



Owen M. Beitsch, PhD, FAICP, CRE

Principal

Owen M. Beitsch has been with RERC since 1990. Prior to joining the firm, he had been a principal with the real estate consulting practice of Laventhol and Horwath, one of the original *Big Eight* accounting partnerships. Owen began his professional career as the Chief of Planning for the Tennessee Housing Development Agency, at that time one of the largest housing finance agencies in the country. In 2010, he was named a *Fellow* in the American Institute of Certified Planners of Planners, the highest honor bestowed in the urban planning profession.

- As an advisor with RERC, he has been especially interested in the activities of the state's many special district governments, their financial affairs, interactions with the private sector, reporting procedures, and systems to assure accountable behavior.
- His experience and training has helped many of the firm's clients to secure beneficial arrangements extending from the increasing interest in public-private partnerships, especially as these involve the use and deployment of real estate resources. To date, he has supported or assisted projects involving public debt worth in excess of \$5 billion.
- He has successfully defended redevelopment initiatives at the trial and appellate court levels in Florida confirming local control of various planning and implementation procedures.
- Special districts, community development districts, assessment strategies, and other financial vehicles are among Owen's areas of particular expertise.

Owen attended Vanderbilt University and the University of Florida, receiving his Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Florida State University and his PhD in Public Affairs from the University of Central Florida (UCF). He remains actively engaged at UCF where he is a research associate with the Department of Public Affairs and adjunct faculty at the College of Health and Public Administration.

He is engaged in a number of civic and business activities. He recently concluded eight years of service as a member of the Orlando Housing Authority Board of Commissioners which implemented two HOPE VI awards. He is the assistant chairman of the Xentury City Community Development District and former chair of the Orlando Neighborhood Improvement Corporation where he served as Chairman for four years. As well as being a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners, he is also active on the editorial board of *Real Estate Issues* published by the Counselors of Real Estate. He writes and speaks frequently on subjects associated with community building and planning.