



October 5, 2024

Shari Freidenrich, CPA, CCMT, CPFA, ACPFIM
Treasurer-Tax Collector
Santa Ana, California

The following represents our understanding of the services we will provide to the Treasurer-Tax Collector (Treasurer) of the County of Orange, California (County). In accordance with California Government Code 26920(b), the County's Auditor-Controller shall, at least annually, perform or cause to be performed an audit of the assets in the county treasury.

In our engagement letter dated January 11, 2024, the County's Auditor-Controller requested that we audit the *modified cash basis* Schedule of Assets Held by the County Treasury of the County, as of June 30, 2023, and for the year then ended, and the related notes, prepared by management on a modified cash basis, which collectively comprise the County's Schedule.

The County's Auditor-Controller has now requested that we audit the Schedule of Assets Held by the County Treasury (Schedule) of the County, as of June 30, 2023, and for the year then ended, and the related notes, prepared by management on a *full accrual basis*, which collectively comprise the County's Schedule.

We are pleased to confirm our acceptance and our understanding of this audit engagement by means of this letter.

The objectives of our audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Schedule as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements, including omissions, can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the Schedule.

Auditor Responsibilities

We will conduct our audit in accordance with GAAS and in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. As part of an audit in accordance with these standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the Schedule, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. However, we will communicate to you in writing concerning any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control relevant to the audit of the Schedule that we have identified during the audit.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the Schedule, including the disclosures, and whether the Schedule represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of internal control, an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements may not be detected exists, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with U.S. GAAS and, if applicable, in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. Please note that the determination of abuse is subjective, and *Government Auditing Standards* does not require auditors to detect abuse.

Compliance with Law and Regulations

As previously discussed, as part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Schedule is free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of the County's compliance with the provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and agreements. However, the objective of our audit will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance, and we will not express such an opinion.

Management Responsibilities

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that management and, when appropriate, those charged with governance, acknowledge and understand that they have responsibility:

- a. For the preparation and fair presentation of the Schedule in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America;
- b. For the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of Schedule that are free from material misstatement, whether due to error fraudulent financial reporting, misappropriation of assets, or violations of laws, governmental regulations, grant agreements, or contractual agreements; and
- c. To provide us with:
 - i. Access to all information of which management is aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the Schedule such as records, documentation, and other matters;
 - ii. Additional information that we may request from management for the purpose of the audit;
 - iii. Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
- d. For including the auditor's report in any document containing the Schedule that indicates that such information have been audited by us, including
 - i. A written acknowledgement of all the documents that management expects to issue that will be included in the annual report and the planned timing and method of issuance of that annual report; and
 - ii. A final version of the annual report (including all the documents that, together, comprise the annual report) in a timely manner prior to the date of the auditor's report;
- e. For identifying and ensuring that the entity complies with the laws and regulations applicable to its activities;

- f. For adjusting the Schedule to correct material misstatements and confirming to us in the management representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the current period under audit are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the Schedule as a whole; and
- g. For maintaining adequate records, selecting and applying accounting principles, and safeguarding assets.
- h. For informing us of any known or suspected fraud affecting the entity involving management, employees with significant role in internal control and others where fraud could have a material effect on the financials; and
- i. For the accuracy and completeness of all information provided.

As part of our audit process, we will request from management and, when appropriate, those charged with governance, written confirmation concerning representations made to us in connection with the audit.

Nonattest Services

We provide nonattest services related to the County's Data Collection Form, which is covered under a separate engagement letter with the County.

We will not assume management responsibilities on behalf of the County. County's management understands and agrees that any advice or recommendation we may provide in connection with our audit engagement are solely to assist management in performing its responsibilities.

The County's management is responsible for (a) making all management decisions and performing all management functions; (b) assigning a competent individual to oversee the services; (c) evaluating the adequacy of the services performed; (d) evaluating and accepting responsibility for the results of the services performed; and (e) establishing and maintaining internal controls, including monitoring ongoing activities.

Our responsibilities and limitations of the nonattest services are as follows:

- We will perform the services in accordance with applicable professional standards.
- The nonattest services are limited to the services previously outlined above. Our firm, in its sole professional judgment, reserves the right to refuse to do any procedure or take any action that could be construed as making management decisions or assuming management responsibilities.

Reporting

We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of the County's Schedule. Our report will be addressed to the governing body of the County. Circumstances may arise in which our report may differ from its expected form and content based on the results of our audit. Depending on the nature of these circumstances, it may be necessary for us to modify our opinions, add an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph(s), to our auditor's report, or if necessary, withdraw from the engagement. If our opinion on the Schedule is other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed an opinion, we may decline to express an opinion or to issue a report as a result of this engagement.

In accordance with the requirements of *Government Auditing Standards*, we will also issue a written report describing the scope of our testing over internal control over financial reporting and over compliance with laws, regulations, and provisions of grants and contracts, including the results of that testing. However, providing an opinion on internal control and compliance over financial reporting will not be an objective of the audit and, therefore, no such opinion will be expressed.

Other

We understand that your employees will prepare all confirmations we request and will locate any documents or support for any other transactions we select for testing.

If you intend to publish or otherwise reproduce the Schedule and make reference to our firm, you agree to provide us with printers' proofs or masters for our review and approval before printing. You also agree to provide us with a copy of the final reproduced material for our approval before it is distributed.

Regarding the electronic dissemination of audited Schedule, including the Schedule published electronically on your website or elsewhere, you understand that electronic sites are a means to distribute information and, therefore, we are not required to read the information contained in these sites or to consider the consistency of other information in the electronic site with the original document.

Professional standards prohibit us from being the sole host and/or the sole storage for your financial and non-financial data. As such, it is your responsibility to maintain your original data and records and we cannot be responsible to maintain such original information. By signing this engagement letter, you affirm that you have all the data and records required to make your books and records complete.

Provisions of Engagement Administration, Timing and Fees

During the course of the engagement, we will only provide confidential engagement documentation to you via Eide Bailly's secure portal or other secure methods, and request that you use the same or similar tools in providing information to us. Should you choose not to utilize secure communication applications, you acknowledge that such communication contains a risk of the information being made available to unintended third parties. Similarly, we may communicate with you or your personnel via e-mail or other electronic methods, and you acknowledge that communication in those mediums contains a risk of misdirected or intercepted communications.

Should you provide us with remote access to your information technology environment, including but not limited to your financial reporting system, you agree to (1) assign unique usernames and passwords for use by our personnel in accessing the system and to provide this information in a secure manner; (2) limit access to "read only" to prevent any unintentional deletion or alteration of your data; (3) limit access to the areas of your technology environment necessary to perform the procedures agreed upon; and (4) disable all usernames and passwords provided to us upon the completion of procedures for which access was provided. We agree to only access your technology environment to the extent necessary to perform the identified procedures.

David Showalter and Kinnaly Soukhaseum are the engagement partners for the audit services specified in this letter. Responsibilities include supervising services performed as part of this engagement and signing or authorizing another qualified firm representative to sign the audit report.

Our fees are based on the amount of time required at various levels of responsibility, plus actual out-of-pocket expenses, including administrative charges. Invoices are payable upon presentation. Our fees will be in accordance with our professional services agreement (MA-003-2301006).

The ability to perform and complete our engagement consistent with the estimated fee included above depends upon the quality of your underlying accounting records and the timeliness of your personnel in providing information and responding to our requests. To assist with this process, we will provide you with an itemized request list that identifies the information you will need to prepare and provide in preparation for our

engagement, as well as the requested delivery date for those items. A lack of preparation, including not providing this information in an accurate and timely manner, unanticipated audit adjustments, and/or untimely assistance by your personnel may result in an increase in our fees and/or a delay in the completion of our engagement.

We may be requested to make certain audit documentation available to outside parties, including regulators, pursuant to authority provided by law or regulation or applicable professional standards. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of Eide Bailly LLP's personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to the outside party, who may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies of information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies. We will be compensated for any time and expenses, including time and expenses of legal counsel, we may incur in making such audit documentation available or in conducting or responding to discovery requests or participating as a witness or otherwise in any legal, regulatory, or other proceedings as a result of our Firm's performance of these services. You and your attorney will receive, if lawful, a copy of every subpoena we are asked to respond to on your behalf and will have the ability to control the extent of the discovery process to control the costs you may incur.

We may use third party service providers and/or affiliated entities (including Eide Bailly Shared Services Private Limited) (collectively, "service providers") in order to facilitate delivering our services to you. Our use of service providers may require access to client information by the service provider. We will take reasonable precautions to determine that they have the appropriate procedures in place to prevent the unauthorized release of confidential information to others. We will remain responsible for the confidentiality of client information accessed by such service provider and any work performed by such service provider. You acknowledge that your information may be disclosed to such service providers, including those outside the United States.

Neither of us may use or disclose the other's confidential information for any purpose except as permitted under this engagement letter or as otherwise necessary for Eide Bailly to provide the services. Your confidential information is defined as any information you provide to us that is not available to the public. Eide Bailly's confidential information includes our audit documentation for this engagement. Our audit documentation shall at all times remain the property of Eide Bailly LLP. The confidentiality obligations described in this paragraph shall supersede and replace any and all prior confidentiality and/or nondisclosure agreements (NDAs) between us.

You agree to share all facts that may affect your financial statements, even if you first become aware of those facts after the date of the auditor's report but before the date your financial statements are issued.

We agree to retain our documentation or work papers for a period of at least eight years from the date of our report.

At the conclusion of our audit engagement, we will communicate to management, the Board of Supervisors of the County, and the Audit Oversight Committee the following significant findings from the audit:

- Our view about the qualitative aspects of the entity's significant accounting practices;
- Significant difficulties, if any encountered during the audit;
- Uncorrected misstatements, other than those we believe are trivial, if any;
- Disagreements with management, if any;
- Other findings or issues, if any, arising from the audit that are, in our professional judgment, significant and relevant to those charged with governance regarding their oversight of the financial reporting process;
- Material, corrected misstatements that were brought to the attention of management as a result of our audit procedures;

- Representations we requested from management;
- Management’s consultations with other accountants, if any; and
- Significant issues, if any, arising from the audit that were discussed, or the subject of correspondence, with management.

Government Auditing Standards require that we provide, upon request, a copy of our most recent external peer review report and any subsequent review reports to the party contracting for the audit. Accordingly, we will provide a copy of our most recent peer review report at your request

Eide Bailly LLP has owners that are not licensed as certified public accountants as permitted under Section 5079 of the California Business Code. It is not anticipated that any of the non-licensee owners will be performing services for the County.

LIMITED INDEMNITY

Eide Bailly LLP and its partners, affiliates, officers, and employees (collectively “Eide Bailly”) shall not be responsible for any misstatements in the information provided to us to complete our engagement that we may fail to detect as a result of misrepresentations or concealment of information by any of your owners, directors, officers, or employees.

ASSIGNMENTS PROHIBITED

You shall not assign, sell, barter or transfer any legal rights, causes of actions, claims or disputes you may have against Eide Bailly to any person.

Please sign and return the attached copy of this letter to indicate your acknowledgment of, and agreement with, the arrangements for our audit of the financial statements including our respective responsibilities.

We appreciate the opportunity to be your certified public accountants and look forward to working with you and your staff.

Respectfully,

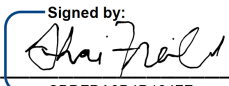


David Showalter, CPA
Partner

RESPONSE:

This letter correctly sets forth our understanding.

Acknowledged and agreed on behalf of County of Orange by:

Signed by: 
 Name: _____
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 Title: Treasurer-Tax Collector
 Date: 1/4/2025