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File No. 5032173.0002

March 20, 2023

Carl Schueler  
Comprehensive Planning Manager  
City Administration Building  
30 S. Nevada Avenue, Suite 105  
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903

Re: The Ridge at Sand Creek Metropolitan District, City of Colorado Springs,  
Colorado Proposed Issuance of Limited Tax General Obligation Bonds,  
Series 2023, in the principal amount of \$2,590,000 (the "Bonds")

Dear Mr. Schueler:

This office represents The Ridge at Sand Creek Metropolitan District (the "District"). The District anticipates issuing bonds on or about April 2023 and is seeking approval from the Colorado Springs City Council pursuant to the District's Service Plan and the City's Special District Policy.

In anticipation of a Budget Committee meeting, and on behalf of the District, please find enclosed copies of:

- (a) a compliance opinion regarding issuance of the Bonds;
- (b) the form of authorizing resolution for the Bonds;
- (c) certification of an External Financial Advisor as required by the District's Service Plan;
- (d) summary financing plan and pro forma information from Piper Sandler;
- (e) engineer's certification letter;
- (f) cost certification letter from CLA.

The application fee in the amount of \$1,100 will be or has been delivered to the City Clerk.



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At your earliest convenience, please have City Council review the enclosed documents to ensure that the Bonds are being issued in compliance with the Special District Policy and the Service Plan. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or if you need anything further.

Best regards,

SPENCER FANE LLP

*/s/David O'Leary*

*/s/ Brenden Desmond*

David O'Leary  
and Brenden Desmond

Enclosures



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March 20, 2023

City of Colorado Springs  
c/o Mr. Carl Schueler, City Manager  
El Paso County, Colorado

Re: The Ridge at Sand Creek Metropolitan District, City of Colorado Springs, Colorado  
Proposed Issuance of Limited Tax General Obligation Bonds, Series 2020, in the  
principal amount of \$2,590,000 (the “Bonds”)

Gentlemen:

We have acted as counsel to The Ridge at Sand Creek Metropolitan District, El Paso County, Colorado (the “District”), generally and in connection with the authorization, and evaluation by the District of the proposed issuance of Bonds. The Bonds, upon approval of the City, will be issued, executed and delivered by the District pursuant to an authorizing resolution (the “Bond Resolution”) which will be proposed to be adopted by the Board of Directors of the District (the “Board”) at a special meeting. We are not counsel for individual directors of the District or for individuals who serve as directors of the District. The opinions stated herein are given in our limited capacity as legal counsel to the District for general matters.

This Letter is intended to outline and supply materials submitted with the District’s letter and provide an opinion regarding the status of the District and compliance with the requirements of the Service Plan, City rules and regulations and applicable law.

Based upon our review of the District documents and the request for a statement regarding compliance with the Service Plan:

A. The District was duly organized and exists as a special district under the laws of the State of Colorado, having full power and authority to execute, deliver, and perform its obligations under the Service Plan and District Documents.

B. The members of the Board and officers of the District have been duly elected or appointed and, to the best of our knowledge, remain qualified to serve as such.

C. The Service Plan of the District approved by the City of Colorado Springs on December 10, 2019, and all addenda and amendments thereto (if any) (collectively, the “Service Plan”), were submitted to, filed and where necessary approved by all appropriate governmental agencies of the State of Colorado as required by law, and the District is not required by law to further amend the Service Plan to effectuate the issuance of Bonds. The issuance of the Bonds is in conformance with the Service Plan and requirements of the City of Colorado Springs.



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D. The District encompasses approximately 19.18 acres containing approximately 90 lots, 70 lots are completed, and homes are sold or occupied, 27 of the lots are habitat for humanity lots which are initially owned, then after construction, sold to residential property owners, 7 of the 20 lots are currently sold and occupied, the remaining lots are ready for construction. It is anticipated that 75 homes will be completed by the end of 2023 and the remaining 20 Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity constructed are anticipated to be completed and closed in 2023-2026. The necessary public improvements have been constructed and completed by the Developer per the engineer review and inspection. The corresponding public improvement costs have been verified and certified by an independent engineer and licensed District Accountant/CPA; and, the public improvements have been dedicated to, and are being operated and maintained by, the District.

In light of the foregoing, the District now desires to issue a Developer Bond (“2023 Bond”) in order to reimburse the original developer, Eagle Development Company, for costs it has incurred for the construction and installation of the verified and certified public improvements. In accordance with both the District’s approved Service Plan and the City’s Special District Policy:

1) Present and future property owners within the District will not be burdened with debt service mill levies of the District higher than the maximum debt service mill levy of thirty (30) mills set forth in Section VI(E)(a) the Service Plan, subject to adjustment and assessment ratio adjustment as provided for in the Service Plan. The enclosed analysis completed by Piper Sandler & Co. outlines an anticipated debt service mill levy, with the contemplated adjustment only as expressly authorized under Section VI(E) of the Service Plan. It should be noted that, as outlined in Section VI(E)(a) of the Service Plan, when an adjustment occurs, and to the extent possible, “the actual tax revenues generated by the mill levy ... are neither diminished nor enhanced as a result of” the adjustment;

2) The anticipated plan is to market the 2023 Bond exclusively to one (1) accredited investor as defined in rule 501(a) promulgated under the Securities Act of 1933 (such accredited investor is expected to be either the developer or a company related to the developer);

3) Repayment of principal and interest on the 2023 Bond will be limited solely to ad valorem property taxes collected by the District;

4) The 2023 Bond will not be subject to default for nonpayment if the District is levying the maximum allowed mill levy under the Service Plan;



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- 5) The 2023 Bond will be structured to ensure that a subsequent “refunding” bond issue, if any, will be able to be issued as a tax-exempt issue, with such structure being allowed to give future members of the District’s Board of Directors financing options going forward;
- 6) The public improvements financed through the 2023 Bond consist of public improvements authorized and permitted under the District’s Service Plan;
- 7) The anticipated principal amount of the 2023 Bond (\$2,590,000) is within the \$3,325,000 debt limitation set forth in the District’s Service Plan;
- 8) The projected interest rate on the 2023 Bond (4.125%) is a competitive market rate that will not overburden the District; and
- 9) Repayment of the 2023 Bond is scheduled to occur by 2060 which complies with the 40-year debt mill levy imposition term authorized in Section VI(F) of the Service Plan.

In addition to the foregoing, there are several advantages to issuing the 2023 Bond at the present time and under the contemplated structure:

- A) The private developer bond structure, as opposed to an open market issuance, will allow the District to avoid things like a reserve fund, an official statement, or the enlistment of a trustee, and the transaction documents will consequently be significantly less voluminous. All of these factors may help reduce the District’s costs of issuance by approximately \$35,000 to \$75,000;
- B) The private developer bond structure will still allow the District to issue the 2023 Bond as a tax-exempt financing which allows for interest savings, as well as the issuance and administrative savings noted above;
- C) In addition to the initial savings, the 2023 Bond also carries the possibility of continued annual savings through the use of a payment agent rather than enlisting a trustee, which could result in savings on fees and expenses of up to \$1,000 to \$1,500 per year; and
- D) The Developer, rather than the District, will bear the risk should the repayment not occur in full.



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Finally, from a District governance perspective, property owners will eventually assume control of the Board of Directors through the semi-annual election process, and the resident-controlled board will have both the discretion and control to determine whether to refinance the 2023 Bond in the event a lower interest rate can be achieved to obtain a net present interest savings. Such a refinancing could be accomplished without penalties and without jeopardizing the tax-exempt status of the 2023 Bond.

For all these reasons, the District believes the timing and structure of the proposed 2023 Bond are appropriate and consistent with both the terms and underlying purposes of the Service Plan, the intent and purposes of the District and shall be issued in compliance with other applicable requirements and public financing laws of the State of Colorado. Therefore, the District respectfully requests that this matter be considered by the City Council at a regular meeting as soon as is reasonably possible.

We are happy to respond to any questions you may have. Thank you for your assistance.

This opinion letter is solely for your information in connection with the issuance of the Bonds, and is not to be quoted in whole or in part or otherwise referred to (except in a list of closing documents), nor is it to be delivered to any other person (except as a part of a closing book memorializing the closing of the Bonds), without our prior written consent. Other than the addressees hereof, no one is entitled to use or rely on this opinion letter.

SPENCER FANE, LLP

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Spencer Fane LLP". Below the signature are two horizontal blue lines, likely representing a signature strip or a stylized underline.