

Approved Audit Plan For Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and Long-Term Audit Plan for Fiscal Years 2025-2029

Prepared byOffice of Inspector General

J. Timothy Beirnes, CPA, Inspector General





SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

To:

Governing Board Members

From:

J. Timothy Beirnes, CPA, Inspector General,

Office of Inspector General

Date:

December 18, 2023

Subject: Approved Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

I am pleased to present our Approved Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. The development of the plan was shaped using a systematic approach to help us decide what audits need to be done. The planning process helps us to develop the theme for our audits and identify an appropriate mix of various types of audits. The audit plan helps us to determine how we can best allocate our resources and capitalize on our individual strengths.

Effective audit planning is crucial to the success of the Inspector General's Office. Our planning process involves understanding our responsibility, recapping where we have been, and identifying the auditable universe and the risks associated with various programs and activities. Florida statutes require the Governing Board to approve the final annual audit plan. The Governing Board approved the audit plan on December 14, 2023.

Our Guidance

The first step in our current planning process was to ask ourselves what is the Inspector General Office's mandate. Our mandate to perform audits is clearly specified in Section 20.055 F.S., *Agency Inspectors General*. It states that in carrying out our audit mandate we should:

- 1. Review and evaluate the internal controls that ensure fiscal accountability.
- 2. Review post audit sampling of payments and accounts, where appropriate.
- 3. Advise in the development of performance measures for evaluating District programs.
- 4. Conduct financial, compliance, electronic data processing and performance audits of the District.

While the scope and assignment of audits is entirely left to the discretion of the Inspector General, the statute provides that the agency head may, at any time, direct the Inspector General to perform an audit of a program function or organizational unit. In the past, we received a number of requests from both the Governing Board and District staff to perform necessary Inspector General projects. Therefore, executing our work plan necessitates flexibility to accommodate special requests and investigations.

Our Planning Approach

Each year the District prepares a five-year Strategic Plan to guide management and staff in fulfilling the District's mission. The 2023-2028 Strategic Plan is the product of the yearly planning cycle, which is the approach to establishing priorities, allocating resources, implementing projects, and providing accountability. The budget process then allocates resources to accomplish the planned activities.

Our audit planning process began with reviewing the 2023-2028 Strategic Plan and the FY 2023-2024 Budget to identify those programs, activities and functions that we consider present potential risk to the District. In addition to specific programs, we also focused on identifying processes that are critical to the planning cycle that affect all programs.

The audit plan reflects a consideration of risk and its relationship to the District's mission and objectives. The most ubiquitous risks to the District's mission revolve around spending, operations, data integrity and reliability, disaster recovery/contingency planning, regulatory compliance, and public perception. Some District programs, such as our many restoration projects, depend on land acquisition and construction processes, which represent high risks due to the mere magnitude of the financial resources to be consumed. Others, such as regulation, have inherent risks that are not necessarily related to program expenditures or dollar magnitude but rather represent high risk due to the nature of the function where consistency, objectivity, integrity, and strict adherence to rules and regulations are essential.

Our audit planning process is designed to provide sufficient coverage over time to reach all significant programs, activities, and functions. Thus, the audit plan also includes the Approved Long-Term Audit Plan for Fiscal Years 2025 through 2029, which itemizes the audit projects we envision for the audit planning cycle over the next five years. The Long-Term Audit Plan will be updated annually to reflect a rolling five-year outlook of future audit projects and to incorporate modifications as needed to reflect the Governing Board's and management's audit priorities.

During FY 2023-2024, we will continue to use our best judgment in prioritizing audit activities so as to be responsive to the most immediate needs of the District's Governing Board and executive management. Our approved work plan for FY 2023-2024 provides audit projects for specific District programs, as well as, audits of processes that affect all District programs.

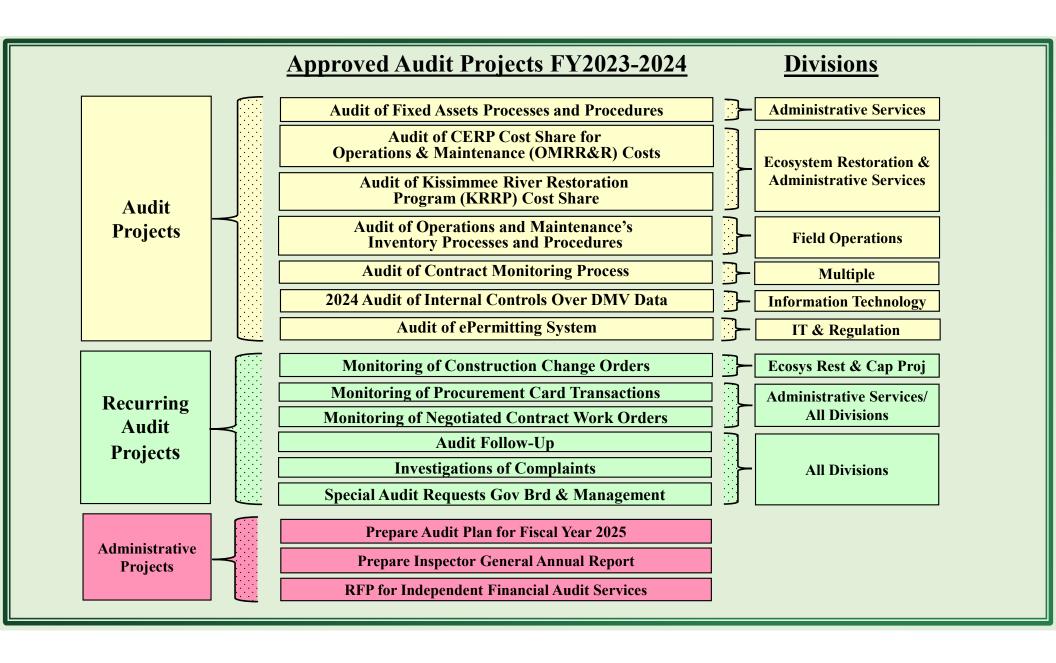
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Provision is also made for following up on the status of implementing prior audit recommendations as required by Government Auditing Standards and the District's Internal Audit Charter. Additionally, the audit plan provides flexibility to investigate Whistle-blower complaints and for special audit requests from the Governing Board and senior District management.

The attached schedules present the Approved Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and the Approved Long-Term Audit Plan for Fiscal Years 2025 – 2029.

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	Bureau/					Estimated
Division	Section	Project Title	Background	Objectives	Rational for Audit	Resources
Audit P	rojects					Hours
Administrative Services	Accounting	Audit of Fixed Assets Processes and Procedures	The District has established policies, procedures, and process for acquiring, safeguarding, transferring, and disposing of fixed assets. The policies incorporate requirements specified in Florida Statutes. Assets are recorded in the SAP system and periodic physical inventories are performed.	fixed assets; including a comparison of the	Recent legislation changed the accounting methodology for fixed assets with values under \$5,000. The Audit will asses the implementation of the changes to the fixed asset inventory process to implement the required legislative changes.	
						510
Ecosystem Restoration/ Administrative Services	Ecosystem Restoration & Accounting	Audit of CERP Cost Share for Operations & Maintenance (OMRR&R) Costs	The CERP Master Agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers provides for a 50/50 cost share for operations, maintenance, repair, replacement, and rehabilitation (OMRR&R) for CERP projects after they are placed in service.	Examine the District's system for identifying and tracking CERP OMRR&R cost to determine whether the system is effective in capturing all eligible CERP costs.	The first CERP project is now completed and placed in operation.	860
Ecosystem Restoration/ Administrative Services	Ecosystem Restoration & Accounting	Audit of Kissimmee River Restoration Program (KRRP) Cost Share	In 1992, the U.S. Congress authorized the Kissimmee River Restoration and the Headwaters Revitalization Projects (the "KRR"). The KRR project is a \$578 million partnership between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the SFWMD (Local sponsor). A large portion of the projects expenditures will be cost shared 50/50 between the SFWMD and USACE. The District will provide most of the land and the USACE will incur most of the engineering and construction cost. The District is also incurring some non-land cost, which must also be submitted to the USACE in order to receive credit towards the non-federal 50% share of the project cost.	the KRR project. Also determine that adequate supporting documentation is maintained for such	Failure to claim credit for eligible expenditures that may have been overlooked would result in additional cost to the District.	820

	Bureau/		Approved Addit Flair for Fiscal Te			Estimated
Division		Project Title	Background	Objectives	Rational for Audit	Resources
Field Operations	Field Operations - Regions	Audit of Operations and Maintenance's Inventory Processes and Procedures	The District spends significant funds every year on consumable goods that are flowed through the inventory system. Most of these purchases take place at field stations and pump stations for operation and maintenance functions	Assess whether Operations and Maintenance's internal controls over consumable inventory are adequate and functioning properly.	The O&M inventory process was last audited in FY 2011.	480
All Programs	Multiple	Audit of Contract Monitoring Process	A significant portion of the District's activities are provided through vendors for construction, supplies, and services. The contracts are monitored by numerous project managers throughout the District.	Objectives of this audit will include: 1)Determining if contract monitoring policies and procedures are adequate and in compliance with regulatory requirements, 2) Assessing the adequacy of contract manager training and development, 3) Identifying potential best practices by evaluating contract monitoring processes.	Proper controls in monitoring contracts is imperative in ensuring that the District receives specified goods and services and that payments are made as contractually agreed.	620
Information Technology	IT Operations Section	2024 Audit of Internal Controls Over DMV Data	District employee's driving records are received monthly from the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DMV). The data is reviewed by the Occupational Safety manager for current driver license suspensions, and other major infractions, for those employees authorized to drive District vehicles. The data is received pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the DMV.		The MOU requires the District to complete this audit to ensure proper and authorized use and dissemination of the DMV data.	200

	Approved Audit Plan for Fiscal Tear 2023-2024								
Division	Bureau/ Section	Project Title	Background	Objectives	Rational for Audit	Estimated Resources			
IT & Regulation	IT Applications & Environmental Resources	Audit of the District's ePermitting System	The e-Permitting Information System is an IT solution that is used to manage permit application processing, approval, monitoring, and enforcement.	Determine the extent to which the following occur with ePermitting: 1) The system provides the desired operational and business needs 2) Physical computer assets are adequately safeguarded 3) Technical administrative support is adequate 4) User needs are being properly supported and measured 5) System contains adequate access controls to prevent unauthorized access.	The E-Permitting System supports the District's regulatory responsibilities. Periodic reviews should be performed of information systems to ensure that the systems are functioning as designed and that the systems are used in manners that maximizes their benefits.				
						660			

Approved Audit Plan	for Fiscal Year	r 2023-2024
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	Bureau/ Estimated							
Division	Section	Project Title	Background	Objectives	Rational for Audit	Resources		
Recurri	ng Audit Pro		,	,				
Ecosystem Restoration and Capital Projects	Engineering and Construction	Monitoring of Construction Change Orders	District is executing large construction contract for restoration projects. Most contractors are selected through a fixed sealed bid process. Change orders can potentially add to the already significant cost of these projects resulting in projects running over budget.	On an on-going basis, periodically verifying cumulative change order amounts as a percentage of original construction contracts and compare such to industry averages.	The District's various environmental restoration projects entails executing many large construction contracts. These contracts are generally awarded through a fix bid process. Change orders for these contracts can potentially add significant additional cost to projects. Controlling change order costs are essential to ensuring projects are completed on time and within budget.	180		
Administrative Services	Procurement	Monitoring of Procurement Card Transactions	The District issues procurement cards to certain District employees to provide an efficient payment method for small purchases. The Procurement Department manages the program.	Periodically examine procurement card transactions to ensure that they are: 1) Appropriate District expenditures. 2) Contain adequate supporting documentation. 3) Properly recorded in the accounting records.	Although procurement cards are used to pay for small purchases, they represent a significant number of transactions annually.	390		
Administrative Services	Procurement/ All Bureaus	Monitoring of Negotiated Contract Work Orders	The District engages firms for various types of services under work order type contracts. Firms are prequalified through a Request for Proposal (RFP) or Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process and work orders are negotiated with the prequalified firms as services are needed.		The work order contract approach provides significant efficiency to the procurement process; however, it also increases the risk that staff may not represent sufficient diligence in negotiation the best possible cost for the District. Continuous audit oversight of negotiated work orders will assist in mitigate this risk.	230		
All Divisions	All Bureaus	Audit Follow-Up	Generally Accepted Government Audit Standards require follow-up regarding the implementation status of pervious audit findings and recommendations.	Verify that recommendations in prior audit reports have been appropriately implemented in a timely manner and provide a written report to the Executive Management team and the Governing Board.	required by Government Auditing Standards and the District's Internal Audit Charter.	160		
All Divisions	All Bureaus	Investigate Whistle- Blower and Other Complaints	The Office of Inspector General periodically receives Whistle-Blower complaints. Our office has a statutory responsibility to investigate these complaints and issue a report of our findings and conclusions.	Review each complaint to assess its validity. Whistle-blower complaints are received intermittently during the year.	The IG is responsible for performing investigations per Section 20.055, F. S., and the District's <i>Internal Audit Charter</i> .	1000		
All Divisions	All Bureaus	Audit Requests from Governing Board and Senior District Staff	The Inspector General's Office will entertain requests for audit and investigations from Governing Board and Senior District Staff on an as needed basis.	As specified in the Inspector General Act & District Policy (Internal Audit Charter)	Provides flexibility in the audit plan to accommodate special requests for audits and investigations from the Governing Board and senior management that arise throughout the year.	250		

Division	Bureau/ Section	Project Title	Background	Objectives	Rational for Audit	Estimated Resources
Admini	Administrative Projects					
N/A	N/A	Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2025	The Audit and Finance Committee Charter requires the Inspector General to submit an annual work plan to the committee for approval	Prepare an annual work plan and submit it to the Audit and Finance Committee for approval in accordance with the Audit and Finance Committee Charter.	N/A	120
N/A	N/A	Office of Inspector General Annual Report for FY 2023	State Statutes, Section 20.055(7) requires the Inspector General to submit an annual report to the agency head.	Prepare an annual report summarizing each audit and investigation completed during the year.	N/A	100
N/A	N/A	Request for Proposal for Independent Financial Audit Services	The District's current contract with RSM US, LLP, expires September 30, 2024.	Coordinate with Procurement to prepare and solicit a Request for Proposal for Annual Independent Financial Audits services to replace the expiring contract. Proposals will be evaluated by a team of District staff. The proposal rankings will be presented to the Audit and Finance Committee for consideration and selection of a firm to recommend to the full Governing Board.	N/A	200

	Approved Long-Term Audit Plan for Fiscal Years 2025-2029							
Fiscal	Previous FY	Project						
Year	Audited	Number	Audit Project	Objectives				
Audit	Projects							
	2011	10-01	Audit of Land Acquisition and Management Processes	Examine the land acquisition process which included the process used to prioritize, budget and purchase land for projects and conservation. This included examining the appraisal process which entailed focusing on the outside appraiser selection process.				
	2015	14-07	Audit of Dispersed Water Management Program	Assess the effectiveness of the District's Dispersed Water Management Program and compare the programs cost efficiency to other storage alternatives.				
	2016	15-06	Audit of IT Resource Approval Process	The audit will focus on the process for purchasing IT hardware, software, and services and obtaining the required resource approval from the IT Bureau. The audit will examine how well District departments are complying with the approval requirement.				
2025	2017	16-01	Audit of Procurement of Professional Engineering Services for Restoration Projects	Objectives of the audit will determine whether: 1) work orders are assigned to engineering firms under the Professional Engineering Services for Restoration Projects in an equitable manner 2) engineering firms are achieving established Small Business Enterprise (SBE) utilization goals 3) District project managers are negotiating work order pricing with the professional engineering firm				
	2018	17-06	Audit of Operations & Maintenance Capital	A) project managers are preparing contractor evaluations upon project completion. Assess whether the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Capital Program is meeting the				
	2010	17-00	Program Capital Program	District's flood control mission.				
	2022	20-21	Audit of Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program (CERP) Real Estate Cost Share	Examine the District's process for preparing In-Kind Credit Requests to ensure the District is requesting credit for all eligible costs related to the CERP Project. The audit will also assess whether adequate supporting documentation is maintained for such expenditures.				
			Other Audit Projects	Other audit projects to meet Governing Board and management's needs.				

Fiscal	Dravious EV	Project	Approved Long Term?	Audit Plan for Fiscal Years 2025-2029
Year	Previous FY Audited	Number	Audit Project	Objectives
	2014	13-19	Audit of Land Lease Financial Provisions	Determine whether lease revenues are collected in accordance with lease agreements and whether lessees have complied with lease financial provisions such as procurement of contractually required insurance and remittance of required tax payments in a timely manner.
	2016	15-07	Audit of Cash Receipts	Determine whether adequate internal controls over cash receipts are in place and functioning properly to ensure that cash collections are safeguarded, deposited in a timely manner and accurately recorded in the District's financial records.
	2016	15-08	Audit of Permit Application Process	Examine the consistency of the application review and approval process among District staff and determining whether application fees are assessed and collected in accordance with established statutes, regulations, and guidelines.
	2017	16-03	Audit of Bid Solicitation & Award Process	Assess compliance with the District's procurement policies and procedures from RFB solicitations to contract award.
2026	2017	16-09	Audit of the Payroll Process	Determine whether the payroll process provides for adequate segregation of duties and that established internal controls over the payroll process are functioning as designed.
Ñ	2017	17-10	Audit of Vegetation Management Program	Determine whether the vegetation management program is meeting its goals and the herbicide application work orders are adequately monitored.
	2018	17-09	Audit of the Integrated Real Estate	Determine the extent to which the following occur with IRIS:
			Information System	· System provides the desired operational and business needs
				Physical computer assets are adequately safeguarded
				· Technical administrative support is adequate
				· User needs are being properly supported and measured
				· The system contains adequate access controls to prevent unauthorized access.
	2019	18-08	Audit of KRRP Real Estate Cost Share	Determining whether the District requests credit for all eligible KRRP land acquisition related expenses and whether adequate supporting documentation is maintained for such expenditures.
			Other Audit Projects	Other audit projects to meet Governing Board and management's needs.

	Approved Long-Term Audit Plan for Fiscal Years 2025-2029					
Fiscal Year	Previous FY Audited	Project Number	Audit Project	Objectives		
	2017	17-02	Audit of Land Survey Contracts	The primary objectives of our audit were to determine whether: · Work orders were assigned to professional survey firms in an equitable manner · Professional survey firms achieved Small Business Enterprise (SBE) utilization goals · District project managers negotiated work order pricing · Project managers prepared contractor evaluations upon project completion		
	2018	18-05	Audit of the IT Continuity of Operations/Disaster Recovery Plan	The objective of the audit will evaluate the IT Department's continuity of operations strategy (COOP) to determine whether: • The District has a comprehensive and up-to-date business continuity plan • The District has defined locations where the Disaster Recovery Plan could be executed • The documented Disaster Recovery Plan was periodically tested, and any necessary adjustments were incorporated into the plan.		
27	2019	18-17	Audit of the Employee Separation Process	Determine the extent to which controls over retracting district property and revoking access to District facilities and information systems are adequate when an individual separates from the District.		
2027	2022	NA	Audit of DMV File Security	Determine whether District internal controls related to the drivers license information received from the DMV are sufficient to ensure that DMV records are adequately protected from unauthorized access, distribution, use, modification, or disclosure.		
	2020	20-03	Audit of Employee Time Coding Process	Determine whether District employees' time charges reflect activities performed.		
	2021	21-07	Audit of Construction Change Orders	Determine that change orders are negotiated in accordance with contract terms and conditions. The audit will also include verifying cumulative change order amounts as a percentage of original contracts and compare such to industry averages.		
	2023	22-20	Audit of Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program (CERP) Real Estate Cost Share	Determine whether the District requests credit for all eligible CERP project land acquisition related expenses and whether adequate supporting documentation is maintained for such expenditures.		
			Other Audit Projects	Other audit projects to meet Governing Board and management's needs.		

	Approved Long-Term Audit Plan for Fiscal Years 2025-2029						
Fiscal Year	Previous FY Audited	Project Number	Audit Project	Objectives			
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	2018	18-12	Audit of the Python Elimination Program	Examine the internal controls over hourly wages and bounty payments made to python hunters.			
	2018	18-13	Audit of the Cell Phone Stipend	Evaluate the effectiveness of the District's cell phone stipend program and determine whether:			
				· Established criteria for determining eligibility for receiving a stipend is applied consistently			
				· Employees are compensated according to the designated stipend level.			
	2020	19-14	Audit of Contract Workers	This audit will assess whether contract workers are used in a cost-effective manner for job functions that appear to be: 1) temporary in nature and/or, 2) requires specific expertise for a one-time project and/or. 3) to fill in for an employee that is on a temporary leave of absence.			
	2020	19-07	Audit of Software Licenses	Examine the process for negotiating and executing software license agreements. The audit will also assess whether all software used within the District is purchased from legitimate vendors, properly accounted for, and properly licensed.			
2028	2020	20-06	Audit of the Information Technology Solution Center	Assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the IT Help Desk function in responding to employee's needs. The audit will also review system controls for the RemedyForce system.			
	2022	NA	Audit of Investment Management	Determine whether adequate internal controls related to investment management are in place and functioning properly to ensure that investment purchases are made in accordance with the Investment Policy and properly recorded in District financial records.			
	2022	NA	Audit of Procurement of Professional	Objectives of the audit will determine whether:			
			Engineering Services for Restoration Projects	1) work orders are assigned to engineering firms under the Professional Engineering Services for Restoration Projects in an equitable manner			
				2) engineering firms are achieving established Small Business Enterprise (SBE) utilization goals			
				District project managers are negotiating work order pricing with the professional engineering firm			
				4) project managers are preparing contractor evaluations upon project completion.			
			Other Audit Projects	Other audit projects to meet Governing Board and management's needs.			

	Approved Long-Term Audit Plan for Fiscal Years 2025-2029						
Fiscal	Previous FY	Project					
Year	Audited	Number	Audit Project	Objectives			
	2020	19-17	Audit of the Education Reimbursement Program	Determining whether tuition reimbursements are made in accordance with the District's policy and procedures. The audit will also included assessing the value the program provides in preparing District employees to take on higher job responsibilities			
	2023	21-10	Audit of Fleet Maintenance Operations	Objectives of this audit will include:			
				1) Assessing the effectiveness and efficiency of the vehicle maintenance function.			
				2) Examining the vehicle replacement cycle process.			
	2021	20-10	Audit of Ourtsourced Functions	Audit objectives will entail analyzing the cost of outsourced functions compared to what these functions would cost if performed using in-house resources.			
6	2023	21-17	Audit of ERP Enforcement	Determine whether the Environmental Resources and Regulatory Support Bureau's enforcement activities ensure compliance with state laws, regulations, and individual ERP permits.			
2029	2023	21-08	Audit of Private Mitigation Banks	Examine the process for monitoring private mitigation banks to ensure compliance with permit conditions and determine whether perpetual maintenance funds are sufficient to pay for mitigation bank maintenance in perpetuity.			
	2021	20-04	Audit of Grant Monitoring	Assess the effectiveness of the District's grant monitoring processes in ensuring that grantees adhere to the provisions of the grant agreements.			
	2022	21-09	Audit of Fleet Utilization and Replacement	Determining whether the fleet size is adequate to carry out the District's mission, fleet units meeting replacement requirements are replaced in a timely manner, rentals are cost effective, vehicle/equipment are adequately utilized, and fleet purchases are procured using state and other government contracts.			
			Other Audit Projects	Other audit projects to meet Governing Board and management's needs.			

South Florida Water Management District Office of Inspector General Approved Long-Term Audit Plan for Fiscal Years 2025-2029 **Fiscal Previous FY** Project Year Audited Number **Audit Project Objectives Recurring Audit Projects Monitoring of Construction Change Orders** On an on-going basis, periodically verifying cumulative change order amounts as a percentage of original contracts and compare such to industry averages. Monitoring of Procurement Card Periodically examine procurement card transactions to ensure that they are: Transactions 1) Appropriate District expenditures. 2) Contain adequate supporting documentation. 3) Properly recorded in the accounting records. Monitoring of Negotiated Contract Work Periodically select a sample of contracts to ensure that work orders are properly negotiated in **Annually** a manner that maintains the District's best interest. Orders Audit Recommendations Follow-Up Verify that recommendations in prior audit reports have been appropriately implemented in a timely manner and provide a written report to the Executive Management team and the Governing Board. **Investigate Whistle-Blower and Other** Review each complaint to assess its validity. Whistle-blower complaints are received Complaints intermittently during the year. Audit Requests from Governing Board and As specified in the Inspector General Act & District Policy (Internal Audit Charter). Senior District Staff

	Approved Long-Term Addit Hall for Historical Tears 2023-2023								
Fiscal	Previous FY	Project							
Year	Audited	Number	Audit Project	Objectives					
Admin	nistrative Pr	ojects							
ally			Audit Plan for the Next Fiscal Year	Prepare an annual work plan and submit it to the Audit and Finance Committee for approval in accordance with the Audit and Finance Committee Charter.					
Annually			Office of Inspector General Annual Report for the Prior Fiscal Year	Prepare an annual report summarizing each audit and investigation completed during the year.					
2025	2025	NA	Office of Inspector General Peer Review	Arrange for a peer review of the Inspector General Office, which will provide an evaluation of adherence to the professional standards. We plan to have the peer review performed through the Association of Local Governmental Auditors (ALGA) peer review program. The Office of Inspector General's Peer Review was performed FY 2022; thus the next Peer Review will be required in FY 2025. Florida Statutes require Inspector General's to adhere to Government Auditing Standards established by the U.S. Government Accounting Office (GAO). Such standards require a peer review be performed every three years.					
2026	2026	NA	Coordinate Auditor General Performance Audit	Coordinate the Auditor General's performance audit. Section 11.45(2)(f), Florida Statutes, was amended in 2011 to add water management districts to the list of agencies that the Auditor General is required to audit at least every 3 years.					