

**Southern Hills Plantation III Community
Development District**

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

September 30, 2023

Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

To the Board of Supervisors
Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District
Brooksville, Florida

Report on Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District (the "District"), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2023, and the related notes to financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and each major fund of Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District as of September 30, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position and the budgetary comparison for the General Fund for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS), and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the District and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management 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; and for 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.

To the Board of Supervisors
Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for one year beyond the financial statement date, including currently known information that may raise substantial doubt thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore, is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 District's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgement, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

To the Board of Supervisors
Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that Management's Discussion and Analysis be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, 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 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 a report dated December 13, 2024 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 and contracts.

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 the effectiveness of the District's 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 Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

*Berger Toombs Elam
Gaines + Frank*

Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank
Certified Public Accountants PL
Fort Pierce, Florida

December 13, 2024

**Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**

Management's discussion and analysis of Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District (the "District") financial performance provides an objective and easily readable analysis of the District's financial activities. The analysis provides summary financial information for the District and should be read in conjunction with the District's financial statements.

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The District's basic financial statements comprise three components; 1) *Government-wide financial statements*, 2) *Fund financial statements*, and 3) *Notes to financial statements*. The *Government-wide financial statements* present an overall picture of the District's financial position and results of operations. The *Fund financial statements* present financial information for the District's major funds. The *Notes to financial statements* provide additional information concerning the District's finances.

The *Government-wide financial statements* are the **statement of net position** and the **statement of activities**. These statements use accounting methods similar to those used by private-sector companies. Emphasis is placed on the net position of governmental activities and the change in net position. Governmental activities are primarily supported by developer contributions.

The **statement of net position** presents information on all assets and liabilities of the District, with the difference between assets and liabilities reported as net position. Net position is reported in three categories; 1) net investment in capital assets, 2) restricted, and 3) unrestricted. Assets, liabilities, and net position are reported for all Governmental activities.

The **statement of activities** presents information on all revenues and expenses of the District and the change in net position. Expenses are reported by major function and program revenues relating to those functions are reported, providing the net cost of all functions provided by the District. To assist in understanding the District's operations, expenses have been reported as governmental activities. Governmental activities financed by the District include general government and physical environment.

Fund financial statements present financial information for governmental funds. These statements provide financial information for the major funds of the District. Governmental fund financial statements provide information on the current assets and liabilities of the funds, changes in current financial resources (revenues and expenditures), and current available resources.

**Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Fund financial statements include a **balance sheet** and a **statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balances** for all governmental funds. A **statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances – budget and actual** is provided for the District's General Fund. *Fund financial statements* provide more detailed information about the District's activities. Individual funds are established by the District to track revenues that are restricted to certain uses or to comply with legal requirements.

The *government-wide financial statements* and the *fund financial statements* provide different pictures of the District. The *government-wide financial statements* provide an overall picture of the District's financial standing. These statements are comparable to private-sector companies and give a good understanding of the District's overall financial health and how the District paid for the various activities, or functions, provided by the District. All assets of the District, including capital assets are reported in the **statement of net position**. All liabilities, including principal outstanding on bonds are included. The **statement of activities** includes depreciation on all long-lived assets of the District, but transactions between the different functions of the District have been eliminated in order to avoid "doubling up" the revenues and expenses. The *fund financial statements* provide a picture of the major funds of the District. In the case of governmental activities, outlays for long lived assets are reported as expenditures and long-term liabilities, such as general obligation bonds, are not included in the fund financial statements. To provide a link from the *fund financial statements* to the *government-wide financial statements*, reconciliations are provided from the *fund financial statements* to the *government-wide financial statements*.

Notes to financial statements provide additional detail concerning the financial activities and financial balances of the District. Additional information about the accounting practices of the District, investments of the District, capital assets and long-term debt are some of the items included in the *notes to financial statements*.

Financial Highlights

The following are the highlights of financial activity for the year ended September 30, 2023.

- ◆ The District's total assets exceeded total liabilities by \$2,395 (net position).
- ◆ Governmental activities revenues totaled \$112,149 while governmental activities expenses totaled \$110,250.

**Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Financial Analysis of the District

The following schedule provides a summary of the assets, liabilities and net position of the District and is presented by category for comparison purposes.

	Net Position	
	Governmental Activities	
	2023	2022
Current assets	\$ 40,614	\$ 21,103
Current liabilities	38,219	20,607
Net Position		
Unrestricted	\$ 2,395	\$ 496

The increase in current assets is related to the increase in cash and due from developer in the current year.

The increase in current liabilities is related to the increase in due to other governments in the current year.

**Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Financial Analysis of the District (Continued)

The following schedule provides a summary of the changes in net position of the District and is presented by category for comparison purposes.

Change In Net Position

	Governmental Activities	
	2023	2022
Program Revenues		
Operating contributions	\$ 112,149	\$ 69,684
Expenses		
General government	55,624	27,266
Physical environment	54,626	39,501
Total Expenses	110,250	66,767
Change in Net Position	1,899	2,917
Net Position - Beginning of Year	496	(2,421)
Net Position - End of Year	\$ 2,395	\$ 496

The increase in operating contributions is related to developer funding operations in the current year.

The increase in general government is related to the increase in legal fees in the current year.

The increase in physical environment is related to the increase in landscape expenses in the current year.

**Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

General Fund Budgetary Highlights

The final budget exceeded actual expenditures because contingency expenditures were less than anticipated.

The September 30, 2023 budget was amended for landscape and legal fee expenditures that were more than originally anticipated.

Economic Factors and Next Year's Budget

Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District does not expect any economic factors to have any significant effect on the financial position or results of operations of the District in fiscal year 2024.

Request for Information

The financial report is designed to provide a general overview of Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District's finances for all those with an interest. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional information should be addressed to the Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District's Finance Department at 2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W, Boca Raton, Florida 33431.

Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
September 30, 2023

	Governmental Activities
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Cash	\$ 17,126
Due from developer	21,397
Due from other governments	8
Prepaid expenses	893
Deposits	1,190
Total Current Assets	40,614
 LIABILITIES	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	8,219
Due to other governments	27,378
Due to developer	2,500
Unearned revenues	122
Total Current Liabilities	38,219
 NET POSITION	
Unrestricted	\$ 2,395

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
For the Year Ended September 30, 2023

Functions/Programs	Expenses	Program Revenues Operating Contributions	Net (Expenses) Revenues and Changes in Net Position Governmental Activities
Governmental Activities			
General government	\$ (55,624)	\$ 56,582	\$ 958
Physical environment	(54,626)	55,567	941
Total Governmental Activities	\$ (110,250)	\$ 112,149	1,899
		Change in Net Position	1,899
		Net Position - October 1, 2022	496
		Net Position - September 30, 2023	\$ 2,395

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District
BALANCE SHEET –
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
September 30, 2023

	General
ASSETS	
Cash	\$ 17,126
Due from developer	21,397
Due from other governments	8
Prepaid expenses	893
Deposits	1,190
Total Assets	\$ 40,614
 LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	
LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 8,219
Due to other governments	27,378
Due to developer	2,500
Unearned revenues	122
Total Liabilities	38,219
 FUND BALANCES	
Nonspendable - deposits/prepaid expenses	2,083
Unassigned	312
Total Fund Balances	2,395
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$ 40,614

There are no reconciling items to the Statement of Net Position.

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES
IN FUND BALANCES – GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
For the Year Ended September 30, 2023

	<u>General</u>
Revenues	
Developer contributions	\$ 112,149
Expenditures	
Current	
General government	55,624
Physical environment	54,626
Total Expenditures	110,250
Net change in fund balances	1,899
Fund Balances - October 1, 2022	496
Fund Balances - September 30, 2023	\$ 2,395

There are no reconciling items to the Statement of Activities.

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN
FUND BALANCES – BUDGET AND ACTUAL – GENERAL FUND
For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)</u>
Revenues				
Developer contributions	<u>\$ 85,120</u>	<u>\$ 116,753</u>	<u>\$ 112,149</u>	<u>\$ (4,604)</u>
Expenditures				
Current				
General government	32,975	62,908	55,624	7,284
Physical environment	<u>52,145</u>	<u>54,340</u>	<u>54,626</u>	<u>(286)</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>85,120</u>	<u>117,248</u>	<u>110,250</u>	<u>6,998</u>
Net Change in Fund Balances	-	(495)	1,899	2,394
Fund Balances - October 1, 2022	<u>-</u>	<u>495</u>	<u>496</u>	<u>1</u>
Fund Balances - September 30, 2023	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 2,395</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 2,395</u></u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
September 30, 2023

NOTE A – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of the District have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The District's more significant accounting policies are described below.

1. Reporting Entity

The District was established on August 2, 2004, pursuant to the Uniform Community Development District Act of 1980, Chapter 190, Florida Statutes, as amended (the "Act"), by Ordinance #678 of the City of Brooksville, Florida, as a Community Development District. The District was established for the purposes of financing and managing the acquisition, construction, maintenance and operation of the infrastructure necessary for community development within its jurisdiction. The District is authorized to issue bonds for the purpose, among others, of financing, funding, planning, establishing, acquiring, constructing district roads, landscaping, and other basic infrastructure projects within or outside the boundaries of the Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District. The District is governed by a Board of Supervisors who are elected to four-year terms. All of the Supervisors are employed by the Developer or a related entity. The District operates within the criteria established by Chapter 190, Florida Statutes.

As required by GAAP, these financial statements present the Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District (the primary government) as a stand-alone government. The reporting entity for the District includes all functions of government in which the District's Board exercises oversight responsibility including, but not limited to, financial interdependency, selection of governing authority, designation of management, significant ability to influence operations and accountability for fiscal matters.

Based upon the application of the above-mentioned criteria as set forth in Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement Number 61, The Financial Reporting Entity, the District has identified no component units.

2. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

The basic financial statements of the District are composed of the following:

- Government-wide financial statements
- Fund financial statements
- Notes to financial statements

Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
September 30, 2023

NOTE A – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting (Continued)

a. Government-wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Government-wide financial statements report all non-fiduciary information about the reporting government as a whole. These statements include all the governmental activities of the primary government. The effect of interfund activity has been removed from these statements.

Governmental activities are supported by developer contributions and interest. Program revenues are netted with program expenses in the statement of activities to present the net cost of each program.

Amounts paid to acquire capital assets are capitalized as assets, rather than reported as an expenditure. Proceeds of long-term debt are recorded as liabilities in the government-wide financial statements, rather than as an other financing source.

Amounts paid to reduce long-term indebtedness of the reporting government are reported as a reduction of the related liability, rather than as an expenditure.

b. Fund Financial Statements

The underlying accounting system of the District is organized and operated on the basis of separate funds, each of which is considered to be a separate accounting entity. The operations of each fund are accounted for with a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund equity, revenues and expenditures or expenses, as appropriate. Governmental resources are allocated to and accounted for in individual funds based upon the purposes for which they are to be spent and the means by which spending activities are controlled.

Fund financial statements for the primary government's governmental funds are presented after the government-wide financial statements. These statements display information about major funds individually.

Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
September 30, 2023

NOTE A – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting (Continued)

b. Fund Financial Statements (Continued)

Governmental Funds

The District classifies fund balance according to Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement 54 – Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions. The Statement requires the fund balance for governmental funds to be reported in classifications that comprise a hierarchy based primarily on the extent to which the government is bound to honor constraints on the specific purposes for which amounts in those funds can be spent.

The District has various policies governing the fund balance classifications.

Nonspendable Fund Balance – This classification consists of amounts that cannot be spent because they are either not in spendable form or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

Restricted Fund Balance – This classification includes amounts that can be spent only for specific purposes stipulated by constitution, external resource providers, or through enabling legislation.

Assigned Fund Balance – This classification consists of the Board of Supervisors' intent to be used for specific purposes, but are neither restricted nor committed. The assigned fund balances can also be assigned by the District's management company.

Unassigned Fund Balance – This classification is the residual classification for the government's general fund and includes all spendable amounts not contained in the other classifications. Unassigned fund balance is considered to be utilized first when an expenditure is incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of those unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

Fund Balance Spending Hierarchy – For all governmental funds except special revenue funds, when restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned fund balances are combined in a fund, qualified expenditures are paid first from restricted or committed fund balance, as appropriate, then assigned and finally unassigned fund balances.

Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
September 30, 2023

NOTE A – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting (Continued)

b. Fund Financial Statements (Continued)

Governmental Funds (Continued)

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collected within the current period or soon thereafter, to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the District considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 90 days of the end of the current fiscal period.

Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. Interest associated with the current fiscal period is considered to be an accrual item and so has been recognized as revenue of the current fiscal period.

Under the current financial resources measurement focus, only current assets and current liabilities are generally included on the balance sheet. The reported fund balance is considered to be a measure of “available spendable resources”. Governmental fund operating statements present increases (revenues and other financing sources) and decreases (expenditures and other financing uses) in net current assets. Accordingly, they are said to present a summary of sources and uses of “available spendable resources” during a period.

Because of their spending measurement focus, expenditure recognition for governmental fund types excludes amounts represented by non-current liabilities. Since they do not affect net current assets, such long-term amounts are not recognized as governmental fund type expenditures or fund liabilities.

Amounts expended to acquire capital assets are recorded as expenditures in the year that resources are expended, rather than as fund assets. The proceeds of long-term debt are recorded as an other financing source rather than as a fund liability.

Debt service expenditures are recorded only when payment is due.

3. Basis of Presentation

a. Governmental Major Funds

General Fund – The General Fund is the District’s primary operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources of the general government, except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
September 30, 2023

NOTE A – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

3. Basis of Presentation (Continued)

b. Non-current Governmental Assets/Liabilities

GASB Statement 34 requires that non-current governmental assets, such as land and improvements, and non-current governmental liabilities, such as general obligation bonds and due to developer be reported in the governmental activities column in the government-wide Statement of Net Position.

4. Assets, Liabilities, and Net Position or Equity

a. Cash and Investments

Florida Statutes require state and local governmental units to deposit monies with financial institutions classified as "Qualified Public Depositories," a multiple financial institution pool whereby groups of securities pledged by the various financial institutions provide common collateral from their deposits of public funds. This pool is provided as additional insurance to the federal depository insurance and allows for additional assessments against the member institutions, providing full insurance for public deposits.

The District is authorized to invest in those financial instruments as established by Section 218.415, Florida Statutes. The authorized investments consist of:

1. Direct obligations of the United States Treasury;
2. The Local Government Surplus Funds Trust or any intergovernmental investment pool authorized pursuant to the Florida Interlocal Cooperative Act of 1969;
3. Interest-bearing time deposits or savings accounts in authorized qualified public depositories;
4. Securities and Exchange Commission, registered money market funds with the highest credit quality rating from a nationally recognized rating agency.

The District currently has no investments.

Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
September 30, 2023

NOTE A – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

4. Assets, Liabilities, and Net Position or Equity (Continued)

a. Cash and Investments (Continued)

Cash equivalents include time deposits and all highly liquid debt instruments with original maturities of three months or less and held in a qualified public depository as defined by Section 280.02, Florida Statutes.

b. Budgets

Budgets are prepared and adopted after public hearings for the governmental funds, pursuant to Chapter 190, Florida Statutes. The District utilizes the same basis of accounting for budgets as it does for revenues and expenditures in its various funds. The legal level of budgetary control is at the fund level. All budgeted appropriations lapse at year end. Formal budgets are adopted for the general and debt service funds. As a result, deficits in the budget columns of the accompanying financial statements may occur.

NOTE B – CASH AND INVESTMENTS

All deposits are held in qualified public depositories and are included on the accompanying balance sheet as cash and investments.

Custodial Credit Risk

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the District's deposits may not be returned to it. The District does not have a formal deposit policy for custodial credit risk; however, they follow the provisions of Chapter 280, Florida Statutes regarding deposits and investments. As of September 30, 2023, the District's bank balance was \$17,946 and the carrying value was \$17,126. Exposure to custodial credit risk was as follows. The District maintains all deposits in a qualified public depository in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 280, Florida Statutes, which means that all deposits are fully insured by Federal Depositors Insurance or collateralized under Chapter 280, Florida Statutes.

The District did not have investment activity in the current year.

Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
September 30, 2023

NOTE B – CASH AND INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

The District categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy recently established by generally accepted accounting principles. The fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset, or paid to transfer a liability, in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The hierarchy is based on the valuation inputs used to measure the fair value of the asset. The District uses a market approach in measuring fair value that uses prices and other relevant information generated by market transactions involving identical or similar assets, liabilities, or groups of assets and liabilities.

Assets or liabilities are classified into one of three levels. Level 1 is the most reliable and is based on quoted price for identical assets, or liabilities, in an active market. Level 2 uses significant other observable inputs when obtaining quoted prices for identical or similar assets, or liabilities, in markets that are not active. Level 3 is the least reliable and uses significant unobservable inputs that uses the best information available under the circumstances, which includes the District's own data in measuring unobservable inputs.

Based on the criteria in the preceding paragraph, the District did not hold any investments subject to the fair value hierarchy.

Interest Rate Risk

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

NOTE C – RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

All voting members of the board of supervisors are employed by the Developer or a related entity. The District received \$112,149 in contributions from the Developer for the year ended September 30, 2023. Additionally, the District has \$21,397 due from the developer.

The District previously entered into an Inter-local Agreement which allocates costs between the District, Southern Hills Plantation I Community Development District ("SH1") and Southern Hills Plantation II Community Development District ("SH2"). SH1 pays certain common area expenses associated with the development and is reimbursed by the other Districts for their pro-rata share of these expenses.

Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
September 30, 2023

NOTE C – RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS (CONTINUED)

In May 2023, the District entered into an Inter-local Agreement with SH1 and SH2 establishing cost sharing provisions moving forward. Commencing in fiscal year 2023, the District will pay 23.8 percent of the total annual shared cost.

During the year, the District incurred expenditures related to the Inter-local Agreement of \$54,626. The amount owed to Southern Hills Plantation I Community Development District at September 30, 2023 was \$27,378.

NOTE D – 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 for which the government carries commercial insurance. The District has not filed any claims under this commercial coverage during the last three years.



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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' 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
Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District
Brooksville, 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, as listed in the table of contents, of Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District, as of and for the year ended September 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated December 13, 2024.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing 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 Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development 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 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 or significant deficiencies may exist that have not been identified.

To the Board of Supervisors
Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant 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.



Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank
Certified Public Accountants PL
Fort Pierce, Florida

December 13, 2024



Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank

Certified Public Accountants PL

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MANAGEMENT LETTER

To the Board of Supervisors
Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District
Brooksville, Florida

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the financial statements of the Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District as of and for the year ended September 30, 2023, and have issued our report thereon dated December 13, 2024.

Auditor's Responsibility

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States; 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 Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and our Independent Auditor's Report on an examination conducted in accordance with AICPA Professionals Standards, AT-C Section 315 regarding compliance requirements in accordance with Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Auditor General. Disclosures in that report, which is dated December 13, 2024, should be considered in conjunction with this management letter.

Prior Audit Findings

Section 10.554(1)(i)1., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that we determine whether or not corrective actions have been made to address findings and recommendations made in the preceding financial audit report. There were no findings or recommendations noted in the preceding financial audit report.

Section 10.554(1)(i)5.a. and 10.556(7), Rules of the Auditor General, requires us to apply appropriate procedures and communicate the results of our determination as to whether or not Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District has met one or more of the conditions described in Section 218.503(1), Florida Statutes, and to identify the specific conditions met. In connection with our audit, we determined that the Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District did not meet any of the conditions described in Section 218.503(1), Florida Statutes.

To the Board of Supervisors
Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District

Financial Condition and Management

Pursuant to Sections 10.554(1)(i)5.b. and 10.556(8), Rules of the Auditor General, we applied financial conditions assessment procedures as of September 30, 2023 for the Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District. It is management's responsibility to monitor the Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District's financial condition; our financial condition assessment was based in part on the representations made by management and the review of the financial information provided by the same.

Section 10.554(1)(i)2., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that we communicate any recommendations to improve financial management. In connection with our audit, we did not have any such recommendations.

Specific Information

The information provided below was provided by management and has not been audited; therefore, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information.

As required by Section 218.39(3)(c), Florida Statutes, and Section 10.554(1)(i)6, Rules of the Auditor General, the Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District reported:

- 1) The total number of District employees compensated in the last pay period of the District's fiscal year: 0
- 2) The total number of independent contractors to whom nonemployee compensation was paid in the last month of the District's fiscal year: 3
- 3) All compensation earned by or awarded to employees, whether paid or accrued, regardless of contingency: \$0
- 4) All compensation earned by or awarded to nonemployee independent contractors, whether paid or accrued, regardless of contingency: \$34,770
- 5) Each construction project with a total cost of at least \$65,000 approved by the District that is scheduled to begin on or after October 1, 2022, together with the total expenditures for such project: None
- 6) A budget variance based on the budget adopted under Section 189.016(4), Florida Statutes, before the beginning of the fiscal year being reported if the District amends a final adopted budget under Section 189.016(6), Florida Statutes: The budget was amended, see below.

As required by Section 218.39(3)(c), Florida Statutes, and Section 10.554(1)(i)8, Rules of the Auditor General, the Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District reported:

- 1) The rate or rates of non-ad valorem special assessments imposed by the District: N/A.
- 2) The amount of special assessments collected by or on behalf of the District: Total Special Assessments collected was N/A.
- 3) The total amount of outstanding bonds issued by the District and the terms of such bonds: The District did not have any bonds outstanding at September 30, 2023.

To the Board of Supervisors
Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance with Original Budget Positive (Negative)</u>
Revenues			
Developer contributions	\$ 85,120	\$ 112,149	\$ 27,029
Expenditures			
Current			
General government	32,975	55,624	(22,649)
Physical environment	52,145	54,626	(2,481)
Total Expenditures	<u>85,120</u>	<u>110,250</u>	<u>(25,130)</u>
Excess of revenues over/(under) expenditures	-	1,899	52,159
Fund Balances - October 1, 2022	<u>-</u>	<u>496</u>	<u>496</u>
Fund Balances - September 30, 2023	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 2,395</u>	<u>\$ 52,655</u>

Additional Matters

Section 10.554(1)(i)3., Rules of the Auditor General, requires us to communicate 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. In connection with our audit, we did not note any such findings.



To the Board of Supervisors
Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District

Purpose of this Letter

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, the Board of Supervisors, and applicable management, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

*Berger Toombs Elam
Gaines + Frank*

Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank
Certified Public Accountants PL
Fort Pierce, Florida

December 13, 2024