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March 28, 2003

Steven Schoedinger
Parsons
7600 Corporate Center Drive
Suite 500
Miami, FL 33126

RE: REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION 03-44

Dear Mr. Schoedinger:

The Commission on Ethics and Public Trust considered your request for an advisory opinion at its meeting on March 27, 2003 and rendered its opinion based on the facts stated in your letter.

You requested an opinion regarding your firm's ability to serve as Program Manager for the Lateral Investigation and Replacement Program. Milian Swain Associates and PHS Engineering will also serve on the Program Management team.

In your request, you advised the Commission that the Department of Water and Sewer is seeking a program manager for the Comprehensive Lateral Investigation and Replacement Program. The Program Manager's responsibilities will include: managing the program and the 10 million dollar budget for inspection and repair of laterals; writing specifications for lateral repair, project tracking and scheduling; planning and preparing written progress reports and maintaining a database for the peak flow model.

The Lateral Investigation and Replacement Program is one phase of a Water and Sewer Department project to comply with two federal consent decrees between the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Water and Sewer. Other phases of the project included a pump station improvement program and Infiltration, Exfiltration and Inflow analysis.

The Notice to Professional Consultants for the Lateral Investigation and Replacement Program requires consultants to file notice of any potential conflicts and seek an advisory opinion. The addendum states that "Prime Consultants must identify whether they or any of their subconsultants, or members have participated in any Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department's current and previous design and program management services for sanitary sewer systems. In identifying themselves or any such subconsultants, or members, the Prime Consultant must identify the specific work that they, the subconsultant, or member performed or work to be performed on any Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department's current and previous design and program management services for sanitary sewer systems as well as the work to be performed as part of this solicitation, Program Manager for Comprehensive Lateral Investigation and Replacement Program. Additionally, a statement is required as to how this work is sufficiently different so as not to pose a conflict of interest. Determinations by the Ethics Commission shall be deemed final. Any Prime Consultant, subconsultants, or members found to have a conflict of interest will render the Prime Consultant's submittal non-responsive.

Parsons has a general engineering services contract with WASD. Parsons' tasks under the contracts have included preparing a mitigation plan for three water treatment plants and wastewater treatment plants;

preparing bid documents for a waste treatment plant in Hialeah and performing construction phase engineering and on-site construction services for the Hialeah plant.

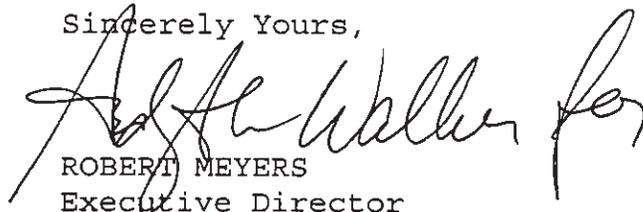
Milian and Swain Associates (MSA) worked on the Infiltration/ Exfiltration/Inflow project and performed force main design and repair work in various locations. MSA also worked as a inspector on the Pump Station Improvement Project. PHS Engineering also worked on contract administration for a sanitary sewer main project.

The Commission found that Parsons and its subcontractors may serve as a Program Management team for the Lateral Investigation and Replacement program. The scope of work performed by Parsons and the other companies does not overlap with the scope of work for the Lateral program. However, Parsons and the other team members may not work with an affiliated firm or a firm for which it serves as a subcontractor on any portion of the Lateral Investigation and Replacement Program.

This opinion construes the Miami-Dade Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance only and is not applicable to any conflict under state law. Please contact the State of Florida Commission on Ethics if you have any questions regarding possible conflicts under state law.

If you have any questions regarding the opinion, please call the undersigned at (305) 579-2954 or Ardyth Walker, Staff General Counsel at (305) 350-0616.

Sincerely Yours,



ROBERT MEYERS
Executive Director