

# **Audit Recommendations Follow-Up Report**

For the Period October 1, 2014 Through December 31, 2014

**Project # 15-05** 

Prepared by Office of Inspector General

J. Timothy Beirnes, CPA, Inspector General Ann E. Haga, Executive Assistant





## SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

#### Memorandum

To:

Governing Board Members

From:

J. Timothy Beirnes, CPA, Inspector General

Office of Inspector General

Date:

February 25, 2015

Subject:

Audit Recommendations Follow-Up Report -

For the Period October 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014

Project No. 15-05

This audit was performed pursuant to the Inspector General's authority set forth in Section 20.055, F.S. Enclosed is the subject report that was conducted to assess the progress made in implementing audit recommendations.

In our efforts to continue to improve the audit process we utilize an audit recommendations tracking database as an integral part of monitoring the implementation status of audit recommendations. This database contains the basic audit information and recommendations. This system provides us with a vehicle to communicate and gather feedback on the status of the audit recommendations with the Governing Board, District management, and the audited organizational units.

Should you have any questions concerning the enclosed report, please feel free to call me at (561) 682-6398.

C:

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Audit recommendations target the economy and efficiency of District operations and compliance with our policies and statutory responsibilities. Our recommendations also focus on providing District management with suggestions that facilitate their achievement of program goals and objectives. To be effective, audit recommendations must be implemented. Additionally, *Government Auditing Standards* require following up on audit recommendations in previously issued audit reports. Accordingly, the Office of Inspector General has performed follow-up audit work since the office was established in 1996. Every quarter our office surveys departments to determine the implementation status of recommendations and to encourage their completion. This information is maintained in the Inspector General's audit recommendation tracking system. The system allows each audit staff member to update the recommendation's "status" after reviewing information provided by the departments and offices.

This report on the implementation status of audit recommendations is for the period October 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 (the "Reporting Period"). As shown in Exhibit 1, as of September 30, 2014 there were 28 recommendations that were not yet Fully Implemented, consisting of 25 that were In-Process and three (3) that were Partially Implemented. Since then, 17 of these recommendations has been Fully Implemented. During the Reporting Period no recommendations were added from newly issued reports. Eleven (11) recommendations are In-Process of being Implemented or have been Partially Implemented as of December 31, 2014.

No recommendations were changed to the "No Longer Applicable" status during the current Reporting Period. The "No Longer Applicable" category includes items where conditions have changed subsequent to issuance of the audit report that rendered the recommendation no longer relevant, such as:

- Alternative compensating controls have been put in place.
- A decision was made to implement a new system that will address the issue making it impractical to retrofit the existing system.
- The policy, statute, or rule has changed.
- Change in strategic direction.

No recommendations fell into the "Not Implemented" category for the current and the previous report.

Our office is also monitoring the implementation status of the 10 recommendations made in the Operational Audit performed by the State of Florida Auditor General. Nine (9) of these recommendations were fully implemented during prior quarters and one (1) is in process of implementation as of December 31, 2014.

Following is a brief description of the attached exhibits:

- Exhibit 1: Displays a summary of recommendation statuses for all audit reports with recommendations in process of implementation. Exhibit 1 also shows the changes in the status of recommendations from the beginning of the period to the end of the period.
- Exhibit 2: Shows a summary of the changes in the status of recommendations by each audit report. Exhibit 2 shows only those audit reports that contained one or more recommendations that had not been fully implemented at the beginning of the reporting period.
- Exhibit 3: Displays detail information regarding the status of each audit recommendation. This includes the status of the recommendation for the prior reporting period and the status at the end of the current period. The comment column provides narrative information regarding implementation progress.
- Exhibit 4: Displays detail information regarding the status of each audit recommendation contained in the Operational Audit performed by the State of Florida Auditor General. The comment column provides narrative information regarding implementation progress.

### **EXHIBIT 1**

## Summary of Recommendations Status As of December 31, 2014

	In	Partially	
Prior Period Reports	Process	Implemented	Total
Status Prior Period (September 30, 2014)	25	3	28
Implemented or Partially Implemented During Period	(16)	(1)	(17)
Remaining Recommendations to be Fully Implemented	9	2	11
Reports Issued During Current Period			
New Recommendations*	-	-	-
Implemented or Partially Implemented			
Remaining Recommendations to be Fully Implemented			
Current Status			
Remaining Recommendations to be Fully Implemented	9	2	<u>11</u>

Initial Status is set as "In-Process"

# EXHIBIT 2 Audit Reports With Implementation of Recommendations in Progress As of December 31, 2014

Audit No.	Audit Title	No. of Recs		In Process	Partially Implemented	No Longer Applicable	Implemented	
	Recommedations - Prior Period Reports							İ
08-09	Review of Internal Controls Over Fuel		Initial Status	0	1	0	4	Ę
	Inventory	5	Change in Status	0	0	0	0	Open
			Current Period Status	0	1	0	4	
11-14	Audit of CERP Cost Share Status		Initial Status	2	0	0	7	Ę
		9	Change in Status	-2	1	0	1	Open
			Current Period Status	0	1	0	8	٥
12-29	Audit of Contract Monitoring		Initial Status	1	0	0	8	Ę
		9	Change in Status	0	0	0	0	Open
			Current Period Status	1	0	0	8	Ľ
12-30	Audit of Grant Monitoring		Initial Status	1	0	0	1	Γ
		2	Change in Status	0	0	0	0	Open
			Current Period Status	1	0	0	1	Ŭ
13-16	Audit of Fixed Assets Processes and		Initial Status	5	2	0	2	Ę
	Procedures	9	Change in Status	0	-2	0	2	Open
			Current Period Status	5	0	0	4	
13-19	Audit of Land Lease Financial Provisions		Initial Status	2	0	0	1	Γ
		3	Change in Status	0	0	0	0	Open
			Current Period Status	2	0	0	1	
13-20	Audit of Fleet Maintenance Operations		Initial Status	14	0	0	1	Complete
		15	Change in Status	-14	0	0	14	ğ
			Current Period Status	0	0	0	15	ပိ
	Recommendations - All Reports							
			Prior/Initial Status	25	3	0	24	İ
	TOTAL	52	Change in Status	-16	-1	0	17	İ
			Status Current Period	9	2	0	41	ĺ
	Number of Recommendations Remaining to Be Fully Implemented	11		9	2			

Prior Period = As of September 30, 2014

### **EXHIBIT 3**

## Detail of In-Process and Partially Implemented Audit Recommendations As of December 31, 2014

Audit	Rec		Status Prior	Status Current	Due I	Date		Management	Current Period Comments
No.	No.	Audit Title	Report	Report	Original	Revised	Recommendation	Response	Regarding Status
08-09		Review of Internal Controls Over Fuel Inventory	Partially Implemented	Partially Implemented	9/30/2009	9/8/2015	Implement physical security measures that were identified by Emergency/Security Management.	Fencing repairs will be done in FY2010. New fences will be deferred to future years due to FY2010 budget constraints. For security systems, we will coordinate with Security Management to have them budget for these systems in future years.	The fencing for the north shore pump station (i.e. 127, 129, 131, 133, and 193) has been added to the trash rake projects at each of the sites. Due to funding constraints, estimated completion dates for S133 and S135 is 6/9/2015 and S129 and S131 is 9/8/2015.
11-14	4	Audit of the CERP Cost Share Status	In Process	Implemented	12/30/2013	12/31/2014	eligible construction credit is received particularly those authorized, eligible	Everglades Policy & Coordination will meet on a quarterly basis with Corps staff to review the status of open construction credit submissions and expected timing of construction credit approval. Based on these meetings we will provide any additional expenditure support needed for the Corps to approve expenditures for construction credit.	Construction for projects with a signed PPA are eligible for credit. The USACE has completed review of eligible expenses and since January 2014 credit letters received from USACE have provided preliminary approval of \$26 million of construction related expenses for Projects with a PPA. A process has been put into place to work with the USACE to provide additional information and request approval of any disputed construction items. The District will continue to submit construction work in kind expenditures for USACE approval. Management considers the recommendation complete.
11-14	5	Audit of the CERP Cost Share Status	In Process	Partially Implemented	12/31/2013	3/31/2015	Follow up with the Corps to establish a CERP Guidance Memorandum which specifies the procedures to be followed for certifying construction and Acceler8 expenditures for cost share credit.	Everglades Policy & Coordination will work with the Corps staff to develop a draft construction CERP Guidance memorandum for review and approval by September 30, 2013 and finalize the CGM by December 31, 2013. This process should not delay receiving construction credit on projects with an approved PPA.	Draft has been completed and is awaiting approval by the USACE.
12-29	3	Audit of Contract Monitoring	In Process	In Process	7/11/2013	3/31/2015	Ensure that all project managers are aware of the District's responsibilities relating to sales and other types of taxes.	Management agrees. Procurement will update PM training documentation; PM training will be scheduled for all District PMs.	
12-30	1	Audit of Grant Monitoring	In Process	In Process	12/30/2013	3/31/2015	Update the District's grant procedures and add a section for when the District is, or acts, as a grantor. The State of Florida's Contract and Grant User Guide is a good reference for updating the procedures.	Management agrees with the recommendation. Finance will revise the District grant procedures to include a section for when the District acts as a grantor.	when the District acts as a grantor, is completed

Audit	Rec		Status Prior	Status Current	Due I	Date		Management	Current Period Comments
No.	No.	Audit Title	Report	Report	Original	Revised	Recommendation	Response	Regarding Status
13-16	1	Audit of Fixed Assets Processes and Procedures	In Process	In Process	4/10/2014	3/31/2015	Update the written policies and procedures to properly reflect the assignment of fixed asset responsibilities.	Management concurs with the recommendation. The fixed asset policies and procedures are in the process of being updated for changes in responsibilities, changes in the organization, and changes in processes.	
13-16	2	Audit of Fixed Assets Processes and Procedures	In Process	In Process	4/10/2014	3/31/2015		Management concurs with the recommendation. The District's Fixed Assets Policy, Sec. 110-61 through Sec. 110-66, is in the process of being updated to include the District's responsibilities under Chapter 69-73 F.A.C.	
13-16	3	Audit of Fixed Assets Processes and Procedures	In Process	In Process	4/10/2014	3/31/2015	Establish policies and procedures to ensure contractors maintain adequate records and documentation to account for District property in their possession.	Management concurs with the recommendation and is evaluating its options to determine the most effective and efficient way to implement this recommendation.	
13-16	4	Audit of Fixed Assets Processes and Procedures	Partially Implemented	Implemented	4/10/2014	12/31/2014		Management concurs with the recommendation. While the conventional response would be to have someone from outside of the organizational unit perform, or observe the inventory count, the District does not have the resources to devote to this. Instead, a decision was made to continue to allow the property clerks to take the inventory in their respective areas while using the asset tag scanners to provide a mitigating control. These scanners have been used in the past for inventory purposes but property clerks also had the ability to manually input asset information into the scanner thus diminishing the scanner as a control mechanism. However, the ability it manually input assets into the scanner has been taken away so the only way that an asset can be counted is by scanning the asset tag. Even with this change the rick still exists that a missing asset can be counted as long as the tag exists. This risk will be mitigated by 1) taking away the ability for property clerks to print duplicate tags and 2) randomly selecting assets prior to the inventory count and verifying that the assets have tags attached.	still awaiting final approval, the FY2014 physical inventory was conducted using the revised procedures. These revised procedures required that the existence of all assets be verified. This was accomplished in various ways including scanning of the inventory tags, taking date stamped photographs of the assets, independent verification from staff outside of the responsible cost center, reviewing maintenance records, and verifying that assets were operational and

Audit	Rec		Status Prior	Status Current	Due I			Management	Current Period Comments
No. 13-16	<b>No.</b> 5	Audit Title Audit of Fixed Assets Processes and Procedures	Report In Process	Report In Process	4/10/2014	Revised 3/31/2015	Recommendation  Adopt procedures to document the research of missing inventory items, identify causes for the missing items, and take immediate corrective action.	Management concurs with the recommendation. The Fixed Asset procedures are being amended to require that the following steps be taken and documented when an asset is deemed missing: - Continue to search for the asset - Make inquiries to determine where it was last seen and who had possession of it - Contact all known users to see if anyone has knowledge of its whereabouts - Speculate as to what may have happened to the asset in order to determine if internal controls need to be strengthened - If there was evidence that the asset was stolen contact District Security Management and the appropriate law enforcement agency Indicate in the fixed asset records that the asset is in missing status - If the asset isn't found after two subsequent inventory counts then propose writing it off.	updated and are awaiting final approval.
13-16	7	Audit of Fixed Assets Processes and Procedures	In Process	In Process	4/10/2014	3/31/2015	Establish procedures to perform an inventory whenever there is a change in custodian or custodian's delegate.	Management concurs with the recommendation and will work with Human Resources to determine how Finance will be notified when there are changes in asset custodians.	
13-16	9	Assets Processes and Procedures	Partially Implemented	Implemented	4/10/2014		reflect the current practice of including sub-groups in the annual inventory when practical.	Management concurs with the recommendation and will update the procedures to require the counting of sub-groups in the annual inventory.	procedures have been updated and are awaiting final approval sub-groups were included in the FY 2014 physical inventory of tangible personal property.
13-19	1	Audit of Land Lease Financial Provisions	In Process	In Process	4/10/2014	9/30/2015	Update IRIS database functionality to include lessee compliance with financial provisions and establish a single point record of lessee compliance with all lease provisions.	Management concurs with the recommendation that using one software program to administer the District is preferred as it would streamline the number of processes necessary to administer real estate lease agreements. Acknowledging that the use of multiple software programs is less efficient in the management of the real estate leasing program, staff submitted to the Information Technology (IT) Bureau in August of 2012, a Project Charter for the inclusion of the leasing administration procedures into the IRIS (Integrated Real Estate Information Systems) database. The purpose was to enhance the application features or functions in IRIS to support the Section's additional tracking needs. However, the additional work by IT to modify the IRIS application fell below the current prioritized list of District software modifications that IT has the staffing capability to complete. In concurrence with the audit recommendation Information Technology and Leasing will work together to map the lessee compliance process to identify potential efficiencies gained by updating the IRIS application. When completed, a new work request will be prepared and presented to management for approval. If funded, IT will schedule resources according to management guidance.	schedule the proposed work to include lease data into the IRIS database system. Will continue to monitor quarterly.

Audit	Rec		Status Prior	Status Current	Due I	Date		Management	Current Period Comments
No.	No.	Audit Title	Report	Report	Original	Revised	Recommendation	Response	Regarding Status
13-19	2	Audit of Land Lease Financial Provisions	In Process	In Process	4/10/2014	9/30/2015	Amend the District leasing policy to allow the District staff to use lessee deposited funds for property damage, land clean-up and other mitigation purposes. Further, the policy should also be amended to authorize staff to increase staff to increase lessee required deposits on a case by case basis to mitigate land use risk.	Management concurs with the audit recommendation and will direct staff to begin preparation of a Governing Board resolution to amend the leasing policy as proposed.	proposed change to the leasing policy at this time.
13-20	1	Audit of Fleet Maintenance Operations	In Process	Implemented	6/12/2014		At minimum, quotes should be obtained for commonly used parts.	The Procurement Bureau obtained a district-wide list of the most widely used automotive parts, and solicited bids from vendors under a price agreement. The Procurement Bureau received prices from Original Equipment, Carquest, Cold Air Distributors, and O'Reilly Auto Parts. Prices fro NAPA Auto Parts are pending. With these vendors the need to receive quotes elsewhere diminishes since they demonstrably have the lowest prices.	list of the most widely used automotive parts, and solicited bids from vendors under a price agreement. The Procurement Bureau received prices from Original Equipment, Carquest, Cold Air Distributors, and O'Reilly Auto Parts. Prices fro NAPA Auto Parts are pending. With these vendors the need to receive quotes elsewhere diminishes since they demonstrably have the lowest prices. Completed - 1/29/2015
13-20	3	Audit of Fleet Maintenance Operations	In Process	Implemented	6/12/2014	12/31/2014	using the Carquest alternative source contract.	With the price agreement established with Carquest and the other vendors, fleet personnel and procurement technicians will have no alternative but to but filters from Carquest when they are less expensive. Fleet supervisors will be required to report on this process to their respective superintendents each quarter to ensure that the District is buying at the lowest cost.	Carquest and the other vendors, fleet personnel and procurement technicians will have no alternative but to buy filters from Carquest when they are less expensive. Fleet supervisors will be required to report on this process to their
13-20	4	Audit of Fleet Maintenance Operations	In Process	Implemented	6/12/2014		appropriate Procurement Bureau management of any issues with contractors/vendors.	Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). Superintendents will require quarterly reports on vendor performance.	vendor performance. 12/29/2014 Completed
13-20	0.	Audit of Fleet Maintenance Operations	In Process	Implemented	6/12/2014	12/31/2014	Consider using aftermarket parts instead of original equipment parts when possible.	This was discussed at the Stan Team meting and incorporated in our SOP. Specific SAP reports will be generated to ensure that this procedure is being adhered to.	incorporated in our SOP. Specific SAP reports will
13-20	6	Audit of Fleet Maintenance Operations	In Process	Implemented	6/12/2014	12/31/2014	Ensure that preventative maintenance inspections be monitored and completed in a timely manner.	This was discussed at the Stan Team meeting and incorporated in our Preventive Maintenance SOP. Sap Report IW39 will be generated on a monthly basis to ensure that this procedure is being adhered to.	incorporated in our Preventive Maintenance SOP.

Audit No.	Rec No.	Audit Title	Status Prior Report	Status Current Report	Due I Original	Date Revised	Recommendation	Management Response	Current Period Comments Regarding Status
13-20	7	Audit of Fleet Maintenance Operations	In Process	Implemented	6/12/2014	12/31/2014	Ensure that fleet staff understands the importance of closing preventive maintenance work orders after inspections are completed.	This was discussed at the Stan Team meeting and incorporated in our Preventive Maintenance SOP. Specific SAP reports (IW39 and IW33) will be generated on a monthly basis to ensure that this procedure is being adhered to, as discussed in response to Recommendation #6.	incorporated in our Preventive Maintenance SOP. Specific SAP reports (IW39 and IW33) will be generated on a monthly basis to ensure that this
13-20	8	Audit of Fleet Maintenance Operations	In Process	Implemented	6/12/2014	12/31/2014	Instruct fleet staff to ensure that repairs identified during maintenance inspections are completed through PMPR work orders.	This was discussed at the Stan Team meeting and incorporated in our Preventative Maintenance SOP. Specific SAP reports (IW39 and IW33) will be generated on a monthly basis to ensure that this procedure is being adhered to.	incorporated in our Preventative Maintenance SOP. Specific SAP reports (IW39 and IW33) will
13-20	9	Audit of Fleet Maintenance Operations	In Process	Implemented	6/12/2014	12/31/2014	Require fleet staff to make sure that work order costs include all costs of parts and services used.	This was discussed at the Stan Team meeting and incorporated in our Preventive Maintenance SOP. Specific SAP reports (IW39 and IW33) will be generated on a monthly basis to ensure that this procedure is being adhered to. Field Superintendents will enforce this recommendation.	incorporated in our Preventive Maintenance SOP. Specific SAP reports (IW39 and IW33) will be generated on a monthly basis to ensure that this
13-20	10	Audit of Fleet Maintenance Operations	In Process	Implemented	6/12/2014	12/31/2014	Increase efforts to ensure that the maintenance goals for planned and unplanned work orders are achieved.	The 80% Preventive Maintenance to 20% Unscheduled Maintenance objective presents a challenge due to the District's aging fleet and extensive unscheduled repair requirements of our towboats. Each maintenance facility is working hard to achieve this objective. It is an ongoing process. Fleet Management will continue to perform statistical analysis of repair and maintenance data as a means of monitoring maintenance goals and objectives.	challenge due to the District's aging fleet and extensive unscheduled repair requirements of our towboats. Each maintenance facility is working hard to achieve this objective. It is an ongoing process. Fleet Management will continue to
13-20	11	Audit of Fleet Maintenance Operations	In Process	Implemented	6/12/2014	12/31/2014	Require that activities charged to fleet work orders are consistent among all fleet units.	Fleet Management is in the process of developing a list of chargeable activities that will serve as the basis for charging time at District Fleet Maintenance facilities.	a list of chargeable activities that will serve as the
13-20	12	Audit of Fleet Maintenance Operations	In Process	Implemented	6/12/2014	12/31/2014	Consider holding a workshop for relevant fleet staff responsible for making purchases to discuss their experiences regarding vendors' prices and service.	The Fleet Management Stan Team will facilitate a workshop that will include discussion of vendors' automotive prices and services, and training for staff responsible for automotive parts procurement and acquisition. Procurement Bureau will be involved in this process.	workshop that will include discussion of vendors' automotive prices and services, and training for staff responsible for automotive parts procurement

Audit	Rec		Status Prior	Status Current	Due	Date		Management	Current Period Comments
No.	No.	Audit Title	Report	Report	Original	Revised	Recommendation	Response	Regarding Status
13-20	13	Audit of Fleet Maintenance Operations	In Process	Implemented	6/12/2014	12/31/2014	Require managers (time approvers) to closely review their staff's timesheets to ensure that time charges reflect actual activities performed.		was incorporated in the Fleet Maintenance SOP. Monthly reports will be generated to ensure that time allocations accurately reflects actual work. Shop supervisors will be held accountable for time allocation and will be expected to perform daily
13-20	14	Audit of Fleet Maintenance Operations	In Process	Implemented	6/12/2014	12/31/2014	Ensure that fleet employees understand the importance of charging time worked to the correct activities.		was incorporated in the Fleet Maintenance SOP. Monthly reports will be generated to ensure that time allocations accurately reflects actual work. Shop supervisors will be held accountable for time allocation, and will be expected to perform daily
13-20	15	Audit of Fleet Maintenance Operations	In Process	Implemented	6/12/2014	12/31/2014	Instruct fleet unit supervisors to utilize existing SAP fleet work order monitoring reports or consult with the SAP Solutions Center to develop required reports to improve management of the work order issues.	Also, utilizing the following reports will give our supervisors tools to better manage the work order process: Work Order Processing (IW39), Work Order	This was discussed with Fleet Unit supervisors at the Fleet Stan meeting. Fleet Management will incorporated this process in the Preventive Maintenance SOP as a means of reinforcing this recommendation. Also, utilizing the following reports will give our supervisors tools to better manage the work order process: Work Order Processing (IW39), Work Order Detail (IW33), and Confirmation/Timekeeping (IW47). Fleet Management has a SAP representative at the Stan Team meetings to address issues involving reports. 1/29/2015 - Completed

### **EXHIBIT 4**

### **Auditor General Recommendations**

As of December 31, 2014

Audit	Rec		Status Prior	Status Current		Management	Current Period Comments
No.	No.	Audit Title	Report	Report	Recommendation	Response	Regarding Status
		Auditor General Operational Audit	In- Process	In-Process	procedures for Accounts Receivable and Key Permit Access Refunds and ensure that these procedures are continuously updated for changes in key controls or personnel.	The District has assembled a team to re-evaluate and document the key deposit process. The goal is to design a process that is efficient and	Completion Date - March 31, 2015 <b>Key Permit Access Refunds</b> : In Progress. A new process has