

**HIGHLANDS
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED
SEPTEMBER 30, 2017**

**HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Supervisors
Highlands Community Development District
Hillsborough County, Florida

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of Highlands Community Development District, Hillsborough County, Florida (the "District") as of and for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2017, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and each major fund of the District as of September 30, 2017, and the respective changes in financial position thereof for the fiscal year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and budgetary comparison information be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated August 17, 2018, on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

We have also issued our report dated August 17, 2018, on our consideration of the District's compliance with the requirements of Section 218.415, Florida Statutes, as required by Rule 10.556(10) of the Auditor General of the State of Florida. The purpose of that report is to provide an opinion based on our examination conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.



August 17, 2018

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Our discussion and analysis of Highlands Community Development District, Hillsborough County, Florida ("District") provides a narrative overview of the District's financial activities for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2017. Please read it in conjunction with the District's Independent Auditor's Report, basic financial statements, accompanying notes and supplementary information to the basic financial statements.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- The assets of the District exceeded its liabilities at the close of the most recent fiscal year resulting in a net position balance of \$1,761,954.
- The change in the District's total net position in comparison with the prior fiscal year was \$398,767, an increase. The key components of the District's net position and change in net position are reflected in the table in the government-wide financial analysis section.
- At September 30, 2017, the District's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$1,429,296, an increase of \$267,065 in comparison with the prior fiscal year. A portion of fund balance is restricted for debt service, non-spendable for prepaid items and the remainder is unassigned fund balance.

OVERVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This discussion and analysis are intended to serve as the introduction to the District's basic financial statements. The District's basic financial statements are comprised of three components: 1) government-wide financial statements, 2) fund financial statements, and 3) notes to the financial statements. This report also contains other supplementary information in addition to the basic financial statements themselves.

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of the District's finances, in a manner similar to a private-sector business.

The statement of net position presents information on all the District's assets and liabilities, with the difference between the two reported as net position. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the District is improving or deteriorating.

The statement of activities presents information showing how the government's net position changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will only result in cash flows in future fiscal periods.

The government-wide financial statements include all governmental activities that are principally supported by special assessment. The District does not have any business-type activities. The governmental activities of the District include the general government (management) and maintenance functions.

Fund Financial Statements

A fund is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. The District, like other state and local governments, uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. The District has one fund category: governmental funds.

OVERVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

Governmental Funds

Governmental funds are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-wide financial statements, governmental fund financial statements focus on near-term inflows and outflows of spendable resources, as well as on balances of spendable resources available at the end of the fiscal year. Such information may be useful in evaluating a District's near-term financing requirements.

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for governmental funds with similar information presented for governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, readers may better understand the long-term impact of the District's near-term financing decisions. Both the governmental fund balance sheet and the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance provide a reconciliation to facilitate this comparison between governmental funds and governmental activities.

At September 30, 2017, the District maintained three individual governmental funds for external reporting. Information is presented separately in the governmental fund balance sheet and the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances for the general fund, debt service funds and capital projects fund, all of which are considered major funds.

The District adopts annual appropriated budgets for its general fund. A budgetary comparison schedule has been provided for the general fund to demonstrate compliance with the budget.

Notes to the Financial Statements

The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements.

GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

As noted earlier, net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of an entity's financial position. In the case of the District, assets exceeded liabilities at the close of the most recent fiscal year.

Key components of the District's net position are reflected in the following table:

	NET POSITION	
	SEPTEMBER 30,	
	2017	2016
Assets, excluding capital assets	\$ 1,492,083	\$ 1,219,665
Capital assets	21,305,666	17,769,047
Total assets	22,797,749	18,988,712
Liabilities, excluding long-term liabilities	515,386	490,525
Long-term liabilities	20,520,409	17,135,000
Total liabilities	21,035,795	17,625,525
Net position		
Net investment in capital assets	785,257	640,127
Restricted	906,283	676,600
Unrestricted	70,414	46,460
Total net position	\$ 1,761,954	\$ 1,363,187

GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS (Continued)

A portion of the District's net position reflects its investment in capital assets (e.g. land, land improvements, and infrastructure) less any related debt used to acquire those assets that is still outstanding. These assets are used to provide services to residents; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending. Although the District's investment in capital assets is reported net of related debt, it should be noted that the resources needed to repay this debt must be provided from other sources, since the capital assets themselves cannot be used to liquidate these liabilities.

The restricted portion of the District's net position represents resources that are subject to external restrictions on how they may be used. They are funds set aside for debt service under the Bond Indenture or other contractual arrangements. The remaining balance of unrestricted net position may be used to meet the District's other obligations.

The District's net position increased during the most recent fiscal year. The majority of the increase represents the extent to which ongoing program revenues exceeded the cost of operations and depreciation expense.

Key elements of the change in net position are reflected in the following table:

	CHANGES IN NET POSITION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,	
	2017	2016
Revenues:		
Program revenues		
Charges for services	\$ 2,731,323	\$ 1,740,127
Operating grants and contributions	15,688	51,598
Capital grants and contributions	405,232	104,288
General revenues		
Unrestricted investment earnings	183	105
Total revenues	<u>3,152,426</u>	<u>1,896,118</u>
Expenses:		
General government	194,908	240,016
Maintenance and operations	952,054	1,088,565
Bond issue costs	545,597	256,447
Interest	1,061,100	880,392
Total expenses	<u>2,753,659</u>	<u>2,465,420</u>
Special items	-	1,054,619
Change in net position	<u>398,767</u>	<u>485,317</u>
Net position - beginning	1,363,187	877,870
Net position - ending	<u>\$ 1,761,954</u>	<u>\$ 1,363,187</u>

As noted above and in the statement of activities, the cost of all governmental activities during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2017, was \$2,753,659. The majority of the costs of the District's activities were paid by program revenues. Program revenues, comprised primarily of assessments, increased during the fiscal year as a result of an increase in prepayment revenue. Total expenses increased in the current fiscal year. The increase in expenses is primarily the result of interest expense and bond issue costs related to new bonds.

GENERAL BUDGETING HIGHLIGHTS

An operating budget was adopted and maintained by the governing board for the District pursuant to the requirements of Florida Statutes. The budget is adopted using the same basis of accounting that is used in preparation of the fund financial statements. The legal level of budgetary control, the level at which expenditures may not exceed budget, is in the aggregate. Any budget amendments that increase the aggregate budgeted appropriations must be approved by the Board of Supervisors. Actual general fund expenditures did not exceed appropriations for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2017.

CAPITAL ASSETS

At September 30, 2017, the District had \$24,488,526 invested in capital assets for its governmental activities. In the government-wide financial statements depreciation of \$3,182,860 has been taken, which resulted in a net book value of \$21,305,666. More detailed information about the District's capital assets is presented in the notes of the financial statements.

CAPITAL DEBT

At September 30, 2017, the District had \$20,260,000 in Bonds outstanding for its governmental activities. More detailed information about the District's capital debt is presented in the notes of the financial statements.

ECONOMIC FACTORS AND NEXT YEAR'S BUDGETS AND OTHER EVENTS

It is anticipated that the general operations of the District will increase slightly in the subsequent fiscal year.

CONTACTING THE DISTRICT'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact the Highlands Community Development District's Finance Department at 12750 Citrus Park Lane, Suite 115, Tampa, FL 33625.

**HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
SEPTEMBER 30, 2017**

	Governmental Activities
ASSETS	
Cash and equivalents	\$ 91,840
Assessments receivable	9,994
Prepaid items	25,171
Restricted assets:	
Investments	1,365,078
Capital assets:	
Nondepreciable	16,024,597
Depreciable, net	5,281,069
Total assets	22,797,749
LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable	62,787
Accrued interest payable	452,599
Non-current liabilities:	
Due within one year	485,000
Due in more than one year	20,035,409
Total liabilities	21,035,795
NET POSITION	
Net investment in capital assets	785,257
Restricted for debt service	906,283
Unrestricted	70,414
Total net position	\$ 1,761,954

See notes to the financial statements

**HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2017**

Functions/Programs	Program Revenues				Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position
	Expenses	Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	
Primary government:					
Governmental activities:					
General government	\$ 194,908	\$ 194,908	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Maintenance and operations	952,054	595,228	11,977	405,232	60,383
Bond issue costs	545,597	-	-	-	(545,597)
Interest on long-term debt	1,061,100	1,941,187	3,711	-	883,798
Total governmental activities	2,753,659	2,731,323	15,688	405,232	398,584
General revenues:					
Unrestricted investment earnings					183
Total general revenues					183
Change in net position					398,767
Net position - beginning					1,363,187
Net position - ending					\$ 1,761,954

See notes to the financial statements

**HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2017**

	Major Funds			Total Governmental Funds
	General	Debt Service	Capital Projects	
ASSETS				
Cash and equivalents	\$ 91,840	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 91,840
Investments	-	1,358,882	6,196	1,365,078
Assessment receivable	9,994	-	-	9,994
Prepaid items	25,171	-	-	25,171
Total assets	\$ 127,005	\$ 1,358,882	\$ 6,196	\$ 1,492,083
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES				
Liabilities:				
Accounts payable	\$ 55,937	\$ -	\$ 6,850	\$ 62,787
Total liabilities	55,937	-	6,850	62,787
Fund balances:				
Nonspendable:				
Prepaid items	25,171	-	-	25,171
Restricted for:				
Debt service	-	1,358,882	-	1,358,882
Unassigned	45,897	-	(654)	45,243
Total fund balances	71,068	1,358,882	(654)	1,429,296
Total liabilities and fund balances	\$ 127,005	\$ 1,358,882	\$ 6,196	\$ 1,492,083

See notes to the financial statements

**HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
RECONCILIATION OF THE BALANCE SHEET- GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
TO THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
SEPTEMBER 30, 2017**

Total fund balances - governmental funds \$ 1,429,296

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position are different because:

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as assets in the governmental funds. The statement of net position includes those capital assets, net of any accumulated depreciation, in the net position of the government as a whole.

Cost of capital assets	24,488,526	
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(3,182,860)</u>	21,305,666

Liabilities not due and payable from current available resources are not reported as liabilities in the governmental fund statements. All liabilities, both current and long-term, are reported in the government-wide financial statements.

Accrued interest payable	(452,599)	
Bonds payable	<u>(20,520,409)</u>	<u>(20,973,008)</u>
Net position of governmental activities		<u><u>\$ 1,761,954</u></u>

See notes to the financial statements

**HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2017**

	Major Funds			Total Governmental Funds
	General	Debt Service	Capital Projects	
REVENUES				
Major Landowner contributions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 404,400	\$ 404,400
Assessments	790,136	1,941,187	-	2,731,323
Interest	183	3,711	832	4,726
Other income	11,977	-	-	11,977
Total revenues	<u>802,296</u>	<u>1,944,898</u>	<u>405,232</u>	<u>3,152,426</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
General government	187,494	7,414	-	194,908
Maintenance and operations	560,076	-	-	560,076
Debt service:				
Principal	-	7,995,000	-	7,995,000
Interest	-	1,055,989	-	1,055,989
Bond issue costs	-	-	545,597	545,597
Capital outlay	-	-	3,928,597	3,928,597
Total expenditures	<u>747,570</u>	<u>9,058,403</u>	<u>4,474,194</u>	<u>14,280,167</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	54,726	(7,113,505)	(4,068,962)	(11,127,741)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers in	-	45,086	-	45,086
Transfers (out)	(30,118)	-	(14,968)	(45,086)
Bond proceeds	-	7,317,610	3,802,390	11,120,000
Original issue premium	-	-	314,241	314,241
Original issue discount	-	-	(39,435)	(39,435)
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>(30,118)</u>	<u>7,362,696</u>	<u>4,062,228</u>	<u>11,394,806</u>
Net change in fund balances	24,608	249,191	(6,734)	267,065
Fund balances - beginning	<u>46,460</u>	<u>1,109,691</u>	<u>6,080</u>	<u>1,162,231</u>
Fund balances - ending	<u>\$ 71,068</u>	<u>\$ 1,358,882</u>	<u>\$ (654)</u>	<u>\$ 1,429,296</u>

See notes to the financial statements

**HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN
FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2017**

Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds	\$ 267,065
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities are different because:	
Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures; however, the cost of capital assets is eliminated in the statement of activities and capitalized in the statement of net position.	3,928,597
Governmental funds report the face amount of Bonds issued as financial resources when debt is first issued, whereas these amounts are eliminated in the statement of activities and recognized as long-term liabilities in the statement of net position.	(11,120,000)
In connection with the issuance of the Bonds, the original issue discount/premium is reported as a financing use/source when debt is first issued, whereas this amount is eliminated in the statement of activities and reduces/increases long-term liabilities in the statement of net position.	(274,806)
Repayment of long-term liabilities are reported as expenditures in the governmental fund financial statements, but such repayments reduce liabilities in the statement of net position and are eliminated in the statement of activities.	7,995,000
Amortization of Bond discounts/premiums is not recognized in the governmental fund financial statements, but is reported as an expense in the statement of activities.	14,397
The change in accrued interest on long-term liabilities between the current and prior fiscal years is recorded in the statement of activities, but not in the governmental fund financial statements.	(19,508)
Depreciation of capital assets is not recognized in the governmental fund financial statements, but is reported as an expense in the statement of activities.	(391,978)
Change in net position of governmental activities	<u>\$ 398,767</u>

See notes to the financial statements

**HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

NOTE 1 – NATURE OF ORGANIZATION AND REPORTING ENTITY

Highlands Community Development District ("District") was created on October 7, 2003, by the Board of County Commissioners of Hillsborough County, Florida, Ordinance 03-28 pursuant to the Uniform Community Development District Act of 1980, otherwise known as Chapter 190, Florida Statutes. The Act provides among other things, the power to manage basic services for community development, power to borrow money and issue bonds, and to levy and assess non-ad valorem assessments for the financing and delivery of capital infrastructure.

The District was established for the purposes of financing and managing the acquisition, construction, maintenance and operation of a portion of the infrastructure necessary for community development within the District.

The District is governed by the Board of Supervisors ("Board"), which is composed of five members. The Supervisors are elected on an at large basis by qualified electors residing within the District. The Board of Supervisors of the District exercises all powers granted to the District pursuant to Chapter 190, Florida Statutes.

The Board has the final responsibility for:

1. Assessing and levying assessments.
2. Approving budgets.
3. Exercising control over facilities and properties.
4. Controlling the use of funds generated by the District.
5. Approving the hiring and firing of key personnel.
6. Financing improvements.

The financial statements were prepared in accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board ("GASB") Statements. Under the provisions of those standards, the financial reporting entity consists of the primary government, organizations for which the District Board of Supervisors is considered to be financially accountable, and other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the District are such that, if excluded, the financial statements of the District would be considered incomplete or misleading. Blended component units, although legally separate entities, are, in substance, part of the government's operations.

NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements

The basic financial statements include both government-wide and fund financial statements.

The government-wide financial statements (i.e., the statement of net position and the statement of activities) report information on all of the non-fiduciary activities of the primary government. For the most part, the effect of interfund activity has been removed from these statements.

The statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function or segment is offset by program revenues. *Direct expenses* are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function or segment. *Program revenues* include 1) charges to customers who purchase, use or directly benefit from goods, services or privileges provided by a given function or segment (Operating-type special assessments for maintenance and debt service are treated as charges for services.) and 2) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function or segment. Other items not included among program revenues are reported instead as *general revenues*.

NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting and Financial Statement Presentation

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the *economic resources measurement* focus and the *accrual basis of accounting*. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Assessments are recognized as revenues in the year for which they are levied. Grants and similar items are to be recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the *current financial resources measurement focus* and the *modified accrual basis of accounting*. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be *available* when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the government considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, debt service expenditures are recorded only when payment is due.

Assessments

Assessments are non-ad valorem assessments imposed on assessable lands located within the District. Assessments may be levied on property to pay for the operations and maintenance of the District. The fiscal year for which annual assessments may be levied begins on October 1 with discounts available for payments through February 28 and become delinquent on April 1. For debt service assessments, amounts collected as advance payments are used to prepay a portion of the Bonds outstanding. Otherwise, assessments are collected annually to provide funds for the debt service on the portion of the Bonds which are not paid with prepaid assessments.

Assessments and interest associated with the current fiscal period are considered to be susceptible to accrual and so have been recognized as revenues of the current fiscal period. The portion of assessments receivable due within the current fiscal period is considered to be susceptible to accrual as revenue of the current period.

The District reports the following major governmental funds:

General Fund

The general fund is the general operating fund of the District. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

Debt Service Fund

The debt service fund is used to account for the accumulation of resources for the annual payment of principal and interest on long-term debt.

Capital Projects Fund

The capital projects fund accounts for the financial resources to be used for the acquisition or construction of major infrastructure within the District.

As a general rule, the effect of interfund activity has been eliminated from the government-wide financial statements.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the government's policy to use restricted resources first for qualifying expenditures, then unrestricted resources as they are needed.

NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Assets, Liabilities and Net Position or Equity

Restricted Assets

These assets represent cash and investments set aside pursuant to Bond covenants or other contractual restrictions.

Deposits and Investments

The District's cash and cash equivalents are considered to be cash on hand and demand deposits (interest and non-interest bearing).

The District has elected to proceed under the Alternative Investment Guidelines as set forth in Section 218.415 (17) Florida Statutes. The District may invest any surplus public funds in the following:

- a) The Local Government Surplus Trust Funds, or any intergovernmental investment pool authorized pursuant to the Florida Interlocal Cooperation Act;
- b) Securities and Exchange Commission registered money market funds with the highest credit quality rating from a nationally recognized rating agency;
- c) Interest bearing time deposits or savings accounts in qualified public depositories;
- d) Direct obligations of the U.S. Treasury.

Securities listed in paragraph c and d shall be invested to provide sufficient liquidity to pay obligations as they come due. In addition, surplus funds may be deposited into certificates of deposit which are insured and any unspent Bond proceeds are required to be held in investments as specified in the Bond Indenture.

The District records all interest revenue related to investment activities in the respective funds. Investments are measured at amortized cost or reported at fair value as required by generally accepted accounting principles.

Prepaid Items

Certain payments to vendors reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepaid items in both government-wide and fund financial statements.

Capital Assets

Capital assets which include property, plant and equipment, and infrastructure assets (e.g., roads, sidewalks and similar items) are reported in the government activities columns in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are defined by the government as assets with an initial, individual cost of more than \$5,000 (amount not rounded) and an estimated useful life in excess of two years. Such assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. Donated capital assets are recorded at estimated fair market value at the date of donation.

The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend assets lives are not capitalized. Major outlays for capital assets and improvements are capitalized as projects are constructed.

Property, plant and equipment of the District are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives:

<u>Assets</u>	<u>Years</u>
Amenity center	25
Landscape & irrigation	10
Infrastructure – water control	40

In the governmental fund financial statements, amounts incurred for the acquisition of capital assets are reported as fund expenditures. Depreciation expense is not reported in the governmental fund financial statements.

NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Assets, Liabilities and Net Position or Equity (Continued)

Unearned Revenue

Governmental funds report unearned revenue in connection with resources that have been received, but not yet earned.

Long-Term Obligations

In the government-wide financial statements long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities in the statement of net position. Bond premiums and discounts, as well as issuance costs, are deferred and amortized ratably over the life of the Bonds. Bonds payable are reported net of applicable premiums or discounts. Bond issuance costs are expensed when incurred.

In the fund financial statements, governmental fund types recognize bond premiums and discounts, as well as issuance costs, during the current period. The face amount of debt issued is reported as other financing sources. Premiums received on debt issuances are reported as other financing sources while discounts on debt issuances are reported as other financing uses. Issuance costs, whether or not withheld from the actual debt proceeds received, are reported as debt service expenditures.

Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources

Deferred outflows of resources represent a consumption of net position that applies to future reporting period(s). For example, the District would record deferred outflows of resources on the statement of net position related to debit amounts resulting from current and advance refundings resulting in the defeasance of debt (i.e. when there are differences between the reacquisition price and the net carrying amount of the old debt).

Deferred inflows of resources represent an acquisition of net position that applies to future reporting period(s). For example, when an asset is recorded in the governmental fund financial statements, but the revenue is unavailable, the District reports a deferred inflow of resources on the balance sheet until such times as the revenue becomes available.

Fund Equity/Net Position

In the fund financial statements, governmental funds report non spendable and restricted fund balance for amounts that are not available for appropriation or are legally restricted by outside parties for use for a specific purpose. Assignments of fund balance represent tentative management plans that are subject to change.

The District can establish limitations on the use of fund balance as follows:

Committed fund balance – Amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes determined by a formal action (resolution) of the Board of Supervisors. Commitments may be changed or lifted only by the Board of Supervisors taking the same formal action (resolution) that imposed the constraint originally. Resources accumulated pursuant to stabilization arrangements sometimes are reported in this category.

Assigned fund balance – Includes spendable fund balance amounts that are intended to be used for specific purposes that are considered neither restricted nor committed. The Board may also assign fund balance as it does when appropriating fund balance to cover differences in estimated revenue and appropriations in the subsequent year's appropriated budget. Assignments are generally temporary and normally the same formal action need not be taken to remove the assignment.

The District first uses committed fund balance, followed by assigned fund balance and then unassigned fund balance when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

Net position is the difference between assets and deferred outflows of resources less liabilities and deferred inflows of resources. Net position in the government-wide financial statements are categorized as net investment in capital assets, restricted or unrestricted. Net investment in capital assets represents net position related to infrastructure and property, plant and equipment. Restricted net position represents the assets restricted by the District's Bond covenants or other contractual restrictions. Unrestricted net position consists of the net position not meeting the definition of either of the other two components.

NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Other Disclosures

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenditures during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

NOTE 3 – BUDGETARY INFORMATION

The District is required to establish a budgetary system and an approved Annual Budget. Annual Budgets are adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles for the general fund. All annual appropriations lapse at fiscal year end.

The District follows these procedures in establishing the budgetary data reflected in the financial statements.

- a) Each year the District Manager submits to the District Board a proposed operating budget for the fiscal year commencing the following October 1.
- b) Public hearings are conducted to obtain public comments.
- c) Prior to October 1, the budget is legally adopted by the District Board.
- d) All budget changes must be approved by the District Board.
- e) The budgets are adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles.
- f) Unused appropriation for annually budgeted funds lapse at the end of the year.

NOTE 4 – DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

Deposits

The District's cash balances were entirely covered by federal depository insurance or by a collateral pool pledged to the State Treasurer. Florida Statutes Chapter 280, "Florida Security for Public Deposits Act", requires all qualified depositories to deposit with the Treasurer or another banking institution eligible collateral equal to various percentages of the average daily balance for each month of all public deposits in excess of any applicable deposit insurance held. The percentage of eligible collateral (generally, U.S. Governmental and agency securities, state or local government debt, or corporate bonds) to public deposits is dependent upon the depository's financial history and its compliance with Chapter 280. In the event of a failure of a qualified public depository, the remaining public depositories would be responsible for covering any resulting losses.

Investments

The District's investments were held as follows at September 30, 2017:

	Amortized Cost	Credit Risk	Maturities
Money Market Mutual Funds - First American			Weighted average of the fund
Government Obligations Class Y	\$ 1,365,078	S&P AAAm	portfolio: 23 days
Total Investments	<u>\$ 1,365,078</u>		

Credit risk – For investments, credit risk is generally the risk that an issuer of an investment will not fulfill its obligation to the holder of the investment. This is measured by the assignment of a rating by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization. Investment ratings by investment type are included in the preceding summary of investments.

Concentration risk – The District places no limit on the amount the District may invest in any one issuer.

NOTE 4 – DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS (Continued)

Investments (Continued)

Interest rate risk – The District does not have a formal policy that limits investment maturities as a means of managing exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing interest rates.

However, the Bond Indenture limits the type of investments held using unspent proceeds.

Fair Value Measurement – When applicable, the District measures and records its investments using fair value measurement guidelines established in accordance with GASB Statements. The framework for measuring fair value provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques.

These guidelines recognize a three-tiered fair value hierarchy, in order of highest priority, as follows:

- *Level 1:* Investments whose values are based on unadjusted quoted prices for identical investments in active markets that the District has the ability to access;
- *Level 2:* Investments whose inputs - other than quoted market prices - are observable either directly or indirectly; and,
- *Level 3:* Investments whose inputs are unobservable.

The fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the entire fair value measurement. Valuation techniques used should maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

Money market investments that have a maturity at the time of purchase of one year or less and are held by governments other than external investment pools should be measured at amortized cost. Accordingly, the District's investments have been reported at amortized cost above.

NOTE 5 – INTERFUND TRANSFERS

Interfund transfers at September 30, 2017 were as follows:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Transfer in</u>	<u>Transfer out</u>
General	\$ -	\$ 30,118
Debt service	45,086	-
Capital projects	-	14,968
Total	<u>\$ 45,086</u>	<u>\$ 45,086</u>

Transfers are used to move revenues from the fund where collection occurs to the fund where funds have been reallocated for use. In the case of the District, the transfers from the general fund to the debt service fund were to transfer debt service assessments that were deposited into the general fund in fiscal year 2016 and transfers from the capital projects fund to the debt service fund were made in accordance with the Bond Indentures.

NOTE 6 – CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital asset activity for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2017 was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance
<u>Governmental activities</u>				
Capital assets, not being depreciated				
Land and land improvements	\$ 7,604,176	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,604,176
Infrastructure under construction	4,491,824	3,928,597	-	8,420,421
Total capital assets, not being depreciated	12,096,000	3,928,597	-	16,024,597
Capital assets, being depreciated				
Amenity center	1,081,962	-	-	1,081,962
Landscape and irrigation	2,188,682	-	-	2,188,682
Infrastructure - water control and other	5,193,285	-	-	5,193,285
Total capital assets, being depreciated	8,463,929	-	-	8,463,929
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Amenity Center	318,224	43,278	-	361,502
Landscape and irrigation	1,655,284	218,868	-	1,874,152
Infrastructure - water control and other	817,374	129,832	-	947,206
Total accumulated depreciation	2,790,882	391,978	-	3,182,860
Total capital assets, being depreciated, net	5,673,047	(391,978)	-	5,281,069
Governmental activities capital assets	\$ 17,769,047	\$ 3,536,619	\$ -	\$ 21,305,666

The District estimates that total infrastructure improvements will be approximately \$59,000,000. The master project is divided into Phase 1, Phase 2, and Phase 3. Phase 1 and a portion of Phase 2 construction was funded by Series 2005 and 2006B Bonds. The remaining portion of Phase 2 construction was funded by the Series 2013 and 2014 bonds. Phase 2C was funded by the Series 2014 bonds. Phase 3A was funded by the Series 2016 (3A) bonds issued in fiscal year 2016. Phase 3C was funded by Series 2016 (3C) Bonds that were issued in fiscal year 2017. Improvements include roadways, storm water management facilities, water distribution systems, wastewater collection systems, earthwork, landscape/irrigation, and recreation amenities. Certain capital assets have been conveyed to other governments for maintenance in prior fiscal years. Additional conveyances are expected when the remaining projects are completed. The Major Landowner has funded certain portions of the project in prior fiscal years and the current fiscal year. In fiscal year 2017 the Major Landowner provided \$404,400 to fund the project.

Depreciation expense was charged to the maintenance and operation function.

NOTE 7 – LONG TERM LIABILITIES

At September 30, 2017, the District had Bond issues as follows:

Series 2013

On January 15, 2013, the District issued \$2,860,000 of Special Assessment Revenue Bonds, Series 2013 consisting of \$475,000 Term Bonds Series 2013A due on November 1, 2023 with a fixed interest rate of 5.5%, \$825,000 Term Bonds Series 2013A due on November 1, 2033 with a fixed interest rate of 6.25%, and \$1,560,000 Term Bonds Series 2013A due on May 1, 2012 with a fixed interest rate of 6.75%. The Bonds were issued to finance the acquisition and construction of Phase 2B improvements for the benefit of the lands therein. Interest is to be paid semiannually on each May 1 and November 1. Principal on the Bonds is to be paid serially commencing November 1, 2014 through November 1, 2043.

Series 2014

On January 21, 2014, the District issued \$2,305,000 of Special Assessment Revenue Bonds, Series 2014 consisting of \$505,000 Term Bonds Series 2014 due on November 1, 2027 with a fixed interest rate of 6.25% and \$1,800,000 Term Bonds Series 2014 due on November 1, 2044 with a fixed interest rate of 7.25%. The Bonds were issued to finance the acquisition and construction of Phase 2A improvements for the benefit of the lands therein. Interest is to be paid semiannually on each May 1 and November 1. Principal on the Bonds is to be paid serially commencing November 1, 2015 through November 1, 2044.

NOTE 7 – LONG TERM LIABILITIES (Continued)

Series 2016 (3A)

On February 3, 2016, the District issued Special Assessment Bonds (Area 3A Project) Series 2016 for \$4,875,000. The Bonds were issued for the purpose of constructing the area 3A project. The Bonds bear interest at rates from 4% to 5.5% with serial payments from May 1, 2017 through May 1, 2046.

Series 2016 (Refunding)

On October 17, 2016, the District issued Special Assessment Refunding Bonds Series 2016 for \$7,195,000. The Bonds were issued for the purpose of refunding all of the District's outstanding Series 2005 Bonds. The Bonds bear interest at rates from 2% to 4.25% with serial payments from May 1, 2017 through May 1, 2036.

The District refunded the Series 2005 Bonds, which had an outstanding balance of \$7,195,000 at the time of the refunding with the proceeds from the Series 2016 Bonds. The refunding was a current refunding and resulted in a difference in cash flows required to pay the respective debt service of \$1,697,689. The refunding resulted in an economic gain of \$1,126,620. The refunded Bonds have been paid off as of September 30, 2017.

Series 2016 (3C)

On December 13, 2016, the District issued Special Assessment Bonds (Area 3C Project) Series 2016 for \$3,925,000. The Bonds were issued for the purpose of constructing the area 3C project. The Bonds bear interest at rates from 3.875% to 5.500% with serial payments from December 15, 2017 through December 15, 2046.

Bond Compliance

For the Series 2013, Series 2014, Series 2016 (3A), Series 2016 (Refunding) and Series 2016 (3C) Bonds, the Bond Indentures established debt service reserve requirements as well as other restrictions and requirements relating principally to the use of proceeds to pay for the infrastructure improvements and the procedures to be followed by the District on assessments to property owners. The District agrees to levy special assessments in annual amounts adequate to provide payment of debt service and to meet the reserve requirements. The District was in compliance with the requirements at September 30, 2017.

Long-term debt activity

Changes in long-term liability activity for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2017, were as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance	Due Within One Year
<u>Governmental activities</u>					
Bonds payable:					
Series 2005	\$ 7,195,000	\$ -	\$ 7,195,000	\$ -	\$ -
Series 2013	2,785,000	-	40,000	2,745,000	45,000
Series 2014	2,280,000	-	30,000	2,250,000	30,000
Series 2016 (3A)	4,875,000	-	475,000	4,400,000	70,000
Series 2016 (Refunding)	-	7,195,000	255,000	6,940,000	275,000
Series 2016 (3C)	-	3,925,000	-	3,925,000	65,000
Plus: original issue premium	-	314,241	15,712	298,529	-
Less: original issue discount	-	(39,435)	(1,315)	(38,120)	-
Total	<u>\$ 17,135,000</u>	<u>\$11,394,806</u>	<u>\$ 8,009,397</u>	<u>\$ 20,520,409</u>	<u>\$ 485,000</u>

NOTE 7 – LONG TERM LIABILITIES (Continued)

At September 30, 2017, the scheduled debt service requirements on the long-term debt were as follows:

Year ending September 30:	Governmental Activities		
	Principal	Interest	Total
2018	\$ 485,000	\$ 1,037,836	\$ 1,522,836
2019	495,000	1,022,364	1,517,364
2020	520,000	1,006,498	1,526,498
2021	530,000	989,230	1,519,230
2022	550,000	970,864	1,520,864
2023-2027	3,080,000	4,457,849	7,537,849
2028-2032	3,900,000	3,712,872	7,612,872
2033-2037	4,810,000	2,596,086	7,406,086
2038-2042	3,575,000	1,316,633	4,891,633
2043-2047	2,315,000	338,199	2,653,199
Total	\$ 20,260,000	\$ 17,448,431	\$ 37,708,431

NOTE 8 – MAJOR LANDOWNER TRANSACTIONS

The Major Landowner owns a portion of land within the District; therefore, assessment revenues in the general and debt service funds include the assessments levied on those lands owned by the Major Landowner.

NOTE 9 – CONCENTRATION

The District's activity is dependent upon the continued involvement of Major Landowner, the loss of which could have a material adverse effect on the District's operations.

NOTE 10 – MANAGEMENT COMPANY

The District has contracted with a management company to perform management advisory services, which include financial and accounting advisory services. Certain employees of the management company also serve as officers of the District. Under the agreement, the District compensates the management company for management, accounting, financial reporting, and other administrative costs.

NOTE 11 – RISK MANAGEMENT

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; and natural disasters. The District has obtained commercial insurance from independent third parties to mitigate the costs of these risks; coverage may not extend to all situations. The District has not filed any claims under this commercial coverage during the last three years.

NOTE 12 – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Prepayments

On November 1, 2017, the District prepaid \$135,000 of the Series 2016 (3A) Bonds and \$10,000 of the Series 2014 Bonds. On December 15, 2017 the District prepaid \$15,000 of the Series 2016 (3C) Bonds.

**HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN
FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL – GENERAL FUND
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2017**

	Budgeted Amounts Original & Final	Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget - Positive (Negative)
REVENUES			
Assessments	\$ 699,330	\$ 790,136	\$ 90,806
Interest	150	183	33
Other income	-	11,977	11,977
Total revenues	699,480	802,296	102,816
EXPENDITURES			
Current:			
General government	168,900	187,494	(18,594)
Maintenance and operations	634,813	560,076	74,737
Total expenditures	803,713	747,570	56,143
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	(104,233)	54,726	158,959
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES			
Carry forward	104,233	-	(104,233)
Transfers (out)	-	(30,118)	(30,118)
Total other financing sources	104,233	(30,118)	(134,351)
Net change in fund balances	\$ -	24,608	\$ 24,608
Fund balance - beginning		46,460	
Fund balance - ending		\$ 71,068	

See notes to required supplementary information

**HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

The District is required to establish a budgetary system and an approved Annual Budget for the general fund. The District's budgeting process is based on estimates of cash receipts and cash expenditures which are approved by the Board. The budget approximates a basis consistent with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (generally accepted accounting principles).

The legal level of budgetary control, the level at which expenditures may not exceed budget, is in the aggregate. Any budget amendments that increase the aggregate budgeted appropriations must be approved by the Board of Supervisors. Actual general fund expenditures did not exceed appropriations for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2017.



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

To the Board of Supervisors
Highlands Community Development District
Hillsborough County, Florida

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of Highlands Community Development District, Hillsborough County, Florida ("District") as of and for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2017, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements, and have issued our opinion thereon dated August 17, 2018.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or, significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the District's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

B. & Associates

August 17, 2018



**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE
REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 218.415, FLORIDA STATUTES, REQUIRED BY
RULE 10.556(10) OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA**

To the Board of Supervisors
Highlands Community Development District
Hillsborough County, Florida

We have examined Highlands Community Development District, Hillsborough County, Florida's ("District") compliance with the requirements of Section 218.415, Florida Statutes, in accordance with Rule 10.556(10) of the Auditor General of the State of Florida during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2017. Management is responsible for District's compliance with those requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on District's compliance based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the District complied, in all material respects, with the specified requirements referenced in Section 218.415, Florida Statutes. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about whether the District complied with the specified requirements. The nature, timing, and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgment, including an assessment of the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion. Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the District's compliance with specified requirements.

In our opinion, the District complied, in all material respects, with the aforementioned requirements for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2017.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Legislative Auditing Committee, members of the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives, the Florida Auditor General, management, and the Board of Supervisors of Highlands Community Development District, Hillsborough County, Florida and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Grau & Associates

August 17, 2018



**MANAGEMENT LETTER PURSUANT TO THE RULES OF
THE AUDITOR GENERAL FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA**

To the Board of Supervisors
Highlands Community Development District
Hillsborough County, Florida

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying basic financial statements of Highlands Community Development District, Hillsborough County, Florida, ("District") as of and for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2017, and have issued our report thereon dated August 17, 2018.

Auditor's Responsibility

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Florida Auditor General.

Other Reporting Requirements

We have issued our Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of the Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*; and Independent Auditor's Report on an examination conducted in accordance with *AICPA Professional Standards*, AT-C Section 315, regarding compliance requirements in accordance with Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Auditor General. Disclosures in those reports, which are dated August 17, 2018, should be considered in conjunction with this management letter.

Purpose of this Letter

The purpose of this letter is to comment on those matters required by Chapter 10.550 of the Rules of the Auditor General for the State of Florida. Accordingly, in connection with our audit of the financial statements of the District, as described in the first paragraph, we report the following:

- I. Current year findings and recommendations.**
- II. Status of prior year findings and recommendations.**
- III. Compliance with the Provisions of the Auditor General of the State of Florida.**

Our management letter is intended solely for the information and use of the Legislative Auditing Committee, members of the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives, the Florida Auditor General, Federal and other granting agencies, as applicable, management, and the Board of Supervisors of Highlands Community Development District, Hillsborough County, Florida and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

We wish to thank Highlands Community Development District, Hillsborough County, Florida and the personnel associated with it, for the opportunity to be of service to them in this endeavor as well as future engagements, and the courtesies extended to us.

Grau & Associates

August 17, 2018

REPORT TO MANAGEMENT

I. CURRENT YEAR FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

None

II. PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS

None

III. COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA

Unless otherwise required to be reported in the auditor's report on compliance and internal controls, the management letter shall include, but not be limited to the following:

1. A statement as to whether or not corrective actions have been taken to address findings and recommendations made in the preceding annual financial audit report.

There were no significant findings and recommendations made in the preceding annual financial audit report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2016.

2. Any recommendations to improve the local governmental entity's financial management.

There were no such matters discovered by, or that came to the attention of, the auditor, to be reported for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2017.

3. Noncompliance with provisions of contracts or grant agreements, or abuse, that have occurred, or are likely to have occurred, that have an effect on the financial statements that is less than material but which warrants the attention of those charged with governance.

There were no such matters discovered by, or that came to the attention of, the auditor, to be reported, for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2017.

4. The name or official title and legal authority of the District are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

5. The financial report filed with the Florida Department of Financial Services pursuant to Section 218.32(1)(a), Florida Statutes agrees with the September 30, 2017 financial audit report.

6. The District has not met one or more of the financial emergency conditions described in Section 218.503(1), Florida Statutes.

7. We applied financial condition assessment procedures and no deteriorating financial conditions were noted. It is management's responsibility to monitor financial condition, and our financial condition assessment was based in part on representations made by management and the review of financial information provided by same.