EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL AREA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DISTRICT

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL AREA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DISTRICT

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INTRODUCTORY SECTION

EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL AREA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DISTRICT

Board of Supervisors
At September 30, 2023

		Term
Malcolm S. Wade, Jr	- Chairman	07/21-07/25
Matthew Coglianese	- Secretary	07/21-07/25
Keith Wedgworth III	- Member	07/23-07/25
Joe Hilliard, II	- Member	07/21-07/27
Grant Lanham, Sr	- Member	07/23-07/27
Libby Pigman	- Ex Officio Member	
Charles F. Schoech	- Assistant Secretary	

Technical Advisor

Robert M. Brown
Nautilus Strategies
Palm City, Florida

Counsel to the District

Charles F. Schoech
Caldwell Pacetti Edwards Schoech & Viator LLP
Palm Beach, Florida

Financial Manager

Charles F. Haas
Certified Public Accountant
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

FINANCIAL SECTION

NOWLEN, HOLT & MINER, P.A.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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EDWARD T. HOLT, CPA
WILLIAM B. MINER, RETIRED
ROBERT W. HENDRIX, JR., CPA
JANET R. BARICEVICH, RETIRED, CPA
TERRY L. MORTON, JR., CPA
N. RONALD BENNETT, CVA, ABV, CFF, CPA
ALEXIA G. VARGA, CFE, CPA
EDWARD T. HOLT, JR., PFS, CPA
BRIAN J. BRESCIA, CFP®, CPA

MARK J. BYMASTER, CFE, CPA
RYAN M. SHORE, CFP®, CPA
WEI PAN, CPA
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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Supervisors
Everglades Agricultural Area Environmental Protection District

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Everglades Agricultural Area Environmental Protection District (the "District"), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

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, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

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

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the 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.

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 twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities 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 opinions. 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 generally accepted auditing standards 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 generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment 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 judgment, 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.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis on pages 4 through 6 and the budgetary comparison information on page 15 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 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 Information

Management is responsible for the other information included in the annual report. The other information comprises the other information section but does not include the basic financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinions on the basic financial statements do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the basic financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the basic financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated June 30, 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, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely 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 District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Nowlen, Holt & Miner, P.A.

West Palm Beach, Florida
June 30, 2024

EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL AREA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DISTRICT

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The management of the Everglades Agricultural Area Environmental Protection District (the District) would like to offer the readers of the District's financial statements this discussion and analysis of the District's financial activities during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023.

Financial Highlights

- The assets of the District exceeded its liabilities at September 30, 2023 by $886,760,
- The District's total net position decreased by $58,712,
- The District's total revenues were $2,281,216 for the year ended September 30, 2023,
- Total expenses for all of the District's activities were $2,339,928 for the year.

Overview of the Financial Statements

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to Everglades Agricultural Area Environmental Protection District's basic financial statements. The District's annual report consists of three parts: management's discussion and analysis (this section), the basic financial statements, and required supplementary information. The basic financial statements of the District consist of three components:

1) government-wide financial statements, 2) fund financial statements, and 3) notes to the basic financial statements. This report also contains other supplementary information in addition to the basic financial statements themselves.

Government-wide Financial Statements

The government-wide statements report information about the District as a whole using accounting methods similar to those used by private-sector companies. The statement of net position includes all of the District's assets and liabilities. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are accounted for in the statement of activities regardless of when cash is received or paid.

One of the most important questions asked about the District's finances is "Is the District as a whole better off or worse off as a result of the year's activities?" The statement of net position and the statement of activities report information about the District as a whole and about its activities in a way that helps answer this question.

The statement of net position presents information on all of 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 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.

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 state and local governments, uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate legal compliance with finance-related legal requirements. The District has one fund category: a governmental fund.

The District's basic services are reported in a governmental fund, which focuses on how money flows into and out of that fund and the balances left at year-end that are available for spending. This fund is reported using an accounting method called modified accrual accounting, which measures cash and all other financial assets that can readily be converted to cash. The governmental fund statements provide a short-term view of the District's general government operations and the basic services it provides. Governmental fund information helps the reader determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance the District's programs. The differences between government-wide activities (reported in the statement of net position and the statement of activities) and the governmental fund are reconciled on separate schedules.

Financial Analysis of the District

Assets exceeded liabilities by $886,760 for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023. The largest portion of the District's assets (99%) reflects cash and investments at the close of the year ended September 30, 2023.

The following table highlights the net position as of September 30, 2023 and 2022:

	2023	2022	Increase (Decrease)	% Change
Cash and investments	$ 1,282,097	$ 1,487,948	$ (205,851)	-14%
Other assets	11,679	13,165	(1,486)	-11%
Total assets	$ 1,293,776	$ 1,501,113	$ (207,337)	-14%
Current liabilities	$ 407,016	$ 555,641	$ (148,625)	-27%
Total liabilities	407,016	555,641	(148,625)	-27%
Net position:				
Unrestricted	886,760	945,472	(58,712)	-6%
Total net position	$ 886,760	$ 945,472	$ (58,712)	-6%

The following table highlights the changes in net position for the years ended September 30, 2023 and 2022:

	2023	2022	Increase (Decrease)	% Change
Revenues:				
Program revenues:				
General revenues	$ 2,281,216	$ 2,267,543	$ 13,673	1%
Total revenues	2,281,216	2,267,543	13,673	1%
Program expenses:				
Physical environment	2,339,928	2,404,285	(64,357)	-3%
Total expenses	2,339,928	2,404,285	(64,357)	-3%
Increase in net position	(58,712)	(136,742)	78,030	-57%
Net position, beginning of the year	945,472	1,082,214	(136,742)	-13%
Net position, end of the year	$ 886,760	$ 945,472	$ (58,712)	-6%

Budgetary Highlights

The District adopted the fiscal year 2022/2023 budget on July 15, 2022 with an assessment rate of $5.00 per acre, the same rate as in the prior year. Total budgeted revenues were $2,265,400 including assessment revenue net of the budgeted discount and tax collector's fees of $2,255,400. Total actual revenues were $15,816 higher than budgeted revenues. This was mainly due to the receipt of assessment income less than the budget and the increase in interest revenue.

Total expenditures budgeted for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023, were $2,353,794. Total actual expenditures were $13,866 less than budgeted expenditures.

Economic Factors and Next Year's Budgets and Rates

The following highlights were considered in creating the 2023/2024 budget:

- The assessment rate remained at $5.00 per acre.
- Continue to fund multi- year research projects at current levels.
- Continue funding of programs for permit compliance and Best Management Practice research.

Contacting the District's Financial Management

This financial report is designed to provide our readers with a general overview of the District's finances and to demonstrate the District's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact the District's Financial Manager: Charles F. Haas, CPA, 9003 Gardens Glen Circle, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418.

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL AREA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DISTRICT

GOVERNMENTAL FUND BALANCE SHEET/STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

September 30, 2023

	Governmental Fund	Adjustments	Statement of Net Position
	General Fund		Governmental Activities
ASSETS			
Assets:			
Cash and investments	$ 1,282,097	$ -	$ 1,282,097
Receivables-due from other governments	11,679	-	11,679
Total assets	$ 1,293,776	$ -	1,293,776
LIABILITIES			
Liabilities:			
Accounts payable	$ 407,016	$ -	407,016
FUND BALANCES/NET POSITION			
Unrestricted:			
Assigned	283,794	(283,794)	-
Unassigned	602,966	(602,966)	-
Total fund balances	886,760	(886,760)	
Total liabilities and fund balances	$ 1,293,776		
Total unrestricted net position		$ 886,760	$ 886,760

See notes to the financial statements

EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL AREA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DISTRICT

STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENTAL FUND REVENUES, EXPENDITURES,

AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE/STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2023

	Governmental Fund	Adjustments	Statement of Activities
	General Fund		Governmental Activities
Revenues:			
Special assessments	$ 2,240,515	$ -	$ 2,240,515
Interest	40,681	-	40,681
Miscellaneous	20	-	20
Total revenues	2,281,216	-	2,281,216
Expenditures:			
Current:			
Physical environment	2,339,928	-	2,339,928
Total expenditures	2,339,928	-	2,339,928
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	(58,712)		(58,712)
Fund equity/Net position, beginning of year	945,472	-	945,472
Fund equity/Net position, end of year	$ 886,760	$ -	$ 886,760

See notes to the financial statements

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Organization and Regulatory Requirements

The Everglades Agricultural Area Environmental Protection District (the District) was created pursuant to Chapter 89-423, Florida Statutes on July 5, 1989. The District's charter has been codified as Chapter 2002-378, Laws of Florida. The District was created and established for purposes of ensuring environmental protection by means of conducting scientific research on environmental matters related to air, water and land management practices and implementing the financing, construction and operation of works and facilities. The District includes approximately 410,000 assessed acres located within Palm Beach County, 57,800 assessed acres located within Hendry County, and 11,900 assessed acres located within Glades County, for a total of 479,700 assessed acres.

The District is administered by a six-member Board of Supervisors consisting of five voting members elected by the landowners and the director of South Florida Water Management District, or his designee, who serves as an ex officio non-voting member.

The basic financial statements of the District have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States (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 more significant of the District's accounting policies are described below.

Financial Reporting Entity

As required by generally accepted accounting principles, these financial statements include the District (the primary government) and its component units. Component units are legally separate entities for which the District is financially accountable. The District is financially accountable if:

a) the District appoints a voting majority of the organization's governing board and (1) the District is able to impose its will on the organization or (2) there is a potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to or impose specific financial burdens on the District, or

b) the organization is fiscally dependent on the District and (1) there is a potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to the District or (2) impose specific financial burdens on the District.

Organizations for which the District is not financially accountable are also included when doing so is necessary in order to prevent the District's financial statements from being misleading.

Based upon application of the above criteria, management of the District has determined that no component units exist which would require inclusion in this report. Further, the District is not aware of any entity that would consider the District to be a component unit.

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Government-wide/Governmental Fund Financial Statements

The District is a special-purpose government engaged in one primary government activity, the environmental protection of the Everglades.

Financial statements include a balance sheet and a Statement of Revenue, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance for the General Fund. The Government-wide financial statements consist of the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities.

Measurement Focus and Basis of Presentation

Financial reporting is based upon the following in descending order of authority, officially established accounting principles – Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), GASB Technical Bulletins, GASB Implementation Guides, and literature of the AICPA cleared by the GASB.

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. Assessment revenues are recognized as revenues in the year for which they are levied.

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 become 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 District considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 90 days of the end of the current fiscal year. However, grant revenues are considered to be available if they are collected within 180 days of the current fiscal year. Expenditures are generally recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. Non-ad valorem assessments (special assessments) and interest on investments are susceptible to accrual and so have been recognized as revenues in the current period. All other revenue items are considered to be measurable and available only when received by the District.

The District reports the following major governmental fund:

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.

New Accounting Standards

In fiscal year 2023, the District has not implemented any new accounting standards with a material effect on the District's financial statements.

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Budget

The District uses procedures as follows in establishing the budgetary data reflected in the financial statements as follows:

a) Prior to June 30, the District's Financial Manager submits to the Board of Supervisors a proposed operating budget for the fiscal year commencing the following October 1. The operating budget includes proposed expenditures and the means of financing them,
b) Public hearings are conducted to obtain landowner comments,
c) Prior to September 1, the budget is legally adopted by the Board of Supervisors,
d) Budget changes must be approved by the Board of Supervisors. The legal level of control is at the fund level,
e) The budget for the General Fund is adopted on a basis consistent with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America,
f) Unused appropriations for annually budgeted funds lapse at the end of the current year.

Cash and Investments

Cash balances are considered to be demand accounts and money market accounts.

Investments are stated at fair value. Fair value is defined as 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 District categorizes investments reported at fair value in accordance with the fair value hierarchy established by GASB Statement No. 72, *Fair Value Measurement and Application.*

Net Position

Equity in the government-wide statement of net position is displayed in three categories: 1) net investment in capital assets, 2) restricted, 3) unrestricted. Net investment in capital assets consist of capital assets reduced by accumulated depreciation and by any outstanding debt incurred to acquire, construct, or improve those assets. Net position is reported as restricted when there are legal limitations imposed on their use by District legislation or external restrictions by outside parties. Unrestricted net position consists of all net position that does not meet the definition of either of the other two components.

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

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Fund Balance

In the fund financial statements, governmental funds report non-spendable and restricted fund balances 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. Under GASB 54, Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions, Fund balances are required to be reported according to the following classifications:

Non-spendable fund balance – Amounts that are (a) not in spendable form or (b) legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. "Not in spendable form" includes items that are not expected to be converted to cash (such as inventories and prepaid amounts) and items such as long-term amounts of loans and notes receivable, as well as property acquired for resale.

Restricted fund balance – Amounts that can be spent only for a specific purpose stipulated by external resource providers such as creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws and regulations of other governments; or imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enacted legislation.

Committed fund balance – Amounts that can be used only for the specific purpose determined by a formal action of the Board of Supervisors. Commitments may be changed or lifted only by the Board of Supervisors taking the same formal action that originally imposed the constraint.

Assigned fund balance – Includes spendable fund balance amounts, established by the Board of Supervisors, that is intended to be used for specific purposes that are neither restricted nor committed.

Unassigned fund balance – Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the general fund. This classification represents fund balance that has not been assigned to other funds and that has not been restricted, committed, or assigned to specific purposes within the government fund. Unassigned fund balances may also include negative balances for any governmental fund if expenditures exceed amounts restricted, committed, or assigned for those specific purposes.

It is the District's policy to maintain a minimum of $200,000 fund equity for working capital needs.

Use of Estimates

The financial statements and related disclosures are prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. Management is required to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and revenue and expenses/expenditures during the period reported. These estimates include assessing the collectability of receivables among others. Estimates and assumptions are reviewed periodically and the effects of revisions are reflected in the financial statements in the period they are determined to be necessary. Actual results could differ from estimates.

NOTE 2 CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Cash

All of the District's bank deposits including money market accounts are held in qualified public depositories pursuant to State of Florida Statutes, Chapter 280, "Florida Security for Public Deposits Act." (the "QPD"). Under the Act, every qualified public depository shall deposit with the Chief Financial Officer eligible collateral of the depository to be held subject to his order. The Chief Financial Officer by rule has established minimum required collateral pledging levels ranging from 25% to 125% of the average monthly balance of public deposits, depending upon the depository's financial condition and establishment period. All collateral must be deposited with an approved financial institution. Any losses to public depositors are covered by applicable deposit insurance, sale of securities pledged as collateral and, if necessary, assessments against other qualified public depositories of the same type as the depository in default. At year end, the full amount of the District's bank balances was covered by federal depository insurance or by the QPD program. At September 30, 2023, the bank balance of the District's deposits totaled $1,389,769 and the carrying amount was $1,282,097.

Investments

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:

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

NOTE 3 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 purchases commercial insurance for property, general liability, non-ownership automobile liability, and public official's liability. There were no changes in insurance coverage from the prior year and there were no claims against the policy over the past three years.

Florida Statues limit the District's maximum loss for most liability claims to $200,000 per person and $300,000 per occurrence under the Doctrine of Sovereign Immunity. However, under certain circumstances, a plaintiff can seek to recover damages in excess of statutory limits by introducing a claims bill to the Florida Legislature. The limits addressed in Florida Statutes do not apply to claims filed in Federal courts.

NOTE 4 COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

The District has entered into various agreements, not to exceed one year, to fund ongoing projects. The balances owed at September 30, 2023 are as follows:

		Total Amount Authorized	Costs Incurred	Amount Paid	Amount Due
DB Enviromental - STA Performance Evaluation & Canal Biological Assessment	$	610,000	610,000	455,500	154,500
DB Enviromental - Sulfur/Mercury Research STAs & Everglades		300,000	300,000	225,000	75,000
DB Environmental Phosphorus Loading & STA		65,000	65,000	48,600	16,400
DB Environmental Lake Okeechobee Restoration - Marsh Efflux Study		40,000	40,000	29,700	10,300
Juston Consult STA Modeling		195,000	194,990	194,990	-
Limno Tech Restoration - Murcury/Sulfur		12,500	-	-	-
Macvicar - CORPS RESTUDY/REDESIGN		250,000	250,000	229,167	20,833
Federico - CORPS RESTUDY/REDESIGN		250,000	250,000	229,167	20,833
IFAS-Floating Aquatic Plant Mngmt Farm Canals Study		392,694	392,694	315,155	77,539
Total	$	2,115,194	2,102,684	1,727,279	375,405

NOTE 5 SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Management has performed an evaluation up to the date the financial statements were available to be issued, which was June 30, 2024, and has determined that there were no events that would require modification of the financial statements or disclosure in the notes to the financial statements.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL AREA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DISTRICT

SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE - BUDGET (GAAP BASIS) AND ACTUAL - GENERAL FUND

Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2023

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
Revenues:				
Non-ad valorem assessments	$ 2,255,400	$ 2,255,400	$ 2,240,515	$ (14,885)
Interest	10,000	10,000	40,681	30,681
Miscellaneous	-	-	20	20
Total revenues	2,265,400	2,265,400	2,281,216	15,816
Expenditures:				
Physical environment	2,353,794	2,353,794	2,339,928	13,866
Total expenditures	2,353,794	2,353,794	2,339,928	13,866
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	$ (88,394)	$ (88,394)	(58,712)	$ 29,682
Fund balance, beginning of year			945,472	
Fund balance, end of year			$ 886,760	

Note 1 - Excess of expenditures over appropriations

Actual general fund expenditures did not exceed appropriations for the fiscal year.

See notes to the financial statements

OTHER INFORMATION

EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL AREA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DISTRICT

Other Information-Information Required by Section 218.39(3)(c), Florida Statutes and Section 10.554(1)(i)6, Rules of the Auditor General

For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2023
Unaudited

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

Required Information	Reported
The total number of district employees compensated in the last pay period of the District's fiscal year 2023:	N/A
The total number of independent contractors to whom nonemployee compensation was paid in the last month of the District's fiscal year 2023:	3
All compensation earned by or awarded to employees, whether paid or accrued, regardless of contingency for fiscal year 2023:	N/A
All compensation earned by or awarded to nonemployee independent contractors, whether paid or accrued, regardless of contingency for fiscal year 2023:	$ 225,188
Each construction project with a total cost of at least $65,000 approved by the District that was scheduled to begin on or after October 1 of the fiscal year 2023, together with the total expenditures for such project:	N/A
A budget variance based on the budget adopted under Section 189.016(4), Florida Statutes, before the beginning of the fiscal year 2023 being reported if the District amends a final adopted budget under Section 189.016(6), Florida Statutes:	See Page 15
The rate or rates of non-ad valorem special assessments imposed by the District for fiscal year 2023:	$5/Acre
The total amount of special assessments collected by or on behalf of the District for fiscal year 2023:	$ 2,240,515
The total amount of outstanding bonds issued by the district and the terms of such bonds:	N/A

COMPLIANCE SECTION

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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
Everglades Agricultural Area Environmental Protection District

We have audited, 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, the financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund information of the Everglades Agricultural Area Environmental Protection District (the "District"), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated June 30, 2024.

Report on 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) 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 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 or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

Report on 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 grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. 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.

Nowlen, Holt & Miner, P.A.

West Palm Beach, Florida
June 30, 2024

NOWLEN, HOLT & MINER, P.A.
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MANAGEMENT LETTER IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULES OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA

To the Board of Supervisors
Everglades Agricultural Area Environmental Protection District

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the basic financial statements of the Everglades Agricultural Area Environmental Protection District (the "District"), as of and for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023, and have issued our report thereon dated June 30, 2024.

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 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 Accountant'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 June 30, 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 taken to address findings and recommendations made in the preceding financial audit report. There were no findings or recommendations in the prior year that required corrective actions.

Official Title and Legal Authority

Section 10.554(1)(i)4., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that the name or official title and legal authority for the primary government and each component unit of the reporting entity be disclosed in this Management Letter, unless disclosed in the notes to the financial statements. This information is disclosed in Note 1 to the financial statements.

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Financial Condition and Management

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

Pursuant to Sections 10.554(1)(i)5.b. and 10.556(8), Rules of the Auditor General, we applied financial condition assessment procedures for the District. It is management's responsibility to monitor the District's financial condition, and our financial condition assessment was based in part on representations made by management and review of financial information provided by same. Our assessment was done as of the fiscal year end. The results of our procedures did not disclose any matters that are required to be reported.

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.

Special District Component Units

Section 10.554(1)(i)5.c., Rules of the Auditor General, requires, if appropriate, that we communicate the failure of a special district that is a component unit of a county, municipality, or special district, to provide the financial information necessary for proper reporting of the component unit within the audited financial statements of the county, municipality, or special district in accordance with Section 218.39(3)(b), Florida Statutes.

Based on the application of criteria in publications cited in Section 10.553, Rules of the Auditor General, there are no special district component units of the District and the District is not a component to any other entity.

Specific Information

As required by Section 218.39(3)(c), Florida Statutes, and Section 10.554(1)(i)6, Rules of the Auditor General, the District reported the required information in the other information section on page 16.

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 warrants the attention of those charged with governance. In connection with our audit, we did not note any such findings.

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, 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.

Nowlen, Holt & Miner, P.A.

West Palm Beach, Florida
June 30, 2024

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

To the Board of Supervisors
Everglades Agricultural Area Environmental Protection District

We have examined the Everglades Agricultural Area Environmental Protection District's (the "District") compliance with Section 218.415, Florida Statutes during the year ended September 30, 2023. Management of the District is responsible for the District's compliance with the specified requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the District's compliance with the specified requirements based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the AICPA. 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 above. 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 judgement, including an assessment of the risk 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.

We are required to be independent and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to the examination engagement.

Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the District's compliance with the specified requirements.

In our opinion, the District complied, in all material respects, with Section 218.415, Florida Statutes for the year ended September 30, 2023.

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

Nowlen, Holt & Miner, P.A.

West Palm Beach, Florida
June 30, 2024