

**AGREEMENT FOR
HAULING AND DISPOSAL - WASTE WATER TREATMENT
SLUDGE AND BIO-SOLIDS**

THIS AGREEMENT for Hauling and Disposal - Waste Water Treatment Sludge and Bio-Solids (“Agreement”), made this _____ day of _____ 2025, is by and between the City of Fort Lauderdale, a Florida municipality (“City”), whose address is 101 NE 3rd Avenue, Suite 2100, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301-1016, and Merrell Bros. Inc, an Indiana corporation authorized to transact business in the State of Florida (“Contractor”), whose principal address is 8811 West 500 North, Kokomo, Indiana, 46901, Phone: 574-699-7782, Email: Dustin@merrellbros.com; (collectively, “Parties”).

NOW THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the mutual promises and covenants set forth herein and other good and valuable consideration, Contractor agrees to provide hauling and disposal services for wastewater treatment sludge and bio-solids for the City’s Public Works Department (the “Work”), and the City and the Contractor covenant and agree as follows:

WITNESSETH:

I. DOCUMENTS

The following documents (collectively “Contract Documents”) are hereby incorporated into and made part of this Agreement:

- (1) Invitation to Bid (ITB) Event No. 348 - Hauling and Disposal - Waste Water Treatment Sludge and Bio-Solids, including any and all exhibits and addenda prepared by the City of Fort Lauderdale (“**ITB**” or “**Exhibit A**”).
- (2) The Contractor’s **Competitive Negotiation Term Sheet**, dated December 5, 2024 (“**Exhibit B**”).
- (3) The Contractor’s response to the ITB, dated November 4, 2024 (“**Exhibit C**”).

All Contract Documents may also be collectively referred to as the “Documents.” In the event of any conflict between or among the Documents or any ambiguity or missing specifications or instruction, the following priority is established:

- A. First, this Agreement dated _____, 2025 and any attachments.
- B. Second, Exhibit A.
- C. Third, Exhibit B.
- D. Fourth, Exhibit C.

II. SCOPE

The Contractor shall perform the Work under the general direction of the City as

set forth in the Contract Documents.

Unless otherwise specified herein, the Contractor shall perform all Work identified in this Agreement. The Parties agree that the scope of services is a description of Contractor's obligations and responsibilities, and is deemed to include preliminary considerations and prerequisites, and all labor, materials, equipment, and tasks which are such an inseparable part of the work described that exclusion would render performance by Contractor impractical, illogical, or unconscionable.

Contractor acknowledges and agrees that the City's Contract Administrator has no authority to make changes that would increase, decrease, or otherwise modify the Scope of Services to be provided under this Agreement. Any change orders to the Scope of Services or amendments to the Contract Documents must be authorized by the City Manager, or his/her designee, and approved by the City Commission whenever required in compliance with the Charter and Code of Ordinances for the City of Fort Lauderdale.

By signing this Agreement, the Contractor represents that it has thoroughly reviewed the documents incorporated into this Agreement by reference and that it accepts the description of the work and the conditions under which the Work is to be performed.

III. TERM OF AGREEMENT

The initial term of this Agreement shall commence on **May 1, 2025, and shall end on April 30, 2028. The City reserves the right to extend this Agreement for two (2) additional one (1)-year terms**, provided all terms, conditions and specifications contained herein remain the same, and the extension is mutually agreed to in writing and signed by both Parties. In the event the term of this Agreement extends beyond the end of any fiscal year of City, to wit, September 30th, the continuation of this Agreement beyond the end of the City's fiscal year shall be subject to and conditioned upon both the appropriation and the availability of funds.

IV. COMPENSATION

The Contractor agrees to provide the services and/or materials as specified in the Contract Documents at the cost specified in Exhibit B. It is acknowledged and agreed by Contractor that this amount is the maximum payable and constitutes a limitation upon City's obligation to compensate Contractor for Contractor's services related to this Agreement. This maximum amount, however, does not constitute a limitation of any sort upon Contractor's obligation to perform all items of work required by or which can be reasonably inferred from the Scope of Services. Except as otherwise provided in the solicitation, no amount shall be paid to Contractor to reimburse Contractor's expenses.

V. METHOD OF BILLING AND PAYMENT

Contractor may submit proper invoices for compensation no more often than monthly, but only after the services for which the invoices are submitted have been

completed. An original invoice plus one copy are due within fifteen (15) days of the end of the month. Invoices shall designate the nature of the services performed and/or the goods provided.

City shall pay Contractor within forty-five (45) days of receipt of Contractor's proper invoice, as provided in the Florida Local Government Prompt Payment Act, as may be amended or revised.

To be deemed proper, all invoices must comply with the requirements set forth in this Agreement and must be submitted on the form and pursuant to instructions prescribed by the City's Contract Administrator. Payment may be withheld for failure of Contractor to comply with a term, condition, or requirement of this Agreement.

Notwithstanding any provision of this Agreement to the contrary, City may withhold, in whole or in part, payment to the extent necessary to protect itself from loss on account of inadequate or defective work that has not been remedied or resolved in a manner satisfactory to the City's Contract Administrator or failure to comply with this Agreement. The amount withheld shall not be subject to payment of interest by City.

VI. GENERAL CONDITIONS

A. Indemnification

Contractor shall protect and defend at Contractor's expense, counsel being subject to the City's approval, and indemnify and hold harmless the City and the City's officers, employees, volunteers, and agents from and against any and all losses, penalties, fines, damages, settlements, judgments, claims, costs, charges, expenses, or liabilities, including any award of attorney fees and any award of costs, in connection with or arising directly or indirectly out of any act or omission by the Contractor or by any officer, employee, agent, invitee, subcontractor, or sublicensee of the Contractor. The provisions and obligations of this section shall survive the expiration or earlier termination of this Agreement. To the extent considered necessary by the City Manager, any sums due Contractor under this Agreement may be retained by City until all of City's claims for indemnification pursuant to this Agreement have been settled or otherwise resolved, and any amount withheld shall not be subject to payment of interest by City.

B. Intellectual Property

Contractor shall protect and defend at Contractor's expense, counsel being subject to the City's approval, and indemnify and hold harmless the City from and against any and all losses, penalties, fines, damages, settlements, judgments, claims, costs, charges, royalties, expenses, or liabilities, including any award of attorney fees and any award of costs, in connection with or arising directly or indirectly out of any infringement or allegation of infringement of any patent, copyright, or other intellectual property right in connection with the Contractor's or the City's use of any copyrighted,

patented or un-patented invention, process, article, material, or device that is manufactured, provided, or used pursuant to this Agreement. If the Contractor uses any design, device, or materials covered by letters, patent or copyright, it is mutually agreed and understood without exception that the bid prices shall include all royalties or costs arising from the use of such design, device, or materials in any way involved in the Work.

C. Termination for Cause

The City may terminate this Agreement for cause if the Contractor has not corrected the breach within ten (10) days after written notice from the City identifying the breach. The City Manager may also terminate this Agreement upon such notice as the City Manager deems appropriate under the circumstances in the event the City Manager determines that termination is necessary to protect the public health or safety. The Parties agree that if the City erroneously, improperly, or unjustifiably terminates for cause, such termination shall be deemed a termination for convenience, which shall be effective thirty (30) days after such notice of termination for cause is provided.

This Agreement may be terminated for cause for reasons including, but not limited to, Contractor's repeated (whether negligent or intentional) submission for payment of false or incorrect bills or invoices, failure to perform the Work to the City's satisfaction; or failure to continuously perform the Work in a manner calculated to meet or accomplish the objectives as set forth in this Agreement.

D. Termination for Convenience

The City reserves the right, in its best interest as determined by the City, to cancel this Agreement for convenience by giving written notice to the Contractor at least thirty (30) days prior to the effective date of such cancellation. In the event this Agreement is terminated for convenience, Contractor shall be paid for any services performed to the City's satisfaction pursuant to the Agreement through the termination date specified in the written notice of termination. Contractor acknowledges and agrees that it has received good, valuable, and sufficient consideration from City, the receipt and adequacy of which are hereby acknowledged by Contractor, for City's right to terminate this Agreement for convenience.

E. Cancellation for Unappropriated Funds

The City reserves the right, in its best interest as determined by the City, to cancel this Agreement for unappropriated funds or unavailability of funds by giving written notice to the Contractor at least thirty (30) days prior to the effective date of such cancellation. The obligation of the City for payment to a Contractor is limited to the availability of funds appropriated in a current fiscal period, and continuation of the Agreement into a subsequent fiscal period is subject to appropriation of funds, unless otherwise provided by law.

F. Insurance

As a condition precedent to the effectiveness of this Agreement, during the term of this Agreement and during any renewal or extension term of this Agreement, the Contractor, at the Contractor's sole expense, shall provide insurance of such types and with such terms and limits as noted below. Providing proof of and maintaining adequate insurance coverage are material obligations of the Contractor. The Contractor shall provide the City a certificate of insurance evidencing such coverage. The Contractor's insurance coverage shall be primary insurance for all applicable policies. The limits of coverage under each policy maintained by the Contractor shall not be interpreted as limiting the Contractor's liability and obligations under this Agreement. All insurance policies shall be from insurers authorized to write insurance policies in the State of Florida and that possess an A.M. Best rating of A-, VII or better. All insurance policies are subject to approval by the City's Risk Manager.

The coverages, limits, and endorsements required herein protect the interests of the City, and these coverages, limits, and endorsements may not be relied upon by the Contractor for assessing the extent or determining appropriate types and limits of coverage to protect the Contractor against any loss exposure, whether as a result of this Agreement or otherwise. The requirements contained herein, as well as the City's review or acknowledgement, are not intended to and shall not in any manner limit or qualify the liabilities and obligations assumed by the Contractor under this Agreement.

The following insurance policies and coverages are required:

Commercial General Liability

Coverage must be afforded under a Commercial General Liability policy with limits not less than:

- \$1,000,000 each occurrence and \$2,000,000 aggregate for Bodily Injury, Property Damage, and Personal and Advertising Injury
- \$1,000,000 each occurrence and \$2,000,000 aggregate for Products and Completed Operations

Policy must include coverage for contractual liability and independent contractors.

The City, a Florida municipality, its officials, employees, and volunteers are to be included as an additional insured with a CG 20 26 04 13 Additional Insured – Designated Person or Organization Endorsement or similar endorsement providing equal or broader Additional Insured Coverage with respect to liability arising out of activities performed by or on behalf of Contractor. The coverage shall contain no special limitation on the scope of protection afforded to the City, its officials, employees, and volunteers.

Pollution and Remediation Legal Liability (Hazardous Materials)

For the purpose of this section, the term "hazardous materials" includes all materials and substances that are designated or defined as hazardous by

Florida or federal law or by the rules or regulations of Florida or any federal agency. If work being performed involves hazardous materials, Contractor shall procure and maintain any or all of the following coverages (which will be specifically addressed upon review of exposure):

Contractors Pollution Liability Coverage

For sudden and gradual occurrences and in an amount not less than \$1,000,000 per claim arising out of this Agreement, including but not limited to, all hazardous materials identified under the Agreement.

Hazardous Waste Transportation Coverage

Contractor shall designate the hauler and furnish a Certificate of Insurance from the hauler for Automobile Liability insurance with Endorsement MCS90 for liability arising out of the transportation of hazardous materials in an amount not less than \$1,000,000 per claim limit and provide a valid EPA identification number.

Disposal Coverage

Contractor shall designate the disposal site and furnish a Certificate of Insurance from the disposal facility for Environmental Impairment Liability insurance, covering liability for sudden and accidental occurrences in an amount not less than \$1,000,000 per claim and shall include liability for non-sudden occurrences in an amount not less than \$1,000,000 per claim.

Business Automobile Liability

Coverage must be afforded for all Owned, Hired, Scheduled, and Non-Owned vehicles for Bodily Injury and Property Damage in an amount not less than \$1,000,000 combined single limit each accident.

If Contractor does not own vehicles, Contractor shall maintain coverage for Hired and Non-Owned Auto Liability, which may be satisfied by way of endorsement to the Commercial General Liability policy or separate Business Auto Liability policy.

Workers' Compensation and Employer's Liability

Coverage must be afforded per Chapter 440, Florida Statutes (2024). Any person or entity performing work for or on behalf of the City must provide Workers' Compensation insurance. Exceptions and exemptions will be allowed by the City's Risk Manager, if they are in accordance with Florida Statutes.

Contractor waives, and Contractor shall ensure that Contractor's insurance carrier waives, all subrogation rights against the City, its officials, employees, and volunteers for all losses or damages. The City requires the policy to be endorsed with WC 00 03 13 Waiver of our Right to Recover from Others or equivalent.

Contractor must be in compliance with all applicable State and federal workers' compensation laws, including the U.S. Longshore and Harbor Workers'

Compensation Act and the Jones Act, if applicable.

Insurance Certificate Requirements

- a. The Contractor shall provide the City with valid Certificates of Insurance (binders are unacceptable) no later than thirty (30) days prior to the start of work contemplated in this Agreement.
- b. The Contractor shall provide to the City a Certificate of Insurance having a thirty (30) day notice of cancellation; ten (10) days' notice if cancellation is for nonpayment of premium.
- c. In the event that the insurer is unable to accommodate the cancellation notice requirement, it shall be the responsibility of the Contractor to provide the proper notice. Such notification will be in writing by registered mail, return receipt requested, and addressed to the certificate holder.
- d. In the event the Agreement term goes beyond the expiration date of the insurance policy, the Contractor shall provide the City with an updated Certificate of Insurance no later than ten (10) days prior to the expiration of the insurance currently in effect. The City reserves the right to suspend the Agreement until this requirement is met.
- e. The Certificate of Insurance shall indicate whether coverage is provided under a claims-made or occurrence form. If any coverage is provided on a claims-made form, the Certificate of Insurance must show a retroactive date, which shall be the effective date of the initial contract or prior.
- f. The City shall be named as an Additional Insured on all liability policies, with the exception of Workers' Compensation.
- g. The City shall be granted a Waiver of Subrogation on the Contractor's Workers' Compensation insurance policy.
- h. The title of the Agreement, Bid/Contract number, event dates, or other identifying reference must be listed on the Certificate of Insurance.

The Certificate Holder should read as follows:

City of Fort Lauderdale
401 SE 21st Street
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33316

The Contractor has the sole responsibility for the payment of all insurance premiums and shall be fully and solely responsible for any costs or expenses as a result of a coverage deductible, co-insurance penalty, or self-insured retention; including any loss not covered because of the operation of such deductible, co- insurance penalty, self-insured retention, or coverage exclusion or limitation. Any costs for adding the City as an Additional Insured shall be at the Contractor's expense.

If the Contractor's primary insurance policy/policies do not meet the minimum requirements, as set forth in this Agreement, the Contractor may provide evidence of an Umbrella/Excess insurance policy to comply with this requirement.

The Contractor's insurance coverage shall be primary insurance as applied to the City and the City's officers, employees, and volunteers. Any insurance or self-insurance maintained by the City covering the City, the City's officers, employees, or volunteers shall be non-contributory.

Any exclusion or provision in the insurance maintained by the Contractor that excludes coverage for work contemplated in this Agreement shall be unacceptable and shall be considered breach of contract.

All required insurance policies must be maintained until the contract work has been accepted by the City, or until this Agreement is terminated, whichever is later. Any lapse in coverage shall be considered breach of contract. In addition, Contractor must provide to the City confirmation of coverage renewal via an updated certificate should any policies expire prior to the expiration of this Agreement. The City reserves the right to review, at any time, coverage forms and limits of Contractor's insurance policies.

The Contractor shall provide notice of any and all claims, accidents, and any other occurrences associated with this Agreement shall be provided to the Contractor's insurance company or companies and the City's Risk Management office as soon as practical.

It is the Contractor's responsibility to ensure that any and all of the Contractor's independent contractors and subcontractors comply with these insurance requirements. All coverages for independent contractors and subcontractors shall be subject to all of the applicable requirements stated herein. Any and all deficiencies are the responsibility of the Contractor.

G. Environmental, Health and Safety

Contractor shall place the highest priority on health and safety and shall maintain a safe working environment during performance of the Work. Contractor shall comply, and shall secure compliance by its employees, agents, and subcontractors, with all applicable environmental, health, safety and security laws and regulations, and performance conditions in this Agreement. Compliance with such requirements shall represent the minimum standard required of Contractor. Contractor shall be responsible for examining all requirements and determine whether additional or more stringent environmental, health, safety and security provisions are required for the Work. Contractor agrees to utilize protective devices as required by applicable laws, regulations, and any industry or Contractor's health and safety plans and regulations, and to pay the costs and expenses thereof, and warrants that all such persons shall be fit and qualified to carry out the Work.

H. Standard of Care

Contractor represents that it is qualified to perform the Work, that Contractor and its subcontractors possess current, valid state of Florida and/or local licenses to perform the Work, and that their services shall be performed in a

manner consistent with that level of care and skill ordinarily exercised by other qualified contractors under similar circumstances.

I. Rights in Documents and Work

Any and all reports, photographs, surveys, and other data and documents provided or created in connection with this Agreement are and shall remain the property of City; and Contractor disclaims any copyright in such materials. In the event of and upon termination of this Agreement, any reports, photographs, surveys, and other data and documents prepared by Contractor, whether finished or unfinished, shall become the property of City and shall be delivered by Contractor to the City's Contract Administrator within seven (7) days of termination of this Agreement by either Party. Any compensation due to Contractor shall be withheld until Contractor delivers all documents to the City as provided herein.

J. Audit Right and Retention of Records

City shall have the right to audit the books, records, and accounts of Contractor and Contractor's subcontractors that are related to this Agreement. Contractor shall keep, and Contractor shall cause Contractor's subcontractors to keep, such books, records, and accounts as may be necessary in order to record complete and correct entries related to this Agreement. All books, records, and accounts of Contractor and Contractor's subcontractors shall be kept in written form, or in a form capable of conversion into written form within a reasonable time, and upon request to do so, Contractor or Contractor's subcontractor, as applicable, shall make same available at no cost to City in written form.

Contractor and Contractor's subcontractors shall preserve and make available, at reasonable times for examination and audit by City in Broward County, Florida, all financial records, supporting documents, statistical records, and any other documents pertinent to this Agreement for the required retention period of the Florida public records law, Chapter 119, Florida Statutes (2024), as may be amended or revised, if applicable, or, if the Florida Public Records Act is not applicable, for a minimum period of three (3) years after termination of this Agreement. If any audit has been initiated and audit findings have not been resolved at the end of the retention period or three (3) years, whichever is longer, the books, records, and accounts shall be retained until resolution of the audit findings. If the Florida public records law is determined by City to be applicable to Contractor and Contractor's subcontractors' records, Contractor and Contractor's subcontractors shall comply with all requirements thereof; however, Contractor and Contractor's subcontractors shall violate no confidentiality or non-disclosure requirement of either federal or state law. Any incomplete or incorrect entry in such books, records, and accounts shall be a basis for City's disallowance and recovery of any payment upon such entry.

Contractor shall, by written contract, require Contractor's subcontractors to

agree to the requirements and obligations of this Section.

The Contractor shall maintain during the term of the Agreement all books of account, reports and records in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices and standards for records directly related to this Agreement.

K. Public Entity Crime Act

Contractor represents that the execution of this Agreement will not violate the Public Entity Crime Act, Section 287.133, Florida Statutes (2024), as may be amended or revised, which essentially provides that a person or affiliate who is a contractor, consultant, or other provider and who has been placed on the convicted vendor list following a conviction for a public entity crime may not submit a bid on a contract to provide any goods or services to City, may not submit a bid on a contract with City for the construction or repair of a public building or public work, may not submit bids on leases of real property to City, may not be awarded or perform work as a contractor, supplier, subcontractor, or consultant under an Agreement with City, and may not transact any business with City in excess of the threshold amount provided in Section 287.017, Florida Statutes (2024), as may be amended or revised, for category two purchases for a period of 36 months from the date of being placed on the convicted vendor list. Violation of this Section shall result in termination of this Agreement and recovery of all monies paid by City pursuant to this Agreement and may result in debarment from City's competitive procurement activities.

L. Independent Contractor

Contractor is an independent contractor under this Agreement. Services provided by Contractor pursuant to this Agreement shall be subject to the supervision of the Contractor. In providing such services, neither Contractor nor Contractor's agents shall act as officers, employees, or agents of City. No partnership, joint venture, or other joint relationship is created hereby. The City does not extend to Contractor or Contractor's agents any authority of any kind to bind City in any respect whatsoever.

M. Inspection and Non-Waiver

Contractor shall permit the representatives of the City to inspect and observe the Work at all times.

The failure of the City to insist upon strict performance of any other terms of this Agreement or to exercise any rights conferred by this Agreement shall not be construed by Contractor as a waiver of the City's right to assert or rely on any such terms or rights on any future occasion or as a waiver of any other terms or rights.

N. Assignment and Performance

Neither this Agreement nor any right or interest herein shall be assigned, transferred, or encumbered without the prior written consent of the City. In addition, Contractor shall not subcontract any portion of the Work required by this Agreement, except as provided in the Schedule of Subcontractor Participation. City may terminate this Agreement, effective immediately, if there is any assignment, or attempted assignment, transfer, or encumbrance, by Contractor of this Agreement or any right or interest herein without City's prior written consent.

Contractor represents that each person who will render services pursuant to this Agreement is duly qualified to perform such services by all appropriate governmental authorities, where required, and that each such person is reasonably experienced and skilled in the area(s) for which he or she will render his or her services.

Contractor shall perform Contractor's duties, obligations, and services under this Agreement in a skillful and respectable manner. The quality of the Contractor's performance and all interim and final product(s) provided to or on behalf of the City shall be comparable to the best local and national standards.

In the event the Contractor engages any subcontractor in the performance of this Agreement, Contractor shall ensure that all of Contractor's subcontractors perform in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement. Contractor shall be fully responsible for all of Contractor's subcontractors' performance, and liable for any of Contractor's subcontractors' non-performance and all of Contractor's subcontractors' acts and omissions. Contractor shall defend at Contractor's expense, counsel being subject to City's approval or disapproval, and indemnify and hold City and City's officers, employees, and agents harmless from and against any claim, lawsuit, third party action, fine, penalty, settlement, or judgment, including any award of attorney fees and any award of costs, by or in favor of any of Contractor's subcontractors for payment for work performed for City by any of such subcontractors, and from and against any claim, lawsuit, third party action, fine, penalty, settlement, or judgment, including any award of attorney fees and any award of costs, occasioned by or arising out of any act or omission by any of Contractor's subcontractors or by any of Contractor's subcontractors' officers, agents, or employees. Contractor's use of subcontractors in connection with this Agreement shall be subject to City's prior written approval, which approval City may revoke at any time.

O. Conflicts

Neither Contractor nor any of Contractor's employees shall have or hold any continuing or frequently recurring employment or contractual relationship that is substantially antagonistic or incompatible with Contractor's loyal and conscientious exercise of judgment and care related to Contractor's

performance under this Agreement.

Contractor further agrees that none of Contractor's officers or employees shall, during the term of this Agreement, serve as an expert witness against City in any legal or administrative proceeding in which he, she, or Contractor is not a party, unless compelled by court process. Further, Contractor agrees that such persons shall not give sworn testimony or issue a report or writing, as an expression of his or her expert opinion, which is adverse or prejudicial to the interests of City in connection with any such pending or threatened legal or administrative proceeding unless compelled by court process. The limitations of this section shall not preclude Contractor or any persons in any way from representing themselves, including giving expert testimony in support thereof, in any action or in any administrative or legal proceeding.

In the event Contractor is permitted pursuant to this Agreement to utilize subcontractors to perform any services required by this Agreement, Contractor agrees to require such subcontractors, by written contract, to comply with the provisions of this Section to the same extent as Contractor.

P. Schedule and Delays

Time is of the essence in this Agreement. By signing, Contractor affirms that it believes the schedule to be reasonable; provided, however, the Parties acknowledge that the schedule might be modified as the City directs.

Q. Materiality and Waiver of Breach

City and Contractor agree that each requirement, duty, and obligation set forth herein was bargained for at arm's-length and is agreed to by the Parties in exchange for *quid pro quo*, that each is substantial and important to the formation of this Agreement and that each is, therefore, a material term hereof.

City's failure to enforce any provision of this Agreement shall not be deemed a waiver of such provision or modification of this Agreement. A waiver of any breach of a provision of this Agreement shall not be deemed a waiver of any subsequent breach and shall not be construed to be a modification of the terms of this Agreement.

R. Compliance With Laws

Contractor shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, codes, ordinances, rules, and regulations in performing Contractor's duties, responsibilities, and obligations pursuant to this Agreement.

S. Severance

In the event a portion of this Agreement is found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unenforceable, the provisions not having been

found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unenforceable shall continue to be effective.

T. Limitation of Liability

The City desires to enter into this Agreement only if in so doing the City can place a limit on the City's liability for any cause of action for money damages due to an alleged breach by the City of this Agreement, so that its liability for any such breach never exceeds the sum of \$1,000. Contractor hereby expresses its willingness to enter into this Agreement with Contractor's recovery from the City for any damage action for breach of contract or for any action or claim arising from this Agreement to be limited to a maximum amount of \$1,000 less the amount of all funds actually paid by the City to Contractor pursuant to this Agreement.

Accordingly, and notwithstanding any other term or condition of this Agreement, Contractor hereby agrees that the City shall not be liable to Contractor for damages in an amount in excess of \$1,000 which amount shall be reduced by the amount actually paid by the City to Contractor pursuant to this Agreement, for any action for breach of contract or for any action or claim arising out of this Agreement. Nothing contained in this paragraph or elsewhere in this Agreement is in any way intended to be a waiver of the limitation placed upon City's liability as set forth in Section 768.28, Florida Statutes (2024), as may be amended or revised.

U. Jurisdiction, Venue, Waiver, Waiver of Jury Trial

The Agreement shall be interpreted and construed in accordance with, and governed by, the laws of the state of Florida. The Parties agree that the exclusive venue for any lawsuit arising from, related to, or in connection with this Agreement shall be in the state courts of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit in and for Broward County, Florida. If any claims arising from, related to, or in connection with this Agreement must be litigated in federal court, the Parties agree that the exclusive venue for any such lawsuit shall be in the United States District Court or United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida. **BY ENTERING INTO THIS AGREEMENT, THE PARTIES HEREBY EXPRESSLY WAIVE ANY AND ALL RIGHTS EITHER PARTY MIGHT HAVE TO A TRIAL BY JURY OF ANY ISSUES RELATED TO THIS AGREEMENT. IF A PARTY FAILS TO WITHDRAW A REQUEST FOR A JURY TRIAL IN A LAWSUIT ARISING OUT OF THIS AGREEMENT AFTER WRITTEN NOTICE BY THE OTHER PARTY OF VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION, THE PARTY MAKING THE REQUEST FOR JURY TRIAL SHALL BE LIABLE FOR THE REASONABLE ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS OF THE OTHER PARTY IN CONTESTING THE REQUEST FOR JURY TRIAL, AND SUCH AMOUNTS SHALL BE AWARDED BY THE COURT IN ADJUDICATING THE MOTION.**

V. Amendments

No modification, amendment, or alteration in the terms or conditions contained herein shall be effective unless contained in a written document prepared with the same or similar formality as this Agreement and executed by the City's Mayor and/or City Manager, as determined by the City Charter and Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and Contractor, or others delegated authority to or otherwise authorized to execute same on their behalf.

W. Prior Agreements

This document represents the final and complete understanding of the Parties and incorporates or supersedes all prior negotiations, correspondence, conversations, agreements, and understandings applicable to the matters contained herein. The Parties agree that there is no commitment, agreement, or understanding concerning the subject matter of this Agreement that is not contained in this written document. Accordingly, the Parties agree that no deviation from the terms hereof shall be predicated upon any prior representation or agreement, whether oral or written.

X. Payable Interest

Except as required and provided for by the Florida Local Government Prompt Payment Act, City shall not be liable for interest for any reason, whether as prejudgment interest or for any other purpose, and in furtherance thereof Contractor waives, rejects, disclaims and surrenders any and all entitlement it has or may have to receive interest in connection with a dispute or claim based on or related to this Agreement.

Y. Representation of Authority

Each individual executing this Agreement on behalf of a party hereto hereby represents and warrants that he or she is, on the date he or she signs this Agreement, duly authorized by all necessary and appropriate action to execute this Agreement on behalf of such party and does so with full legal authority.

Z. Uncontrollable Circumstances ("Force Majeure")

The City and Contractor will be excused from the performance of their respective obligations under this Agreement when and to the extent that their performance is delayed or prevented by any circumstances beyond their control including, fire, flood, explosion, strikes or other labor disputes, act of God or public emergency, war, riot, civil commotion, malicious damage, act or omission of any governmental authority, delay or failure or shortage of any type of transportation, equipment, or service from a public utility needed for their performance, provided that:

1. The non-performing party gives the other party prompt written notice describing the particulars of the Force Majeure including, but not limited to, the nature of the occurrence and its expected duration, and continues to furnish timely reports with respect thereto during the period of the Force Majeure;
2. The excuse of performance is of no greater scope and of no longer duration than is required by the Force Majeure;
3. No obligations of either party that arose before the Force Majeure causing the excuse of performance are excused as a result of the Force Majeure; and
4. The non-performing party uses its best efforts to remedy its inability to perform. Notwithstanding the above, performance shall not be excused under this Section for a period in excess of two (2) months, provided that in extenuating circumstances, the City may excuse performance for a longer term. Economic hardship of the Contractor will not constitute Force Majeure. The term of the Agreement shall be extended by a period equal to that during which either Party's performance is suspended under this Section.

AA. Scrutinized Companies

Subject to *Odebrecht Construction, Inc., v. Prasad*, 876 F.Supp.2d 1305 (S.D. Fla. 2012), affirmed, *Odebrecht Construction, Inc., v. Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation*, 715 F.3d 1268 (11th Cir. 2013), with regard to the "Cuba Amendment," the Contractor certifies that it is not on the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in Sudan List or the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in Iran Terrorism Sectors List, created pursuant to Section 215.473, Florida Statutes (2024), as may be amended or revised, and that it does not have business operations in Cuba or Syria, as provided in Section 287.135, Florida Statutes (2024), as may be amended or revised. The Contractor certifies that it is not on the Scrutinized Companies that Boycott Israel List created pursuant to Section 215.4725, Florida Statutes (2024), as may be amended or revised, and that it is not engaged in a boycott of Israel. The City may terminate this Agreement at the City's option if the Contractor is found to have submitted a false certification as provided under subsection (5) of Section 287.135, Florida Statutes (2024), as may be amended or revised, or been placed on the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in Sudan List, or been placed on a list created pursuant to Section 215.473, Florida Statutes (2024), as may be amended or revised, relating to scrutinized active business operations in Iran, or been placed on the Scrutinized Companies that Boycott Israel List created pursuant to Section 215.4725, Florida Statutes (2024), as may be amended or revised, or is engaged in a boycott of Israel, or has been engaged in business operations in Cuba or Syria, as defined in Section 287.135, Florida Statutes (2024), as may be amended or revised.

BB. Attorney Fees

If City or Contractor incurs any expense in enforcing the terms of this Agreement through litigation, the prevailing Party in that litigation shall be reimbursed for all such costs and expenses, including but not limited to court costs, and reasonable attorney fees incurred during litigation.

CC. Resolution of Disputes

Questions, claims, difficulties and disputes of whatever nature which may arise relative to the technical interpretation of the Contract Documents and fulfillment of this Agreement as to the character, quality, amount and value of any work done and materials furnished, or proposed to be done or furnished under, or by reason of, the Contract Documents which cannot be resolved by mutual agreement of City Project Manager and Contractor shall be submitted to the City Manager or his designee and Contractor's representative for resolution. Prior to any litigation being commenced, for any disputes which remain unresolved, within sixty (60) days after final completion of the Work, the Parties shall participate in mediation to address all unresolved disputes to a mediator agreed upon by the Parties. Should any objection not be resolved in mediation, the Parties retain all their legal rights and remedies provided under the laws of Florida. Failure by a Party to comply in strict accordance with the requirements of this Article, then said Party specifically waives all of its rights provided hereunder, including its rights and remedies under the laws of Florida.

All non-technical administrative disputes (such as billing and payment) shall be determined by Contract Administrator.

During the pendency of any dispute and after a determination thereof, Contractor and Contract Administrator shall act in good faith to mitigate any potential damages including utilization of construction schedule changes and alternate means of construction. During the pendency of any dispute arising under this Agreement, other than termination herein, Contractor shall carry on the Work and adhere to the progress schedule. The Work shall not be delayed or postponed pending resolution of any disputes or disagreements.

For any disputes which remain unsolved, within sixty (60) calendar days after Final Completion of the Work, the Parties shall participate in mediation to address all unresolved disputes. A mediator shall be mutually agreed upon by the Parties. Should any objection not be resolved in mediation, the Parties retain all their legal rights and remedies under applicable law. If a Party objecting to a determination, fails to comply in strict accordance with the requirements of this Article, said Party specifically waives all of its rights provided hereunder, including its rights and remedies under applicable law.

DD. Public Records

IF THE CONTRACTOR HAS QUESTIONS REGARDING THE

APPLICATION OF CHAPTER 119, FLORIDA STATUTES (2024), TO THE CONTRACTOR'S DUTY TO PROVIDE PUBLIC RECORDS RELATING TO THIS AGREEMENT, CONTACT THE CUSTODIAN OF PUBLIC RECORDS AT CITY CLERK'S OFFICE, 1 EAST BROWARD BOULEVARD, SUITE 444, FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33301, PHONE: 954-828-5002, EMAIL: [PRRCONTRACT@FORT LAUDERDALE. GOV](mailto:PRRCONTRACT@FORTLAUDERDALE.GOV).

Contractor shall comply with public records laws, and Contractor shall:

1. Keep and maintain public records required by the City to perform the service.
2. Upon request from the City's custodian of public records, provide the City with a copy of the requested records or allow the records to be inspected or copied within a reasonable time at a cost that does not exceed the cost provided in Chapter 119, Florida Statutes (2024), as may be amended or revised, or as otherwise provided by law.
3. Ensure that public records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from public records disclosure requirements are not disclosed except as authorized by law for the duration of the Agreement term and following completion of the Agreement if the Contractor does not transfer the records to the City.
4. Upon completion of the Agreement, transfer, at no cost, to the City all public records in possession of the Contractor or keep and maintain public records required by the City to perform the service. If the Contractor transfers all public records to the City upon completion of the Agreement, the Contractor shall destroy any duplicate public records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from public records disclosure requirements. If the Contractor keeps and maintains public records upon completion of the Agreement, the Contractor shall meet all applicable requirements for retaining public records. All records stored electronically must be provided to the City, upon request from the City's custodian of public records, in a format that is compatible with the information technology systems of the City.

EE. Non-Discrimination

The Contractor shall not discriminate against its employees based on the employee's race, color, religion, gender, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, or any other protected classification as defined by applicable law.

1. The Contractor certifies and represents that the Contractor offers the same health benefits to the domestic partners of its employees as are offered its employees' spouses or offers its employees the cash equivalent

of such health benefits because it is unable to provide health benefits to its employees' domestic partners, and that the Contractor will comply with Section 2-187, Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, (2024), as may be amended or revised, ("Section 2-187"), during the entire term of this Agreement.

2. The Contractor certifies and represents that it will comply with Section 2-187, Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida ("Section 2-187").

3. The City may terminate this Agreement if the Contractor fails to comply with Section 2-187.

4. The City may retain all monies due or to become due until the Contractor complies with Section 2-187.

5. The Contractor may be subject to debarment or suspension proceedings. Such proceedings will be consistent with the procedures in Section 2-183 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

FF. E-Verify

As a condition precedent to the effectiveness of this Agreement, pursuant to Section 448.095, Florida Statutes (2024), as may be amended or revised, the Contractor and its subcontractors shall register with and use the E-Verify system to electronically verify the employment eligibility of newly hired employees.

1. The Contractor shall require each of its subcontractors, if any, to provide the Contractor with an affidavit stating that the subcontractor does not employ, contract with, or subcontract with an unauthorized alien. The Contractor shall maintain a copy of the subcontractor's affidavit for the duration of this Agreement and in accordance with the public records requirements of this Agreement.

2. The City, the Contractor, or any subcontractor who has a good faith belief that a person or entity with which it is contracting has knowingly violated Subsection 448.09(1), Florida Statutes (2024), as may be amended or revised, shall terminate the contract with the person or entity.

3. The City, upon good faith belief that a subcontractor knowingly violated the provisions of Subsection 448.095(5), Florida Statutes (2024), as may be amended or revised, but that the Contractor otherwise complied with Subsection 448.095(5), Florida Statutes (2024), as may be amended or revised, shall promptly notify Contractor and order the Contractor to immediately terminate the contract with the subcontractor, and the Contractor shall comply with such order.

4. A contract terminated under Subparagraph 448.095(5)(c)1. or 2., Florida

Statutes (2024), as may be amended or revised, is not a breach of contract and may not be considered as such. If the City terminates this contract under Paragraph 448.095(5)(c), Florida Statutes (2024), as may be amended or revised, the Contractor may not be awarded a public contract for at least one year after the date on which the Agreement was terminated. The Contractor is liable for any additional costs incurred by the City as a result of termination of this Agreement.

5. Contractor shall include in each of its subcontracts, if any, the requirements set forth in this Section, including this subparagraph, requiring any and all subcontractors, as defined in Subsection 448.095(1)(e), Florida Statutes (2024), as may be amended or revised, to include all of the requirements of this Section in their subcontracts. Contractor shall be responsible for compliance by any and all subcontractors, as defined in Subsection 448.095(1)(e), Florida Statutes (2024), as may be amended or revised, with the requirements of Section 448.095, Florida Statutes (2024), as may be amended or revised.

GG. Notices

Whenever either party desires to give notice unto the other, it shall be given by written notice, sent certified by U.S. Mail, return receipt requested or via nationally recognized overnight courier addressed to the party to whom it is intended, at the places last specified, and the places for giving notice shall remain such until they are changed by written notice in compliance with this subsection. For the present, the parties designate the following as respective places for giving notice, to wit:

FOR CITY: City Manager
City of Fort Lauderdale
401 SE 21st Street, Suite 2100
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33316

WITH A COPY: City Attorney
City of Fort Lauderdale
1 East Broward Boulevard, Suite 1320
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301

FOR CONTRACTOR: Neita K. Merrell, President
Merrell Bros., Inc.
8811 West 500 North
Kokomo, Indiana 46901
Phone: 574-699-7782
Email: Dustin@merrellbros.com

HH. Anti-Human Trafficking

As a condition precedent to the effectiveness of this Agreement, the Contractor shall provide the City with an affidavit on a form approved

by the City and signed by an officer or a representative of the Contractor under penalty of perjury attesting that the Contractor does not use coercion for labor or services as defined in Section 787.06, Florida Statutes (2024), as may be amended or revised.

[THIS SPACE WAS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the City and the Contractor execute this Agreement as follows:

CITY

ATTEST:

CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, a Florida municipality

David R. Soloman, City Clerk

By: _____
Susan Grant
Acting City Manager

Date: _____

Approved as to Form and Correctness:
D'Wayne M. Spence, Interim City Attorney

By: _____
Rhonda Montoya Hasan
Senior Assistant City Attorney

CONTRACTOR

WITNESSES:

MERRELL BROS., INC, an Indiana corporation authorized to conduct business in the State of Florida

Signature

By: _____
Neita K. Merrell, President

Print Name

Signature

Print Name

(CORPORATE SEAL)

STATE OF _____ :
COUNTY OF _____ :

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me by means of physical presence or online notarization, this _____ day of _____, 2025, by **Neita K. Merrell**, as **President**, for **MERRELL BROS., INC**, an Indiana corporation authorized to conduct business in the State of Florida.

(Signature of Notary Public – State of __)

Print, Type or Stamp Commissioned
Name of Notary Public)

Personally Known ___ OR Produced Identification ___
Type of Identification Produced _____