

September 1, 2021

**FROM:** Urban Futures, Inc.  
Michael Busch, Chief Executive Officer  
Wing-See Fox, Managing Director

**TO:** Nathan Statham  
Finance Director  
City of Coachella  
53990 Enterprise Way  
Coachella, CA 92236

**RE:** Engagement Letter for 2021 Water Revenue Bonds (Refunding and New Money)

Dear Nathan:

This letter specifies the terms of the engagement between Urban Futures, Inc., located at 17821 E. 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 245, Tustin, CA 92780 and the City of Coachella located at 53990 Enterprise Way, Coachella, CA 92236.

This engagement between the City of Coachella (the “City”) and Urban Futures, Inc. (“UFI”) shall become effective as of the date of its acceptance as provided below.

**Scope of Municipal Advisory Activities to be Performed**

As Municipal Advisor, UFI will perform the following duties on behalf of the City, as needed.

- Assist in developing the plan of finance and related transaction timetable;
- Identify and analyze financing solutions and alternatives for funding the capital improvement plan and refunding;
- Advise on the method of sale, taking into account market conditions and near-term activity in the municipal market;
- Assist in the preparation of any rating agency strategies and presentations;
- Coordinate internal/external accountants, feasibility consultants and escrow agents, as appropriate;
- Assist with the selection of the financing team including underwriters, trustee, bond and disclosure counsel (as applicable);
- Assist with underwriter compensation issues, syndicate structure and bond allocations;

- Assist with negotiated sales (as applicable), including advice regarding retail order periods and institutional marketing, analysis of comparable bonds and secondary market data, and verify cash flow calculations;
- Assist with competitive bond sales (as applicable), including posting of the notice of sale and preliminary official statement, and preparation of the bid verification, true interest cost (TIC) calculations and reconciliations/verifications of bidding platform calculations, preparation of notice of sale, obtaining CUSIP numbers;
- Assist with private placements (as applicable), including selection of placement agent (if necessary), reaching out to direct purchase banks, reviewing term sheets and legal documents;
- Prepare and/or review preliminary cash flows/ preliminary refunding analysis;
- Analyze whether to use SLGS, open markets and/or agency securities for purposes of investment of bond proceeds;
- Manage the escrow bids or review SLGs applications for structuring refunding escrow;
- Assist in procuring printers, verification agents, etc.;
- Plan and coordinate bond closings;
- Prepare any required post-sale reports of bond sales; and
- Evaluate market conditions and pricing performance of senior manager and co-managers' distribution of bonds.

### **Independent Registered Municipal Advisor (“IRMA”)**

If acting in the capacity of an Independent Registered Municipal Advisor (“IRMA”) with regard to the IRMA exemption of the SEC Rule, Urban Futures, Inc. will review all third-party recommendations submitted to Urban Futures, Inc. in writing by the City.

### **Term of Engagement Agreement**

The effective date of the agreement is the date of its acceptance and the end date is two years after the effective date, or the bond closing date of the subject transaction, whichever occurs first. Any extensions must be mutually agreed upon by all parties in writing.

### **Termination of Engagement Agreement**

The City may terminate the whole or any part of this Agreement at any time and without cause by giving sixty (60) days written notice to Urban Futures, Inc. of such termination, and specifying the effective date thereof. Urban Futures, Inc. shall discontinue all Services affected by such termination within thirty (30) days of receipt of such notice, unless otherwise instructed by the City in writing. Urban Futures, Inc. may terminate this agreement by giving the City sixty (60) days written notice.

In the event Services are terminated by the City, Urban Futures, Inc. will be compensated for services provided up to the termination date.

### **Compensation and Out-of-Pocket Expenses**

Compensation for the municipal advisory activities to be performed for this engagement is contingent upon the successful close of the bonds.

For the subject transaction, the fee for financial advisory services is \$50,000 and a reimbursement of expenses in an amount not to exceed \$2,500. Expense reimbursements will cover the following:

- Mandatory SEC/MSRB Compliance Requirements & Reporting
- Data Services (Bloomberg, Thompson Reuters, DBC)
- Travel (mileage, airfare, hotels, etc.)

### **Fiduciary Duty**

Urban Futures, Inc. is currently registered as a Municipal Advisor with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) and Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (“MSRB”). As such, Urban Futures, Inc. has a Fiduciary Duty to the City and must provide both a Duty of Care and a Duty of Loyalty that entails the following.

#### Duty of Care:

- a) exercise due care in performing its municipal advisory activities;
- b) possess the degree of knowledge and expertise needed to provide the City with informed advice;
- c) make a reasonable inquiry as to the facts that are relevant to the City’s determination as to whether to proceed with a course of action or that form the basis for any advice provided to the City; and
- d) undertake a reasonable investigation to determine that Urban Futures, Inc. is not forming any recommendation on materially inaccurate or incomplete information; Urban Futures, Inc. must have a reasonable basis for:
  - i. any advice provided to or on behalf of the City;
  - ii. any representations made in a certificate that it signs that will be reasonably foreseeably relied upon by the City, any other party involved in the municipal securities transaction or municipal financial product, or investors in the City securities; and
  - iii. any information provided to the City or other parties involved in the municipal securities transaction in connection with the preparation of an official statement.

### Duty of Loyalty:

Urban Futures, Inc. must deal honestly and with the utmost good faith with the City and act in the City's best interests without regard to the financial or other interests of Urban Futures, Inc. Urban Futures, Inc. will eliminate or provide full and fair disclosure (included herein) to the City about each material conflict of interest (as applicable). Urban Futures, Inc. will not engage in municipal advisory activities with the City as a municipal entity, if it cannot manage or mitigate its conflicts in a manner that will permit it to act in the City's best interests.

### **Conflicts of Interest and Other Matters Requiring Disclosures**

As of the date of the Agreement, there are no actual or potential conflicts of interest other than those defined below that Urban Futures, Inc. is aware of that might impair its ability to render unbiased and competent advice or to fulfill its fiduciary duty. If Urban Futures, Inc. becomes aware of any potential conflict of interest that arises after this disclosure, Urban Futures, Inc. will disclose the detailed information in writing to the City in a timely manner.

The following are potential conflicts of interest to be considered:

- Urban Futures, Inc. represents that in connection with the issuance of municipal securities, Urban Futures, Inc. may receive compensation from the City for services rendered, which compensation is contingent upon the successful closing of a transaction and/or is based on the size of a transaction. Consistent with the requirements of MSRB Rule G-42, Urban Futures, Inc. hereby discloses that such contingent and/or transactional compensation may present a potential conflict of interest regarding Urban Futures, Inc.'s ability to provide unbiased advice to enter into such transaction. This potential conflict of interest will not impair Urban Futures, Inc.'s ability to render unbiased and competent advice or to fulfill its fiduciary duty to the City.
- It should be noted that other forms of compensation (i.e. hourly or fixed fee based) may also present a potential conflict of interest regarding Urban Futures, Inc.'s ability to provide advice regarding a municipal security transaction. These other potential conflicts of interest will not impair Urban Futures, Inc.'s ability to render unbiased and competent advice or to fulfill its fiduciary duty to the City;
- The fee paid to Urban Futures, Inc. increases the cost of financing to the City. The increased cost occurs from compensating Urban Futures, Inc. for municipal advisory services provided;
- Urban Futures, Inc. serves a wide variety of other clients that may from time to time have interests that could have a direct or indirect impact on the interests of another Urban Futures, Inc. client. For example, Urban Futures, Inc. serves as municipal advisor to other municipal advisory clients and, in such cases, owes a regulatory duty to such other clients just as it does to the City. These other clients may, from time to time and depending on the specific circumstances, have competing interests. In acting in the interests of its

various clients, Urban Futures, Inc. could potentially face a conflict of interest arising from these competing client interests. Urban Futures, Inc. fulfills its regulatory duty and mitigates such conflicts through dealing honestly and with the utmost good faith with the City;

- Urban Futures, Inc. does not have any affiliate that provides any advice, service, or product to or on behalf of the client that is directly or indirectly related to the municipal advisory activities to be performed by Urban Futures, Inc.;
- Urban Futures, Inc. has not made any payments directly or indirectly to obtain or retain the City's municipal advisory business;
- Urban Futures, Inc. has not received any payments from third parties to enlist Urban Futures, Inc. recommendation to the City of its services, any municipal securities transaction or any municipal finance product;
- Urban Futures, Inc. has not engaged in any fee-splitting arrangements involving Urban Futures, Inc. and any provider of investments or services to the City;
- Urban Futures, Inc. does not have any legal or disciplinary event that is material to the City's evaluation of the municipal advisory or the integrity of its management or advisory personnel;
- Urban Futures, Inc. does not act as principal in any of the transaction(s) related to this Agreement;
- Urban Futures, Inc. does not have any other engagements or relationships that might impair Urban Futures, Inc.'s ability either to render unbiased and competent advice to or on behalf of the City or to fulfill its fiduciary duty to the City; and
- During the term of the municipal advisory relationship, this agreement will be promptly amended or supplemented to reflect any material changes in or additions to the terms or information within this agreement and the revised writing will be promptly delivered to the City.

### **Legal Events and Disciplinary History**

Urban Futures, Inc. does not have any legal events and disciplinary history on its Form MA and Form MA-I, which includes information about any criminal actions, regulatory actions, investigations, terminations, judgments, liens, civil judicial actions, customer complaints, arbitrations and civil litigation. The City may electronically access Urban Futures, Inc.'s most recent Form MA and each most recent Form MA-I filed with the Commission at the following website: [www.sec.gov/edgar/searchedgar/companysearch.html](http://www.sec.gov/edgar/searchedgar/companysearch.html).

There have been no material changes to a legal or disciplinary event disclosure on any Form MA or Form MA-I filed with the SEC. If any material legal or regulatory action is brought against Urban Futures, Inc., Urban Futures, Inc. will provide complete disclosure to the City in detail allowing the City to evaluate Urban Futures, Inc., its management and personnel.

## **Recommendations**

If Urban Futures, Inc. makes a recommendation of a municipal securities transaction or municipal financial product or if the review of a recommendation of another party is requested in writing by the City and is within the scope of the engagement, Urban Futures, Inc. will determine, based on the information obtained through reasonable diligence of Urban Futures, Inc. whether a municipal securities transaction or municipal financial product is suitable for the City. In addition, Urban Futures, Inc. will inform the City of:

- the evaluation of the material risks, potential benefits, structure, and other characteristics of the recommendation;
- the basis upon which Urban Futures, Inc. reasonably believes that the recommended municipal securities transaction or municipal financial product is, or is not, suitable for the City; and
- whether Urban Futures, Inc. has investigated or considered other reasonably feasible alternatives to the recommendation that might also or alternatively serve the City's objectives.

If the City elects a course of action that is independent of or contrary to the advice provided by Urban Futures, Inc., Urban Futures, Inc. is not required on that basis to disengage from the City.

## **Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board Rule G-10 Disclosure**

Pursuant to Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board Rule G-10, on Investor and Municipal Advisory Client Education and Protection, Municipal Advisors are required to provide certain written information to their municipal entity and obligated person clients which include the following:

- Urban Futures, Inc. is currently registered as a Municipal Advisor with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") and Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board ("MSRB").
- Within the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board ("MSRB") website at [www.msrb.org](http://www.msrb.org), the City may obtain the Municipal Advisory client brochure that is posted on the MSRB website. The brochure describes the protections that may be provided by the MSRB Rules along with how to file a complaint with financial regulatory authorities.

## **Record Retention**

Effective July 1, 2014, pursuant to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) record retention regulations, Urban Futures, Inc. is required to maintain in writing, all communication and created documents between Urban Futures, Inc. and the City for 5 years.

If there are any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact Urban Futures, Inc. If the foregoing terms meet with your approval, please indicate your acceptance by executing and returning a copy of this letter.

Sincerely,



Michael Busch, Chief Executive Officer  
Urban Futures, Inc.

City of Coachella

By: \_\_\_\_\_