

## **Section 4**      **DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

### **4.1**      **Disagreement**

If Company disagrees with County's determination with regard to the Reimbursement Claim and the Parties are unable to settle the issue through informal negotiations, then, at the request of either Party, the Parties agree to escalate the matter pursuant to Section 4.2 below.

### **4.2**      **Dispute Notice**

Except as otherwise set forth in this Agreement, any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement, or the breach thereof, will be settled: (a) first, by good faith efforts to reach mutual agreement of the Parties; and (b) second, if mutual agreement is not reached within thirty (30) calendar days of a written request by a Party to resolve the controversy or claim (the "Dispute Notice"), each of the Parties will appoint a designated representative who has authority to settle the dispute (or who has authority to recommend to the governing body of such Party a settlement of the dispute) and who is at a higher level of management than the persons with direct responsibility for administration of this Agreement. The designated representatives will meet as often as they reasonably deem necessary in order to discuss the dispute and negotiate in good faith in an effort to resolve such dispute. The specific format for such discussions will be left to the discretion of the designated representatives, provided, however, that all reasonable requests for relevant information made by one Party to the other Party will be honored if such information is reasonably available. If within sixty (60) days after issuance of a Dispute Notice (a) the Parties are unable to resolve issues related to the dispute, or (b) County fails to approve any tentative agreement reached, the Parties agree to participate in confidential, non-binding mediation pursuant to Section 4.3 below, it being understood, however, that nothing herein will diminish or relieve either Party of its rights or obligations under this Section 4.

### **4.3**      **Mediation**

If the Parties are unable to resolve a dispute through informal negotiations or pursuant to Section 4.2, the Parties agree to participate in confidential, non-binding mediation by an impartial, third party mediator mutually agreed upon by the Parties, at a mutually convenient location. The Parties agree that a potential mediator's experience in prior rights and real estate law will be relevant factors in selecting a mediator. In the event the Parties are unable to agree on a third party mediator within ninety (90) days of issuance of the Dispute Notice, each Party shall designate a mediation representative, and the two mediator representatives shall in good faith select a third party mediator. Each Party shall be responsible for its own attorneys' fees and expenses and for providing its own information and documentation applicable to the dispute to the mediator. All other agreed upon costs of the mediation will be apportioned equally to each Party. Any dispute not resolved by negotiation, escalation or mediation may then be submitted to a court of competent jurisdiction, and either Party may invoke any remedies at law or in equity. Nothing contained herein, however, will preclude the Parties from first seeking temporary injunctive or other equitable relief. The Parties agree that any statute of limitations, equity or other time-based periods shall be tolled as of and from the date of the Dispute Notice until a complaint, if any, is filed.

## **Section 5**      **VERIFICATION**