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VILLAGE OF MER ROUGE, LOUISIANA

FINANCIAL REPORT

DECEMBER 31, 1998

Under provisions of state law, this report is a public document. A copy of the report has been submitted to the audited, or reviewed, entity and other appropriate public officials. The report is available for public inspection at the Baton Rouge office of the Legislative Auditor and, where appropriate, at the office of the parish clerk of court.

Release Date JUN 30 1999

HILL, INZINA & COMPANY

Certified Public Accountants • A Professional Corporation
701 East Madison Avenue • P.O. Box 631 • Bastrop, Louisiana 71221-0631
Telephone 318-281-4492 • Fax 318-281-4087

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HILL, INZINA & COMPANY

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Honorable T. J. Parker, Mayor,
and Members of the Board of Aldermen
Village of Mer Rouge, Louisiana

We have audited the accompanying general-purpose financial statements of Village of Mer Rouge, Louisiana, as of and for the year ended December 31, 1998, as listed in the table of contents. These general-purpose financial statements are the responsibility of the management of Village of Mer Rouge, Louisiana. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these general-purpose financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the general-purpose financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the general-purpose financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall general-purpose financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the general-purpose financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Village of Mer Rouge, Louisiana, as of December 31, 1998, and the results of its operations and cash flows of its proprietary fund type for the year then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated April 27, 1999, on our consideration of the Village's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants.

Our audit of the December 31, 1998, general-purpose financial statements was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the general-purpose financial statements taken as a whole. The accompanying information listed as supplementary information in the table of contents is presented for purposes of additional analysis. The financial information on page 20 is not a required part of the general-purpose financial statements of Village of Mer Rouge, Louisiana. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the general-purpose financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly presented in all material respects in relation to the general-purpose financial statements taken as a whole. The accompanying information on page 21 also is not a required part of the general-purpose financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and do not express an opinion on it. In addition, we do not provide assurance that Village of Mer Rouge, Louisiana, is or will become year 2000 compliant, that the Village's year 2000 remediation efforts will be successful in whole or in part or that parties with which the Village does business are or will become year 2000 compliant.

April 27, 1999

Hill, Ogden & Co.

VILLAGE OF MER ROUGE, LOUISIANA

COMBINED BALANCE SHEET - ALL FUND TYPES AND ACCOUNT GROUP

December 31, 1998

With Comparative Totals For December 31, 1997

	Governmental Fund Type	Proprietary Fund Type
	General	Enterprise
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 76,744	\$ 23,962
Investments	735,553	281,565
Receivables:		
Taxes	7,168	-
Accounts	-	10,651
Accrued interest	1,195	837
Prepaid expenses	-	2,364
Due from other governments	1,299	-
Restricted assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	-	31,415
Cash deposited with bondholder	-	28,850
Investments	-	61,882
Accrued interest receivable	-	192
Fixed assets - net	-	<u>878,711</u>
 Total assets	 <u>\$ 821,959</u>	 <u>\$ 1,320,429</u>

<u>Account Group</u> General Fixed Assets	Totals - (Memorandum Only)	
	<u>December 31,</u>	
	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
\$ -	\$ 100,706	\$ 131,445
-	1,017,118	865,581
-	7,168	8,859
-	10,651	12,286
-	2,032	2,028
-	2,364	3,060
-	1,299	1,441
-	31,415	35,136
-	28,850	28,550
-	61,882	50,139
-	192	188
<u>1,049,179</u>	<u>1,927,890</u>	<u>1,940,270</u>
<u>\$ 1,049,179</u>	<u>\$ 3,191,567</u>	<u>\$ 3,078,983</u>

(continued)

VILLAGE OF MER ROUGE, LOUISIANA

COMBINED BALANCE SHEET - ALL FUND TYPES AND ACCOUNT GROUP
(Continued)

December 31, 1998

With Comparative Totals For December 31, 1997

	Governmental Fund Type	Proprietary Fund Type
	General	Enterprise
LIABILITIES, EQUITY AND OTHER CREDITS		
Liabilities:		
Property tax paid under protest	\$ 383	\$ -
Payable from restricted assets:		
Customers' deposits	-	15,069
Revenue bonds payable - current	-	19,124
Accrued interest payable	-	14,595
Revenue bonds payable - net of current portion	-	653,295
Total liabilities	<u>\$ 383</u>	<u>\$ 702,083</u>
Equity and other credits:		
Contributed capital	\$ -	\$ 396,570
Investment in general fixed assets	-	-
Retained earnings:		
Reserved for customers' meter deposits	-	3,404
Reserved for revenue bond retirement	-	70,147
Unreserved	-	148,225
Fund balance - unreserved and undesignated	<u>821,576</u>	<u>-</u>
Total equity and other credits	<u>\$ 821,576</u>	<u>\$ 618,346</u>
Total liabilities, equity and other credits	<u>\$ 821,959</u>	<u>\$ 1,320,429</u>

See notes to financial statements.

Account Group General Fixed Assets	Totals - (Memorandum Only) December 31,	
	1998	1997
\$ -	\$ 383	\$ -
-	15,069	14,902
-	19,124	17,904
-	14,595	15,272
-	<u>653,295</u>	<u>672,422</u>
\$ -	\$ <u>702,466</u>	\$ <u>720,500</u>
\$ -	\$ 396,570	\$ 396,570
1,049,179	1,049,179	1,017,198
-	3,404	2,618
-	70,147	63,317
-	148,225	152,059
-	<u>821,576</u>	<u>726,721</u>
\$ <u>1,049,179</u>	\$ <u>2,489,101</u>	\$ <u>2,358,483</u>
\$ <u>1,049,179</u>	\$ <u>3,191,567</u>	\$ <u>3,078,983</u>

GENERAL-PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(COMBINED STATEMENTS - OVERVIEW)

VILLAGE OF MER ROUGE, LOUISIANA

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE -
 BUDGET AND ACTUAL - GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPE - GENERAL FUND
 Year Ended December 31, 1998

With Comparative Actual Totals For the Year Ended December 31, 1997

	Budget	Actual	Variance - Favorable (Unfavorable)	Totals - (Memorandum Only) Year Ended December 31, 1997
Revenues:				
Taxes	\$ 207,425	\$ 214,891	\$ 7,466	\$ 204,287
Licenses and permits	43,250	40,200	(3,050)	41,236
Intergovernmental	4,900	31,046	26,146	28,484
Charges for services	-	4,700	4,700	3,525
Fines and forfeitures	30,000	36,372	6,372	54,815
Interest and miscellaneous	<u>32,000</u>	<u>40,125</u>	<u>8,125</u>	<u>33,937</u>
	<u>\$ 317,575</u>	<u>\$ 367,334</u>	<u>\$ 49,759</u>	<u>\$ 366,284</u>
Expenditures:				
Current:				
General government	\$ 119,517	\$ 110,276	\$ 9,241	\$ 103,942
Sanitation	28,784	31,908	(3,124)	28,288
Public safety	83,199	94,113	(10,914)	86,433
Highways and streets	8,000	1,686	6,314	4,598
Capital outlay	<u>15,000</u>	<u>34,496</u>	<u>(19,496)</u>	<u>66,034</u>
	<u>\$ 254,500</u>	<u>\$ 272,479</u>	<u>\$ (17,979)</u>	<u>\$ 289,295</u>
Excess of revenues over expenditures	\$ 63,075	\$ 94,855	\$ 31,780	\$ 76,989
Other financing sources:				
Sale of fixed asset	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>200</u>
Excess of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures	\$ 63,075	\$ 94,855	\$ 31,780	\$ 77,189
Fund balance - beginning	<u>726,721</u>	<u>726,721</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>649,532</u>
Fund balance - ending	<u>\$ 789,796</u>	<u>\$ 821,576</u>	<u>\$ 31,780</u>	<u>\$ 726,721</u>

See notes to financial statements.

VILLAGE OF MER ROUGE, LOUISIANA

STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN RETAINED EARNINGS -
 PROPRIETARY FUND TYPE - ENTERPRISE FUND

Years Ended December 31, 1998 and 1997

	Year Ended December 31,	
	1998	1997
Revenues:		
Water and sewer fees	\$ 158,697	\$ 156,756
Expenses:		
Depreciation	\$ 44,361	\$ 44,361
Insurance	9,073	10,151
Interest	35,737	36,556
Office	816	947
Payroll taxes	2,955	2,973
Repairs and maintenance	22,334	9,556
Salaries	38,008	38,012
Supplies	8,042	7,195
Utilities and fuel	12,424	13,580
Other	2,448	2,061
	<u>\$ 176,198</u>	<u>\$ 165,392</u>
Operating income (loss)	\$ (17,501)	\$ (8,636)
Nonoperating revenues:		
Interest and miscellaneous	<u>21,282</u>	<u>19,187</u>
Net income	\$ 3,781	\$ 10,551
Retained earnings - beginning	<u>217,995</u>	<u>207,443</u>
Retained earnings - ending	<u>\$ 221,776</u>	<u>\$ 217,994</u>

See notes to financial statements.

VILLAGE OF MER ROUGE, LOUISIANA

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS - PROPRIETARY FUND TYPE - ENTERPRISE FUND
 Years Ended December 31, 1998 and 1997

	Year Ended December 31,	
	1998	1997
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Operating income (loss)	\$(17,501)	\$(8,636)
Adjustments to reconcile operating income (loss) from operations to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation	44,361	44,361
(Increase) decrease in accounts receivable	1,635	(726)
(Increase) decrease in accrued interest receivable	19	(62)
(Increase) decrease in prepaid expenses	696	339
(Increase) decrease in restricted assets	(4)	(2,706)
Increase (decrease) in liabilities payable from restricted assets	<u>710</u>	<u>150</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>\$ 29,916</u>	<u>\$ 32,720</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of investments	\$(50,691)	\$(42,204)
Interest and miscellaneous revenues	<u>21,282</u>	<u>19,187</u>
Net cash provided (used) by investing activities	<u>\$(29,409)</u>	<u>\$(23,017)</u>
CASH FLOWS USED BY CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Repayment of long-term debt principal	<u>\$(19,126)</u>	<u>\$(17,906)</u>
Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	\$(18,619)	\$(8,203)
Cash and cash equivalents - beginning	<u>102,846</u>	<u>111,049</u>
Cash and cash equivalents - ending	<u>\$ 84,227</u>	<u>\$ 102,846</u>

See notes to financial statements.

VILLAGE OF MER ROUGE, LOUISIANA

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
As of and For the Year Ended December 31, 1998

Note 1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Village of Mer Rouge, Louisiana, (the "Village") operates under a mayor-board of aldermen form of government in accordance with the provisions of the Lawrason Act. Citizens elect the mayor at large and three council members by districts. The mayor is paid a monthly salary while the council members are compensated for meetings attended. The Village is located in northeast Louisiana, its population is approximately 750 and it employs approximately 10 people. As of December 31, 1998, the Village services approximately 375 utility customers and maintains approximately 10 miles of roads.

The following services are provided by the Village: general administrative services, public safety (police and fire), public works (cemetery and streets), sanitation and public improvements.

The more significant of the Village's accounting policies are described below:

Basis of Presentation:

The accompanying financial statements of the Village have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles.

Financial Reporting Entity:

As the municipal governing authority, for reporting purposes, the Village is considered a separate financial reporting entity. The financial reporting entity consists of (a) the primary government (Village), (b) organizations for which the primary government is financially accountable, and (c) other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the primary government are such that exclusion would cause the reporting entity's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete.

GASB Statement No. 14 established criteria for determining which component units should be considered part of the Village for financial reporting purposes. The basic criterion for including a potential component unit within the reporting entity is financial accountability. The GASB has set forth criteria to be considered in determining financial accountability. This criteria includes:

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Appointing a voting majority of an organization's governing body, and
 - a. the ability of the municipality to impose its will on that organization and/or
 - b. *the potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to or impose specific financial burdens on the municipality.*
2. Organizations for which the municipality does not appoint a voting majority but are fiscally dependent on the municipality.
3. Organizations for which the reporting entity's financial statements would be misleading if data of the organization is not included because of the nature or significance of the relationship.

Based on the previous criteria, the Village has determined that Sewer District No. 1 of Village of Mer Rouge, Louisiana, is a component unit of the reporting entity. Considered in the determination of component units of the reporting entity were Sixth Ward Fire Protection District No. 1 of Morehouse Parish, Louisiana, and Mer Rouge Volunteer Fire Department. It was determined that this governmental and volunteer entity are not component units of the Village's reporting entity.

Fund Accounting:

The Village uses funds and an account group to report its financial position and the results of its operations. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions relating to certain government functions or activities.

A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. On the other hand, an account group is a financial reporting device designed to provide accountability for certain assets and liabilities that are not recorded in the funds because they do not directly affect net expendable available financial resources.

Funds of the Village are classified into two categories: governmental and proprietary. In turn, each category is divided into separate fund types. The fund classifications and a description of each existing fund type follow:

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Governmental funds:

Governmental funds are used to account for all or most of the Village's general activities, including the collection and disbursement of specific or legally restricted monies, the acquisition or construction of general fixed assets and the servicing of general long-term debt. The governmental fund is:

General Fund - the general operating fund of the Village and accounts for all financial resources, except those required to be accounted for in other funds.

Proprietary funds:

Proprietary funds are used to account for activities similar to those found in the private sector, where the determination of net income is necessary or useful to sound financial administration. Proprietary funds differ from governmental funds in that their focus is on income measurement, which, together with the maintenance of equity, is an important financial indicator. The proprietary fund is:

Enterprise Fund - accounts for operations where the intent of the governing body is that the costs (expenses, including depreciation) of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges.

Basis of Accounting:

The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to a fund is determined by its measurement focus. All governmental funds are accounted for using a current financial resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, only current assets and current liabilities are generally included on the balance sheet. Operating statements of these funds present increases and decreases in net current assets. The modified accrual basis of accounting is used by all governmental funds.

The modified accrual basis of accounting recognizes revenues when both "measurable" and "available". Measurable means the amount can be determined and available means collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay current liabilities. Also, under the modified accrual basis of accounting, expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The proprietary fund is accounted for on a flow of economic resources measurement focus and a determination of net income and capital maintenance. With this measurement focus, all assets and all liabilities associated with the operation of the fund are included on the balance sheet. The proprietary fund uses the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recognized at the time the liabilities are incurred.

Those major revenues susceptible to accrual are ad valorem taxes and water and sewer fees. Licenses and permits, charges for services (other than water and sewer fees), fines and other revenues are not susceptible to accrual because generally they are not measurable until received in cash.

Budgets and Budgetary Accounting:

The Board of Aldermen adopted annual budgets for the General and Enterprise Funds on November 10, 1997. The annual budgets were prepared in accordance with the basis of accounting utilized by those funds. The Village Clerk is authorized to transfer budgeted amounts within and among departments; however, any revisions that alter the total expenditures resulting from revenues exceeding amounts estimated must be approved by the Board of Aldermen. No amendments were made to the 1998 budget. All annual appropriations lapse at fiscal year end.

Encumbrance accounting, under which purchase orders, contracts and other commitments for the expenditure of monies are recorded in order to reserve that portion of the applicable appropriation, is not employed by the Village.

Cash and Cash Equivalents:

Cash includes amounts in demand deposits, time deposits and amounts deposited with bondholder and is reported at net book value - the December 31, 1998, bank balance plus deposits in transit and less checks that have not cleared the bank as of that date. Cash equivalents include amounts in time deposits and those investments with original maturities of 90 days or less.

Under state law, the Village may deposit funds in demand deposits, interest-bearing demand deposits or time deposits with state banks organized under Louisiana law or any other state of the United States, or under the laws of the United States.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Investments:

Investments are limited by Louisiana Revised statute 33:2955. If the original maturities of investments exceed 90 days, they are classified as investments; however, if the original maturities are 90 days or less, they are classified as cash equivalents. Nonparticipating investment contracts, generally certificates of deposit, are reported at cost, which approximates market value.

Uncollectible Allowance:

The statements contain no provision for uncollectible accounts. Village management is of the opinion that such allowance would be immaterial in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Prepaid Expenses:

The Village records as expense the cost of insurance coverage paid by the Enterprise Fund in the actual period of coverage.

Restricted Assets/Liabilities:

Certain proceeds of Enterprise Fund revenue bonds, as well as certain resources set aside for their repayment and to care for depreciation, extensions, additions, improvements and replacements to the water and sewer systems, are classified as restricted assets on the balance sheet because their use is limited by applicable bond covenants.

Meter deposits collected from utility customers are restricted to payment of amounts owed to the Village and/or refunded to the customer upon the customer no longer utilizing the system.

Fixed Assets:

Fixed assets of governmental funds are recorded as expenditures at the time purchased or constructed, and the related assets are capitalized (reported) in the General Fixed Assets Account Group. Public domain or "infrastructures" including roads, bridges, curbs and gutters, streets and sidewalks, drainage systems and lighting systems are capitalized. Interest costs incurred during construction are not capitalized. No depreciation has been provided on general fixed assets. All fixed assets are valued at historical cost or, if donated, assets are valued at their estimated fair value on the date of donation.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Fixed assets used in the proprietary fund operations are included on the balance sheet of the fund net of accumulated depreciation. Depreciation of all exhaustible fixed assets used by proprietary fund operations is charged as an expense against operations. Depreciation has been calculated on each class of depreciable property using the straight line method over the estimated useful lives as follows:

Water and sewer system	40 years
Improvements	20 years
Equipment	5 - 20 years

Accumulated Compensated Absences:

The cost of accumulated compensated absences is recognized when actually paid to employees. No liability is recorded for nonvesting accumulating rights to receive vacation or sick pay benefits.

Long-Term Obligations:

Long-term obligations expected to be financed from proprietary fund operations are accounted for in that fund.

Fund Equity:

Contributed capital is recorded in the proprietary fund when capital contributions are received from other funds when such resources are restricted for the acquisition or construction of capital assets. Contributed capital is not amortized based on the depreciation recognized on that portion of the assets acquired or constructed from such resources.

Reserves represent those portions of equity not appropriable for expenditure or legally segregated for a specific future use.

Interfund Transactions:

Quasi-external transactions are accounted for as revenues, expenditures or expenses. Transactions that constitute reimbursements to a fund for expenditures/expenses initially made from it that are properly applicable to another fund are recorded as expenditures/expenses in the reimbursing fund and as reductions of expenditures/expenses in the fund that is reimbursed.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

All other interfund transactions, except quasi-external transactions and reimbursements, are reported as transfers. Nonrecurring or nonroutine permanent transfers of equity are reported as residual equity transfers. All other interfund transfers are reported as operating transfers.

Revenue Recognition - Taxes:

Ad valorem taxes attach as an enforceable lien on property as of January 1. Taxes are levied by the Village in September or October, are actually billed to the taxpayers in November and are due and payable on or before January 1 of the following year. All unpaid taxes become delinquent on March 15 of the following year. The Village bills and collects its own property taxes using the assessed values determined by the tax assessor of Morehouse Parish. The Village's ad valorem tax revenues are recognized when levied.

Sales/use taxes collected and held by other governments at year end on behalf of the Village and those collected by other governments and remitted to the Village within 60 days after December 31 for preceding months are recognized as revenue. The sales/use taxes are collected by Morehouse Sales and Use Tax Commission and remitted to the Village.

Total Columns on Combined Statements - Overview:

Total columns on the combined statements are captioned "memorandum only" to indicate that they are presented only to facilitate financial analysis. Data in these columns do not present financial position, results of operations or cash flows in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Neither is such data comparable to a consolidation. Interfund eliminations have not been made in the aggregation of this data.

Comparative Data:

Comparative totals for the prior year have been presented in the accompanying financial statements in order to provide an understanding of changes in the Village's financial position and operations. However, presentation of prior year totals by fund type have not been presented in each of the statements since their inclusion would make the statements unduly complex and difficult to read.

Note 2. Expenditures - Actual and Budget

Actual expenditures of the General Fund for the year ended December 31, 1998, of \$272,479 exceeded budgeted expenditures of \$254,500.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 3. Cash and Investments

The following is a summary of cash and investments at December 31, 1998:

Non-pooled deposits:	
Non-interest bearing demand deposits	\$ 82,473
Time deposits	49,248
Investments	1,079,000
Petty cash	<u>400</u>
	<u>\$ 1,211,121</u>

These deposits are stated at cost, which approximates market. Under state law, these deposits (or the resulting bank balances) must be secured by federal deposit insurance or the pledge of securities owned by the fiscal agent bank. The market value of the pledged securities plus the federal deposit insurance must at all times equal the amount on deposit with the fiscal agent. These securities are held jointly in the name of the pledging fiscal agent bank and the Village in a holding or custodial bank that is mutually acceptable to both parties.

At December 31, 1998, the carrying amount and bank balance of the Village's deposits (excluding petty cash of \$400) were \$1,210,721 and \$1,216,050, respectively. Of the bank balance, \$200,000 was covered by federal depository insurance and \$1,016,050 was covered by the market value of collateral held by a third party bank's trust department in the joint name of the Village and the pledging fiscal agent bank.

There were no repurchase or reverse repurchase agreements at December 31, 1998.

Note 4. Receivables and Due From Other Governments

The following is a summary of receivables and due from other governments as of December 31, 1998:

	General Fund	Enterprise Fund	Totals
Taxes:			
Ad valorem	\$ 3,964	\$ -	\$ 3,964
Sales	3,204	-	3,204
Accounts receivable	-	10,651	10,651
Accrued interest	1,195	1,029	2,224
Intergovernmental:			
State	<u>1,299</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,299</u>
	<u>\$ 9,662</u>	<u>\$ 11,680</u>	<u>\$ 21,342</u>

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 5. Taxes

For the year ended December 31, 1998, ad valorem taxes of 10.13 mills were levied on property with assessed valuations totaling \$3,313,200 as follows:

	Authorized Millage	Levied Millage	Expiration Date
General corporate purposes	7.00	6.63	Perpetual
Streets	3.50	3.50	2002

The following are the principal ad valorem taxpayers for the Village (amounts expressed in thousands):

Taxpayer	Assessed Valuation	Percentage of Total Assessed Valuation	Ad Valorem Tax Revenue
Mer Rouge State Bank	\$ 463,850	14.00%	\$ 4,699
Bacon Equipment Co.	288,610	8.71%	3,098
Terra International Inc.	136,330	4.11%	1,523
Terral Agriservice, Inc.	39,460	1.19%	1,172
Mer Rouge Square Partnership	21,090	0.64%	1,123

Total ad valorem taxes levied were \$33,209. As of December 31, 1998, ad valorem taxes receivable was \$3,964.

For the year ended December 31, 1998 sales and use taxes of 2% were levied for police protection and any and all other useful corporate purposes. These taxes will expire June 30, 2004.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 6. Changes in Fixed Assets

A summary of the changes in the General Fixed Assets Account Group is as follows:

	Balance January 1, 1998	Additions	Retirements	Balance December 31, 1998
Land and buildings	\$ 121,294	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 121,294
Improvements other than buildings	783,400	-	-	783,400
Equipment and vehicles	<u>112,504</u>	<u>34,496</u>	<u>2,515</u>	<u>144,485</u>
	<u>\$ 1,017,198</u>	<u>\$ 34,496</u>	<u>\$ 2,515</u>	<u>\$ 1,049,179</u>

A summary of the Enterprise Fund fixed assets and depreciation at December 31, 1998, is as follows:

	Cost	Accumulated Depreciation	Net	Current Depreciation
Land	\$ 20,110	\$ -	\$ 20,110	\$ -
Water and sewer system	1,474,242	624,266	849,976	36,882
Equipment	<u>66,458</u>	<u>57,833</u>	<u>8,625</u>	<u>7,479</u>
	<u>\$ 1,560,810</u>	<u>\$ 682,099</u>	<u>\$ 878,711</u>	<u>\$ 44,361</u>

Note 7. Changes in Long-Term Debt

The following is a summary of bond transactions of the Village for the year ended December 31, 1998:

	Revenue Bonds		
	1972	1992	Totals
Bonds payable - January 1, 1998	\$ 291,000	\$ 399,325	\$ 690,325
Bonds retired	<u>(14,000)</u>	<u>(3,906)</u>	<u>(17,906)</u>
Bonds payable - December 31, 1998	<u>\$ 277,000</u>	<u>\$ 395,419</u>	<u>\$ 672,419</u>

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The individual issues (including amounts due January 1, 1999) are as follows:

\$489,000 Water and Sewer Revenue Bonds - dated June 1, 1972, bear interest at 5%, payable January 1 of each year. Principal due January 1 of each year is as follows:

1999-2000	\$15,000	2007	\$21,000
2001-2002	16,000	2008	22,000
2003	17,000	2009	23,000
2004	18,000	2010	24,000
2005	19,000	2011	25,000
2006	20,000	2012	26,000

\$413,000 Sewer Revenue Bonds - dated December 18, 1992, bear interest at 5.5%, payable monthly. Principal due each year is as follows:

1999	\$ 4,124	2002	\$ 4,862
2000	4,357	2003	5,552
2001	4,602	Thereafter	371,922

The annual requirements to amortize bonded debt as of December 31, 1998, including interest payments of \$594,902, are as follows:

Year Ending December 31,			
1999		\$	54,621
2000			53,871
2001			54,121
2002			53,321
2003			53,521
Thereafter			<u>997,866</u>
			<u>\$ 1,267,321</u>

Note 8. Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings - Reserved

The revenue bond ordinances require that the assets restricted for bond principal and interest payments in excess of the applicable liabilities payable from such restricted assets be reserved for bond retirement.

Also, the excess assets available for payment of liabilities associated with customers' meter deposits has been reserved.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 9. Risk Management

The Village is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The Village carries commercial insurance for all risks of loss, including workers' compensation and employee health and accident insurance. Settlement amounts have not exceeded insurance coverage for the current year or three prior fiscal years.

Note 10. On-Behalf Payments for Salaries

For the year ended December 31, 1998, the Village recognized revenues and expenditures of \$10,820 in salary supplements from the State of Louisiana paid directly to employees of the police department.

Note 11. Subsequent Event

On February 12, 1999, both issues of sewer revenue bonds addressed in Note 7 were paid in full with available resources on hand.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

VILLAGE OF MER ROUGE, LOUISIANA

SCHEDULE OF COMPENSATION PAID BOARD MEMBERS

Year Ended December 31, 1998

The schedule of compensation paid to board members is presented in compliance with House Concurrent Resolution No. 54 of the 1979 Session of the Louisiana Legislature. Compensation of the board members is included in the general government expenditures of the General Fund.

<u>Name and Title</u>	<u>Compensation</u>
T.J. Parker, Mayor	\$ 5,400
John D. McAdams, III, Mayor Pro-Tem	1,200
Daniel J. Ellender, Alderman	750
David R. Gilly, Alderman	<u>825</u>
Total compensation	<u>\$ 8,175</u>

VILLAGE OF MER ROUGE, LOUISIANA

YEAR 2000 ISSUE
Year Ended December 31, 1998

The Year 2000 Issue is the result of shortcomings in many electronic data processing systems and other electronic equipment that may adversely affect the Village's operations as early as fiscal year 1999.

Village of Mer Rouge, Louisiana, has completed an inventory of computer systems and other electronic equipment that may be affected by the Year 2000 Issue and that are necessary to conducting the Village's operations. Based on this inventory, the Village has, as of the date of this report, purchased from outside vendors, hardware and software believed to be year 2000 compliant for the financial reporting systems. Testing and validation of the systems has also been completed as of the date of this report.

Because of the unprecedented nature of the Year 2000 Issue, its effects and the success of related remediation efforts will not be fully determinable until the year 2000 and thereafter. Management cannot assure that the Village is or will be year 2000 ready, that the Village's remediation efforts will be successful in whole or in part or that parties with whom the Village does business will be year 2000 ready.

HILL, INZINA & COMPANY

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE
AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING
BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED
IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Honorable T.J. Parker, Mayor,
and Members of the Board of Aldermen
Village of Mer Rouge, Louisiana

We have audited the general-purpose financial statements of Village of Mer Rouge, Louisiana, as of and for the year ended December 31, 1998, and have issued our report thereon dated April 27, 1999. We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Village's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and is described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings as item 98-2.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Village's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. However, we noted a matter involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be a reportable condition. Reportable conditions involve matters coming to our attention relating to significant deficiencies in the design or operation of the internal control over financial reporting that, in our judgment, could adversely affect the Village's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the financial statements. The reportable condition is described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings as item 98-1.

A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control that might be reportable conditions and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all reportable conditions that are also considered to be material weaknesses. However, we consider the reportable condition described above to be a material weakness.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, others within the organization, Board of Aldermen and federal awarding agencies and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

April 27, 1999

Hill, Pruzina & Co.

VILLAGE OF MER ROUGE, LOUISIANA

MANAGEMENT'S CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN FOR CURRENT YEAR FINDINGS
Year Ended December 31, 1998

We have audited the financial statements of Village of Mer Rouge, Louisiana, as of and for the year ended December 31, 1998, and have issued our report thereon dated April 27, 1999. We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our audit of the financial statements as of December 31, 1998, resulted in an unqualified opinion.

Section I - Summary of Auditor's Reports

Report on Internal Control and Compliance Material to the Financial Statements

Internal Control

Material Weaknesses Yes No Reportable Conditions Yes No

Compliance

Compliance Material to Financial Statements Yes No

Section II- Financial Statement Findings

1998-1 Inadequate Segregation of Duties (finding was first cited in audit conducted by our firm as of and for the year ended December 31, 1987)

Criteria: Adequate segregation of duties is essential to a proper internal control structure.

Condition: The segregation of duties is inadequate to provide effective internal control.

Effect: Not determined.

Cause: The condition is due to economic and space limitations.

Recommendation: No action is recommended.

Management's
response and
planned cor-
rective action:

We concur in the finding, but it is not economically feasible nor does space allow for corrective action to be taken.

1998-2 Budgeting (initial citing)

Criteria: The Local Government Budget Act requires that the governing authority amend its budget when notified that actual expenditures plus projected expenditures to year end will exceed budgeted expenditures by 5% or more.

Condition: Expenditures for the year ended December 31, 1998, of \$272,479 exceeded appropriations of \$254,500 by \$17,979 or 7.06%.

Effect: The Village was in violation of the Local Government Budget Act.

Cause: The chief executive officer, or equivalent, was not aware that available funds held by the Village and currently expended were to be included as budgeted expenditures.

Recommendation: Future budgets should be periodically monitored and amended under the provisions of the Local Government Budget Act.

Management's
response and
planned cor-
rective action:

The chief executive officer, or equivalent, will periodically monitor the budget and notify the Board of Aldermen in writing during the year when actual receipts plus projected revenue collections will fail to meet budgeted revenues by 5% or more, or when actual expenditures plus projected expenditures to year end will exceed budgeted expenditures by 5% or more.

VILLAGE OF MER ROUGE, LOUISIANA

SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS
Year Ended December 31, 1998

Section I - Internal Control and Compliance Material to Financial Statements

1997-1 Inadequate Segregation of Duties

Adequate segregation of duties is essential to proper internal control.

Unresolved - 1998-1.

Section II - Management Letter

None issued.