



July 31, 2026

The Board of Supervisors  
Hillsborough Soil & Water Conservation District  
4503 Coronet Rd  
Plant City, Florida 33566

Attention: Dr. Joe Walsh, Executive Director

The following represents our understanding of the services we will provide the Hillsborough Soil & Water Conservation District (the "District").

You have requested that we audit the financial statements of the governmental activities and major fund of the Hillsborough Soil & Water Conservation District, as of September 30, 2026, and for the year then ended and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. We are pleased to confirm our acceptance and our understanding of this audit engagement by means of this letter.

The objectives of our audit of the financial statements are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements, including omissions, can arise from fraud or error and 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.

Accounting standards generally accepted in the United States of America (US GAAP) provide for certain required supplementary information (RSI), such as management's discussion and analysis (MD&A), 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. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information (RSI) in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. These limited procedures will consist primarily of inquiries of management regarding their methods of measurement and presentation, and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries. We will not express an opinion or provide any form of assurance on the RSI. The following RSI is required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. This RSI will be subjected to certain limited procedures but will not be audited:

1. Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A).
2. Budgetary Comparison for the General Fund.

**Auditor Responsibilities**

We will conduct our audit in accordance with GAAS and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States of America. As part of an audit of financial statements in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. 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 controls.
- Obtain an understanding of the system of internal control in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. However, we will communicate to you in writing concerning any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control relevant to the audit of the financial statements that we have identified during the audit.
- 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, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, 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 a reasonable period of time.

Although we are currently in the planning stage of our audit, we have identified the following significant risk during our audit to date that require special audit consideration:

- Management override of controls is considered an inherent risk according to GAAS.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of internal control, an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements or noncompliance may not be detected exists, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*. Furthermore, the determination of waste and abuse is subjective and *Government Auditing Standards* does not require auditors to perform specific procedures to detect waste or abuse nor do they expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting waste or abuse.

Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any other periods.

**Compliance with Laws and Regulations**

As previously discussed, as part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the basic financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of the District's compliance with the provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and agreements. However, the objective of our audit will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion.

## Management Responsibilities

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that management and those charged with governance acknowledge and understand that they have responsibility:

1. For the preparation and fair presentation of the basic financial statements in accordance with US GAAP;
2. For the design, implementation, and maintenance of the system of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of basic financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to error, fraudulent financial reporting, misappropriation of assets, or violations of laws, governmental regulations, grant agreements, or contractual agreements; and
3. To provide us with:
  - a. Access to all information of which management is aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the basic financial statements including the disclosures such as records, documentation, and other matters;
  - b. Additional information that we may request from management for the purpose of the audit;
  - c. Unrestricted access to persons within the entity and others from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence;
  - d. A written acknowledgement of all the documents that management expects to issue that will be included in the annual report and the planned timing and method of issuance of that annual report; and
  - e. A final version of the annual report (including all the documents that, together, comprise the annual report) in a timely manner prior to the date of the auditor's report.
4. For including the auditor's report in any document containing basic financial statements that indicates that such basic financial statements have been audited by us;
5. For identifying and ensuring that the entity complies with the laws and regulations applicable to its activities;
6. For adjusting the basic financial statements to correct material misstatements and confirming to us in the management representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the current year period(s) under audit are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the basic financial statements as a whole;
7. For acceptance of nonattest services, including identifying the proper party to oversee nonattest work;
8. For maintaining adequate records, selecting and applying accounting principles, and safeguarding assets;
9. For informing us of any known or suspected fraud affecting the entity involving management, employees with significant role in the system of internal control and others where fraud could have a material effect on the financials;
10. For the accuracy and completeness of all information provided;
11. For taking reasonable measures to safeguard protected personally identifiable and other sensitive information; and
12. For confirming your understanding of your responsibilities as defined in this letter to us in your management representation letter.

As part of our audit process, we will request from management and, when appropriate, those charged with governance, written confirmation concerning representations made to us in connection with the audit.

**Nonattest Services**

With respect to any nonattest services we perform, including the following:

- *Assistance with preparation of the financial statements and related notes.*

We will not assume management responsibilities on behalf of the District. However, we will provide advice and recommendations to assist management of District in performing its responsibilities.

The District's management is responsible for: (a) making all management decisions and performing all management functions; (b) assigning a competent individual to oversee the services; (c) evaluating the adequacy of the services performed; (d) evaluating and accepting responsibility for the results of the services performed; and (e) designing, implementing, and maintaining the system of internal control, including the process used to monitor the system of internal control. Furthermore, you acknowledge that the working digital files used to prepare your financial statements constitute proprietary information to us, and we reserve all rights to these files.

Our responsibilities and limitations of the nonattest services are as follows:

- The nonattest services do not constitute an audit under *Government Auditing Standards* and such services will not be conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.
- The nonattest services are limited to the assistance with preparation of the financial statements and related notes previously outlined. Our Firm, in its sole professional judgment, reserves the right to refuse to do any procedure or take any action that could be construed as making management decisions or assuming management responsibilities, including determining account coding and approving journal entries.

**Reporting**

We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of the District's basic financial statements. Our report will be addressed to the Board of Supervisors. Circumstances may arise in which our report may differ from its expected form and content based on the results of our audit. Depending on the nature of these circumstances, it may be necessary for us to modify our opinions, add an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph(s) to our auditor's report, or if necessary, withdraw from the engagement. If our opinions on the basic financial statements are other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed opinions, we may decline to express opinions or to issue a report as a result of this engagement.

We will also provide a report (that does not include an opinion) on internal control related to the financial statements and compliance with the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements as required by *Government Auditing Standards*. The report on internal control and on compliance and other matters will state: (1) that the purpose of the report is solely to describe the scope of 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 on compliance, and (2) that the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. The report will also state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose. If during our audit we become aware that the District is subject to an audit requirement that is not encompassed in the terms of this engagement, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance that an audit in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* may not satisfy the relevant legal, regulatory, or contractual requirements.

We will provide copies of our reports to the District; however, management is responsible for distribution of the reports and the financial statements. Unless restricted by law or regulation, or containing privileged and confidential information, copies of our reports are to be made available for public inspection.

**Other**

We understand that your employees will prepare all confirmations we request and will locate any documents or support for any other transactions we select for testing. We will schedule the engagement based in part on deadlines, working conditions, and the availability of your key personnel. We will plan the engagement based on the assumption that your personnel will cooperate and provide assistance by performing tasks such as preparing requested schedules, retrieving supporting documents, and preparing confirmations. If, for whatever reasons, your personnel are unavailable to provide the necessary assistance in a timely manner, it may substantially increase the work we have to do to complete our engagement, resulting in an increase in fees over our original estimate. It may also significantly change original timelines for estimated completion of the audit.

If you intend to publish or otherwise reproduce the basic financial statements and make reference to our Firm, you agree to provide us with printers' proofs or masters for our review and approval before printing. You also agree to provide us with a copy of the final reproduced material for our approval before it is distributed.

With regard to an exempt offering document with which Mauldin & Jenkins is not involved, you agree to clearly indicate in the exempt offering document that Mauldin & Jenkins is not involved with the contents of such offering document. In the event that Mauldin & Jenkins is requested to be involved with an exempt offering document, you agree that the aforementioned auditor's report or reference to Mauldin & Jenkins will not be included without our prior permission or consent. Furthermore, any agreement to perform work in connection with an exempt offering document, including an agreement to provide permission or consent, will be a separate engagement.

Regarding the electronic dissemination of audited financial statements, including financial statements published electronically on your Internet website, you understand that electronic sites are a means to distribute information and, therefore, we are not required to read the information contained in these sites or to consider the consistency of other information in the electronic site with the original document.

Professional standards prohibit us from being the sole host and/or the sole storage for your financial and non-financial data. As such, it is your responsibility to maintain your original data and records and we cannot be responsible to maintain such original information. By signing this engagement letter, you affirm that you have all the data and records required to make your books and records complete, including as it pertains to any information shared with Mauldin & Jenkins through SuraLink.

**Provisions of Engagement Administration, Timing and Fees**

During the course of the engagement, we may communicate with you or your personnel via fax or e-mail, and you should be aware that communication in those mediums contains a risk of misdirected or intercepted communications.

We may, from time to time and depending on the circumstances, use third-party service providers in serving your account. We may share confidential information about you with these service providers but remain committed to maintaining the confidentiality and security of your information. Accordingly, we maintain internal policies, procedures, and safeguards to protect the confidentiality of your personal information. In addition, we will secure confidentiality agreements with all service providers to maintain the confidentiality of your information and we will take reasonable precautions to determine that they have appropriate procedures in place to prevent the unauthorized release of your confidential information to others. In the event that we are unable to secure an appropriate confidentiality agreement, you will be asked to provide your consent prior to the sharing of your confidential information with the third-party service provider. Furthermore, we will remain responsible for the work provided by any such third-party service providers.

We expect to begin our audit and to issue our reports at mutually agreed-upon dates. Daniel R. Anderson, CPA, is the engagement partner and is responsible for supervising the engagement and signing the reports or authorizing another individual to sign them. Our fee for these services will be \$14,000 for the year ended September 30, 2026. Our hourly rates vary according to the degree of responsibility involved and the experience level of the personnel assigned to your audit. Our invoices for these fees will be rendered as follows: \$3,000 upon signing the engagement letter and then thereafter as work progresses. Invoices are payable on presentation; a service charge of 1.5% per month (18% annually) will be added onto any balances not paid within 30 days.

The above fees are based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel (including complete and timely receipt by us of the information on the respective client participation listings) and the assumption that unexpected circumstances (including scope changes) will not be encountered during the audit. If significant additional time is necessary or if there are significant delays in receiving the information needed to complete our audit procedures, the above fee estimate may need to be revised.

As a result of our prior or future services to you, we might be requested or required to provide information or documents to you or a third-party in a legal, administrative, arbitration, or similar proceeding in which we are not a party. If this occurs, our efforts in complying with such requests will be deemed billable to you as a separate engagement. We shall be entitled to compensation for our time and reasonable reimbursement for our expenses (including legal fees) in complying with the request. For all requests we will observe the confidentiality requirements of our profession and will notify you promptly of the request.

During the course of the audit we may observe opportunities for economy in, or improved controls over, your operations. We will bring such matters to the attention of the appropriate level of management, either orally or in writing.

We agree to retain our audit documentation or work papers for a period of at least five years from the date of our report.

You agree to inform us of facts that may affect the basic financial statements of which you may become aware during the period from the date of the auditor's report to the date the financial statements are issued.

At the conclusion of our audit engagement, we will communicate to the Board of Supervisors the following significant findings from the audit:

- Our view about the qualitative aspects of the entity's significant accounting practices;
- Significant difficulties, if any, encountered during the audit;
- Uncorrected misstatements, other than those we believe are trivial, if any;
- Disagreements with management, if any;
- Other findings or issues, if any, arising from the audit that are, in our professional judgment, significant and relevant to those charged with governance regarding their oversight of the financial reporting process;
- Material, corrected misstatements that were brought to the attention of management as a result of our audit procedures;
- Representations we requested from management;
- Management's consultations with other accountants, if any; and
- Significant issues, if any, arising from the audit that were discussed, or the subject of correspondence, with management.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of Mauldin & Jenkins and constitutes confidential information. However, we may be requested to make certain audit documentation available to the Florida Auditor General or its designee, a federal agency providing direct or indirect funding, or the U.S. Government Accountability Office pursuant to authority given to it by law or regulation, or to peer reviewers. We will notify you of any such request. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of Mauldin & Jenkins's personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to the aforementioned parties. These parties may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies of information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

Please sign and return a copy of this letter to indicate your acknowledgment of, and agreement with, the arrangements for our audit of the basic financial statements including our respective responsibilities.

We appreciate the opportunity to be your financial statement auditors and look forward to working with you and your staff.

Sincerely,

MAULDIN & JENKINS



Daniel R. Anderson

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RESPONSE:

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of the Hillsborough Soil & Water Conservation District.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_