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October 1, 2009

Alberto G. Ribas, P.E.  
President  
A2 Group  
P.O. Box 43-2310  
South Miami, FL 33143

**RE: REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION-RQO 09-34**

Dear Mr. Ribas:

The Commission on Ethics and Public Trust considered your request for an advisory opinion at its meeting on September 30, 2009 and rendered its opinion based on the facts stated in your letter.

You requested an opinion regarding your firm's ability to provide construction inspection services for Miami-Dade County.

In your letter, you advised the Commission that the Office of Capital Improvements recently issued a Notice to Professional Consultants to provide Construction Inspection Services for several county departments including Aviation, Seaport, GSA, Public Works, Water and Sewer and DERM. Two firms will be selected to provide the services. The firms who previously provided any services on the South Terminal were required to request an advisory opinion.

The scope of services for the Construction Inspection Services requires the consultants to oversee, coordinate and inspect the work of design consultants, surveyors and construction contractors. The work may include review of change orders, schedules,

claims and requests for compensations by contractors and consultants. The work will include construction inspection services for new building construction, renovations, airfields and roadways.

The South Terminal program consisted of construction of a new Concourse J and renovation to existing Concourse H. Parsons-Odebrecht was the Construction Manager for the project. The project was substantially completed in 2007 although final close-out will not take place until later this year.

A2 was a subcontractor to Parsons-Odebrecht. The firm was responsible for scheduling, cost management, quantity surveying and estimating. The firm did not provide any construction or design services.

The Ethics Commission found that A2 may provide construction inspection services for all departments but may not provide any services related to the South Terminal because the firm was a member of the construction management team. The Ethics Commission has found that a conflict exists if a contractor has overlapping responsibilities on different phases of the same project (i.e. AE on one phase of the project and serving as value engineer, CIS or CM partner on another phase of the project; supervisor or prime on one phase of the project and subcontractor on another or related phase or project). Further, a conflict may exist if there are overlapping roles on responsibilities between various members of a team (i.e. a member serves as prime contractor on one contract and as a subcontractor to another contractor on another contract) or if there are overlapping scopes of work between two agreements.

Since Parsons-Odebrecht was the Construction Manager for the project, the firm was a part of the construction management team for the project. Therefore, the firm would be

prohibited from providing any construction inspection services for the South Terminal because there are overlapping responsibilities.

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 this opinion, please call the undersigned at (305) 579-2594 or Ardyth Walker, Staff General Counsel at (305) 350-0616.

Sincerely Yours,



ROBERT MEYERS  
Executive Director

cc: Luisa Millan, Office of Capital Improvements