

SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
MEMORANDUM ON INTERNAL CONTROL
AND
REQUIRED COMMUNICATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
JUNE 30, 2019

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SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
MEMORANDUM ON INTERNAL CONTROL
AND
REQUIRED COMMUNICATIONS

For the Year Ended June 30, 2019

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MEMORANDUM ON INTERNAL CONTROL

Board of Directors
Santa Clara Valley Water District
San Jose, California

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (District), California, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2019, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered the District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing our auditing procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the District's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses. In addition, because of inherent limitations in internal control, including the possibility of management override of controls, misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected by such controls. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Included in the Schedule of Other Matters are recommendations not meeting the above definitions that we believe to be of potential benefit to the District.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of management, Board of Directors, others within the organization, and agencies and pass-through entities requiring compliance with *Government Auditing Standards*, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Maze + Associates' in a cursive, stylized font.

Pleasant Hill, California
December 16, 2019

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SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM ON INTERNAL CONTROL

SCHEDULE OF OTHER MATTERS

NEW GASB PRONOUNCEMENTS OR PRONOUNCEMENTS NOT YET EFFECTIVE

The following comment represents new pronouncements taking affect in the next few years. We cite them here to keep you informed of developments:

EFFECTIVE FISCAL YEAR 2019/20:

GASB 84 – Fiduciary Activities

The objective of this Statement is to improve guidance regarding the identification of fiduciary activities for accounting and financial reporting purposes and how those activities should be reported.

This Statement establishes criteria for identifying fiduciary activities of all state and local governments. The focus of the criteria generally is on (1) whether a government is controlling the assets of the fiduciary activity and (2) the beneficiaries with whom a fiduciary relationship exists. Separate criteria are included to identify fiduciary component units and postemployment benefit arrangements that are fiduciary activities.

An activity meeting the criteria should be reported in a fiduciary fund in the basic financial statements. Governments with activities meeting the criteria should present a statement of fiduciary net position and a statement of changes in fiduciary net position. An exception to that requirement is provided for a business-type activity that normally expects to hold custodial assets for three months or less.

This Statement describes four fiduciary funds that should be reported, if applicable: (1) pension (and other employee benefit) trust funds, (2) investment trust funds, (3) private-purpose trust funds, and (4) custodial funds. Custodial funds generally should report fiduciary activities that are not held in a trust or equivalent arrangement that meets specific criteria.

A fiduciary component unit, when reported in the fiduciary fund financial statements of a primary government, should combine its information with its component units that are fiduciary component units and aggregate that combined information with the primary government's fiduciary funds.

This Statement also provides for recognition of a liability to the beneficiaries in a fiduciary fund when an event has occurred that compels the government to disburse fiduciary resources. Events that compel a government to disburse fiduciary resources occur when a demand for the resources has been made or when no further action, approval, or condition is required to be taken or met by the beneficiary to release the assets.

SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM ON INTERNAL CONTROL

SCHEDULE OF OTHER MATTERS

GASB 90 – *Majority Equity Interests—an amendment of GASB Statements No. 14 and No. 61*

The primary objectives of this Statement are to improve the consistency and comparability of reporting a government's majority equity interest in a legally separate organization and to improve the relevance of financial statement information for certain component units. It defines a majority equity interest and specifies that a majority equity interest in a legally separate organization should be reported as an investment if a government's holding of the equity interest meets the definition of an investment. A majority equity interest that meets the definition of an investment should be measured using the equity method, unless it is held by a special-purpose government engaged only in fiduciary activities, a fiduciary fund, or an endowment (including permanent and term endowments) or permanent fund. Those governments and funds should measure the majority equity interest at fair value.

For all other holdings of a majority equity interest in a legally separate organization, a government should report the legally separate organization as a component unit, and the government or fund that holds the equity interest should report an asset related to the majority equity interest using the equity method. This Statement establishes that ownership of a majority equity interest in a legally separate organization results in the government being financially accountable for the legally separate organization and, therefore, the government should report that organization as a component unit.

This Statement also requires that a component unit in which a government has a 100 percent equity interest account for its assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources at acquisition value at the date the government acquired a 100 percent equity interest in the component unit. Transactions presented in flows statements of the component unit in that circumstance should include only transactions that occurred subsequent to the acquisition.

The requirements of this Statement are effective for reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2018. Earlier application is encouraged. The requirements should be applied retroactively, except for the provisions related to (1) reporting a majority equity interest in a component unit and (2) reporting a component unit if the government acquires a 100 percent equity interest. Those provisions should be applied on a prospective basis.

EFFECTIVE FISCAL YEAR 2020/21:

GASB 87 – *Leases*

The objective of this Statement is to better meet the information needs of financial statement users by improving accounting and financial reporting for leases by governments. This Statement increases the usefulness of governments' financial statements by requiring recognition of certain lease assets and liabilities for leases that previously were classified as operating leases and recognized as inflows of resources or outflows of resources based on the payment provisions of the contract. It establishes a single model for lease accounting based on the foundational principle that leases are financings of the right to use an underlying asset. Under this Statement, a lessee is required to recognize a lease liability and an intangible right-to-use lease asset, and a lessor is required to recognize a lease receivable and a deferred inflow of resources, thereby enhancing the relevance and consistency of information about governments' leasing activities.

SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM ON INTERNAL CONTROL

SCHEDULE OF OTHER MATTERS

GASB 87 – Leases (Continued)

A lease is defined as a contract that conveys control of the right to use another entity's nonfinancial asset (the underlying asset) as specified in the contract for a period of time in an exchange or exchange-like transaction. Examples of nonfinancial assets include buildings, land, vehicles, and equipment. Any contract that meets this definition should be accounted for under the leases guidance, unless specifically excluded in this Statement.

GASB 89 – Accounting for Interest Cost Incurred before the End of a Construction Period

The objectives of this Statement are (1) to enhance the relevance and comparability of information about capital assets and the cost of borrowing for a reporting period and (2) to simplify accounting for interest cost incurred before the end of a construction period.

This Statement establishes accounting requirements for interest cost incurred before the end of a construction period. Such interest cost includes all interest that previously was accounted for in accordance with the requirements of paragraphs 5–22 of Statement No. 62, *Codification of Accounting and Financial Reporting Guidance Contained in Pre-November 30, 1989 FASB and AICPA Pronouncements*, which are superseded by this Statement. This Statement requires that interest cost incurred before the end of a construction period be recognized as an expense in the period in which the cost is incurred for financial statements prepared using the economic resources measurement focus. As a result, interest cost incurred before the end of a construction period will not be included in the historical cost of a capital asset reported in a business-type activity or enterprise fund.

This Statement also reiterates that in financial statements prepared using the current financial resources measurement focus, interest cost incurred before the end of a construction period should be recognized as an expenditure on a basis consistent with governmental fund accounting principles.

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REQUIRED COMMUNICATIONS

Board of Directors
Santa Clara Valley Water District
San Jose, California

We have audited the basic financial statements of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (District), San Jose, California, for the year ended June 30, 2019. 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 District are described in Note 1(s) 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 83 – *Certain Asset Retirement Obligations* - This Statement addresses accounting and financial reporting for certain asserts retirement obligations (AROs). An ARO is a legally enforceable liability associated with the retirement of a tangible capital asset. This Statement requires the current value of a government’s AROs to annually be adjusted for the effects of general inflation or deflation, and relevant factors that may significantly change the estimated asset retirement outlays. This statement also requires disclosure of information about the nature of a government’s AROs, the methods and assumptions used for the estimates of the liabilities, and the estimated remaining useful life of the associated tangible capital assets.

This pronouncement became effective, but did not have a material effect on the financial statements.

GASB 88 – *Certain Disclosures Related to Debt, including Direct Borrowings and Direct Placements* - The objective of this Statement is to improve the information that is disclosed in notes to government financial statements related to debt, including direct borrowings and direct placements. It also clarifies which liabilities governments should include when disclosing information related to debt. It requires that additional essential information related to debt be disclosed in notes to financial statements, including unused lines of credit; assets pledged as collateral for the debt; and terms specified in debt agreements related to significant events of default with finance-related consequences, significant termination events with finance-related consequences, and significant subjective acceleration clauses.

This pronouncement became effective, but did not have a material effect on the financial statements. See Note 7 for additional information.

Unusual Transactions, Controversial or Emerging Areas

We noted no transactions entered into by the District 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.

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 estimates affecting the District's financial statements were:

Estimated Fair Value of Investments: As of June 30, 2019, the District held cash and investments as measured by fair value as disclosed in Note 3 to the financial statements. Fair value is essentially market pricing in effect as of June 30, 2019. These fair values are not required to be adjusted for changes in general market conditions occurring subsequent to June 30, 2019.

Estimate of Depreciation: Management's estimate of the depreciation is based on useful lives determined by management. These lives have been determined by management based on the expected useful life of assets as disclosed in Note 1(e) to the financial statements. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the depreciation estimate and determined that it is reasonable in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Estimated Net Pension Liabilities and Pension-Related Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources: Management's estimate of the net pension assets and liabilities and deferred outflows/inflows of resources are disclosed in Note 11 to the financial statements and are based on actuarial studies determined by a consultant, which are based on the experience of the District. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimate and determined that it is reasonable in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Estimated Net Other Post-Employment Benefit Plan (OPEB) Liability and OPEB-Related Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources: Management's estimate of the net OPEB liability and deferred outflows/inflows of resources are disclosed in Note 12 to the financial statements and are based on actuarial studies determined by a consultant, which is based on the experience of the District. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimate and determined that it is reasonable in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

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. We did not propose any audit adjustments that, in our judgement, could have a significant effect, either individually or in the aggregate, on the District's financial reporting process.

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 Board of Directors.

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 December 16, 2019.

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 District'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 District'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.

We were engaged to report on the supplementary information, which accompany the financial statements but are not required supplementary information. With respect to this supplemental information, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplemental information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

We were not engaged to report on the Introductory and Statistical Sections included as part of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report but are not required supplementary information. We did not audit or perform other procedures on this other information and we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on them.

This information is intended solely for the use of the Board of Directors 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
December 16, 2019