

**NATURE COAST REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
September 30, 2023**

**NATURE COAST REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	PAGE NO.
INTRODUCTORY SECTION	
List of Principal Officials	4
FINANCIAL SECTION	
Independent Auditor's Report	6 - 8
Management's Discussion and Analysis	9 - 11
BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	
Statement of Net Position	13
Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position	14
Statement of Cash Flows	15
Notes to Financial Statements	16 - 20
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION - SINGLE AUDITS	
Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and State Financial Assistance	22
Notes to Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and State Financial Assistance	23
OTHER REPORTS AND LETTERS	
Management Letter	25 - 26
Independent Accountant's Report	27
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 <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	28 - 29
Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance for Each Major State Project and on Internal Control over Compliance in Accordance with Chapter 10.550, <i>Rules of the Auditor General</i> , Office of the Auditor General	30 - 32
Communication with Those Charged with Governance	33 - 34
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs	35 - 36

INTRODUCTORY SECTION

**NATURE COAST REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY
LIST OF PRINCIPAL OFFICIALS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2023**

Chair	Trip Lancaster
Vice Chairman	Bobby Crosby
Board Member	Mike Moore
Board Member	John Jenkins
Attorney	Mark Logan

FINANCIAL SECTION



Powell and Jones CPA

1359 S.W. Main Blvd.
Lake City, FL 32025
Phone 386.755.4200
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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of Directors
Nature Coast Regional Water Authority
Fanning Springs, Florida

Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of the business-type activities of the Nature Coast Regional Water Authority (the Authority) as of and for the year ended September 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Authority'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 business-type activities of the Authority, 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. 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 Authority, 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 Authority'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 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 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, 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 Authority'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 Authority'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 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

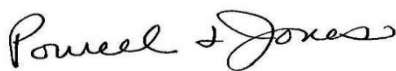
Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Authority's basic financial statements. The accompanying schedule of expenditures of state financial assistance, as required by the audit requirements of Section 215.97, Florida Statutes, *Florida Single Audit Act*; and Chapter 10.550, Rules of the State of Florida, Office of the Auditor General, as listed in the table of contents, is presented for the purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements.

Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the Schedule of Expenditures of State Financial Assistance has been fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated September 9, 2024, on our consideration of the Authority'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 to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. The report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Authority's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



POWELL AND JONES CPA

Lake City, Florida

September 9, 2024

NATURE COAST REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY
Management's Discussion and Analysis
September 30, 2023

The management of the Nature Coast Regional Water Authority (the Authority) offers readers of our financial statements the following narrative overview and analysis of our financial activities for the year ended September 30, 2023.

Basic Financial Statements

Our basic financial statements are prepared using proprietary fund (enterprise fund) accounting principles which is the same basis of accounting as private-sector business enterprises. The Authority is operated under one enterprise fund. Under this method of accounting, an economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting is used.

Revenue is recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when incurred. The basic financial statements include a statement of net position, a statement of revenues, expenses and changes in net position, and a statement of cash flows. These are followed by notes to the financial statements.

The statement of net position presents information on the Authority'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 Authority is improving or deteriorating.

The statement of revenues, expenses and changes in net position reports the operating revenues and expenses and nonoperating revenues and expenses of the Authority for the fiscal year with the difference - the net income or loss - being combined with any capital grants to determine the net change in assets for the fiscal year. That change combined with the net position at the end of the previous year total to the net position at the end of the current fiscal year.

The statement of cash flows reports cash and cash equivalent activities for the fiscal year resulting from operating activities, capital and related financing activities, noncapital and related financing activities and investing activities. The net result of these activities added to the beginning of the year cash balance total to the cash and cash equivalent balance at the end of the current fiscal year.

CONDENSED FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Condensed financial information from the statements of net position at September 30, 2023 and 2022, and revenues, expenses and changes in net position for the years then ended, follows:

Net Position
September 30, 2023 and 2022

	2023	2022
Assets:		
Current assets		
Cash	\$ 9,249	\$ 13,586
Accounts receivable	7,652	759,226
Total current assets	16,901	772,812
Fixed assets		
Construction in progress	2,037,245	1,283,616
Infrastructure	2,401,206	2,401,206
Less accumulated depreciation	(390,196)	(330,166)
Total fixed assets	4,048,255	3,354,656
Total assets	4,065,156	4,127,468
Liabilities:		
Current liabilities	-	759,226
Net position:		
Net investment in capital assets	4,048,255	3,354,656
Unrestricted	16,901	13,586
Total net position	\$ 4,065,156	\$ 3,368,242

Change in Net Position
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2023 and 2022

	2023	2022
Revenues:		
Grant revenue	\$ 762,873	\$ 1,036,916
Customer fees	8,652	18,342
Total revenues	771,525	1,055,258
Expenses:		
Operating expenses	74,611	69,906
Increase (decrease) in net position	696,914	985,352
Net position, beginning of year	3,368,242	2,382,890
Net position, end of year	\$ 4,065,156	\$ 3,368,242

OVERALL FINANCIAL POSITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Revenues were \$771,525 compared to expenses of \$74,611. This resulted in an increase for the year of \$696,914. Because of this, net position increased by the same.

CAPITAL ASSETS AND DEBT ADMINISTRATION

Capital Assets

At September 30, 2023, the Authority had a net of \$4,048,255 invested in capital assets, consisting of a pipeline to bring water services from Fanning Springs to the Old Town service area as a part of the Otter Springs Onsite Sewage Treatment Disposal System project that is funded through the Suwannee River Water Management District. This was an increase of 21% over the net investment in 2022.

Capital Assets at September 30, 2023 and 2022

	Business-type Activities	
	2023	2022
Construction in progress	\$ 2,037,245	\$ 1,283,616
Infrastructure	2,401,206	2,401,206
Subtotal	4,438,451	3,684,822
Accumulated depreciation	(390,196)	(330,166)
Capital assets, net	<u>\$ 4,048,255</u>	<u>\$ 3,354,656</u>

Debt Administration

The Authority has no long-term debt.

OTHER FINANCIAL INFORMATION

ECONOMIC FACTORS

We are not currently aware of any conditions that are expected to have a significant effect on the Authority’s financial position or results of operations. The Authority is dependent on future federal and state grants for further expansion.

FINANCIAL CONTACT

The Authority’s financial statements are designed to present users (citizens, taxpayers, customers and creditors) with a general overview of the Authority’s finances for all those with an interest in the Authority’s finances and to demonstrate the Authority’s accountability. If you have any questions about the report or need additional financial information, contact the Authority at 17651 NW 90 Court, Fanning Springs, Florida 32693.

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NATURE COAST REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
September 30, 2023

ASSETS

Current assets:

Cash and cash equivalents	9,249
Accounts receivable	7,652
Total current assets	16,901

Noncurrent assets:

Capital Assets

Non-depreciable	2,037,245
Depreciable	2,011,010
Capital assets, net	4,048,255
Total noncurrent assets	4,048,255
Total assets	4,065,156

NET POSITION

Net investment in capital assets	4,048,255
Unrestricted	16,901
Total net position	\$ 4,065,156

See notes to financial statements.

NATURE COAST REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES
AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2023

OPERATING REVENUES	
Customer fees	8,652
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES	<u>8,652</u>
 OPERATING EXPENSES	
Depreciation	60,030
Insurance	6,901
Professional fees	6,732
Other operating expenses	948
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>74,611</u>
 OPERATING LOSS	 <u>(65,959)</u>
 NONOPERATING REVENUES	
State grant revenue	762,873
TOTAL NONOPERATING REVENUES	<u>762,873</u>
 INCREASE IN NET POSITION	 696,914
 NET POSITION, Beginning of Year	 <u>3,368,242</u>
 NET POSITION, End of Year	 <u>\$ 4,065,156</u>

See notes to financial statements.

NATURE COAST REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2023

CASH FLOWS USED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES:	
Cash received from members and customers	\$ 760,226
Cash payments for goods and services	(773,807)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>(13,581)</u>

CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES:	
Grant receipts	<u>9,244</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) capital and related financing activities	<u>9,244</u>

Net increase (decrease) in cash (4,337)

Cash, beginning of year	<u>13,586</u>
Cash, end of year	<u>\$ 9,249</u>

**RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING LOSS TO NET CASH
USED IN OPERATING ACTIVITIES:**

Operating loss	<u>\$ (65,959)</u>
Adjustments to reconcile operating loss to net cash provided by operating activities:	
Decrease in accounts receivable	\$ 751,574
Decrease in accounts payable	(759,226)
Depreciation expense	<u>60,030</u>
Total adjustments	<u>52,378</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>\$ (13,581)</u>

See notes to financial statements.

NATURE COAST REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
September 30, 2023

NOTE 1. DESCRIPTION OF ENTITY

Description of Operations

The Nature Coast Regional Water Authority is a local unit of government created on June 8, 2009 through an interlocal agreement between Dixie County, Gilchrist County, the Town of Bell, the Town of Cross City, the City of Fanning Springs, and the City of Trenton. It is an independent special district created pursuant to the statutory authority provided in Section 163.01, *Florida Statutes*, to provide water, wastewater, and reclaimed water services.

On October 15, 2014, the Authority entered into an agreement with the City of Fanning Springs for a period of ten years to supply potable water to residents within the Authority's service area. The City's obligations include provision of water, operations, maintenance and management of the Authority's water system, personnel for the operation of the Authority, all billing functions, insurance, accounting, maintenance, repair and replacement of Authority water system components, security, operating permits, monthly reports and various other services as documented in the lease agreement.

The Authority's obligations include construction of the water facilities, as well as permits and funding for that purpose. The Authority is also obligated, at its expense, to be responsible for all audits required for government grants or loans obtained for construction of the water system.

Reporting Entity

The Authority uses the criteria established in GASB Statement No. 14 to define the reporting entity and identify component units. Component units are entities for which the Authority is considered to be financially accountable. There are no other entities that qualify for inclusion as a component unit within the Authority's reporting entity.

NOTE 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a. Basis of Presentation and Accounting

The Authority's basic financial statements are presented on the accrual basis of accounting and conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The Authority has elected under GASB Statement No. 20, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Proprietary Funds and Other Governmental Activities That Use Proprietary Fund Accounting*, to apply all applicable GASB pronouncements as well as any applicable pronouncements of the Financial Accounting Standards Board, or any Accounting Research Bulletins issued on or before November 30, 1989, unless these pronouncements conflict with or contradict GASB pronouncements.

The accounts of the Authority are organized on the basis of a proprietary fund type, specifically an enterprise fund. The activities of this fund are accounted for with a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise the Authority's assets, liabilities, net position, revenues and expenses. Enterprise funds account for activities (i) that are financed with debt that is secured solely by a pledge of the net revenues from fees and charges of the activity; or (ii) that are required by laws or regulations that the activity's costs of providing services, including capital costs (such as depreciation or debt service), be recovered with fees and charges, rather than with taxes or similar revenues; or (iii) that the pricing policies of the activity establish fees and charges designed to recover its costs, including capital costs (such as depreciation or debt service).

The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to the Authority is determined by its measurement focus. The transactions of the Authority are accounted for on a flow of economic resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, all assets and all liabilities associated with the operations are included on the statements of net position. Net position (i.e., total assets net of total liabilities) are segregated into invested in capital assets, net of related debt; restricted for debt service; and unrestricted components.

Management of the Authority has made certain estimates and assumptions relating to the reporting of assets and liabilities and revenues and expenses to prepare these financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

b. Cash Equivalents and Investments

The Authority considers all highly liquid investments (including restricted cash and investments) with maturities of three months or less when purchased to be cash equivalents. This includes bank certificates of deposit.

Investments are presented at fair value. Short-term investments generally mature or are otherwise available for withdrawal in less than one year. Restricted investments, which consist primarily of U.S. government securities designated for specific projects and required to be segregated pursuant to debt covenants, and restricted cash, which consists of a money market account, and is presented as restricted cash.

c. Capital Assets

The cost of additions to the utility plant and major replacements of retired units of property is capitalized. The Authority defines capital assets as assets with an initial, individual cost of more than \$1,000 and an estimated useful life in excess of two years. Cost includes direct labor, outside services, materials and transportation, employee fringe benefits, overhead, and interest on funds borrowed to finance construction. The Authority did not capitalize interest during the current fiscal year. As applicable in a fiscal year, the cost and accumulated depreciation of property sold or retired is deducted from capital assets, and any profit or loss resulting from the disposal is credited or charged in the nonoperating section of the statements of revenues, expenses and changes in net position. The cost of current repairs, maintenance, and minor replacements is charged to expense. Construction in progress primarily relates to the construction of a water facility.

Depreciation has been provided over estimated useful lives of the assets using the straight-line method. The estimated useful lives are as follows:

Structures, pumps and other improvements	20 - 40 years
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d. Operating Revenues and Expenses

Operating revenues and expenses consist of those revenues that result from the ongoing principal operations of the Authority. Operating revenues were earned from fees attached to the water bills of customers served by the pipeline that was completed in this fiscal year. There were no revenues because the facility is still under construction. Nonoperating revenues and expenses consist of those revenues and expenses that are related to financing and investing type of activities and result from nonexchange transactions or ancillary activities. When an expense is incurred for purposes for which there are both restricted and unrestricted net position available, it is the Authority's policy to apply those expenses to restricted net position to the extent such are available and then to unrestricted net position.

e. Net Position

Net position comprises the various net earnings from operating income, nonoperating revenues and expenses, and capital contributions. Net position is classified in the following three components:

Net investment in capital assets - This component of net position consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by the outstanding balances of any bonds, mortgages, notes or other liabilities that are attributable to the acquisition, construction or improvement of those assets. If there are significant unspent related debt proceeds at year-end, the portion of the debt attributable to the unspent proceeds is not included in the calculation of invested in capital assets, net of related debt. Rather, that portion of the debt is included in the same net position component as the unspent proceeds.

Restricted - This component of net position consists of constraints imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments or constraints imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Unrestricted net position - This component of net position consists of net position that does not meet the definition of "restricted" or "invested" in capital assets, net of related debt."

NOTE 3. CASH

a. Cash

Cash is presented on the accompanying statements of net position as of September 30, 2023, as follows:

Total cash and equivalents	<u>\$ 9,249</u>
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b. Deposits

The financial institution in which the Authority's monies are deposited is certified as a "Qualified Public Depository," as required under the Florida Security for Public Deposits Act. This law requires every qualified public depository to deposit with the State Treasurer eligible collateral equal to or in excess of an amount to be determined by the State Treasurer. Therefore, the Authority's total deposits are insured by the Florida Depository Insurance Corporation and the Bureau of Collateral Securities, Division of Treasury, State Department of Insurance. The law requires the State Treasurer to ensure that funds are entirely collateralized throughout the fiscal year.

NOTE 4. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Grants receivable	\$	5,000
Accounts receivable		<u>2,652</u>
Total accounts receivable	\$	<u><u>7,652</u></u>

NOTE 5. CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital asset activity for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023, follows:

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deletions</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
Construction in progress	\$ 1,283,616	\$ 753,629	\$ -	\$ 2,037,245
Infrastructure	<u>2,401,206</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>\$ 2,401,206</u>
Total fixed assets	3,684,822	753,629	-	4,438,451
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(330,166)</u>	<u>(60,030)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(390,196)</u>
Net assets	<u>\$ 3,354,656</u>	<u>\$ 693,599</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 4,048,255</u>

NOTE 6. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

There were no accounts payable in the year ending September 30, 2023.

NOTE 7. GRANT AGREEMENTS

In December, 2017, Nature Coast Regional Water Authority (NCRWA) entered into an agreement with Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) in which NCRWA was awarded funding for a three-phase project that is intended to improve the wastewater treatment provided at Otter Springs and the surrounding areas. The funding agreement between NCRWA and SRWMD covered phase one of this project which entailed the building of a pipeline to connect Otter Springs Park to the City of Fanning Springs wastewater facility. The award for this phase one component is \$1,850,000, at year end the Authority has submitted applications for draws of \$750,629 of these funds.

NOTE 8. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Amounts received or receivable from grantor agencies are subject to audit and adjustment by grantor agencies, principally the State and Federal governments. Any disallowed claims, including amounts already collected, may constitute a liability of the Authority. The amount, if any, of expenditures which may be disallowed by the grantor cannot be determined at this time, although the Authority expects such amounts, if any, to be immaterial.

NOTE 9. BUDGETS

The following is a comparison of the appropriations to total expenses for the Enterprise Funds for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023. The expenditures on capital assets that lead to depreciation expense have been funded by state and federal grants.

	<u>Appropriations</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Variance Positive (Negative)</u>
Enterprise Fund			
Operating expense	\$ 16,200	\$ 14,581	\$ 1,619
Depreciation expense	-	60,030	(60,030)
	<u>\$ 16,200</u>	<u>\$ 74,611</u>	<u>\$ (58,411)</u>

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

	<u>CFSA #</u>	<u>Contract Number</u>	<u>Award Amount</u>	<u>Reported in Prior Years</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Major Project</u>
STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE						
Florida Department of Environmental Protection						
Passed through Suwannee River Water Management District						
Wastewater System Extension Ph VII Lancaster Correctional Facility and Aquifer Recharge						
	21.027	WG056	\$ 2,900,000	\$ -	\$ 3,000	No
STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE						
Passed through Suwannee River Water Management District						
Otter Springs Onsite Sewage Treatment Disposal Systems						
	37.052	LPS0037	<u>1,850,000</u>	<u>1,036,916</u>	<u>750,629</u>	Yes
Total state financial assistance			<u>\$ 4,750,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,036,916</u>	<u>\$ 753,629</u>	

See Notes to Schedule of Expenditures of State Financial Assistance.

NATURE COAST REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY
Notes to Schedule of Expenditures of State Financial Assistance
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2023

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounting policies and presentation of the Single Audit Report of Nature Coast Regional Water Authority (the "Authority") have been designed to conform to generally accepted accounting principles as applicable to governmental units, including the reporting and compliance requirements applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, *OMB Uniform Requirements*, and Chapter 10.550, Rules of the State of Florida, Office of the Auditor General.

A. Reporting Entity

The reporting entity consists of the Authority, the primary government. The Authority includes a Schedule of Expenditures of State Financial Assistance in the report for the purpose of additional analysis.

B. Basis of Accounting

Basis of accounting refers to when revenues and expenditures or expenses are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements. Basis of accounting relates to the timing of the measurements made, regardless of the measurement focus.

The accrual basis of accounting is followed in the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and State Financial Assistance. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting.

NOTE 2. INDIRECT COST RATE

The Authority did not elect to use the 10 percent de minimis indirect cost rate.

NOTE 3. SUBRECIPIENTS

The Authority did not have any subrecipients.

OTHER REPORTS AND LETTERS

**MANAGEMENT LETTER REQUIRED BY
CHAPTER 10.550, RULES OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL**

To the Board of Directors
Nature Coast Regional Water Authority
Fanning Springs, Florida

We have audited the basic financial statements of Nature Coast Regional Water Authority (the "Authority") as of and for the year ended September 30, 2023, and have issued our report thereon dated September 9, 2024.

We have issued our 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* dated October 2, 2023. Disclosures in that report should be considered in conjunction with this management letter.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, and *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Additionally, our audit was conducted in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 10.550, *Rules of the Auditor General*, which govern the conduct of local governmental entity audits performed in the State of Florida and require that the following be addressed in this letter:

PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS

The Rules of the Auditor General require that we comment as to whether or not corrective actions have been taken to address findings and recommendations made in the preceding audit. If the audit findings in the preceding audit report are uncorrected, we are required to identify those findings that were also included in the second preceding audit report. See summary below for update on prior year findings.

Prior Year Finding Number	FY 2023 Status	Years as Finding
2014-1	Repeated as 2014-1	+3

FINANCIAL COMPLIANCE MATTERS

Financial Emergency Status – We determined that the Authority had not met any of the conditions described in Section 218.503(1), *Florida Statutes*, that might result in a financial emergency.

Financial Condition Assessment Procedures – As required by the *Rules of the Auditor General*, (Sections 10.554(1)(i)5.a and 10.556(8)), we applied financial condition assessment procedures to the Authority's financial statements. It is management's responsibility to monitor the entity's financial condition, and our financial condition assessment was based in part on representations made by management and the review of financial information they provided.

We noted no deteriorating financial conditions as defined by Rule 10.544(2)(f).

Our audit did not disclose any further items that would be required to be reported under the *Rules of the Auditor General*, Chapter 10.550.

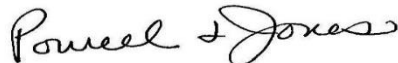
Special District Specific Information – As required by Section 218.39(3)(c), Florida Statutes and Section 10.554(1)(i)6, Rules of the Auditor General, the Authority, reported the following data:

- a. The total number of Authority employees compensated in the last pay period of the Cooperative's fiscal year: None.
- b. The total number of independent contractors to whom non-employee compensation was paid in the last month of the Authority's fiscal year: None.
- c. All compensation earned by or awarded to employees, whether paid or accrued, regardless of contingency: None.
- d. All compensation earned by or awarded to non-employee independent contractors, whether paid or accrued, regardless of contingency: None.
- e. Each construction project with a total cost of at least \$65,000 approved by the Authority that is scheduled to begin on or after October 1 of the fiscal year being reported, together with the total expenditures for such projects as: None.
- f. 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 Authority amends a final adopted budget under Section 189.016(6), Florida Statutes, as follows: The Authority's original budget totaled \$16,200 and was amended by the total amount of \$0, for final budgeted expenditures of \$16,200.

This information was not subjected to audit procedures and we express no opinion on it.

This management letter is intended solely for the information and use of the members of the Board of Directors, management and the State of Florida Auditor General, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for the cooperation and courtesies extended to us during the course of the audit. Please let us know if you have any questions or comments concerning this letter, our accompanying reports, or other matters.



POWELL AND JONES CPA
Lake City, Florida
September 9, 2024

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

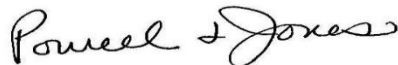
To the Board of Directors
Nature Coast Regional Water Authority
Fanning Springs, Florida

We have examined the Nature Coast Regional Water Authority's compliance with Section 218.415, *Florida Statutes*, regarding the investment of public funds during the year ended September 30, 2023. Management is responsible for the Authority's compliance with those requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Authority's compliance based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and, accordingly, included examining, on a test basis, evidence about the Authority's compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our examination provides a reasonable basis for our opinion. Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the Authority's compliance with specified requirements.

In our opinion, the Authority complied, in all material respects, with the aforementioned requirements for the year ended September 30, 2023.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Authority and the Auditor General, State of Florida, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.



POWELL AND JONES CPA
Lake City, Florida
September 9, 2024

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 Directors
Nature Coast Regional Water Authority
Fanning Springs, Florida

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the business-type activities of Nature Coast Regional Water Authority (the “Authority”) , as of and for the year ended September 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Authority’s basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated September 9, 2024.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Authority’s internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Nature Coast Regional Water Authority’s internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority’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, we identified the following deficiency in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be a significant deficiency in internal control over financial reporting.

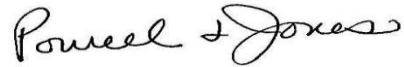
Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Authority’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 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.



POWELL AND JONES CPA

Lake City, Florida

September 9, 2024

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR EACH MAJOR STATE PROJECT
AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER
10.550, RULES OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL, OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL**

To the Board of Directors
Nature Coast Regional Water Authority
Fanning Springs, Florida

Report on Compliance for Each Major State Project

Opinion on Each Major State Project

We have audited the Nature Coast Regional Water Authority (the “Authority’s”) compliance with the types of compliance requirements in the State of Florida, Department of Financial Services State Projects Compliance and Supplement that could have a direct and material effect on each of the Authority’s major state projects for the year ended September 30, 2023. The Authority’s major state projects are identified in the summary of auditor’s results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs for State Projects.

In our opinion, the Authority complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major state projects for the year ended September 30, 2023.

Basis for Opinion on Each Major State Project

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with the 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 State of Florida, Office of the Auditor General. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report.

We are required to be independent of the Authority and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with 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 opinion on compliance for each major state project. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the Authority’s compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants applicable to its state projects.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules, and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to the Authority’s state projects.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on the Authority's compliance based on our audit. 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 the 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 State of Florida, Office of the Auditor General will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than noncompliance that results from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the Authority's compliance with the requirements of each major state project as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with the 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 State of Florida, Office of the Auditor General, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, 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 Authority's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- Obtain an understanding of the Authority's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with Chapter 10.550, Rules of the State of Florida, Office of the Auditor General, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

Report on Internal Control over Compliance

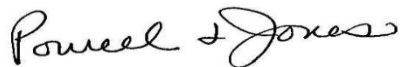
A deficiency in internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. A material weakness in internal control over compliance is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a state project will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A significant deficiency in internal control over compliance is a deficiency, or a

combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a state project that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance may exist that were not identified.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

Pursuant to Chapter 119, *Florida Statutes*, this report is a public record, and its distribution is not limited. Auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America require us to indicate that this report is intended solely for the information and use of the Authority's management, State awarding agencies and pass-through entities and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.



POWELL AND JONES CPA
Lake City, Florida
September 9, 2024

Communication with Those Charged with Governance

To the Board of Directors
Nature Coast Regional Water Authority
Fanning Springs, Florida

We have audited the financial statements of Nature Coast Regional Water Authority for the year ended September 30, 2023. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Findings

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by Nature Coast Regional Water Authority are described Note 2 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during 2023. We noted no transactions entered into by the governmental unit during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. There are no sensitive estimates affecting Nature Coast Regional Water Authority's financial statements.

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. There are no sensitive disclosures affecting the financial statements.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. There were no such misstatements identified during our audit.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated October 2, 2023.

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a “second opinion” on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the governmental unit’s financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor’s opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Other Audit Findings or Issues

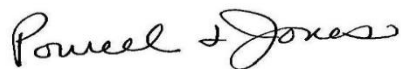
We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the governmental unit’s auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

Other Information in Documents Containing Audited Financial Statements

With respect to the supplementary information accompanying the financial statements, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

This information is intended solely for the use of the Board of Directors and management of Nature Coast Regional Water Authority, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,



POWELL AND JONES CPA
Lake City, Florida
September 9, 2024

**NATURE COAST REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY
 SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
 For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2023**

Section I - Summary of Auditor's Results

Financial Statements

Type of auditor's report issued	Unmodified
Internal control over financial reporting	
● Material weakness identified?	No
● Significant deficiencies identified?	Yes
Noncompliance material to financial statements	No

State Projects

Internal control over major projects:	
● Material weaknesses identified?	No
● Significant deficiencies identified?	None reported
Type of auditor's report issued on compliance for major programs	Unmodified
Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with Chapter 10.557 Rules of the Auditor General?	No

Identification of major projects:

<u>CSFA Number</u>	<u>Name of Project</u>
37.052	Florida Springs Grant Program

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between type A and type B programs:	\$300,000
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Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs (continued)

Section II - Financial Statement Findings

Finding 2014-1 (repeated in excess of three years) Financial Statement Preparation

A system of internal control over financial reporting includes controls over financial statement preparation, including footnote disclosures. While your auditor can assist with the preparation of your financial statements and related footnotes, the financial statements are the responsibility of management. A deficiency in internal control exists because the Nature Coast Regional Water Authority is not capable of drafting the financial statements and all required footnote disclosures in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The Authority does possess suitable skill, knowledge, and experience to oversee services an auditor provides in assisting with financial statement presentation which requires a lower level of technical knowledge than the competence required to prepare the financial statements and disclosures.

MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSE

We agree with this finding. We are a very small government. We currently utilize the services of our Treasurer, who maintains excellent accounting records and provides accurate monthly financial reports prepared generally on the cash basis. We likewise have confidence in our audit firm to utilize these records and prepare annual financial statements in the required formats and with all associated note disclosures. The Board of Directors reviews the annual financial reports and have the opportunity to ask the auditor any questions regarding the report prior to its formal presentation. The report is formally presented by the auditor at a scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors.

At this time, we do not believe it would be a justifiable expense to employ another accountant on either a part-time or full-time basis to prepare the annual financial statements. We thus accept this required disclosure finding and will continue to monitor this situation in the future.

This response was not subjected to the audit procedures applied in the audit and thus we express no opinion on it.

Section III - State Financial Assistance Findings and Questioned Costs

None