

ECUA GENERAL RESOLUTION NO. GR20-25

A GENERAL RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EMERALD COAST UTILITIES AUTHORITY AND WASTE MANAGEMENT OF MISSISSIPPI TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE PROCESSING OF RECYCLABLES AT THE EMERALD COAST UTILITIES AUTHORITY MATERIALS RECYCLING FACILITY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE FOR THE AGREEMENT.

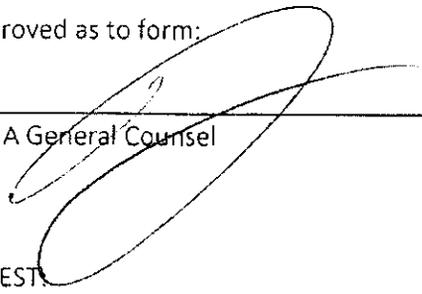
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE EMERALD COAST UTILITIES AUTHORITY:

- WHEREAS, the Emerald Coast Utilities Authority (hereinafter "ECUA") and Waste Management of Mississippi wish to enter into an agreement for the processing of recyclables; and
- WHEREAS, Waste Management collects source separated recyclables in Harrison County and Jackson County, Mississippi, pursuant to franchises issued to it by Harrison County and Jackson County, Mississippi; and
- WHEREAS, the source separated recyclables collected by Waste Management must be processed and sorted into separate commodities to facilitate their resale so the materials may be recycled and put to beneficial use; and
- WHEREAS, ECUA has a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) which is capable of receiving and processing source separated recyclables; and
- WHEREAS, Waste Management desires to deliver certain source separated recyclables collected from their customers in Harrison County and Jackson County, Mississippi, to ECUA's MRF so that the source separated recyclables may be processed, segregated into recyclable commodities, and put to beneficial use; and
- WHEREAS, the two parties desire to establish the terms and conditions under which Waste Management may deliver and the ECUA MRF may accept source separated recyclables generated by Waste Management's customers in Harrison County and Jackson County, Mississippi.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Emerald Coast Utilities Authority:

- SECTION 1. ECUA hereby directs and authorizes the Executive Director to execute the Contract between ECUA and Waste Management of Mississippi; and
- SECTION 2. This General Resolution shall take effect upon adoption.

Approved as to form:



ECUA General Counsel

ATTEST

Amanda Miller, Administrative Coordinator

Adopted on:

Lois Benson, Board Chairman

Date: September 15, 2020
Account Number:
Amount:
Type of Resolution: General Resolution

EXPLANATION TO ECUA BOARD

Originating Department: Sanitation Department

PURPOSE: Approve a recyclables processing agreement with Waste Management of Mississippi.

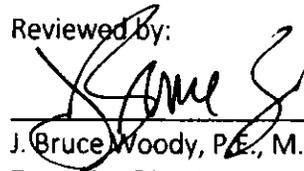
REMARKS: Since 2018, the Emerald Coast Utilities Authority (ECUA) Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) has provided recyclables processing services for Waste Management of Mississippi. The current agreement ends as of September 30, 2020. Waste Management has expressed an interest in continuing its relationship with the ECUA MRF for another one-year agreement. Waste Management has agreed to a price increase from \$25 per ton to \$45 per ton for processing services. This increase will generate approximately \$150,000 in additional revenue for the ECUA MRF each year. The recyclables delivered to the ECUA MRF by Waste Management Mississippi are of very good quality with acceptable levels of contamination. Waste Management of Mississippi is the third largest provider of recyclables to the ECUA MRF after the ECUA and Okaloosa County, Florida.

Submitted by:



Randy Rudd
Deputy Executive Director of Shared Services
850-969-3393

Reviewed by:



J. Bruce Woody, P.E., M.P.A.
Executive Director

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN WASTE MANAGEMENT OF MISSISSIPPI, INC.
AND THE EMERALD COAST UTILITIES AUTHORITY FOR THE
ACCEPTANCE AND PROCESSING OF SOURCE SEPARATED
RECYCLABLES FROM CUSTOMERS IN HARRISON COUNTY AND
JACKSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

This Agreement for the Acceptance and Processing of Source Separated Recyclables from Customers in Harrison County and Jackson County, Mississippi (hereinafter "Agreement") is made and entered into as of this ____ day of _____, 2020, by and between the Emerald Coast Utilities Authority, a local governmental body, corporate and politic, which was formed by the Florida Legislature as an independent special district (hereinafter "ECUA") with administrative offices located at 9255 Sturdevant Street, Pensacola, Florida 32514, and Waste Management of Mississippi, Inc., a private company which collects Source Separated Recyclables in Harrison County and Jackson County, Mississippi (hereinafter "Commercial Collector"), with administrative offices located at 14339 Hudson Krohn Road, Biloxi, Mississippi 39532 (each at times also being referred to as a "Party" or collectively as "Parties").

W I T N E S S E T H:

WHEREAS Commercial Collector collects Source Separated Recyclables in Harrison County and Jackson County, Mississippi pursuant to franchises issued to it by Harrison County and Jackson County, Mississippi;

WHEREAS the Source Separated Recyclables collected by Commercial Collector must be processed and sorted into separate commodities so as to facilitate their resale so that the Recyclable Materials may be recycled and put to beneficial use;

WHEREAS ECUA has a Municipal Recycling Facility (MRF) which is capable of receiving and processing Source Separated Recyclables;

WHEREAS Commercial Collector desires to deliver certain Source Separated Recyclables its collects from its customers in Harrison County and Jackson County, Mississippi to ECUA's MRF so that the Source Separated Recyclables may be processed, segregated into recyclable commodities, and put to beneficial use; and

WHEREAS the Parties desire to establish the terms and conditions under which Commercial Collector may deliver and the ECUA MRF may accept Source Separated Recyclables generated by Commercial Collector's customers in Harrison County and Jackson County, Mississippi.

NOW THEREFORE in consideration of the mutual promises and covenants contained in this Agreement, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the Parties hereby agree as follows:

AGREEMENT

1. **Recitals.** The recitals contained in the preamble to this Agreement are declared to be true and correct and are hereby incorporated into this Agreement.

2. **Definitions.** As used in this Agreement the following terms shall have the following meanings:

2.1 ***Applicable Law*** -- shall mean all applicable federal, state and local statutes, codes, ordinances and standards and all applicable rules, regulations, licenses, permits, registrations, approvals, decisions, authorizations, judgments, orders, writs, decrees, directives or other action adopted, issued or taken by an governmental authority.

2.2 ***Construction and Demolition Waste or C&D Waste*** -- shall mean waste building materials, packaging and rubble resulting from construction, remodeling, repair, or demolition operations on houses, commercial buildings, and other structures, or as otherwise defined from time to time. Such wastes include, but are not limited to, concrete and paving debris, masonry materials, sheet rock, roofing waste, insulation (not including asbestos or asbestos containing materials), scrap metal, wood products, and other similar materials (not including asbestos or asbestos containing materials).

2.3 ***ECUA MRF*** -- shall refer to the Municipal Recycling Facility designed and constructed by ECUA which is located at the Perdido Landfill at 13009 Beulah Road, Cantonment, Florida 32533 and which became operational on or about September 26, 2016.

2.4 ***Effective Date*** -- shall mean the date at which the ECUA MRF begins accepting Source Separated Recyclables generated by commercial customers in Harrison County and Jackson County, Mississippi and delivered to it by Commercial Collector, which shall be on or about 10/1/2020, unless otherwise agreed upon by both Parties in writing.

2.5 ***Garbage*** -- shall mean any putrescible animal and/or vegetative

waste resulting from the handling, preparation, cooking and consumption of food, including, but not limited to, waste from markets, storage facilities, handling and sale of produce and other food products and further includes the packaging materials and containers, but excepting such materials that may be serviced by garbage grinders and handled as household sewage.

2.6 *Hazardous Waste* -- shall mean (a) any waste which by reason of its quality, concentration, composition or physical, chemical or infectious characteristics which is defined or regulated as a hazardous waste, toxic substance, hazardous chemical substance or mixture, or asbestos under Applicable Law, as may be amended from time to time, including: (i) the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 ("RCRA") and the regulations contained in 40 CFR Parts 260-281, (ii) the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. Sections 2601 *et seq.*) and the regulations contained in 40 CFR Parts 761-766, and (iii) future additional or substitute federal, state or local laws pertaining to the identification, treatment, storage, or disposal of toxic substances, or hazardous wastes; (b) radioactive materials, which are source, special nuclear, or by-product materials, as defined by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. Section 2011 *et seq.*) and the regulations contained in 10 CFR Part 40; (c) a chemical listed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency in accordance with Section 302(a) or Section 313(c) of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986, 42 U.S.C.A. § § 11002(a), 110239(c) (Supp. 1993), in each case as the same may be amended, replaced, or superseded; (d) a material or substance which may endanger health or safety, including any material or substance or combination of materials or substances which are explosive, volatile, radioactive, toxic, corrosive, flammable, reactive, an irritant or a strong sensitizer, or which generate pressure through decomposition, heat or other means if such materials or substances may cause injury, illness or harm to humans, domestic animals, livestock or wildlife; (e) a material falling within the definition of Fla. Stat. § 403.703(13); or (f) a material or substance that is treated as a hazardous or toxic waste, substance, or material by any Applicable Law or is otherwise prohibited from being deposited in a municipal solid waste processing facility under Applicable Law. Household Hazardous Waste contained in SSR shall not be considered Hazardous Waste for purposes of this Agreement and shall be accepted at

the Facility if such acceptance is in compliance with the requirements of RCRA and the requirements of the MRF. With regard to materials or substances which are not Hazardous Waste as of the Effective Date, if any Applicable Law is subsequently enacted or amended or any governmental authority thereafter determines that such material or substance is a hazardous or toxic waste, substance or material, then such material or substance shall be considered Hazardous Waste for the purposes of this Agreement from and after the effective date of such enactment or amendment of Applicable Law or governmental authority determination.

2.7 *Municipal Solid Waste or MSW* -- shall mean Garbage, household waste, and commercial solid waste; provided that for the purposes of this Agreement, Municipal Solid Waste shall not include Source Separated Recyclables, C&D Waste, Hazardous Waste, Special Handling Waste, Unacceptable Waste, or scrap tires.

2.8 *Perdido Landfill* -- shall mean the landfill currently operated by Escambia County, Florida which is located at 13009 Beulah Road, Cantonment, Florida 32533.

2.9 *Prohibited Materials* -- shall mean Municipal Solid Waste, C&D Waste, Hazardous Waste, Special Handling Waste, Unacceptable Waste, Yard Waste, scrap tires and any other solid waste or material of any kind that the ECUA MRF is prohibited from accepting pursuant to agreement, Applicable Law, or operational constraints.

2.10 *Recyclables* -- shall mean various recyclable products and packaging designated by ECUA to be accepted at the MRF for processing, including various types of paper (including but not limited to newspaper, junk mail, magazines, office paper, cardboard and paperboard packaging), containers (including but not limited to glass bottles and jars, aluminum and steel cans, and #1 - #7 plastics), and mixed ferrous and non-ferrous metals. The term Recyclables shall not include Municipal Solid Waste, Construction and Demolition Waste, Hazardous Waste, Special Handling Waste, Unacceptable Waste, or scrap tires. The list of Recyclables may be expanded or contracted from time to time as determined by ECUA and the operator of the ECUA MRF, if any.

2.11 *Rejects* -- shall refer to materials collected along with the Recyclable

Materials that are not designated by ECUA to be accepted at the MRF for processing.

2.12 *Residue* -- shall refer to Rejects and Recyclable Materials that are accepted by the operator of the ECUA MRF, processed at the MRF, and not converted to Recovered Materials due to breakage and/or transportation or processing limitations or inefficiencies.

2.13 *Shutdown* -- shall refer to those times in which the operator of the ECUA MRF is unable to receive Source Separated Recyclables for any reason except Force Majeure.

2.14 *Source Separated Recyclables or SSR* -- shall refer to Recyclables which (a) have been diverted or removed from the Municipal Solid Waste prior to collection, (b) are not C&D Waste, Hazardous Waste, Special Handling Waste, Yard Waste, Unacceptable Waste or scrap tires, (c) are not Municipal Solid Waste, and (d) the ECUA MRF is not prohibited from accepting and/or Processing under Applicable Law. The Parties acknowledge, however, that incidental amounts of Rejects may be collected and delivered with Source Separated Recyclables as a normal part of a recycling collection program.

2.15 *Special Handling Waste* -- shall mean any waste or other material that requires the delivery and disposal to be supervised by a government authority, including confiscated drugs and records of a police department or similar governmental authority.

2.16 This paragraph is intentionally left blank.

2.17 *Unacceptable Waste* -- shall mean (a) Hazardous Waste, explosives and ordinance materials, pathological wastes, radioactive materials, lead acid batteries, sewage sludges, highly flammable substances, cesspool or other human wastes, human and animal remains, motor vehicles, farm or other large machinery, construction materials and demolition debris and hazardous refuse addressed by regulations adopted by the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") pursuant to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, as amended, or other federal or state statutes, such as, but not limited to, cleaning fluids, hazardous paints, acids, caustics, poisons, radioactive materials, fine powdery earth used to filter cleaning fluid; (b) unless consented to by ECUA, any item of waste exceeding six feet in any one of its dimensions

or being in whole or in part a solid mass, the solid mass portion of which has dimensions such that a sphere with a diameter or eight inches could be contained within such solid mass portion; (c) all large household appliances, commonly referred to as “white goods” including refrigerators, stoves, washing machines, drying machines and water heaters; (d) any controlled substances regulated under the Controlled Substances Act, 21 USA 801 *et seq.*, or any equivalent state law; (e) small appliances containing chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) including air conditioners, water coolers, and dehumidifiers; (f) cathode ray tubes; and (g) all other items of waste which pose a substantial threat to health or safety or the acceptance and disposal of which will cause substantial damage to, or adversely affect the continuous operation of the MRF or be in violation of any Applicable Law. Any substance or material which is determined by the EPA or any other Governmental authority subsequent to the Effective Date hereof to be hazardous, toxic, dangerous, harmful, or otherwise designated as a “waste ban,” shall, at the time of such determination, be considered Unacceptable Waste.

2.18 *Yard Waste* -- shall refer to vegetative matter resulting from landscaping maintenance and land clearing operations and includes associated rocks and soils.

3. Term. The term of this Agreement shall begin on the Effective Date, as defined in paragraph 2.4, above, and end on September 30, 2021. Provided, however, that the Parties may extend the term of this Agreement upon mutual written agreement.

4. Delivery and Acceptance of Source Separated Recyclables.

a. *Diversion of Source Separated Recyclables to ECUA*. Beginning on the Effective Date and throughout the term of this Agreement, Commercial Collector may deliver, or cause to be delivered, to the ECUA MRF, certain SSR which Commercial Collector collects from its customers in Harrison County and Jackson County, Mississippi.¹

¹ The ECUA MRF shall only be obligated to receive SSR at those times and on those days in which the ECUA MRF is operating, receiving SSR, and not Shutdown.

b. *Right to Reject Loads Containing Excess Rejects.* In the event that SSR delivered to the ECUA MRF contains Rejects in excess of twenty-five percent (25%) by weight, the entire load may be rejected by the operator of the ECUA MRF. In the event that such a rejection occurs, Commercial Collector shall be liable for a processing fee of \$250 per load plus the disposal costs attributable to that entire load at the Perdido Landfill, at the rates established by Escambia County which are then in effect.² ECUA shall provide Commercial Collector written notice of any excess Reject contamination within three (3) business days. Moreover, in the event that Commercial Collector's SSR has excess Reject contamination on three (3) separate loads within a thirty (30) day calendar period, the ECUA Executive Director or his designee, in his sole discretion, may terminate this Agreement and disqualify Commercial Collector from further deliveries.

c. *Charges to Commercial Collector.* In addition to any fees assessed pursuant to paragraph 4.b, above, Commercial Collector shall be charged forty five dollars (\$45) for each ton of SSR processed at the ECUA MRF.

5. Disposal of Residue. The Parties acknowledge and understand that each load of SSR may contain Garbage, Unacceptable Waste, or other Rejects which cannot be recycled and put to beneficial use (collectively hereafter referred to as Residue). Because the SSR received from Commercial Collector will likely be commingled with SSR generated from other jurisdictions, the Parties acknowledge and understand that it is impossible to therefore segregate the Residue by each entity. Accordingly, all such Residue shall be disposed of at the Perdido Landfill at no additional charge to Commercial Collector.

6. Billing. ECUA shall send a bill to Commercial Collector within ten (10) days of the end of each month which reflects all charges to Commercial Collector incurred during the prior month pursuant to this Agreement. All charges shall be paid by Commercial Collector within fourteen (14) days of issuance of that bill by ECUA

² In the event some or all of the load cannot be lawfully disposed of at the Perdido Landfill, Commercial Collector shall be liable for all disposal costs associated with the disposal selected by the operator of the ECUA MRF.

(which shall be sent to Commercial Collector via e-mail). In the event Commercial Collector fails to tender timely payment of any sums due to ECUA under this Agreement, a 1.5% late fee will be assessed and the unpaid sum shall accrue interest at the rate of 1.5% per month, without prejudice to any other relief to which ECUA may be entitled.

7. Compliance with Law and Procedures. ECUA and Commercial Collector shall perform their respective obligations under this Agreement in compliance with all Applicable Law. Commercial Collector shall transport and handle SSR in its control in a safe and workmanlike manner and in full compliance with Applicable Law. ECUA shall further endeavor to maintain throughout the term of this Agreement, all permits, licenses, certificates, and approvals required by Applicable Law for the operation of the ECUA MRF.

8. Tonnage Limit. Presently, approximately seven thousand two hundred (7,200) tons of SSR are generated and collected by Commercial Collector from its customers within Harrison County and Jackson County, Mississippi per year, collectively. Commercial Collector is limited to delivering six hundred (600) tons of SSR per month, absent subsequent written agreement between the Parties pursuant to the notice provisions set forth in paragraph 12, below.

9. Staffing at the ECUA MRF. The Parties understand that the ECUA MRF may be operated by either a third party selected by ECUA or by ECUA staff, in ECUA's sole discretion.

10. Title to Source Separated Recyclables. Upon acceptance of a load of SSR (as opposed to a rejection in accordance with paragraph 4.b, above), title to the SSR shall vest with the operator of the ECUA MRF.

11. Events of Default. A Party shall be in default of this Agreement only upon the expiration of thirty (30) days (ten (10) days in the event of failure to pay money) from receipt of written notice of default from the other Party specifying the particulars in which such Party has failed to perform its obligations under this Agreement unless such Party, prior to the expiration of said thirty (30) days (ten (10) days in the event of failure to pay money), has rectified the particulars specified in said notice of default; provided, however, that such Party shall not be deemed to be in default

if such failure (except a failure to pay money) cannot be rectified within said thirty (30) day period and such Party is using good faith and commercially reasonable and diligent efforts to rectify the particulars specified in the notice of default.

12. Notices. All notices called for under this Agreement shall be made in writing and delivered by hand, certified mail with return receipt, or overnight courier, as follows:

To Commercial Collector: Michael Yarbrough
Sr. District Manager
Waste Management of Mississippi, Inc.
14339 Hudson Krohn Road
Biloxi, Mississippi
E-mail for billing: myarbrou@wm.com

To ECUA: Randy Rudd
Deputy Executive Director of Shared Services
Emerald Coast Utilities Authority
9255 Sturdevant Street
Pensacola, Florida 32514

13. Force Majeure. In the event that performance by the Parties of any of its obligations under this Agreement shall be interrupted, delayed, or prevented by any occurrence not occasioned by the conduct of such Party, whether such occurrence be an act of God or any other occurrence whatsoever this is beyond the reasonable control of such Party, including a change in environmental law or regulation rendering performance impractical or impossible, then the Parties shall be excused from such performance for such period of time as is reasonably necessary after the occurrence to remedy the effects thereof, or until such performance is no longer impractical or impossible.

14. ECUA's Right to Refuse to Accept SSR and Right to Cancel for Convenience. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 4, above, in the event that the operator of the ECUA MRF declares a Shutdown, ECUA and the ECUA MRF shall be under no obligation to accept any SSR from Commercial Collector through the duration of that Shutdown. ECUA will promptly provide Commercial Collector with notice of a Shutdown. Moreover, in the absence of a Shutdown, ECUA, acting through its Executive Director, may cancel this Agreement for convenience on one week's written notice,

notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 3, above. In the event of a Shutdown, Commercial Collector may dispose of SSR elsewhere for the duration of the Shutdown, and Commercial Collector shall not be obligated to reimburse ECUA or the operator of the ECUA MRF for lost revenue associated therewith.

15. Records. The Parties acknowledge that this Agreement and any related financial records, audits, reports, plans, correspondence, and other documents may be subject to disclosure to members of the public pursuant to Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, as amended. In the event a Party fails to abide by the provisions of Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, the other Party shall give written notice of the alleged violation of Chapter 119 and seven (7) calendar days to cure the alleged violation. If the alleged violation has not been cured at the end of that time period, then the party giving such notice may terminate this Agreement for cause. Commercial Collector further agrees to:

a. Keep and maintain public records required to perform services under this Agreement.

b. Upon request from ECUA's custodian of public records, provide ECUA 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, or as otherwise provided by law.

c. Ensure that public records that are exempt or confidential from public records disclosure requirements are not disclosed except as authorized by law during the term of this Agreement and following completion of the Agreement if Commercial Collector does not transfer the records to the ECUA.

d. Upon completion of the Agreement, transfer, at no cost, to ECUA all public records in possession of Commercial Collector or keep and maintain public records required by Commercial Collector to perform the services under this Agreement. If Commercial Collector transfers all public records to ECUA upon completion of the Agreement, Commercial Collector shall destroy any duplicate public records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from public records disclosure requirements. If Commercial Collector keeps and maintains public records upon completion of the Agreement, Commercial Collector shall meet all applicable requirements for retaining the public records. All records stored electronically must be provided to ECUA, upon

request from ECUA's custodian of public records, in a format that is compatible with the information technology systems of ECUA.

IF COMMERCIAL COLLECTOR HAS QUESTIONS REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF CHAPTER 119, FLORIDA STATUTES, AS TO COMMERCIAL COLLECTOR'S DUTY TO PROVIDE PUBLIC RECORDS RELATING TO THIS AGREEMENT, CONTACT THE CUSTODIAN OF PUBLIC RECORDS AT 850-969-3302, PUBLICRECORDS@ECUA.FL.GOVmailto: amanda.miller@ECUA.FL.GOV, AND "PUBLIC RECORDS CUSTODIAN", 9255 STURDEVANT STREET, PENSACOLA, FLORIDA 32514.

16. Assignment. This Agreement or any interest herein, shall not be assigned, transferred, or otherwise encumbered, under any circumstances, by any Party, without the prior written consent of all other Parties, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.

17. Headings. Headings and subtitles used throughout this Agreement are for the purpose of convenience only, and no heading or subtitle shall modify or be used to interpret the text of any section.

18. Governing Law. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida, and the Parties stipulate that venue for any matter which is the subject of this Agreement shall lie in Escambia County, Florida.

19. Dispute Resolution. The Parties agree that in the event of any dispute or claim relating to, arising out of, or interpreting this Agreement arises, all such disputes or claims shall be fully, finally, and exclusively decided by a State court of competent jurisdiction sitting in Escambia County, Florida. Additionally, the Parties knowingly and willingly hereby waive their respective rights to have any such disputes or claims decided by a jury; instead, their sole relief shall be via a bench trial in which the judge alone sits as the finder of fact.

20. Interpretation. For the purpose of this Agreement, the singular includes the plural and the plural shall include the singular. References to statutes or regulations include all statutory or regulatory provisions consolidating, amending, or

replacing the statute or regulation referred to. Words not otherwise defined that have well-known technical or industry meanings are used in accordance with such recognized meanings. References to persons include their respective permitted successors and assigns and, in the case of governmental persons, persons succeeding to their respective functions and capacities.

a. If any Party discovers any material discrepancy, deficiency, ambiguity, error, or omission in this Agreement, or is otherwise in doubt as to the meaning of any provision of the Agreement, the Party shall immediately notify all other Parties and request clarification of this Agreement.

b. This Agreement shall not be more strictly construed against any party hereto by reason of the fact that one Party may have drafted or prepared any or all of the terms and provisions hereof.

21. Severability. The invalidity or non-enforceability of any portion or provision of this Agreement shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other portion or provision. Any invalid or unenforceable portion or provision shall be deemed severed from this Agreement and the balance hereof shall be construed and enforced as if it did not contain such invalid or unenforceable portion or provision.

22. Further Documents. The parties shall execute and deliver all documents and perform further actions that may reasonably be necessary to effectuate the provisions of this Agreement.

23. No Waiver. The failure of a Party to insist upon the strict performance of the terms and conditions hereof shall not constitute or be construed as a waiver or relinquishment of any other provision or of either Party's right to thereafter enforce the same in accordance with this Agreement.

24. Relationship Between the Parties. Commercial Collector agrees that it is an independent entity and not an officer, agent, servant, or employee of ECUA; that Commercial Collector shall have exclusive control of and exclusive right to control the details of the work performed hereunder by its personnel, and shall be responsible for the acts and omissions of its officers, agents, employees, contractors, subcontractors, and consultants; that the doctrine of respondeat superior shall not apply as between ECUA and Commercial Collector, their officers, agents, employees, contractors,

subcontractors, and consultants; and nothing herein shall be construed as being a partnership or joint enterprise between ECUA and Commercial Collector.

25. Third Party Beneficiaries. It is specifically agreed between the Parties executing this Agreement that it is not intended by any of the provisions or any part of this Agreement to create in the public or any member thereof, a third party beneficiary under this Agreement, or to authorize anyone not a party to this Agreement to maintain a suit for personal damages pursuant to the terms or provisions of this Agreement.

26. All Prior Agreements Superseded. This document incorporates and includes all prior negotiations, correspondence, conversations, agreements, or understandings applicable to the matters contained herein, and the Parties agree that there are no commitments, agreements, or understandings concerning the subject matter of this Agreement that are not contained in this document. Accordingly, it is agreed that no deviation from the terms hereof shall be predicated upon any prior representations or Agreements whether oral or written. It is further agreed that no modification, amendment, or alteration in the terms and conditions contained herein shall be effective unless contained in a written document executed with the same formality and of equal dignity herewith.

[Remainder of page intentionally left blank]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Agreement, by and through their duly undersigned and authorized representatives, as of the date and year first written above.

**WASTE MANAGEMENT OF
MISSISSIPPI, INC., a private company,**

By: _____
Its: _____

Date: _____

**EMERALD COAST UTILITIES
AUTHORITY, a local governmental body,
corporate and politic,**

By: _____
J. Bruce Woody, P.E.
Executive Director

Date: _____

ATTEST:

By: _____
Secretary