



Allen Kisinger
1904-1981

Kisinger Campo and Associates Corp.

2203 N. Lois Avenue · Suite 1200 · Tampa, Florida 33607

(813) 871-5331 · Fax: (813) 871-5135 · E-Mail: kca@kcaeng.com

engineering • inspection • planners

August 4, 2003

Mr. R. Michael Salmon, P.E.
Director of Stormwater
City of Tampa, City Hall
306 E. Jackson Street, 6E
Tampa, Fl 33605

Re: Review of Stormwater Charges

Dear Mr. Salmon and City Council Members:

Kisinger Campo and Associates (KCA) is a local civil engineering consulting firm with our corporate headquarters in the City of Tampa since our inception over 27 years ago. KCA has provided a wide range of engineering consulting services to the private sector, municipalities, and other governmental agencies throughout Florida. Our expertise includes bridge inspection, civil engineering, construction engineering inspection, environmental services, sanitary sewer and water utility design, roadway and transportation design, and stormwater and drainage design.

KCA was requested to review the rationale for the Stormwater Charges that have been proposed for the City of Tampa by Government Services Group, Inc. (GSG) and Nabors, Giblin, and Nickerson, P.A (NG&N). In the performance of this task, we have reviewed the Phase 1 Stormwater Assessment Program and Phase 2 Stormwater Funding Program Reports prepared by GSG, attended meetings with GSG and City Staff, reviewed stormwater management strategies in other Florida communities, and analyzed the overall approach proposed for the City of Tampa.

As local residents and members of the Tampa business community, KCA commends the City of Tampa for taking the first step in establishing a “user fee” utility system to optimize the operation, maintenance, and management of stormwater services. Local governments must address the cumulative impacts from the era in which previous stormwater systems were designed and built, coupled with the effects of steady population growth and development, and begin the arduous task of upgrades and rehabilitation. Municipalities are obligated to meet the stormwater management mandates of Florida and federal law, but are required to fund these improvements locally. Organizations accountable for, and specifically organized, to manage stormwater systems tend to deliver those services better than one charged with a variety of public work tasks.

Our professional opinion rendered herein is limited to the reasonableness regarding the accrual of benefits to real property owners resulting from the proposed stormwater assessment program, along with the methodology in which the property owners are asked to pay for these stormwater management services. The City of Tampa Stormwater Charges will provide for the funding of annual operation, maintenance, and management expenses that serves all property classifications within the City. A well maintained stormwater program will provide economic, public health, safety, and environmental benefits to property owners, occupants, residents, and others doing business in the City. A list of these potential benefits is attached.



Allen Kisinger
1904-1981

Kisinger Campo and Associates Corp.

2203 N. Lois Avenue · Suite 1200 · Tampa, Florida 33607

(813) 871-5331 · Fax: (813) 871-5135 · E-Mail: kca@kcaeng.com

engineering • inspection • planners

We have not attempted to quantify the financial benefits of the listed benefits to the citizens of Tampa at this time, as it is a complex assignment and subject to many assumptions. The initial approach recommended by GSG and NG&N for the City of Tampa's inaugural fiscal year is based upon an equitable sharing of the costs among properties which contribute to the need for stormwater management services, and correspondingly receive benefits from the efficient delivery of those services. This approach takes into account the varying degrees that commercial, industrial, and residential properties contribute to the need for stormwater maintenance services, which are directly related to the quantity, rate of discharge, and quality of the stormwater.

While the range of possible rate structures is virtually unlimited, the initial Stormwater Charges proposed for the City of Tampa are properly assigned and fairly distributed. For residential properties, the fees are based upon a defensible position of improved and impervious surface areas. The proposed tiers for small, medium, large, and very large residential parcels provides a reasonable solution to the wide variety of building and lot sizes that currently exist within the City, in relationship to their contribution to the amount of stormwater discharged to City maintained systems.

In our professional opinion, the initial Stormwater Assessment Program proposed for the City of Tampa by Government Services Group and Nabors, Giblin, and Nickerson fairly assigns the cost of the stormwater utility to the proper beneficiaries, based on their relative impacts to the City maintained stormwater system. Upon future development of an expanded data base, including the addition of accurate stormwater quality data, and the anticipated optimization of the stormwater utility functions, a refinement of the initial rate structure may be warranted sometime in the future.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (813) 871-5331 if you have questions on these matters.

Sincerely,

Paul Hauck, P.E.
Manager, Special Projects



Allen Kisinger
1904-1981

Kisinger Campo and Associates Corp.

2203 N. Lois Avenue · Suite 1200 · Tampa, Florida 33607

(813) 871-5331 · Fax: (813) 871-5135 · E-Mail: kca@kcaeng.com

engineering • inspection • planners

Stormwater Program Benefits

A well managed stormwater program ensures that stormwater discharged from developed properties will be safely detained, retained, conveyed, and treated. The benefits are numerous, and include economic, health and safety, and environmental benefits to property owners and residents, including:

Health and Safety

- Maintains the availability and safe use of facilities by the owners and occupants by reducing the potential for flooding; and
- Increases the safety and accessibility to the local transportation systems by reducing the potential for flooding.

Economic Benefits

- Alleviates the financial burden on downstream developed properties caused by stormwater runoff and the accumulation of sediment and debris;
- Improves the function and aesthetics of drainage ditches, swales, culverts, and ponds, which help maintain, or potentially increase, property values;
- Increases the potential for developed properties to be integrated into future, higher use, community based plans, thereby increasing property values;
- Reduces potential for damage and repairs to public owned infrastructure, including roads, bridges, other transportation system assets, and utilities;
- Improves efficiency of stormwater maintenance staff and use of equipment due to planned regular maintenance, with reduced emergency and unscheduled maintenance activities; and
- Extends the life cycles of stormwater system components, reduces frequency of major repairs, and minimizes the stormwater utility costs borne by property owners and citizens of Tampa.

Environmental Benefits

- Maintains the quality of surface water resources within the stormwater service area, including bays, canals, estuaries, lakes, ponds, rivers, springs, and streams, for recreational use and enjoyment;
- Improves the quality of raw water supplied to potable water treatment plants which draw from local surface waters (Hillsborough River, Alafia River, Tampa Bypass Canal, and Tampa Bay); and
- Improves the quantity and quality of surface water which recharges the local surficial aquifer.