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July 25, 2007

James T. Cowgill
Hazen and Sawyer
4000 Hollywood Blvd., 750 N, North Tower
Hollywood, FL 33021

Via First Class Mail and Fax at 954 987-2949

Re: RQO 07-32

Dear Mr. Cowgill:

The Commission on Ethics & Public Trust considered your request and rendered its opinion at a public meeting held on July 25, 2007.

YOU ASKED in your letter of July 23, 2007, if Hazen and Sawyer may contract with the City of Hialeah to establish and monitor design requirements on a water treatment facility proposed to be built jointly by the City and Miami-Dade County when, at the same time, the firm has open contracts for general consulting services with both governmental entities.

IN SUM, the Ethics Commission opined that Hazen and Sawyer may submit a proposal to establish and monitor design requirements for the water treatment facility in the City of Hialeah *as long as the firm does not review, evaluate, analyze, or in any other way assess the facility subsequently under its general consulting contract with Miami-Dade County.*

If your firm succeeds in obtaining the above-referenced contract, please submit a statement to the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics annually that Hazen and Sawyer has complied with the limitations set forth in this opinion.

The Ethics Commission has jurisdiction to render advisory opinions to "contractors and vendors" under the Miami-Dade Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance at § 2-11.1 (y). This opinion construes the Miami-Dade Ordinance but is not applicable to any conflict under state law. Inquiries regarding possible conflicts under state law should be directed to the State of Florida Commission on Ethics.

Please feel free to contact Victoria Frigo, Staff Attorney, at (305) 350-0601, or Robert Meyers at (305) 579-2594, if we can be of further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely yours,



ROBERT MEYERS
Executive Director

copies:

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