

Publish: The Stuart News July 6, 2021

This document may be reproduced upon request in an alternative format by contacting the County ADA Coordinator (772) 320-3131, the County Administration Office (772) 288-5400, Florida Relay 711, or by completing our accessibility feedback form at www.martin.fl.us/accessibility-feedback

SCOPE OF SERVICES

Martin County is soliciting proposals from qualified and experienced firms to provide assistance in water, wastewater, solid waste and other rate advisory financial services. The selected firm will be expected to perform upon the issuance of periodic task orders for such services as assistance in budgeting and forecasting, rate making, management accounting assistance, financing activities assistance, financial analysis of systems, as well as other tasks as may be deemed necessary by the County.

Tasks may include, but will not be limited to:

- Review and redesign as considered necessary based on cost of services and recovery principals, the potable water, wastewater and reuse rates, solid waste disposal and collection fees, stormwater fees, fees for general services, including but not limited to; fire service, parks and recreation, planning, zoning and building, and other charges.
- Prepare statistics and projections of potable water, wastewater, solid waste, stormwater and other programs including number of customers and usage and generation rate, for planning and rate evaluation services.
- Separately project annual revenue requirements for the potable water, wastewater, solid waste, stormwater and other programs, for planning and rate evaluation services.
- Review and design as considered necessary, appropriate fees for other miscellaneous services as provided by water and wastewater utility systems.
- Investigate and develop potential wholesale water, wastewater and reclaimed water rates associated with the provision of such type of service.
- Review operations of the water and wastewater utility, solid waste and stormwater systems to determine if additional services, charges and revenue enhancements are appropriate.
- Perform financial sensitivity analyses on utility operations taking into account such factors as capital program implementation, regulatory changes and other such issues that may cause a need to review financial operations.
- Review the prevailing connection (capital facility) fees and capital cost recovery programs in light of the projected expansion and unused existing capacity. Develop new charges to recover the capital investment require to accommodate growth and provide for future adjustments to the charges.
- Review operations and performance by the County's Utilities and Solid Waste Department.
- Perform financial due diligence activities related to the acquisition of utility and solid waste systems or service areas.

- Provide assistance in development of utility and solid waste contracts including, but not limited to, rate ordinances and resolutions, bulk service agreements, franchise agreements, acquisition contracts, extension and development agreements, reclaimed water usage agreements, and inter-local agreements between the County and other public agencies. Services may involve drafting agreements, review of documents, negotiations among affected parties and performance of economic analyses required for evaluation.
- Provide assistance in strategic planning activities.
- Provide assistance in the preparation of loan documents to obtain funds from agencies such as the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Rural Development, Department of Community Affairs, Florida State Revolving Fund Loan and others.
- Provide assistance in the development of accounting, financial and business policies as well as providing opinions on such issues.
- Assistance to the County in providing privatization and managed competition activities and cost evaluations.
- Compile accounting and financial data to be used in the periodic bond rating agencies surveillance of Martin County and the Utilities Department. Prepare summary tables organized in a manner similar to Fitch Analytical Sensitivity Tool (FAST) and/or analytical models used by other rating agencies.
- Preparation of financial feasibility reports in support of the issuance of revenue bonds, including preparation for and attendance of presentations before rating agencies, bond insurance companies, potential investors and purchasers of instruments of debt, and other required parties.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

1. Proposer must have performed similar services for the past (5) five years of the scope and nature required by this RFP.
2. The proposer must have sufficient staff and computer technology ability to handle the proposed workload described herein in a timely manner.
3. If sub-contractor service is proposed, verification of qualifications shall be submitted with proposal.

Proposers that do not meet the meet the minimum qualifications and do not provide the required past project references may be deemed “non-responsive” and/or “non-responsible”.

CONTRACT

The maximum total value of this contract shall not exceed \$400,000.00 over the life of the contract.

The Term of the Contract shall be for a period of three (3) years provided both parties are in agreement and there are no changes to the terms and conditions. The County shall reserve the right to terminate the Contract in accordance with the provisions under the Terms & Conditions herein. The contract may be

renewed for two additional 1-year terms, at the County's sole discretion, for a total maximum term of five (5) years. The awardee agrees to this condition by signing their bid.

INSTRUCTIONS TO PROPOSERS

1. Proposal to be provided in the order below:
 - a. Cover letter / statement of interest ***including e-mail address of person to be notified of award***, signed by an authorized corporate officer, principal, or partner. Include physical address of primary Consultant. (2 page limit)
 - b. Firm and individual staff qualifications (including subcontractor information, if applicable) (3 page limit)
 - c. Past experience with similar services/references (1 page per project)
 - d. Approach and methodology (3 page limit)
 - e. Total cost (rates/fees) (1 page limit)
 - f. Signed addenda (if any)
 - g. Bidder's Qualification Statement
 - h. Conflict Affidavit
 - i. Drug Free Workplace Certification
 - j. Public Entity Crimes Statement
2. **Applicants that do not comply with all the above instructions or do not include all the requested data may not be considered.**
3. One (1) **electronic copy** of submittal on CD or thumb drive in PDF format shall be submitted. No paper copy is necessary.

Delivery of Proposals:

Proposals may be submitted via hand delivery, mail, or e-bid.

Hand Delivery or Mail:

One (1) **electronic copy** of the Proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope, plainly marked on the outside with the Proposer's name, RFP number and proposal due date. Proposals shall be delivered to the address detailed on the cover page of this RFP. If forwarded by regular mail or express mail, the sealed envelope containing the proposal and marked as directed above, shall be enclosed in another envelope addressed to the U.S. Mail address indicated on the cover page. If forwarded by overnight courier services (other than United States Postal Service Express Mail), the sealed envelope containing the proposal and marked as directed above, shall be enclosed in another envelope addressed to the street address indicated on the cover page. Proposals may be hand-delivered. Proposals by fax or e-mail will **NOT** be accepted. The County cautions proposers to assure actual delivery of mailed or hand-delivered proposals directly to the Martin County Administrative Center (Attn: Purchasing Division), 1st Floor, Information Desk, 2401 S.E. Monterey Road, Stuart, Florida. Confirmation of timely receipt of the proposal may be made by e-mailing pur_div@martin.fl.us before bid opening time. Proposals received after the established deadline shall **not** be considered.

E-Bidding (via DemandStar) www.demandstar.com

Upload one (1) electronic copy (single file) in PDF format to DemandStar.

E-bidding through the online bidding site shall be accepted in lieu of a sealed bid as outlined

above. However, the proposer shall be responsible for ensuring that the required bid documents are properly uploaded and accepted by the online bidding site. The County shall not be responsible for nor accept proposal not properly uploaded by the proposal due date and time.

4. A Selection Committee will score the proposals based on the criteria below and may develop a short list of firms that will make a presentation to the committee.

Selection Criteria	Point Value
Past Experience, References, Existing Contracts with Similar Scope of Services	0 – 40
Professional Qualifications of Firm & Staff (including subcontractors, if applicable)	0 – 35
Rates/Fees	0 – 25
Total Points	0 – 100

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Prohibited Communications. The cone of silence prohibits any communication regarding a RFB, RFP, RFQ or other competitive solicitation between any bidder (or its agents or representatives) or other entity with the potential for a financial interest in the award (or their respective agents or representatives) regarding such competitive solicitation, AND any County Commissioner or County employee, selection committee member or other persons authorized to act on behalf of the Board including the County’s Architect, Engineer or their subconsultants, or to provide a recommendation to award a particular contract, other than Purchasing Division staff (pur_div@martin.fl.us). The cone of silence shall be in effect from the time of advertisement until contract award. **Such communication shall result in disqualification.**
2. Contract. The successful Proposer shall be required to enter into the Contract included with this RFP. The Proposer understands that this RFP does not constitute an agreement or contract with the Proposer. County contracts are awarded only when a fully executed written agreement has been returned to the Proposer by the County.
3. All questions concerning this selection process, the RFP document and all attachments, and/ or the sample Contract Terms and Conditions must be addressed in writing to the Purchasing Division and e-mailed to pur_div@martin.fl.us
Questions shall be received no later than 5:00 PM on Monday the week prior to the proposal due date.
4. No oral interpretation of this RFP shall be considered binding. The County shall be bound only when such statements are written and executed under the authority of the Purchasing Manager. Any and all interpretations and any supplemental instructions will be in the form of written addendum via the online bidding site (www.demandstar.com). Failure of any Proposer to receive such addendum shall not relieve said Proposer from any obligation under the RFP submitted. All addenda issued shall become part of the Contract Documents.
5. The County reserves the right to reject any and all submittals with or without cause, to waive technicalities, or to accept those submittals which best serve the interests of the County.
6. Proposals become a “public record” and shall be subject to disclosure consistent with Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, thirty (30) calendar days after the bid opening or upon bid award in accordance with Chapter 119, Fla. Stat.. Marking a proposal “confidential” or “proprietary” does not exclude all or any part of the proposal from disclosure under public records requirements. To claim the

proposal or a portion thereof as exempt or confidential and exempt from disclosure, you must state the basis of the exemption, including the statutory citation to an exemption created or afforded by Florida Statutes; state in writing and with particularity the reasons for the conclusion that the proposal is exempt or confidential and exempt; and if only a portion of the proposal is claimed to be exempt or confidential and exempt, provide a redacted version of the proposal showing those portions claimed to be exempt or confidential and exempt. Proposals submitted with claimed exemptions shall be reviewed and release of these records shall be at the County's discretion. Failure to notify the County of claimed exemptions constitutes a waiver and the submittal will be released as requested.

7. Submittals may be withdrawn prior to due date by written request dispatched by the Proposer and received by the Purchasing Division before the time for receiving Submittals has expired.
8. The County reserves the right to request clarification of information submitted and to request additional information of one or more Proposers after the deadline for receipt of Submittals.
9. Costs for preparation of a response to this request are solely those of the Proposer and the County assumes no responsibility for any such costs incurred by the Proposer. The County will not be liable for any costs incurred by the Proposer prior to execution of the contract by the parties.
10. Submittals shall be formatted to letter sized paper and with a minimum 12-point font.
11. Proposers are instructed NOT to fax or e-mail their submittal as they shall be rejected as non-responsive.
12. Proposers must indicate on the outside of their envelope the following:
 - RFP Number and Name
 - Due Date and Time
 - Name of Proposer
13. All Submittals must be manually and duly signed by an authorized corporate officer, principal, or partner (as applicable) with a signature in full on the Cover Letter/Statement of Interest. Proposers who are nonresident corporations shall furnish to the County evidence of their ability to transact business in the State of Florida along with their RFP.
14. Submittals that contain any limiting terms and conditions that do not explicitly agree to provide the scope in the contract documents may be disqualified.
15. Any Proposer who presents in its RFP to the County, any information which is determined by the County, in its sole opinion, to be substantially inaccurate, misleading, exaggerated, or incorrect, may be disqualified from consideration.
16. The Proposer shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin or sex in the performance of this contract. The Proposer shall carry out applicable requirements of 49 CFR Part 26 in the award and administration of U.S. Department of Transportation assisted contracts. Failure by the Proposer to carry out these requirements is a material breach of the contract which may result in the termination of the contract or such other remedy as the recipient deems appropriate.
17. It is the policy of the United States, the State of Florida, or the County that small business concerns,

veteran-owned small business concerns, service-disabled veteran-owned small business concerns, HUBZone small business concerns, small disadvantaged business concerns, and women-owned small business concerns (hereinafter “small business concerns”) shall have the maximum practicable opportunity to participate in performing contracts, including contracts and subcontracts. It is further the policy that its prime contractors establish procedures to ensure the timely payment of amounts due pursuant to the terms of their subcontracts with small business concerns. The Contractor hereby agrees to carry out this policy in the awarding of subcontracts to the fullest extent consistent with efficient contract performance. The Contractor further agrees to cooperate in any studies or surveys as may be conducted by the appropriate government agency as may be necessary to determine the extent of the Contractor’s compliance with this clause.

18. The successful proposer(s) will be required to monitor the performance of his employees on a periodic basis while they are assigned to the County. The successful proposer(s) is required to comply with the Immigration Reform Act of 1986 (IRCA) which requires all individuals hired after November 6, 1986, to provide employers with proof of citizenship or authorization to work in the United States.
19. As required by FS 287.133; "A person or affiliate who has been placed on the convicted vendor list following a conviction for Public Entity crime may not submit a bid on a contract to provide goods or services to a public entity, may not submit a bid or contract with a public entity for the construction or repair of a public building or public work, may not submit bids on leases of real property to a public entity, may not be awarded or perform work as a contractor, supplier, subcontractor, or Vendor under a contract with a public entity, and may not transact business with any public entity in excess of the threshold amount in Section 287.017, for category two for a period of thirty-six months from the date of being placed on the convicted vendor list".
20. It is the policy of Martin County that Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs), as defined in 49 CFR Part 26, shall have the maximum opportunity to participate in the performance of contracts and subcontracts financed in whole or in part with funds derived from the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Martin County utilizes the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Florida Unified Certification Program (UCP) Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Directory to identify all firms eligible to participate as DBE’s. Martin County is not a certifying member of the Unified Certification Program. The COUNTY recognizes the DBE certification from FDOT and other certifying members that are FTA grant recipients in the State of Florida. DBEs responding to this RFP shall provide DBE certification information as part of their response.
21. Protests shall be in accordance with the procedure outlined in the Martin County Purchasing Manual which is available at www.martin.fl.us. Type Purchasing Manual into the Search field.
22. Selection Committee meetings are posted on the County’s website at www.martin.fl.us in accordance with the Florida Sunshine Law. Selection Committee meetings are open to the public.
23. Notification of shortlist shall be within 72 hours of a selection committee meeting via e-mail to all proposers. Proposers that do not provide an e-mail address as requested above shall not be notified.
24. Section 112.313, Fla. Stat., prohibits contracts with County employees, officers and advisory board members. All proposers must disclose the name of any Martin County officer or employee who owns, directly or indirectly an interest in the proposer's firm or any of its branches. Advisory Board Members may qualify for an exemption by submitting Commission on Ethics Form 3A with bid and

filing such form with the Supervisor of Elections in accordance with Section 112.313(12)(b), Fla. Stat.

25. E-Verify. In compliance with Section 448.095, Fla. Stat., Consultant and its subconsultants shall, prior to beginning work under this Agreement, register with and use the E-Verify system to verify work authorization status of all employees hired after January 1, 2021.

SAMPLE



**AGREEMENT BETWEEN COUNTY AND CONSULTANT
FOR CONTINUING SERVICES**

THIS AGREEMENT, effective this _____ day of _____ in the year, 20_____, between:

MARTIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, a political subdivision of the State of Florida, (hereinafter COUNTY), located at 2401 S.E. Monterey Road, Stuart, FL 34996

AND the CONSULTANT:
(hereinafter CONSULTANT)

Contract Name:

Contract Number:

Term: Three (3) years (plus two one-year renewal options)
Not to exceed five (5) years

Not to Exceed Amount: \$

Section 1	Scope of Services
Section 2	Term
Section 3	County's Responsibilities
Section 4	Payments to Consultant
Section 5	Consultant's Project Team
Section 6	Independent Contractor Relationship
Section 7	Conflict of Interest
Section 8	No Contingency Fees
Section 9	Notices
Section 10	Waiver of Claim
Section 11	Indemnification
Section 12	Insurance
Section 13	Dispute
Section 14	Licenses
Section 15	Termination
Section 16	Suspension
Section 17	Materials
Section 18	Miscellaneous
Exhibit A	Scope of Services
Exhibit B	Sample Task Order
Exhibit C	Fee Schedule

SECTION 1 SCOPE OF SERVICES

1.1 Basic Scope of Services

The Basic Scope of Services has been agreed to by the parties, and is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as Exhibit A. The CONSULTANT shall provide Services for the COUNTY in all phases of the Project to which this AGREEMENT applies as hereinafter provided and within the schedule set forth in Exhibit A. The CONSULTANT shall perform any and all Services in a timely, efficient and cost-effective manner and in accordance with the generally accepted standards of the applicable profession.

The COUNTY is selecting CONSULTANT as of this day, to provide services in connection with the Project in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, applicable state codes and municipal ordinances, and in accordance with the Request for Proposals (RFP) document, and any and all addenda, modifications and revisions thereto.

1.2 Notice to Proceed

The CONSULTANT shall commence work within ten (10) days after receiving the fully executed contract unless indicated otherwise.

SECTION 2 TERM

The term of this AGREEMENT shall commence on the date of execution of this AGREEMENT by the COUNTY and continue through approval of the final reports by the COUNTY. It is also agreed that the COUNTY shall have an option for extension of this AGREEMENT, as necessary to complete the services or to provide additional services.

SECTION 3 COUNTY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 Information Pertinent to the Project

The COUNTY shall assist the CONSULTANT by placing at the CONSULTANT's disposal all available information pertinent to the Project (including previous reports and any other relevant documents and data relative to the Project). The CONSULTANT is ultimately responsible for satisfying itself as to accuracy of any data provided, and, furthermore, the CONSULTANT is responsible for bringing to the COUNTY's attention, for the COUNTY's resolution, any material inconsistencies or errors in such data which come to the CONSULTANT's attention.

3.2 Access to Property

The COUNTY shall arrange for access to, and make provisions for, the CONSULTANT to enter upon public and private property (where required) as necessary for the CONSULTANT to perform its Services upon the timely written request of CONSULTANT to COUNTY.

3.3 Examination

The COUNTY shall examine any and all studies, reports, and other documents presented by the CONSULTANT, and render, in writing, decisions pertaining thereto within a reasonable time.

3.4 No Warranty by COUNTY

Approval by the COUNTY of any of the CONSULTANT's work products of any nature whatsoever furnished hereunder, shall not in any way relieve the CONSULTANT of responsibility for the technical accuracy and adequacy of the work. Neither the COUNTY's review, approval or acceptance of, or payment for, any of the Services furnished under this AGREEMENT shall be construed to operate as a waiver of any rights under this AGREEMENT or of any cause of action arising out of the performance of this AGREEMENT. The CONSULTANT shall be and remain liable in accordance with all applicable laws for all damages to the COUNTY caused by the negligent performance by the CONSULTANT or any Specialty

3.5 Extension of Time

3.5.1 Notice of Extension of Time

The COUNTY shall give prompt written notice to the CONSULTANT whenever the COUNTY observes or otherwise becomes aware of any development that affects the timing or delivery of the CONSULTANT's Services. If the CONSULTANT has been delayed in completing its Services through no fault or negligence of either the CONSULTANT or any Specialty Consultant, and, as a result, will be unable complete timely performance fully and satisfactorily under the provisions of this AGREEMENT, then the CONSULTANT shall promptly notify the COUNTY. At the COUNTY's sole discretion, and only upon the previous submittal to the COUNTY of evidence of the causes of the delay, the COUNTY may grant the CONSULTANT an extension of its Project schedule equal to the period the CONSULTANT was actually and necessarily delayed, subject to the COUNTY'S rights to change, terminate, or stop any or all of the Services at any time in accordance with this Agreement.

3.5.2 Force Majeure

The CONSULTANT shall not be considered in default for a failure to perform if such failure arises out of causes reasonably beyond the CONSULTANT's control and through no fault or negligence of the CONSULTANT. The parties acknowledge that adverse weather conditions (as defined by comparison to 10-year historical average), acts of God, or other unforeseen circumstances of a similar nature, may necessitate modifications to this AGREEMENT. If such conditions and circumstances do in fact occur, then the COUNTY and CONSULTANT shall mutually agree, in writing, to the modifications to be made to this AGREEMENT.

3.6 County Project Manager

The COUNTY reserves the right to appoint a Project Manager for this Project. The Project Manager shall issue all written authorizations to the CONSULTANT that the Project may require, or that may otherwise be defined or referred to in this AGREEMENT. The Project Manager shall also:

- A. act as the COUNTY's agent with respect to the Services rendered hereunder;
- B. transmit instructions to and receive information from the CONSULTANT;
- C. communicate the COUNTY's policies and decisions to the CONSULTANT regarding the Services;

- D. determine, initially, whether the CONSULTANT is fulfilling its duties, responsibilities, and obligations hereunder; and
- E. determine, initially, the merits of any allegation by the CONSULTANT respecting the COUNTY's non-performance of any Project obligation.

All determinations made by the Project Manager, as outlined above, shall be final and binding upon the CONSULTANT, but shall not be binding upon the CONSULTANT in regard to general appearances before or appeals to the COUNTY, or appearances before or appeals to a court of competent jurisdiction.

SECTION 4 PAYMENTS TO CONSULTANT

4.1 General

4.1.1 The COUNTY will pay the CONSULTANT for the Services as detailed in each of the CONSULTANT's invoices ("Invoices"), in accordance with the Contract and Section 218, Fla. Stat.

4.1.2 The CONSULTANT fully acknowledges and agrees that if at any time it performs Services which have not been fully negotiated, reduced to writing and formally executed by both the COUNTY and CONSULTANT, then the CONSULTANT shall perform such Services without liability to the COUNTY, and at the CONSULTANT's own risk.

4.2 Method of Payments by COUNTY

4.2.1 For Basic Scope of Services, CONSULTANT shall submit invoices in a form approved by the COUNTY.

4.3 Time of Payment

The COUNTY shall pay CONSULTANT for Services and expenses pursuant to Florida Statute after receipt of the CONSULTANT's invoice. Any portion of an invoice that is objected to or questioned by the COUNTY shall not be considered due for the purposes of this Section. To the extent the COUNTY does not pay CONSULTANT the total amount invoiced, the COUNTY shall provide the CONSULTANT a written explanation of the objection along with any amount paid on that invoice or in lieu of payment if the objection is to the entire amount invoiced.

4.4 Scope, Cost and Fee Adjustment

4.4.1 General

The COUNTY may at any time notify the CONSULTANT of requested changes to the Scope of Basic Services as set forth in Exhibit A to this AGREEMENT. The notification shall state the Scope modification and an adjustment of the cost estimate and fee specified in Exhibit C to reflect such modification. The CONSULTANT and the COUNTY understand that, unless the cost and fee adjustment is within a previously approved budget, any change to the Scope of Basic Services must be approved or authorized by the COUNTY. Duties, responsibilities and limitations of authority of the CONSULTANT shall not be restricted, modified or extended without written agreement of the COUNTY and the CONSULTANT.

4.4.2 Scope Reduction

The COUNTY shall have the sole right to reduce (or eliminate, in whole or in part) any portion of the Scope of Services for the overall Project at any time and for any reason, upon written notice to the CONSULTANT specifying the nature and extent of the reduction.

4.5 Final Payment

The acceptance by the CONSULTANT, its successors, or assigns, of any Final Payment due upon the termination of this AGREEMENT, shall constitute a full and complete release of the COUNTY from any and all claims or demands regarding further compensation for authorized Services rendered prior to such Final Payment that the CONSULTANT, its successors, or assigns have or may have against the COUNTY under the provisions of this AGREEMENT. This Section does not affect any other portion of this AGREEMENT that extends obligations of the parties beyond Final Payment.

SECTION 5 CONSULTANT'S PROJECT TEAM

The CONSULTANT shall assign members of its staff as the CONSULTANT's Project Team, who shall collectively devote such working time and attention as may be reasonably required to ensure that the Services are properly, economically, and efficiently performed. The CONSULTANT shall indicate to the COUNTY the authority and powers that the CONSULTANT's Project Team shall possess during the life of the Project. The CONSULTANT agrees that the COUNTY shall have the right to approve the CONSULTANT's Project Team, and that the CONSULTANT shall not change any member of its Project Team without written notice to the COUNTY. Furthermore, if any member of the CONSULTANT's Project Team is removed from Project duties, or employment is otherwise terminated or curtailed by the CONSULTANT, or if the CONSULTANT's Project Team member terminates his employment with the CONSULTANT, then the CONSULTANT shall promptly replace its Project Team member with a person of comparable experience and expertise, who shall also be subject to the COUNTY's approval. The COUNTY covenants that its approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.

SECTION 6 INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR RELATIONSHIP

The CONSULTANT is and shall be an independent contractor in the performance of all work, services, and activities under this AGREEMENT and is not an employee, agent or servant of the COUNTY. All persons engaged in any of the work or services performed pursuant to this AGREEMENT shall at all times and in all places be subject to the CONSULTANT's sole direction, supervision, and control. The CONSULTANT shall exercise control over the means and manner in which it and its employees perform the work and in all respects the CONSULTANT's relationship and the relationship of its employees to the COUNTY shall be that of an independent contractor and not as employees or agents of the COUNTY.

The CONSULTANT does not have the power or authority to bind the COUNTY in any promise, agreement or representation other than such power or authority that is specifically provided for in this AGREEMENT.

SECTION 7 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

7.1 The CONSULTANT represents and warrants to the COUNTY that no officer, employee, or

agent of the COUNTY has any interest, either directly or indirectly, in the business of the CONSULTANT to be conducted hereunder. The CONSULTANT further represents and warrants to the COUNTY that it has not employed or retained any company or person, other than a bona fide employee working solely for the CONSULTANT, to solicit or secure this AGREEMENT, and that it has not paid, or agreed to pay any person, company, corporation, individual, or firm, other than bona fide Personnel working solely for the CONSULTANT any fee, commission, percentage, gift or other consideration, contingent upon, or resulting from the award or making of this AGREEMENT. Further, the CONSULTANT also acknowledges that it has not agreed as an expressed or implied condition for obtaining this AGREEMENT, to employ or retain the services of any person, company, individual or firm in connection with carrying out this AGREEMENT. It is understood and agreed by the CONSULTANT that, upon the breach or violation of this Section, the COUNTY shall have the right to terminate the AGREEMENT without liability and at its sole discretion, and to deduct from the AGREEMENT price, or to otherwise recover, the full amount of such fee, commission, percentage, gift or consideration paid by the CONSULTANT.

7.2 The CONSULTANT represents that it presently has no interest, either direct or indirect, while performing the services required by this AGREEMENT, which would conflict in any manner with Florida Statutes. The CONSULTANT represents that no person having any such interest shall be employed during the term of this AGREEMENT, including any officer, employee or agent of the COUNTY.

7.3 The CONSULTANT represents and warrants that it has no current contracts with any entity that would create any conflict of interest in the CONSULTANT's ability to perform the services required by this AGREEMENT. Further, the CONSULTANT represents and warrants that throughout the term of this AGREEMENT, it will not undertake any work that would create such a conflict in interest.

7.4 The CONSULTANT shall promptly notify the COUNTY in writing by certified mail of all potential conflicts of interest for any prospective business association, interest or other circumstance that may influence or appear to influence the CONSULTANT's judgment or quality of services being provided hereunder. Such written notification shall identify the prospective business association, interest or circumstance, the nature of work that the CONSULTANT may undertake and request an opinion of the COUNTY as to whether the association, interest or circumstance would, in the opinion of the COUNTY, constitute a conflict of interest if entered into by the CONSULTANT. If, in the opinion of the COUNTY, the prospective business association, interest or circumstance would not constitute a conflict of interest by the CONSULTANT, the COUNTY shall so state in the notification and the CONSULTANT shall, at its option, enter into such association, interest or circumstance and it shall be deemed not in conflict of interest with respect to services provided to the COUNTY by the CONSULTANT under the terms of this Contract.

SECTION 8 NO CONTINGENCY FEES

CONSULTANT warrants that it will not employ or retain any company or persons, other than a bona fide employee working solely for the CONSULTANT, to solicit or secure this Agreement and that CONSULTANT has not paid or agreed to pay any persons, company, corporation, individual or firm, other than a bona fide employee working solely for CONSULTANT, any fee, commission, percentage, gift, or other consideration contingent upon or resulting from the award or making of this Agreement. For the breach or violation of this provision, COUNTY shall have the right to terminate the Agreement at its discretion, without liability and to deduct from the Agreement price, or otherwise recover, the full amount of such fee, commission, percentage, gift or consideration.

**SECTION 9
NOTICES**

All notices under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be (as elected by the person giving such notice) mailed solely by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, Hand Delivery with Proof of Service, or by Overnight Courier to the COUNTY and CONSULTANT at the addresses listed on page one of this Agreement. Either party may change its address, for the purposes of this Section, by 30-day prior written notice to the other party given in accordance with the provisions of this Section.

**SECTION 10
WAIVER OF CLAIM**

The CONSULTANT and the COUNTY hereby mutually waive any claim against each other, their elected or appointed officials, agents, and employees, for any loss of anticipated profits caused by any suit or proceedings brought by any third party directly or indirectly attacking the validity of this AGREEMENT or any part thereof, or by any judgment or award in any suit or proceeding declaring this AGREEMENT null, void, or voidable, or delaying the same, or any part thereof, from being carried out.

**SECTION 11
INDEMNIFICATION**

11.1 Indemnification

CONSULTANT shall indemnify and hold harmless the agency, and its officers and employees, from liabilities, damages, losses, and costs, including, but not limited to, reasonable attorneys' fees, to the extent caused by the negligence, recklessness, or intentionally wrongful conduct of the design professional and other persons employed or utilized by the design professional in the performance of the contract. CONSULTANT'S obligation under this provision shall not be limited in any way by the Firm Fixed Price, or CONSULTANT'S, or its Professionals', Subconsultants', or Subcontractors' limit of, or lack of, sufficient insurance. This Article shall survive the termination of this AGREEMENT and shall continue in full force and effect so long as the possibility of any liability, claim or loss exists, unless otherwise prohibited by law. The parties acknowledge that the duties and limits of indemnity coverage provided by the CONSULTANT herein are as set forth in §725.08, Fla. Stat. This Article shall survive the termination of this AGREEMENT and shall continue in full force and effect so long as the possibility of any liability claim or loss exists.

11.2 Repair of Damage

The CONSULTANT agrees to promptly repair, at its sole cost and expense and in a manner acceptable to the COUNTY, any damage caused by the CONSULTANT or any Specialty Consultant, or by any of their respective employees or agents, to COUNTY property, or to any improvements or property located thereon.

**SECTION 12
INSURANCE**

12.1 General.

The CONSULTANT shall purchase, maintain, and keep in full force, effect, and good standing, such insurance that is further described below, including tail coverage, and any other insurance necessary to fully protect CONSULTANT from claims of the nature that are detailed below, that may arise out of, or result from, the CONSULTANT's operations, performance, or Services, or all of these things, or any of these things in combination (CONSULTANT's Operations), whether the CONSULTANT's Operations are by the CONSULTANT, any of its agents or Specialty Consultants, or anyone for whose act or acts it may be liable:

- A. claims under Worker's Compensation, disability benefit, or other (similar) employee benefit acts;
- B. claims for damages because of bodily injury, sickness or disease, or death of any person other than its employees;
- C. claims for damages for personal injury; and
- D. claims for damages because of injury to or destruction of tangible property, including the loss of property use resulting there from; and
- E. claims for professional liability/errors and omissions.

CONSULTANT shall furnish the COUNTY with Certificate(s) of Insurance signed by an authorized representative of the insurer evidencing the insurance so required. The Certificate(s) of Insurance shall provide that the COUNTY shall be given not less than thirty (30) days written notice prior to the cancellation, nonrenewal, or restriction of coverage.

12.2 Limits of Liability

The insurance required by this Section shall be written for not less than the limits of liability specified below, or required by law, whichever is greater, and shall include contractual liability insurance as applicable to the CONSULTANT's obligation:

- Worker's Compensation including Employer's Liability Insurance. (present Florida statutory limit)
- Employer's liability of \$500,000 each accident, \$500,000 disease policy limit, and \$500,000 per occurrence.
- Comprehensive General Liability Insurance. Commercial general liability coverage, including coverage for Personal & Advertising Injury, Products & Contractual Liability and Independent Contractors, with a minimum limits of \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$2,000,000 aggregate. Acord forms marked "Policy" or "Location" shall be considered non-compliant. Instead, check "Project" (meaning the "Contract") for the aggregate limit. No exclusion should apply for Fellow Employees, Cross Liability, or Insured vs. Insured on the policy. Certificate Holder must be listed as Additional Insured.
- Professional liability insurance at minimum limits of \$1,000,000.
- Business Automobile Insurance. This coverage should include all owned, hired, and non-owned vehicles at a minimum combined single limit of \$1,000,000. Liability Limits should be shown as "Primary".

12.3 Insurance Administration

Insurance Certificates, evidencing all insurance coverage referred to in this Section, shall be filed (or be on file) with the COUNTY at least ten (10) calendar days before the final execution of this AGREEMENT. The Insurance Certificates shall be fully acceptable to COUNTY in both form and

content, and shall provide and specify that the related insurance coverage shall not be cancelled (Coverage Change) without at least thirty (30) calendar days prior written notice having been given to the COUNTY. It is also understood and agreed that it is the CONSULTANT's sole burden and responsibility to coordinate activities between itself, the COUNTY, and the CONSULTANT's insurer(s) so that the Insurance Certificates are acceptable to and accepted by COUNTY within the time limits described in this Section.

12.4 COUNTY as Additional Insured

The COUNTY shall be listed as an additional insured on all insurance coverage required by this AGREEMENT, except Worker's Compensation and Professional Liability errors and omissions insurance. Furthermore, all other insurance policies pertaining to the Services to be performed under this AGREEMENT shall memorialize that the CONSULTANT's, or the CONSULTANT's Specialty Consultant's, or all of these entities' (Primary Insured's) insurance, shall apply on a primary basis, and that any other insurance maintained by the COUNTY shall be in excess of and shall not contribute to or be commingled with the Primary Insured's insurance. Where the COUNTY has been named as an additional insured, the CONSULTANT shall include the provisions of this Section in its Specialty Consultant's contracts, and the Primary Insured's insurance shall contain a severability of interest provision stating that, except with respect to total limits of liability, all insurance shall apply separately to each Primary Insured or additional insured in the same manner as if separate policies had been issued to each. This Section does not increase the dollar amount of insurance for either per occurrence or aggregate coverage.

12.5 Notifications

The CONSULTANT acknowledges, understands, and agrees that it shall give prompt and prior written notice to the COUNTY that any insurance policy defined or contemplated in this Section has been invalidated because of the violation of any term or provision of any other insurance policy issued to the CONSULTANT.

12.6 Waiver of Subrogation

CONSULTANT hereby waives any and all rights of Subrogation against the COUNTY, its officers, employees and agents for each required policy. When required by the insurer, or should a policy condition not permit an insured to enter into a pre-loss agreement to waive subrogation without an endorsement, then CONSULTANT shall agree to notify the insurer and request the policy be endorsed with a Waiver of Transfer of rights of Recovery Against Others, or its equivalent.

SECTION 13 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

13.1 Prior to the initiation of any litigation by the parties concerning this Agreement, and as a condition precedent to initiating any litigation, the parties agree to first seek resolution of the dispute through non-binding mediation. Mediation shall be initiated by any party by serving a written request for same on the other party. The party shall, by mutual agreement, select a mediator within 15 days of the date of the request for mediation. If the parties cannot agree on the selection of a mediator then the COUNTY shall select the mediator who, if selected solely by the COUNTY, shall be a mediator certified by the Supreme Court of Florida. Each party to the mediation shall pay the mediator's fee in equal shares.

13.2 Non-jury trial. The parties expressly and specifically hereby waive the right to a jury trial as to any issue in any way connected with this Agreement.

13.3 The parties expressly and specifically hereby waive all tort claims and limit their remedies to breach of contract as to any issue in any way connected with this Agreement.

SECTION 14 LICENSES

The CONSULTANT shall, during the life of this AGREEMENT, procure and keep in full force, effect, and good standing all necessary licenses, registrations, certificates, permits, and any and all other authorizations as are required by local, state, or federal law, in order for the CONSULTANT to render its Services as described herein. The CONSULTANT shall also require all Specialty Consultants to comply by contract with the provisions of this Section.

SECTION 15 TERMINATION

15.1 Termination

15.1.1 Generally

This AGREEMENT may be terminated as follows:

- A. by the COUNTY, at its convenience pursuant to paragraph 15.2;
- B. by the COUNTY for CONSULTANT's failure to adequately perform the Agreement, pursuant to paragraph 15.3;
- C. by the mutual agreement of the parties; or
- D. as may otherwise be provided below.

In the event of the termination of this AGREEMENT, any liability of one party to the other arising out of any Services rendered, or for any act or event occurring prior to the termination, shall not be terminated or released.

15.2 Termination for COUNTY's Convenience

The COUNTY, by written notice, shall have the right to terminate and cancel this Agreement, without the CONSULTANT being at fault, for any cause or for its own convenience, and require the CONSULTANT to immediately stop work. In such event, the COUNTY shall pay the CONSULTANT for the work actually performed. The COUNTY shall not be liable to the CONSULTANT for any other costs, charges, or expenses, including but not limited to, prospective profits and overhead on work not performed.

15.3 Termination for CONSULTANT's Failure to Perform

In addition to any other termination provisions that may be provided in this AGREEMENT, the COUNTY may terminate this AGREEMENT in whole or in part if the CONSULTANT makes a false Invoice or fails to perform any obligation under this AGREEMENT and does not remedy the failure within fifteen (15) calendar days after receipt by the CONSULTANT of written demand from the COUNTY to do so, unless, however, the nature of the failure is such that it cannot, in the exercise of

reasonable diligence, be remedied within fifteen (15) calendar days, in which case the CONSULTANT shall have such time as is reasonably necessary to remedy the failure, provided the CONSULTANT promptly takes and diligently pursues such actions as are necessary therefore.

15.4 Payment upon Termination

Upon termination of this AGREEMENT, the COUNTY shall pay the CONSULTANT for those Services actually rendered and contracted for under this AGREEMENT, and those reasonable and provable expenses required and actually incurred by the CONSULTANT for Services prior to the effective date of termination. Where the AGREEMENT is terminated for cause by the COUNTY, such payment shall be reduced by an amount equal to any additional costs incurred by the COUNTY as a result of the termination.

15.5 Delivery of Materials Upon Termination

In the event of termination of this AGREEMENT by the COUNTY, prior to the CONSULTANT's satisfactory completion of all the Services described or alluded to herein, the CONSULTANT shall promptly furnish the COUNTY, at no additional cost or expense, with one (1) copy of the following items (collectively "Documents"), any or all of which may have been produced prior to and including the date of termination: data (including electronic data), specifications, calculations, estimates, plans, drawings, photographs, summaries, reports, memoranda; and any and all other documents, instruments, information, and materials (whether or not completed) generated or prepared by the CONSULTANT, or by any Specialty Consultant, in rendering the Services described herein, and not previously furnished to the COUNTY by the CONSULTANT pursuant to this AGREEMENT. The Documents shall be the sole property of the COUNTY, and the COUNTY shall be vested with all rights provided therein of whatever kind and however created. The CONSULTANT shall also require that all such Specialty Consultants agree in writing to be bound by the provisions of this Section.

SECTION 16 SUSPENSION

The COUNTY may, at any time and for any reason, direct the CONSULTANT to suspend work (in whole or in part) under this AGREEMENT. Such direction shall be in writing and shall specify the period during which Services shall be stopped. The CONSULTANT shall resume its Services upon the date specified or upon such other date as the COUNTY may thereafter specify in writing. The period during which the Services are stopped by the COUNTY shall be added to the time of performance of this AGREEMENT; provided, however, that any work stoppage not approved or caused by the actions or inactions of the COUNTY shall not give rise to any claim against the COUNTY by the CONSULTANT.

SECTION 17 MATERIALS, REUSE OF DOCUMENTS, AND CONFIDENTIALITY

The final work product of all such materials along with all formal CONSULTANT/COUNTY correspondence concerning the Project shall be the sole property of the COUNTY. All materials described above shall be retained by the CONSULTANT for the statutory period (§95.11 Fla. Stat., as it may be from time to time amended). Furthermore, the COUNTY may reuse them at no additional cost, and the COUNTY shall be vested with all rights of whatever kind and however created that may be in existence thereto; provided, however, that the CONSULTANT shall not be liable or legally responsible to anyone for the COUNTY's reuse of any such materials on any other COUNTY Project and that the

COUNTY timely notified the CONSULTANT of such potential liability.

SECTION 18 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

18.1 Local, State and Federal Obligations

18.1.1 No Discrimination

The CONSULTANT, for itself, its delegates, successors interest, and its assigns, and as a part of the consideration hereof, does hereby covenant and agree that: 1) in connection with the furnishing of Services to the COUNTY hereunder, no person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination in regard to this AGREEMENT on the grounds of such person's race, color, creed, national origin, religion, physical disability, age or sex; and 2) the CONSULTANT shall comply with all existing requirements concerning discrimination imposed by any and all applicable local, state, and federal rules, regulations, or guidelines, and as such rules, regulations, or guidelines may be from time to time amended. In the event of a breach of any of the nondiscrimination covenants described in this Section, the COUNTY shall have the right to terminate this AGREEMENT, without liability, as set forth in Section 15 of this AGREEMENT, and such right shall not be exercised unreasonably.

18.1.2 Compliance with Law

The CONSULTANT and its employees shall promptly observe, comply with, and execute the provisions of any and all present and future federal, state, and local laws, rules, regulations, requirements, ordinances, orders, codes, mandatory guidelines, and mandatory directions, including §287.055, Fla. Stat., and §553.70 et. seq., Fla. Stat., which may pertain or apply to the Services that may be rendered pursuant to this AGREEMENT, or to the wages paid by the CONSULTANT to its employees. The CONSULTANT shall also require, by contract, that all Specialty Consultants shall comply with the provisions of this Section.

18.1.3 Compliance with New Regulations

The CONSULTANT agrees that at such time as the local, state, or federal agencies modify their grant procedures in order for the COUNTY or the CONSULTANT to qualify for local, state, or federal funding for the Services rendered by the CONSULTANT, then the CONSULTANT shall consent to and make such modifications or amendments in a timely manner. If the CONSULTANT is unable to comply with applicable local, state, or federal laws and regulations governing the grant of such funds for Services to be rendered herein, then the COUNTY shall have the right, by written notice to the CONSULTANT, to terminate this AGREEMENT without liability, as outlined in Section 15, above. Furthermore, if the CONSULTANT's compliance with such laws, regulations, rules, or procedures causes a material change to a term or condition of this AGREEMENT, then the COUNTY agrees, upon sufficient proof of material changes as may be presented to it by the CONSULTANT, to amend this AGREEMENT.

18.2 CONSULTANT Not Agent of County

The CONSULTANT is not authorized to act as the COUNTY's agent hereunder and shall have no authority, expressed or implied, to act for or bind the COUNTY hereunder, either in CONSULTANT's relations with Specialty Consultants, or in any other manner whatsoever except as elsewhere provided

for in this AGREEMENT.

18.3 Specialty Consultants

18.3.1 General

The CONSULTANT shall have the right, conditioned upon the COUNTY's prior consent (which shall not be unreasonably withheld), to employ or use (whether or not for compensation or consideration of any nature whatsoever) other firms, consultants, contractors, subcontractors, and so forth (Specialty Consultants); provided, however, that the CONSULTANT shall: 1) inform the COUNTY as to the nature of particular Services for which the Specialty Consultants shall be employed; 2) inform the COUNTY as to the extent (what percentage) of the total Project Services each Specialty Consultant shall be employed to do; 3) be solely responsible for the performance of all of the CONSULTANT's Specialty Consultants, including but not limited to maintenance of schedules, correlation of Services, and the resolution of all differences between or among them; 4) promptly terminate the use and services of any Specialty Consultants upon written request from the COUNTY (which may be made for the COUNTY's convenience); and 5) promptly replace each such terminated Specialty Consultant with a Specialty Consultant of comparable experience and expertise and who are otherwise acceptable to the COUNTY. After the Specialty Consultant has received notice of the termination, or two (2) business days after the COUNTY has notified the CONSULTANT in writing of the required termination of the Specialty Consultant whichever shall occur first, the COUNTY shall have no obligation to reimburse the CONSULTANT for the Services subsequent to the notice of termination of any Specialty Consultant who may be terminated pursuant to the provision of this Section. It is also understood that the COUNTY does not, by accepting a Specialty Consultant, warrant or guarantee the reliability or effectiveness of that entity's Services.

18.3.2 Work Outside Scope and Time of Payment

The COUNTY shall have no obligation to reimburse the CONSULTANT for the services of any Specialty Consultant that may be in addition to the Services, or for those Specialty Consultant Services not previously made known to the COUNTY, or that are otherwise outside of the Scope of the Project unless and until the COUNTY has given written approval of such reimbursement. CONSULTANT agrees to pay all such Specialty Consultants for their Project related Services within thirty (30) calendar days after the CONSULTANT's receipt of payment, from the COUNTY for work performed by the Specialty Consultants, unless such payment is disputed by the CONSULTANT, and the COUNTY receives written notice thereof.

18.3.3 Specialty Consultant Contracts

The CONSULTANT shall provide a copy of all relevant provisions of this AGREEMENT to all Specialty Consultants hired by it, or for which it may have management responsibilities and shall inform all Specialty Consultants that all Services performed hereunder shall strictly comply with the AGREEMENT terms and provisions. The CONSULTANT shall also furnish the COUNTY, upon demand, with a copy of all CONSULTANT Specialty Consultant contracts. The COUNTY agrees that it shall not demand that the CONSULTANT hire a particular Specialty Consultant for the Project.

18.4 Assignment and Delegation

The COUNTY and the CONSULTANT bind themselves and their respective partners, successors, executors, administrators, and assigns, to the other party of this AGREEMENT in respect to all duties,

rights, responsibilities, obligations, provisions, conditions, and covenants of this AGREEMENT; except that the CONSULTANT shall not assign, transfer, or delegate its rights or duties, or either or both of these things, under this AGREEMENT without the prior written consent of the COUNTY. The COUNTY has the absolute right to withhold such consent at its convenience, and, furthermore, if the CONSULTANT attempts to assign, transfer, or delegate its rights or duties in violation of these provisions without the COUNTY's consent, then the COUNTY may terminate this AGREEMENT as a breach of contract by the CONSULTANT and a failure by the CONSULTANT to substantially perform its obligations hereunder, and any such assignment shall be null, void, and of no legal effect whatsoever. The COUNTY shall have the right to assign its rights (or any part of them) or to delegate its duties and obligations (or any part of them) to another entity that shall be bound by all applicable terms and conditions as provided in this AGREEMENT. Nothing herein shall be construed as creating any personal liability on the part of any officer or agent of the COUNTY, nor shall it be construed as giving any rights or benefits hereunder to anyone other than the COUNTY or the CONSULTANT.

18.5 Audits

18.5.1 Periodic Auditing of CONSULTANT's Books

The Consultant's financial and accounting records ("Books") specific to this AGREEMENT may (but need not) be kept separate and apart from the CONSULTANT's other Books; but the COUNTY shall have the right, at any reasonable time and through any of its designated agents or representatives, to inspect and audit the Books related to business conducted under this AGREEMENT for the COUNTY, for the purpose of verifying the accuracy of any Invoice or Completion Report and to ensure payment to subconsultants or vendors of the CONSULTANT. In addition, upon request of the COUNTY, the CONSULTANT shall prepare an audit (for the most recent fiscal year) for the COUNTY, which shall include the CONSULTANT's paid salary, fringe benefits, general and administrative overhead costs, and the total amount of money paid by the COUNTY to the CONSULTANT related to business conducted under this AGREEMENT. The audit shall be certified as true and correct by, and shall bear the signature of, the CONSULTANT's chief financial officer or its certified public accountant.

18.5.2 Retention of Books

The CONSULTANT shall retain the Books, and make them available to the COUNTY as specified above, until the later of five (5) years after the date of termination of this AGREEMENT, or such longer time if required by any federal, state, or other governmental law, regulation, policy, or contractual or grant requirement or provision.

18.5.3 Overpayment

In the event any audit or inspection conducted after final payment, but within the period provided in Section 15 above, reveals any overpayment to the CONSULTANT by COUNTY under the terms of the Agreement, CONSULTANT shall refund such overpayment to COUNTY within thirty (30) days of notice by the COUNTY.

18.6 Availability of Funds

The obligations of the COUNTY under this AGREEMENT are subject to the availability of funds lawfully appropriated for its purpose by the Board of County Commissioners of Martin County.

18.7 Pledge of Credit

The CONSULTANT shall not pledge the COUNTY's credit or make it a guarantor of payment or surety for any contract, debt, obligation, judgment, lien or any form of indebtedness. The CONSULTANT further warrants and represents that it has no obligation or indebtedness that would impair its ability to fulfill the terms of this AGREEMENT.

18.8 Public Records

18.8.1 The CONSULTANT shall comply with the provisions of Chapter 119, Fla. Stat. (Public Records Law), in connection with this Agreement and shall provide access to public records in accordance with §119.0701, Fla. Stat. and more specifically CONSULTANT shall:

- a. Keep and maintain public records required by the County to perform the Agreement.
- b. Upon request from the County's custodian of public records, provide the County with a copy of the requested records or allow the records to be inspected or copied within a reasonable time at a cost that does not exceed the cost provided in Chapter 119, Fla. Stat. or as otherwise provided by law.
- c. Ensure that public records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from public records disclosure requirements are not disclosed except as authorized by law for the duration of the Agreement term and following completion of the Agreement if the CONSULTANT does not transfer the records to the County.
- d. Upon completion of the Agreement, transfer, at no cost, to the County all public records in possession of the CONSULTANT or keep and maintain public records required by the County to perform the Agreement. If the CONSULTANT transfers all public records to the County upon completion of the Agreement, the CONSULTANT shall destroy any duplicate public records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from public records disclosure requirements. If the CONSULTANT keeps and maintains public records upon completion of the Agreement, the CONSULTANT shall meet all applicable requirements for retaining public records. All records stored electronically must be provided to the County, upon request from the County's custodian of public records, in a format that is compatible with the information technology systems of the County.

18.8.2 IF THE CONSULTANT HAS QUESTIONS REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF CHAPTER 119, FLORIDA STATUTES, TO THE CONSULTANT'S DUTY TO PROVIDE PUBLIC RECORDS RELATING TO THIS CONTRACT, CONTACT THE CUSTODIAN OF PUBLIC RECORDS AT (772) 419-6959, public_records@martin.fl.us, 2401 SE MONTEREY ROAD, STUART, FL 34996.

18.8.3 Failure to comply with the requirements of this Article shall be deemed a default as defined under the terms of this Agreement and constitute grounds for termination.

18.9 Federal and State Taxes

The COUNTY is exempt from payment of Florida State Sales and Use Taxes. The CONSULTANT shall not be exempt from paying sales tax to its suppliers for materials used to fulfill contractual obligations with the COUNTY, nor is the CONSULTANT authorized to use the COUNTY's Tax

Exemption Number in securing such materials. The CONSULTANT shall be responsible for payment of all federal, state, and local taxes and fees incurred in connection with this AGREEMENT.

18.10 Governing Law; Venue

Prior to the initiation of any litigation by the parties concerning this Agreement, and as a condition precedent to initiating any litigation, the parties agree to first seek resolution of the dispute through non-binding mediation pursuant to Article 13 above.

The validity, interpretation, construction, and effect of this AGREEMENT shall be in accordance with and governed by the laws of the State of Florida, only. Venue for any lawsuit to enforce the terms and obligations of this Agreement shall lie exclusively in Martin County, Florida.

18.11 Remedies, Attorneys' Fees and Costs

All remedies provided in this AGREEMENT shall be deemed cumulative and additional, and not in lieu or exclusive of each other or of any other remedy available to either party, at law or in equity. If any legal action or other proceeding is brought for the enforcement of this AGREEMENT or because of an alleged dispute, breach, default or misrepresentation in connection with any provisions of this AGREEMENT, each party shall bear its own costs and attorney's fees.

18.12 Entire Agreement

This AGREEMENT, including the Exhibits hereto and bid package, constitutes the entire AGREEMENT between the parties, and shall supersede and replace all prior or contemporaneous negotiations, correspondence, conversations, agreements or understandings, written or oral, relating to the matters set forth therein, and that specifically related to the execution of this particular document. Accordingly, it is agreed that no deviation from the terms hereof shall be predicated upon any prior representations or agreements, whether oral or written.

18.13 Amendment

This AGREEMENT may be amended or modified only by a writing of import equal to this AGREEMENT, and as duly authorized and executed by the parties.

18.14 Severability

If any term or provision of this AGREEMENT or the application thereof to any person or circumstance shall, to any extent, be held invalid or unenforceable for the remainder of this AGREEMENT, then the application of such term or provision to persons or circumstances other than those as to which it is held invalid or unenforceable shall not be affected, and every other term and provision of this AGREEMENT shall be deemed valid and enforceable to the extent permitted by law. In the event any provision hereof or be determined to be unenforceable or invalid, such unenforceability or invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions of this AGREEMENT, which shall remain in full force and effect. To that extent, this AGREEMENT is deemed severable.

18.15 Headings

The headings of the Sections of this AGREEMENT are for the purpose of convenience only, and shall not be deemed to expand, limit, or modify the provisions contained in such Sections.

18.16 Construction

All pronouns and any variations thereof shall be deemed to refer to the masculine, feminine or neuter, singular or plural, as the identity of the party or parties may require. The parties hereby acknowledge and agree that each was properly represented by counsel and this AGREEMENT was negotiated and drafted at arm's length so that the judicial rule of construction to the effect that a legal document shall be construed against the draftsman shall be inapplicable to this AGREEMENT.

18.17 E-Verify

In compliance with Section 448.095, Fla. Stat., CONSULTANT and its subconsultants shall register with and use the E-Verify system to verify work authorization status of all employees hired after January 1, 2021.

- (i) If CONSULTANT enters into a contract with a subconsultant, the subconsultant must provide CONSULTANT with an affidavit stating that the subconsultant does not employ, contract with, or subcontract with an unauthorized alien. CONSULTANT shall maintain a copy of the subconsultant's affidavit as part of and pursuant to the records retention requirements of this AGREEMENT.
- (ii) The COUNTY, CONSULTANT, or any subconsultant who has a good faith belief that a person or entity with which it is contracting has knowingly violated Section 448.09(1), Fla. Stat. or the provisions of this subsection shall terminate the contract with the person or entity.
- (iii) The COUNTY, upon good faith belief that a subconsultant knowingly violated the provisions of this subsection, but CONSULTANT otherwise complied, shall promptly notify CONSULTANT and order CONSULTANT to immediately terminate the contract with the subconsultant.
- (iv) A contract terminated under the provisions of this subsection is not a breach of contract and may not be considered such.
- (v) *Subcontracts.* CONSULTANT or subconsultant shall insert in any subcontracts the clauses set forth in this subsection and also a clause requiring the subconsultants to include these clauses in any lower tier subcontracts. CONSULTANT shall be responsible for compliance by any subconsultant or lower tier subconsultant with the clauses set forth in this subsection.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this AGREEMENT has been fully executed on behalf of the parties hereto by its duly authorized representatives, as of the date first written above.

SAMPLE



**RFP2021-3343
UTILITY RATE & FINANCIAL CONSULTING
TASK ORDER NO. _____**

Pursuant to that certain Consultant Contract (“**Contract**”) between Martin County (“**County**”) and _____ (“**Consultant**”) dated _____, **Consultant** hereby agrees to provide the professional services specified on Exhibit “A”, (1) under the terms and conditions, (2) at a cost of \$_____, and (3) according to the schedule, all as more specifically described in Exhibit “A”, attached hereto and incorporated by this reference. The terms of the **Contract** shall be deemed to be incorporated in each individual Task Order as if fully set forth herein.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the **County** and the **Consultant** have executed this Task Order effective this _____ day of _____ 20_____.

TYPE IN CONSULANT COMPANY
NAME HERE

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA

Type In Name & Title of person that sign
task order

Type in Department Director Name Here
Type in Title Here