

STANISLAUS REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY
REQUIRED COMMUNICATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020

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REQUIRED COMMUNICATIONS

For the Year Ended June 30, 2020

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REQUIRED COMMUNICATIONS

To the Board of Directors
Stanislaus Regional Water Authority
Turlock, California

We have audited the basic financial statements of the Stanislaus Regional Water Authority for the year ended June 30, 2020. Professional standards require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit under generally accepted auditing standards, and *Government Auditing Standards*.

Significant Audit Findings

Accounting Policies

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the Authority are described in Note #1 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted, and the application of existing policies was not changed during the year, except as follows:

GASB 95 – Postponement of the Effective Dates of Certain Authoritative Guidance

The primary objective of this Statement is to provide temporary relief to governments and other stakeholders in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. That objective is accomplished by postponing the effective dates of certain provisions in Statements and Implementation Guides that first became effective or are scheduled to become effective for periods beginning after June 15, 2018, and later.

The Authority implemented the provisions of Statement No. 95 in fiscal year 2019-20.

Unusual Transactions, Controversial or Emerging Areas

We noted no transactions entered into by the Authority during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period. However, events that occurred during fiscal year June 30, 2020 discussed below could have an impact on the financial statements:

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the novel strain of coronavirus (COVID-19) a global pandemic and recommended containment and mitigation measures worldwide. The COVID-19 outbreak in the United States has caused business disruption through mandated and voluntary closings of businesses and shelter in place orders for all but those deemed essential services. While the business disruption is currently expected to be temporary, there is considerable uncertainty around the duration of the closings and shelter in place orders. However, the ultimate financial impact and duration cannot be reasonably estimated at this time.

Accounting Estimates

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimate affecting the Authority's financial statements was:

Estimated Fair Value of Investments: As of June 30, 2020, the Authority held approximately \$2.8 million of cash and investments in the City of Turlock's investment pool as measured by fair value as disclosed in Note 2 to the Financial Statements. Fair value is essentially market pricing in effect as of June 30, 2020. These fair values are not required to be adjusted for changes in general market conditions occurring subsequent to June 30, 2020.

Disclosures

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements. Except for the adjustment made to the capital assets balance, none of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to each opinion unit's financial statements taken as a whole.

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely uncorrected misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. We have no such misstatements to report to the Authority Board.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in a management representation letter dated March 12, 2021.

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a “second opinion” on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the Authority’s financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor’s opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Other Audit Findings or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the Authority’s auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

Other Information Accompanying the Financial Statements

We applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information that accompanies and supplements the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management’s responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We did not audit the required supplementary information and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the required supplementary information.

This information is intended solely for the use of Authority Board and management and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Maze & Associates

Pleasant Hill, California
March 12, 2021

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