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**BERWICK DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
Year Ended December 31, 1998

Under provisions of state law, this report is a public document. A copy of the report has been submitted to the audited, or reviewed, entity and other appropriate public officials. The report is available for public inspection at the Baton Rouge office of the Legislative Auditor and, where appropriate, at the office of the parish clerk of court.

Release Date 7-21-99

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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The Board of Commissioners  
Berwick Development District  
Berwick, Louisiana

We have audited the accompanying general purpose financial statements of the Berwick Development District, a component unit of the Town of Berwick, Louisiana, as of and for the year ended December 31, 1998, as listed in the table of contents. These general purpose financial statements are the responsibility of the District's officials. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these general purpose financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Governmental Accounting Standards Board Technical Bulletin 98-1, Disclosures about Year 2000 Issues, requires disclosure of certain matters regarding the year 2000 issue in order for financial statements to be in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Such required disclosures include:

- any significant amount of resources committed to make computer systems and other electronic equipment year 2000-compliant;
- a general description of the year 2000 issue, including a description of the stages of work in process or completed as of the end of the reporting period to make computer systems and other electronic equipment critical to conducting operations year 2000-compliant; and
- the additional stages of work necessary for making the computer systems and other electronic equipment year 2000-compliant.

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The Berwick Development District has omitted such disclosures. We do not provide assurance that the District is or will be year 2000 ready, that the District's year 2000 remediation efforts will be successful in whole or in part, or that parties with which the District does business will be year 2000 ready.

In our opinion, except for the omission of the information discussed in the preceding paragraph, the general purpose financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Berwick Development District as of December 31, 1998 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued a report dated April 15, 1999, on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting, and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants.

*Dannall, Sikes & Frederick*  
A Corporation of Certified Public Accountants

Morgan City, Louisiana  
April 15, 1999

**GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

BERWICK DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Combined Balance Sheet - Governmental Fund Type and Account Group  
December 31, 1998

	1998		Totals	
	Governmental	Account Group	(Memorandum Only)	
	Fund Type	General Fixed	1998	1997
	General	Assets		
	Fund			
<b>ASSETS AND OTHER DEBITS</b>				
Cash	\$ 18,418	\$ -	\$ 18,418	\$ 55,379
Property, plant and equipment	<u>-</u>	<u>67,904</u>	<u>67,904</u>	<u>47,998</u>
Total assets and other debits	<u>\$ 18,418</u>	<u>\$ 67,904</u>	<u>\$ 86,322</u>	<u>\$ 103,377</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY</b>				
<b>Liabilities:</b>				
Accounts payable	<u>\$ 11,450</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 11,450</u>	<u>\$ 19,354</u>
<b>Fund equity:</b>				
Investment in general fixed assets	-	67,904	67,904	47,998
Fund balance - Unreserved, undesignated	<u>6,968</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,968</u>	<u>36,025</u>
Total fund equity	<u>6,968</u>	<u>67,904</u>	<u>74,872</u>	<u>84,023</u>
Total liabilities and fund equity	<u>\$ 18,418</u>	<u>\$ 67,904</u>	<u>\$ 86,322</u>	<u>\$ 103,377</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

BERWICK DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance -  
 Governmental Fund Type  
 Year Ended December 31, 1998  
 With Comparative Actual Amounts for Year Ended December 31, 1997

	1998		Variance - Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	1997 Actual
	Budget	Actual		
Revenues:				
Intergovernmental	\$ 18,466	\$ 18,466	\$ -	\$ 105,000
Miscellaneous - other	<u>1,414</u>	<u>1,414</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,926</u>
Total revenues	<u>19,880</u>	<u>19,880</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>111,926</u>
Expenditures:				
Current -				
General government:				
Advertising	2,356	1,322	1,034	1,221
Insurance	7,542	7,542	-	7,411
Miscellaneous	750	-	750	100
Professional fees	20,000	20,000	-	18,964
Office supplies	-	167	(167)	207
Capital outlay	<u>19,906</u>	<u>19,906</u>	<u>-</u>	47,998
Total expenditures	<u>50,554</u>	<u>48,937</u>	<u>1,617</u>	<u>75,901</u>
Excess of revenues over expenditures	(30,674)	(29,057)	(1,617)	36,025
Fund balance, beginning	<u>36,025</u>	<u>36,025</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund balance, ending	<u>\$ 5,351</u>	<u>\$ 6,968</u>	<u>\$ (1,617)</u>	<u>\$ 36,025</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

## BERWICK DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

### Notes to Financial Statements

#### NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Berwick Development District was created by an ordinance dated May 15, 1996 of the Town of Berwick, Louisiana under the authority of LA R.S. 33:2740.29. The District operates under a Board of Commissioners. The purpose of the District is to acquire and develop real property within the corporate limits of the Town of Berwick for purposes of residential and economic development.

The accounting and reporting policies of the Berwick Development District conform to generally accepted accounting principles as applicable to governments. Such accounting and reporting procedures also conform to the requirements of Louisiana Revised Statutes 24:513, the Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide and to the industry audit guide, Audits of State and Local Governmental Units.

The following is a summary of certain significant accounting policies:

##### A. Financial Reporting Entity

Because the Berwick Development District provides financing and office space to the District and appoints members of the governing body of the District, the District was determined to be a component unit of the Town of Berwick, the financial reporting entity. However, the Town exercises no control over the District's operations nor can the Town remove any members of the governing body of the District. The accompanying financial statements present information only on the funds maintained by the District and do not present information of the Town of Berwick, or the general government services provided by the Town of Berwick.

##### B. Fund Accounting

The accounts of the District are organized on the basis of funds and account groups, each of which is considered a separate accounting entity. The operations of each fund are accounted for with a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund equity, revenues, and expenditures, or expenses, as appropriate. Government resources are allocated to and accounted for in individual funds based upon the purposes for which they are to be spent and the means by which spending activities are controlled.

##### Governmental Funds -

##### General fund

The General Fund is the general operating fund of the District. It is used to account for all financial resources of the District.



BERWICK DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Account Group -

General Fixed Assets Account Group

The General Fixed Assets Account Group is used to account for fixed assets used in governmental fund type operations. All fixed assets are valued at historical costs. No depreciation is recorded on general fixed assets.

C. Basis of Accounting

The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to a fund is determined by its measurement focus. All governmental funds are accounted for using a current financial resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, only current assets and current liabilities generally are included on the balance sheet. Operating statements of these funds present increases (i.e., revenues and other financing sources) and decreases (i.e., expenditures and other financing uses) in net current assets.

*The modified accrual basis of accounting is used by all governmental fund types. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when susceptible to accrual (i.e., when they become both measurable and available). "Measurable" means the amount of the transactions can be determined and "available" means collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current period. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred.*

D. Encumbrances

Encumbrance accounting, under which purchase orders, contracts, and other commitments for the expenditure of monies are recorded in order to reserve that portion of the applicable appropriation, is not employed by the District as an extension of formal budgetary integration in the funds.

E. Memorandum Only - Total Columns

Total columns on the general purpose financial statements are captioned "Memorandum Only" to indicate that they are presented only to facilitate financial analysis. Data in these columns do not present financial position in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Neither is such data comparable to a consolidation. Interfund eliminations have not been made in the aggregation of this data.

BERWICK DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

F. Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principals requires management to make certain estimates and assumptions. Those estimates affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of *contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements*. They may also affect the reported amounts of revenues and expenses of proprietary funds during the reporting period.

NOTE 2 COMMISSIONERS' COMPENSATION

During the year ended December 31, 1998, none of the following commissioners were compensated for their services to the District:

Damon Robison, Chairman  
Bella Burchfield, Vice Chairman  
Dennis Taylor, Treasurer  
Edie Skiles, Secretary  
Byron Jones  
Cliff Watson  
Murval Guidroz, Jr.

NOTE 3 CASH AND INTEREST-BEARING DEPOSITS

Under state law, the District may deposit funds within a fiscal agent bank organized under the laws of the State of Louisiana, the laws of any other state in the Union, or the laws of the United States. At December 31, 1998, the District has cash (book balance) totaling \$18,418, as follows:

Demand deposits	<u>\$ 18,418</u>
-----------------	------------------

This deposit is stated at cost, which approximates market. Under state law, this deposit (or the resulting bank balance) must be secured by federal deposit insurance or the pledge of securities owned by the fiscal agent bank. The market value of the pledged securities plus the federal deposit insurance must at all times equal the amount on deposit with the fiscal agent bank. These securities are held in the name of the pledging fiscal agent bank in a holding or custodial bank that is mutually acceptable to both parties. Deposit balance (bank balance) at December 31, 1998, is secured as follows:

**BERWICK DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

**Notes to Financial Statements**

**NOTE 3 CASH AND INTEREST-BEARING DEPOSITS (CONTINUED)**

Bank balance	<u>\$ 21,268</u>
Federal deposit insurance	<u>\$ 21,268</u>

**NOTE 4 CHANGES IN FIXED ASSETS**

The following is a summary of changes in general fixed assets for the fiscal year:

	Balance January 1, 1998	Additions	Deletions	Balance December 31, 1998
Construction in progress	<u>\$ 47,998</u>	<u>\$ 19,906</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 67,904</u>

**NOTE 5 PENDING LITIGATION**

The District is presently not involved in any litigation.

**NOTE 6 INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT**

On January 15, 1997, the District entered into an intergovernmental agreement with the Town of Berwick for the development and construction of Renwick Subdivision for residential expansion. The agreement states that the Town of Berwick will transfer ownership of approximately 73.5 acres of land purchased for the development site. In exchange, the District will reimburse the Town of Berwick for all costs incurred by the Town for the purchase and development of the land as a subdivision. During the year ended December 31, 1998, the Town of Berwick issued \$2,600,000 in certificates of indebtedness to finance the development of Renwick Subdivision. The proceeds will be used to construct infrastructure and utility improvements in the development. It is anticipated that repayment will be funded with proceeds derived from sales of lots in the development.

**INTERNAL CONTROL  
AND  
COMPLIANCE**



**Darnall, Sikes  
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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE AND  
 ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING BASED ON  
 AN AUDIT OF GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED  
 IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

**The Board of Commissioners  
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 Berwick, Louisiana**

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We have audited the general purpose financial statements of the Berwick Development District, a component unit of the Town of Berwick, Louisiana, as of and for the year ended December 31, 1998, and have issued our report thereon dated April 15, 1999, which was qualified due to the omission of the year 2000 disclosures that are required by Government Accounting Standards Board Technical Bulletin 98-1, Disclosures about Year 2000 Issues. We have conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

**Compliance**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Berwick Development District's general purpose financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations and contracts, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of general purpose financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed one instance of noncompliance that was required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards. The instance of noncompliance is described in the accompany schedule of findings and questioned costs as item 98-2.

**Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Berwick Development District's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the general purpose financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. However, we noted one certain matter involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be a reportable condition. Reportable conditions involve matters coming to our attention relating to significant

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deficiencies in the design or operation of the internal control over financial reporting that, in our judgment, could adversely affect the District's ability to record, process, summarize, and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the general purpose financial statements. The reportable condition is described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs as item 98-1.

A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the general purpose financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control that might be reportable conditions and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all reportable conditions that are also considered to be material weaknesses. However, we believe the reportable condition described as 98-1 is a material weakness.

This report is intended for the information of the District's management. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

*Darnall, Sikes & Frederick*  
A Corporation of Certified Public Accountants

Morgan City, Louisiana  
April 15, 1999

**OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

BERWICK DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Summary Schedule of Prior Year Findings  
Year Ended December 31, 1998

97-1 Finding: Inadequate Segregation of Accounting Functions

Status: This finding is unresolved. See current year finding 98-1.

97-2 Finding: Violation of Local Government Budget Act

Status: This finding was only applicable to the year ended December 31, 1997. The District has adopted a budget for the year ended December 31, 1998.



BERWICK DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs  
Year Ended December 31, 1998

Part 1: Summary of Auditor's Results

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Auditor's Report – Financial Statements

A qualified opinion has been issued on the Berwick Development District's financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 1998.

Reportable Condition – Financial Reporting

One reportable condition in internal control over financial reporting was disclosed during the audit of the financial statements and is shown as item 98-1 in Part 2 and is considered a material weakness.

Material Noncompliance – Financial Reporting

There was one material instance of noncompliance noted during the audit of the financial statements and is shown as item 98-2 in Part 2.

FEDERAL AWARDS

This section is not applicable for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1998.

Part 2: Findings Relating to an Audit in Accordance with Governmental Auditing Standards

98-1 Inadequate Segregation of Accounting Functions

Finding:

Due to the small number of accounting personnel, the District did not have adequate segregation of functions within its accounting system.

Recommendation:

Based upon the size of the operation and the cost benefit of additional personnel it may not be feasible to achieve complete segregation of duties.

**BERWICK DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

**Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs (Continued)  
Year Ended December 31, 1998**

**98-2**

**Finding:**

The District did not submit its proposed budget and make it available for public inspection at least 15 days prior to the beginning of the budget year as required by LA R.S. 39:1305.

**Recommendation:**

The District should institute policies to ensure that the District issues its proposed budget within the time frame required by the Local Government Budget Act.

**Part 3: Findings and Questioned Costs Relating to Federal Programs**

At December 31, 1998, the Berwick Development District, did not meet the requirements to have a single audit in accordance with OMB Circular A-133, therefore this section is not applicable.

**BERWICK DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

**Management's Corrective Action Plan For Current Year Findings  
Year Ended December 31, 1998**

**Response to Finding 98-1:**

No response is considered necessary.

**Response to Finding 98-2:**

The District has taken steps to ensure that the District will be in compliance in the future.