

EAST COLUMBIA WATERWORKS DISTRICT
Columbia, Louisiana

Annual Financial Statements

As of and for the Year Ended
December 31, 2023

EAST COLUMBIA WATERWORKS DISTRICT
Columbia, Louisiana

Annual Financial Statements
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

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M. Carleen Dumas
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

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Independent Auditor's Report

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
EAST COLUMBIA WATERWORKS DISTRICT
Columbia, Louisiana

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of East Columbia Waterworks District (the "District"), a component unit of Caldwell Parish, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In my opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the District, as of December 31, 2023, and the changes in financial position and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide* issued by the Society of Louisiana Certified Public Accountants and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of my report. I am required to be independent of the District and to meet my other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to my audit. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
EAST COLUMBIA WATERWORKS DISTRICT
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December 31, 2023

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my 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 generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. 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. Misstatements 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 financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, I:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- 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 District's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- 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 financial statements,

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
EAST COLUMBIA WATERWORKS DISTRICT
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- Conclude whether, in my judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

I am required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that I have identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. I have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about 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 I obtained during my audit of the basic financial statements. I do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide me with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplementary Information

My audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements that collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements. The Schedule of Compensation, Benefits, and Other Payments to Agency Head and Board of Commissioners and the Schedule of Prior Year Findings are presented for the purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In my opinion, the Schedule of Compensation, Benefits, and Other Payments to Agency Head and Board of Commissioners and the Schedule of Prior Year Findings are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
EAST COLUMBIA WATERWORKS DISTRICT
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Independent Auditor's Report
December 31, 2023

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, I have also issued my report dated May 3, 2024, on my consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and on my tests of the District's compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of my testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In accordance with the requirements of the Louisiana Legislative Auditor, I have issued a report dated April 30, 2024, on the results of my statewide agreed-upon procedures performed in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the standards applicable to attestation engagements contained in *Government Auditing Standards*. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of testing performed on those control and compliance areas identified in the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's statewide agreed-upon procedures, and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on control or compliance.



Calhoun, Louisiana
May 3, 2024

EAST COLUMBIA WATERWORKS DISTRICT
Columbia, Louisiana

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Our discussion and analysis of East Columbia Waterworks District's (hereafter referred to as the District) financial performance provides an overview of the District's financial activities for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023. Please read it in conjunction with the District's financial statements that begin on page 11.

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This annual report consists of a series of financial statements. Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 34, *Basic Financial Statements - and Management's Discussion and Analysis - for State and Local Governments*, provides that special-purpose governments engaged only in business-type activities should present only the financial statements required for enterprise funds. For these governments, basic financial statements and required supplemental information (RSI) consist of :

- a. Management's discussion and analysis (MD&A)
- b. Statement of net position
- c. Statement of revenue, expenses, and changes in net position
- d. Statement of cash flows
- e. Notes to the financial statements
- f. RSI other than MD&A, if applicable

The District is a special-purpose government engaged only in business-type activities.

Enterprise Fund Financial Statements

The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position provide information in a way that shows the change in the District's financial condition resulting from the current year's activities. These statements include all assets and liabilities using the *accrual basis of accounting*, which is similar to the accounting used by most businesses. All of the current year's revenue and expenses are taken into account regardless of when cash is received or paid.

These two statements report the District's *net position* and the changes in it. Net position - the difference between assets (what the District owns) and liabilities (what the District owes) is a way to measure the financial position of the District. Over time, increases or decreases in the District's net position is an indicator of whether the District's financial position is improving or deteriorating.

EAST COLUMBIA WATERWORKS DISTRICT
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MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

The Statement of Cash Flows provides information on the changes in cash during the year. This statement reports the net cash provided or used by operating activities, capital and related financing activities, and investing activities.

**COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF
FINANCIAL DATA**

The District's net position decreased by \$22,990 during 2023. Operating revenue increased \$73,607 due to a rate increase that went into effect in June 2023. Non-operating revenue decreased due to a decrease in federal grants. Operating expenses increased \$94,929 from the prior year with the largest increases in materials and supplies, maintenance and repairs, and salaries. The following presents an analysis of net position and changes in net position for the year ended December 31, 2023:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Assets		
Current assets	\$296,719	\$307,123
Restricted assets	158,008	126,705
Capital assets	<u>3,579,055</u>	<u>3,677,240</u>
Total assets	<u>4,033,782</u>	<u>4,111,068</u>
Liabilities		
Current liabilities	78,321	76,167
Liabilities payable from restricted assets	45,925	45,020
Long-term liabilities	<u>3,959,926</u>	<u>4,017,281</u>
Total liabilities	<u>4,084,172</u>	<u>4,138,468</u>
Net Position		
Net investment in capital assets	607,393	649,220
Restricted for debt service	112,083	81,685
Unrestricted (deficit)	<u>(769,866)</u>	<u>(758,305)</u>
Total net position (deficit)	<u>(50,390)</u>	<u>(27,400)</u>
Operating revenue	613,360	539,753
Operating expenses	584,310	489,381
Non-operating revenue (expenses)	<u>(52,040)</u>	<u>(28,972)</u>
Change in net position	(22,990)	21,400
Net position (deficit) - beginning	<u>(27,400)</u>	<u>(48,800)</u>
Net position (deficit) - ending	<u>(\$50,390)</u>	<u>(\$27,400)</u>

EAST COLUMBIA WATERWORKS DISTRICT
Columbia, Louisiana
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

OVERALL FINANCIAL POSITION

Unrestricted net position (deficit) was (\$769,866) at year end. The deficit in unrestricted net position is the result of recording a \$1,046,818 liability related to Utilities Relocation Assistance Funding (URAF) that had not been reported in the financial statements prior to the year ended December 31, 2019. Net position restricted for debt service was \$112,083. The net investment in capital assets was \$607,393 at year end.

CAPITAL ASSETS AND DEBT

Capital Assets

At the end of the year, the District had capital assets (net of accumulated depreciation) totaling \$3,579,055. Capital assets include land, the original water system and improvements, and equipment costing \$1,000 or more. The District purchased equipment and made improvements to the water system in the total amount of \$24,300 during 2023. Additional information about the District's capital assets is presented in Note 4 to the financial statements.

Debt

At year end the District had \$2,971,659 in outstanding water revenue bonds. The District also had a long-term URAF liability to the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) with a balance of \$1,045,618. Additional information about the District's debt and URAF liability is presented in Notes 5 and 6 to the financial statements.

ECONOMIC FACTORS

Operating revenue is expected to decrease approximately \$34,135 in 2024 due to an anticipated decrease in consumption. Operating expenses for 2024 are expected to be approximately the same as 2023 amounts. Debt service on the Water Revenue Bonds, Series 2021 for 2024 will be \$108,900.

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

EAST COLUMBIA WATERWORKS DISTRICT
Columbia, Louisiana

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
December 31, 2023

ASSETS

Current assets:	
Cash	\$194,300
Investments	84,152
Receivables (net of allowance for bad debts)	13,019
Prepaid expenses	5,248
Total current assets	<u>296,719</u>
Noncurrent assets:	
Restricted cash	158,008
Land	32,950
Property, plant and equipment (net of accumulated depreciation)	3,546,105
Total noncurrent assets	<u>3,737,063</u>
Total assets	<u>4,033,782</u>

LIABILITIES

Current liabilities:	
Accounts payable	10,466
Payroll taxes payable	5,943
Sales tax payable	429
Accrued interest payable	4,132
Current portion of bonds payable	57,351
Total current liabilities	<u>78,321</u>
Liabilities payable from restricted assets - customer deposits	<u>45,925</u>
Noncurrent liabilities:	
Utility Relocation Assistance Funding liability	1,045,618
Bonds payable	2,914,308
Total noncurrent liabilities	<u>3,959,926</u>
Total liabilities	<u>4,084,172</u>

NET POSITION

Net investment in capital assets	607,393
Restricted for debt service	112,083
Unrestricted (deficit)	<u>(769,866)</u>
Total net position (deficit)	<u>(\$50,390)</u>

See accompanying notes and independent auditor's report.

EAST COLUMBIA WATERWORKS DISTRICT
Columbia, Louisiana

STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENSES, AND
CHANGES IN NET POSITION
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

OPERATING REVENUE

Water sales	\$581,332
Installation fees	13,280
Reconnect fees	1,350
Penalties	12,743
Other revenue	4,655
	<u>613,360</u>

Total operating revenue

OPERATING EXPENSES

Commissioners per diem	3,250
Accounting	6,226
Materials and supplies	90,290
Maintenance and repairs	38,196
Contract labor	10,439
Office expense	14,920
Fees, dues, and permits	5,218
Utilities and telephone	31,416
Insurance	24,947
Employees health insurance	33,171
Salaries	179,443
Postage	5,085
Collections expense	1,200
Payroll taxes	13,727
Depreciation	122,485
Training	3,118
Uniforms	964
Mileage	215
	<u>584,310</u>

Total operating expenses

OPERATING INCOME

29,050

NON-OPERATING REVENUE (EXPENSES)

Interest income	1,179
Interest expense	(53,219)
	<u>(52,040)</u>

Total non-operating revenue (expenses)

DECREASE IN NET POSITION

(22,990)

NET POSITION - BEGINNING (Deficit)

(27,400)

NET POSITION - ENDING (Deficit)

(\$50,390)

See accompanying notes and independent auditor's report.

EAST COLUMBIA WATERWORKS DISTRICT
Columbia, Louisiana

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Receipts from customers	\$612,813
Customer deposit receipts, net	905
Payments to suppliers	(281,549)
Payments to employees and board	(182,693)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>149,476</u>

CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES

Purchase and construction of capital assets	(24,300)
Principal paid on debt	(56,361)
Interest paid on debt	(52,539)
Increase in restricted cash	(31,303)
Net cash used by capital financing activities	<u>(164,503)</u>

CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES

Interest income	1,179
Increase in investments	(910)
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>269</u>

NET DECREASE IN CASH

(14,758)

CASH AT BEGINNING OF YEAR

209,058

CASH AT END OF YEAR\$194,300**Reconciliation of Operating Income to Net Cash****Provided by Operating Activities**

Operating Income	<u>\$29,050</u>
Adjustments:	
Depreciation	122,485
Increase in accounts receivable	(547)
Increase in prepaid expenses	(3,655)
Increase in accounts payable	3,618
Decrease in taxes payable	(2,380)
Increase in customer meter deposits	905
Total adjustments	<u>120,426</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>\$149,476</u>

See accompanying notes and independent auditor's report.

EAST COLUMBIA WATERWORKS DISTRICT
Columbia, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

INTRODUCTION

East Columbia Waterworks District (the "District") was created by the Caldwell Parish Police Jury on September 6, 1949, as authorized by Louisiana Revised Statute 33:3811 for the purpose of supplying safe drinking water to the population of the District. The District is governed by a five member board of commissioners appointed by the police jury to serve five-year terms. The commissioners receive \$50 per regular and special meeting attended. The District serves approximately 946 customers and has four employees.

Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 14, *The Reporting Entity*, and No. 39, *Determining Whether Certain Organizations Are Component Units - an amendment of GASB Statement No. 14*, established criteria for determining the governmental reporting entity and component units that should be included within the reporting entity. Under provisions of these Statements, the District is considered a component unit of the Caldwell Parish Police Jury. As a component unit, the accompanying financial statements maybe included within the reporting of the primary government, either blended into those financial statements or separately reported as a discrete component unit.

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Financial Statements

GASB Statement No. 34, *Basic Financial Statements - and Management's Discussion and Analysis - for State and Local Governments*, provides that special-purpose governments engaged only in business-type activities should present only the financial statements required for enterprise funds. For these governments, basic financial statements and required supplemental information (RSI) consist of :

1. Management's discussion and analysis (MD&A)
2. Statement of net position
3. Statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position
4. Statement of cash flows
5. Notes to the financial statements
6. RSI other than MD&A, if applicable

The District is a special-purpose government engaged only in business-type activities.

EAST COLUMBIA WATERWORKS DISTRICT
Notes to the Financial Statements

**B. Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting, and
Financial Statement Presentation**

Enterprise fund statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenue is recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows.

Enterprise funds distinguish operating revenue and expenses from nonoperating items. Operating revenue and expenses generally result from providing services in connection with the fund's principal ongoing operation. The operating revenue of the District is water sales, installation fees, reconnect fees, penalties, and other operating fees. Operating expenses for enterprise funds include the costs of the services, administrative expenses, and depreciation on capital assets. All revenue and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as nonoperating revenue and expenses.

C. Deposits and Investments

Cash includes amounts in interest-bearing and non-interest bearing demand deposits. State law limits the District's credit risk by restricting the District's investments to collateralized certificates of deposits, government-backed securities, commercial paper, the state sponsored investment pool, and mutual funds consisting solely of government-backed securities. 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. At December 31, 2023, the District's investments consist of nonnegotiable certificates of deposits with original maturities that exceed 90 days that are reported in the accompanying financial statements at cost. The District's interest rate risk is limited by the investment of funds for periods not to exceed 24 months.

D. Receivables

Accounts receivable consist of amounts due from customers for water service provided prior to year end and fees due that the water system collects for other agencies. Receivables from water service are reported net of an allowance for uncollectible accounts which is an estimate based on past due accounts at year end. All accounts 30 days past due are subject to being disconnected for nonpayment. Accounts considered uncollectible are written off upon approval from the Board of Commissioners.

E. Restricted Assets

Certain resources set aside in accounts required by the letter of conditions for the 2021 Water Revenue Bonds and amounts set aside for the refunding of customer meter

EAST COLUMBIA WATERWORKS DISTRICT

Notes to the Financial Statements

deposits are classified as restricted assets on the statement of net position because their use is limited. It is the policy of the District to first use nonrestricted funds when both restricted and nonrestricted assets are available for the purposes specified by the letter of conditions. The District uses restricted funds first when refunding customer meter deposits.

F. Property, Plant, and Equipment

Property, plant, and equipment, which includes the original water system and improvements, and equipment is reported in the enterprise fund financial statements. All of the District's property, plant, and equipment is capitalized at historical cost. The District maintains a threshold level of \$1,000 or more for capitalizing assets. The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend the asset's life are not capitalized. Major outlays for capital assets and improvements are capitalized as projects are constructed. In accordance with GASB Statement 89, *Accounting for Interest Cost Incurred before the End of a Construction Period*, interest cost incurred before the end of the construction period is recognized as an expense in the period in which the cost is incurred and not capitalized as part of the historical cost of the asset.

Property, plant, and equipment, other than land, is depreciated using the straight-line method over the following useful lives:

	Estimated Lives
Infrastructure - water system	10 - 40
Equipment	years 5-15 years

G. Long-Term Liabilities

Water revenue bonds payable and the Utility Relocation Assistance Funding (URAF) are reported as a long-term liabilities on the statement of net position.

H. Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosures, and revenues, expenditures, and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

EAST COLUMBIA WATERWORKS DISTRICT
Notes to the Financial Statements

2. DEPOSITS IN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

At December 31, 2023, the District has cash, investments, and restricted cash (book balances) as follows:

Non-interest bearing checking accounts	\$74,196
Interest bearing savings accounts	278,112
Investments - certificates of deposit	<u>84,152</u>
Total	<u>\$436,460</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. At December 31, 2023, the District has \$449,678 in deposits (collected bank balances). These deposits are fully secured from risk by federal deposit insurance and \$82,055 of pledged securities held by an unaffiliated bank in the name of the fiscal agent bank.

3. RECEIVABLES

At December 31, 2023, the District has net receivables of \$13,019 as follows:

Water sales	\$28,884
Fees collected for others	9,830
Allowance for uncollectible accounts	<u>(25,695)</u>
Net receivables	<u>\$13,019</u>

4. CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital assets and depreciation activity as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, is as follows:

	Balance at January 1, 2023	Increases	Decreases	Balance at December 31, 2023
Capital assets not being depreciated:				
Land	<u>\$32,950</u>			<u>\$32,950</u>
Capital assets being depreciated:				
Water system	5,369,924	\$20,245		5,390,169
Equipment	<u>121,669</u>	<u>4,055</u>		<u>125,724</u>

EAST COLUMBIA WATERWORKS DISTRICT
Notes to the Financial Statements

	Balance at January 1, 2023	Increases	Decreases	Balance at December 31, 2023
Total capital assets being depreciated	\$5,491,593	\$24,300	NONE	\$5,515,893
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Water system	1,746,081	103,679		1,849,760
Equipment	101,222	18,806		120,028
Total accumulated depreciation	1,847,303	122,485	NONE	1,969,788
Total assets being depreciated, net	3,644,290	(98,185)	NONE	3,546,105
Total assets	<u>\$3,677,240</u>	<u>(\$98,185)</u>	<u>NONE</u>	<u>\$3,579,055</u>

Depreciation expense of \$122,485 for the year ended December 31, 2023 was reported in the statement of revenue, expenses, and changes in net position.

5. UTILITY RELOCATION ASSISTANCE FUNDING

During the year ended December 31, 2005, the District entered into four separate agreements with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) to relocate the District's water lines that were located within the limits of a road construction project. The agreements with DOTD provide that the District is responsible for repaying the Utility Relocation Assistance Funding (URAF) received during 2005, 2006, and 2007. Section 301(A) of Title 70 of the Louisiana Administrative Code provides that URAF funding is neither a loan nor a grant and there is no interest charged on the funds. However, the water system must eventually repay the portion of the cost it is responsible for or it will not be allowed to locate its facilities within the highway right-of-way. The agreements provide that the District may repay in partial amounts, in exchange for goods and/or services or any combination thereof. The District made no payments during the year ended December 31, 2023. The amount due under the agreements at December 31, 2023, is \$1,045,618.

6. BONDS PAYABLE

The following is a summary of bonds payable transactions for the year ended December 31, 2023:

Direct Borrowing
2021 Water Revenue
Bonds

EAST COLUMBIA WATERWORKS DISTRICT
Notes to the Financial Statements

Balance at January 1, 2023	\$3,028,020
Additions	NONE
Reductions	<u>(56,361)</u>
Balance at December 31, 2023	<u><u>\$2,971,659</u></u>

The following is a summary of the current (due in one year or less) and long-term (due in more than one year) portions of long-term debt as of December 31, 2023:

Current portion	\$57,351
Long-term portion	<u>2,914,308</u>
Total	<u><u>\$2,971,659</u></u>

Water Revenue Bonds, Series 2021 in the amount of \$3,129,000 were sold to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Rural Development on February 2, 2021, and the proceeds were used to pay the principal and accrued interest on bond anticipation notes that provided interim financing for a portion of the costs of water system improvements. The principal and interest on the water revenue bonds will be repaid over a 40 year period in monthly amortized payments of \$9,075 that commenced on March 2, 2021, and will continue monthly thereafter for a total of 480 monthly payments. The unpaid principal of the water revenue bonds bears interest at the rate of 1.750% per annum. The water revenue bonds are secured and payable in principal and interest by a pledge of the income and revenue derived from the operation of the District's water system. The bond resolution contains provisions that in the event of default in the payments of any principal or interest on the bonds or in the making of the payments into any fund required to be maintained by the resolution, or in the failure or refusal to comply the provisions of the resolution, that the owner of the bond shall be entitled to appoint a receiver to take possession of the water system and operate, maintain, manage, and control the water system.

Principal and interest on the Water Revenue Bonds, Series 2021 are due as follows:

<u>Year Ending December 31,</u>	<u>Principal Payments</u>	<u>Interest Payments</u>	<u>Total</u>
2024	\$57,351	\$51,549	\$108,900
2025	58,363	50,537	108,900
2026	59,393	49,507	108,900
2027	60,440	48,460	108,900
2028	61,507	47,393	108,900
2029 - 2033	324,196	220,304	544,500
2034 - 2038	353,819	190,681	544,500
2039 - 2043	386,148	158,352	544,500
2044 - 2048	421,432	123,068	544,500
2049 - 2053	459,939	84,561	544,500

EAST COLUMBIA WATERWORKS DISTRICT
Notes to the Financial Statements

<u>Year Ending December 31,</u>	<u>Principal Payments</u>	<u>Interest Payments</u>	<u>Total</u>
2054 - 2058	\$501,965	\$42,535	\$544,500
2059 - 2061	227,106	4,425	231,531
Total	<u>\$2,971,659</u>	<u>\$1,071,372</u>	<u>\$4,043,031</u>

7. RESTRICTED CASH

The Letter of Intent to Meet Conditions dated September 25, 2018, that was issued by the District to USDA Rural Development requires the District to establish the following reserves as a condition of the issuance of the Water Revenue Bonds, Series 2021:

- A. Debt Service Reserve - The District must establish a Debt Service Reserve Fund equal to at least one annual loan installment that accumulates at the rate of 10% of one annual payment per year for ten years or until the balance is equal to one annual loan payment. Ten percent of the proposed loan installment would equal \$908 per month; to be deposited monthly until a total of \$108,900 has been accumulated. Prior written concurrence from USDA Rural Development must be obtained before funds may be withdrawn from this fund during the life of the loan.

- B. Short-Lived Asset Reserve - The District must establish a Short-Lived Asset Reserve Fund and deposit at least \$29,928 annually for the life of the loan to pay for the repairs and/or replacement of major system assets. It is the District's responsibility to assess the facilities short-lived asset needs on a regular basis and adjust the amount deposited to meet those needs.

The following is a summary of transactions in the bond reserve accounts for the year ended December 31, 2023:

	<u>Debt Service Reserve</u>	<u>Short- Lived Asset Reserve</u>	<u>Total</u>
Balance at January 1, 2023	\$23,732	\$57,953	\$81,685
Deposits	10,896	29,928	40,824
Withdrawals		(10,527)	(10,527)
Interest earnings	29	72	101
Balance at December 31, 2023	<u>\$34,657</u>	<u>\$77,426</u>	<u>\$112,083</u>

EAST COLUMBIA WATERWORKS DISTRICT
Notes to the Financial Statements

In addition to the above amounts, the District has \$45,925 set aside in a separate checking account for the refunding of customer meter deposits.

8. DEFICIT NET POSITION

The District has a deficit net position in the amount of \$50,390 at December 31, 2023. The deficit is a result of the District's 2019 decision to record the liability incurred under URAF agreements during 2005, 2006, and 2007. Prior to 2019, the District did not report the liability under the agreements on its statement of net position due to the repayment terms specified in the agreements and the District's opinion that it was unlikely that DOTD would require the District to repay the funding. However, during the fiscal years ended December 31, 2018, and 2019, DOTD invoiced the District and requested an annual payment. The Board of Commissioners agreed to pay \$400 per year; however, no payments were made during 2023. For the year ended December 31, 2023, the District had a net decrease in net position of \$22,990 and increased the deficit by that amount. The District implemented a water rate increase effective June 1, 2023, in an effort to reduce the deficit.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT

The District purchased commercial insurance to reduce the risk of loss resulting from property damage or liability claims. There have been no significant reductions in insurance coverage from coverage in the prior year. Settlements have not exceeded insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

10. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The District has evaluated subsequent events through May 3, 2024, the date which the financial statements were available to be issued.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION SCHEDULES

EAST COLUMBIA WATERWORKS DISTRICT
Columbia, Louisiana

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION SCHEDULES
As of and For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

**SCHEDULE OF COMPENSATION, BENEFITS, AND
OTHER PAYMENTS TO AGENCY HEAD
AND BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

The schedule of compensation, benefits, and other payments to agency head and board of commissioners is presented in compliance with Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513 A (3) and House Concurrent Resolution No. 54 of the 1979 Session of the Louisiana Legislature. As provided by Louisiana Revised Statute 33:3819, the District's commissioners receive \$50 per regular and special meeting attended.

SCHEDULE OF PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS

The follow-up and corrective action taken on all prior year findings is presented in Schedule 2.

EAST COLUMBIA WATERWORKS DISTRICT
Columbia, Louisiana

SCHEDULE OF COMPENSATION, BENEFITS, AND OTHER
PAYMENTS TO AGENCY HEAD AND BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

BOARD COMPENSATION

Agency Head - Jeffrey Masters - President	\$650
Richard Copeland	650
Shelby Cruse	750
Judith McKee	650
Terry McClanahan	<u>550</u>
Total	<u>\$3,250</u>

EAST COLUMBIA WATERWORKS DISTRICT
Columbia, Louisiana

SCHEDULE OF PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

<u>Finding Number</u>	<u>Fiscal Year Finding Initially Occurred</u>	<u>Description of Finding</u>	<u>Status of Finding</u>
2022-001	2004	Inadequate Segregation of Accounting Duties	Unresolved - see 2023-001 in current year findings.

Independent Auditor's Report
Required by *Government Auditing Standards* and the Uniform Guidance

The following independent auditor's report on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance and other matters is presented in compliance with the requirements of *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*, issued by the Society of Louisiana Certified Public Accountants and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor.

M. Carleen Dumas
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

369 DONALDSON ROAD • CALHOUN, LOUISIANA 71225 • TELEPHONE 318/644-5726

**Independent Auditor's Report on
Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on
Compliance and Other Matters
Based on an Audit of Financial Statements
Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards***

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
EAST COLUMBIA WATERWORKS DISTRICT
Columbia, Louisiana

I have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*, issued by the Society of Louisiana Certified Public Accountants and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor, the financial statements of East Columbia Waterworks District (the "District"), a component unit of Caldwell Parish, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements, and have issued my report thereon dated May 3, 2024.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing my audit of the financial statements, I considered the District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing my opinion on the financial statements but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, I do not express an opinion of 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 entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
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Independent Auditor's Report
on Compliance and on
Internal Control, etc.,
December 31, 2023

My consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. I did identify a deficiency in internal control described in the accompanying Schedule of Current Year Findings and Management's Planned Corrective Action as item 2023-001 that I consider to be a material weakness.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the District's financial statements are free from material misstatement, I performed tests of the District's compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of my audit and, accordingly, I do not express such an opinion. The results of my tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

District's Response to Finding

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the District's response to the finding identified in my audit and described in the accompanying Schedule of Current Year Findings and Management's Planned Corrective Action. The District's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, I express no opinion on the response.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of my testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the District's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Calhoun, Louisiana
May 3, 2024

EAST COLUMBIA WATERWORKS DISTRICT
Columbia, Louisiana

SCHEDULE OF CURRENT YEAR FINDINGS AND
MANAGEMENT'S PLANNED CORRECTIVE ACTION
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Section I - Summary of Auditor's Results

Financial Statements

1. Type of auditor's report issued - Unmodified opinion.
2. Internal control over financial reporting:
Material weakness(es) identified? - Yes
3. Noncompliance material to financial statements noted? - No

Section II - Financial Statement Findings

2023-001. Inadequate Segregation of Accounting Duties

Criteria: Proper internal controls require that accounting duties be performed by separate individuals so that one individual could not perpetrate and conceal errors or irregularities without them being detected by another individual who was performing his or her assigned duties.

Condition: The accounting duties of collecting, depositing, and posting customer payments to customers accounts may be performed by either of the office employees.

Cause: Limited number of employees due to the small size of the District.

Effect: Errors or irregularities may not be detected within a timely period.

Recommendation: None.

Management's Planned

Corrective Action: It is not economically feasible to correct this deficiency based on the size of the District and its limited revenues.

M. Carleen Dumas
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

369 DONALDSON ROAD • CALHOUN, LOUISIANA 71225 • TELEPHONE 318/644-5726

**Independent Accountant's Report
On Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures**

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
EAST COLUMBIA WATER DISTRICT
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LOUISIANA LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR:

I have performed the procedures enumerated below on the control and compliance (C/C) areas identified in the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's (LLA's) Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures (SAUPs), for the fiscal period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. East Columbia Water District's (the "District") management is responsible for those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs.

The District has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of the engagement, which is to perform specified procedures on the C/C areas identified in LLA's SAUPs for the fiscal period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. Additionally, LLA has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate for its purposes. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of this report and may not meet the needs of all users of this report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes.

The procedures and associated findings are as follows:

1) Written Policies and Procedures

- A. Obtain and inspect the entity's written policies and procedures and observe that they address each of the following categories and subcategories if applicable to public funds and the entity's operations:
- i. ***Budgeting***, including preparing, adopting, monitoring, and amending the budget
 - ii. ***Purchasing***, including (1) how purchases are initiated; (2) how vendors are added to the vendor list; (3) the preparation and approval process of purchase requisitions and purchase orders; (4) controls to ensure compliance with the Public Bid Law; and (5) documentation required to be maintained for all bids and price quotes.

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- iii. **Disbursements**, including processing, reviewing, and approving.
- iv. **Receipts/Collections**, including receiving, recording, and preparing deposits. Also, policies and procedures should include management's actions to determine the completeness of all collections for each type of revenue or agency fund additions (e.g. periodic confirmation with outside parties, reconciliation to utility billing after cutoff procedures, reconciliation of traffic ticket number sequences, agency fund forfeiture monies confirmation).
- v. **Payroll/Personnel**, including (1) payroll processing, and (2) reviewing and approving time and attendance records, including leave and overtime worked, and (3) approval process for employee(s) rate of pay or approval and maintenance of pay rate schedules.
- vi. **Contracting**, including (1) types of services requiring written contracts, (2) standard terms and conditions, (3) legal review, (4) approval process, and (5) monitoring process
- vii. **Travel and expense reimbursement**, including (1) allowable expenses, (2) dollar thresholds by category of expense, (3) documentation requirements, and (4) required approvers.
- viii. **Credit Cards (and debit cards, fuel cards, P-Cards, if applicable)**, including (1) how cards are to be controlled, (2) allowable business uses, (3) documentation requirements, (4) required approvers of statements, and (5) monitoring card usage (determining the reasonableness of fuel card purchases).
- ix. **Ethics**, including (1) the prohibitions as defined in Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 42:1111-1121, (2) actions to be taken if an ethics violation takes place, (3) system to monitor possible ethics violations, and (4) a requirement that documentation is maintained that all employees and officials were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy.
- x. **Debt Service**, including (1) debt issuance approval, (2) continuing disclosure/EMMA reporting requirements, (3) debt reserve requirements, and (4) debt service requirements.
- xi. **Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity**, including (1) identification of critical data and frequency of data backups, (2) storage of backups in a separate physical location isolated from the network, (3) periodic testing/verification that backups can be restored, (4) use of antivirus software on all systems, (5) timely application

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of all available system and software patches/updates, and (6) identification of personnel, processes, and tools needed to recover operations after a critical event.

- xii. *Prevention of Sexual Harassment*, including R.S. 42:342-344 requirements for (1) agency responsibilities and prohibitions, (2) annual employee training, and (3) annual reporting.

Results of procedure: No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

2) Board or Finance Committee

- A. Obtain and inspect the board/finance committee minutes for the fiscal period, as well as the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or equivalent document in effect during the fiscal period, and:
 - i. Observe that the board/finance committee met with a quorum at least monthly, or on a frequency in accordance with the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or other equivalent document.
 - ii. For those entities reporting on the governmental accounting model, observe that the minutes referenced or included monthly budget-to-actual comparisons on the general fund, quarterly budget-to-actual, at a minimum, on proprietary funds, and semi-annual budget-to-actual, at a minimum, on all special revenue funds.
 - iii. For governmental entities, obtain the prior year audit report and observe the unassigned fund balance in the general fund. If the general fund had a negative ending unassigned fund balance in the prior year audit report, observe that the minutes for at least one meeting during the fiscal period referenced or included a formal plan to eliminate the negative unassigned fund balance in the general fund.
 - iv. Observe whether the board/finance committee received written updates of the progress of resolving audit finding(s), according to management's corrective action plan at each meeting until the findings are considered fully resolved.

Results of procedure: No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

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3) Bank Reconciliations

- A. Obtain a listing of entity bank accounts for the fiscal period from management and management's representation that the listing is complete. Ask management to identify the entity's main operating account. Select the entity's main operating account and randomly select 4 additional accounts (or all accounts if less than 5). Randomly select one month from the fiscal period, obtain and inspect the corresponding bank statement and bank reconciliation for each selected account, and observe that:
- i. Bank reconciliations include evidence that they were prepared within 2 months of the related statement closing date (e.g., initialed and dated, electronically logged);
 - ii. Bank reconciliations include evidence that a member of management/board member who does not handle cash, post ledgers, or issue checks has reviewed each bank reconciliation within one month of the date the reconciliation was prepared (e.g., initialed and dated, electronically logged); and
 - iii. Management has documentation reflecting that it has researched reconciling items that have been outstanding for more than 12 months from the statement closing date, if applicable.

Results of procedure: One out of the five bank reconciliations selected included 11 checks that had been outstanding for more than 12 months and there was no evidence of management researching the items.

No other exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

4) Collections (excluding electronic funds transfers)

- A. Obtain a listing of deposit sites for the fiscal period where deposits for cash/checks/money orders (cash) are prepared and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 deposit sites (or all deposit sites if less than 5).

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- B. For each deposit site selected, obtain a listing of collection locations and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one collection location for each deposit site (i.e. 5 collection locations for 5 deposit sites), obtain and inspect written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if no written policies or procedures, inquire of employees about their job duties) at each collection location, and observe that job duties are properly segregated at each collection location such that:
- i. Employees that are responsible for cash collections do not share cash drawers/registers.
 - ii. Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not responsible for preparing/making bank deposits, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling collection documentation (e.g. pre-numbered receipts) to the deposit.
 - iii. Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not responsible for posting collection entries to the general ledger or subsidiary ledgers, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling ledger postings to each other and to the deposit.
 - iv. The employee(s) responsible for reconciling cash collections to the general ledger and/or subsidiary ledgers, by revenue source and/or agency fund additions are not responsible for collecting cash, unless another employee verifies the reconciliation.
- C. Obtain from management a copy of the bond or insurance policy for theft covering all employees who have access to cash. Observe that the bond or insurance policy for theft was enforced during the fiscal period.
- D. Randomly select two deposit dates for each of the 5 bank accounts selected for Bank Reconciliations procedure #3A (select the next deposit date chronologically if no deposits were made on the dates randomly selected and randomly select a deposit if multiple deposits are made on the same day). Obtain supporting documentation for each of the 10 deposits and:
- i. Observe that receipts are sequentially pre-numbered.
 - ii. Trace sequentially pre-numbered receipts, system reports, and other related collection documentation to the deposit slip.
 - iii. Trace the deposit slip total to the actual bank deposit per bank statement.

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- iv. Observe that the deposit was made within one business day of receipt at the collection location (within one week if the depository is more than 10 miles from the collection location or the deposit is less than \$100 and the cash is stored securely in a locked safe or drawer).
- v. Trace the actual deposit per the bank statement to the general ledger.

Results of procedure: The two employees who are responsible for cash collections share the same cash drawer.

The two employees who are responsible for cash collections can also prepare the bank deposit.

The two employees who are responsible for cash collections can post collections to the customer account software as well as to the general ledger; however, only one employee has access to on-line banking and this employee performs a daily reconciliation of the bank deposits to the general ledger postings.

The employee responsible for reconciling cash collections to the general ledger may also collect cash without another employee verifying the reconciliation.

No other exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

5. Non-Payroll Disbursements (excluding credit card purchases, travel reimbursements, and petty cash purchases)

- A. Obtain a listing of locations that process payments for the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 locations (or all locations if less than 5).
- B. For each location selected under procedure #5A above, obtain a listing of those employees involved with non-payroll purchasing and payment functions. Obtain written policies and procedures relating to job duties (if the agency has no written policies and procedures, inquire of employees about their job duties), and observe that job duties are properly segregated such that:

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- i. At least two employees are involved in initiating a purchase request, approving a purchase, and placing an order/making the purchase.
 - ii. At least two employees are involved in processing and approving payments to vendors.
 - iii. The employee responsible for processing payments is prohibited from adding/modifying vendor files, unless another employee is responsible for periodically reviewing changes to vendor files.
 - iv. Either the employee/official responsible for signing checks mails the payments or gives the signed checks to an employee to mail who is not responsible for processing payments.
 - v. Only employees/officials authorized to sign checks approve the electronic disbursement (release) of funds, whether through automated clearinghouse (ACH), electronic funds transfer (EFT), wire transfer, or some other electronic means.
- C. For each location selected under procedure #5A above, obtain the entity's non-payroll disbursement transaction population (excluding cards and travel reimbursements) and obtain management's representation that the population is complete. Randomly select 5 disbursements for each location, obtain supporting documentation for each transaction and:
- i. Observe whether the disbursement, whether by paper or electronic means, matched the related original itemized invoice and supporting documentation indicates that deliverables included on the invoice were received by the entity, and
 - ii. Observe that the disbursement documentation included evidence (e.g. initial/date, electronic logging) of segregation of duties tested under procedure #5B above, as applicable.
- D. Using the entity's main operating account and the month selected in Bank Reconciliations procedure #3A, randomly select 5 non-payroll-related electronic disbursements (or all electronic disbursements if less than 5) and observe that each electronic disbursement was a) approved by only those persons authorized to disburse funds (e.g. sign checks) per the entity's policy, and (b) approved by the required number of authorized signers per the entity's policy. Note: If no electronic payments were made from the main operating account during the month selected the

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practitioner should select an alternative month and/or account for testing that does include electronic disbursements.

Results of procedure: An employee responsible for processing payments is also responsible for adding/modifying vendor files.

An employee responsible for processing payments is also responsible for mailing the checks to vendors.

One selected disbursement lacked documentation that deliverables were received.

No other exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

6) Credit Cards/Debit Cards/Fuel Cards/Purchase Cards (Cards)

- A. Obtain from management a listing of all active credit cards, bank debit cards, fuel cards, and purchase cards (cards), for the fiscal period, including the card numbers and the names of the persons who maintained possession of the cards. Obtain management's representation that the listing is complete.
- B. Using the listing prepared by management, randomly select 5 cards (or all cards if less than 5) that were used during the fiscal period. Randomly select one monthly statement or combined statement for each card (for a debit card, randomly select one monthly bank statement). Obtain supporting documentation, and
 - i. Observe that there is evidence that the monthly statement or combined statement and supporting documentation (e.g., original receipts for credit/debit card purchases, exception reports for excessive fuel card usage) were reviewed and approved, in writing (or electronically approved), by someone other than the authorized card holder. (those instances requiring such approval that may constrain the legal authority of certain public officials such as the mayor of a Lawrason Act municipality, should not be reported); and
 - ii. Observe that finance charges and late fees were not assessed on the selected statements.

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- C. Using the monthly statements or combined statements selected under #6B above, excluding fuel cards, randomly select 10 transactions (or all transactions if less than 10) from each statement, and obtain supporting documentation for the transactions (i.e. each card should have 10 transactions subject to inspection). For each transaction, observe that it is supported by (1) an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased, (2) written documentation of the business/public purpose, and (3) documentation of the individuals participating in meals (for meal charges only). For missing receipts, the practitioner should describe the nature of the transaction and note whether management had a compensating control to address missing receipts, such as a "missing receipt statement" that is subject to increased scrutiny.

Results of procedure: No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

7) Travel and Travel-Related Expense Reimbursements (excluding card transactions)

- A. Obtain from management a listing of all travel and travel-related expense reimbursements during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing or general ledger is complete. Randomly select 5 reimbursements, obtain the related expense reimbursement forms/prepaid expense documentation of each selected reimbursement, as well as the supporting documentation. For each of the 5 reimbursements selected:
- i. If reimbursed using a per diem, observe that the approved reimbursement rate is no more than those rates established either by the State of Louisiana or the U.S. General Services Administration (www.gsa.gov).
 - ii. If reimbursed using actual costs, observe that the reimbursement is supported by an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased.
 - iii. Observe that each reimbursement is supported by documentation of the business/public purpose (for meal charges, observe that the documentation includes the names of those individuals participating) and other documentation required by Written Policies and Procedures (procedure #1A(vii)).
 - iv. Observe that each reimbursement was reviewed and approved, in writing, by someone other than the person receiving the reimbursement.

Results of procedure: No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

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8) Contracts

- A. Obtain from management a listing of all agreements/contracts for professional services, materials and supplies, leases, and construction activities that were initiated or renewed during the fiscal period. Obtain management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 contracts (or all contracts if less than 5) from the listing, excluding the practitioner's contract and:
- i. Observe whether the contract was bid in accordance with the Louisiana Public Bid Law (e.g., solicited quotes or bids, advertised), if required by law.
 - ii. Observe whether the contract was approved by the governing body/board, if required by policy or law (e.g. Lawrason Act, Home Rule Charter).
 - iii. If the contract was amended (e.g. change order), observe that the original contract terms provided for such an amendment and that amendments were made in compliance with the contract terms (e.g. if approval is required for any amendment, the documented approval).
 - iv. Randomly select one payment from the fiscal period for each of the 5 contracts, obtain the supporting invoice, agree the invoice to the contract terms, and observe that the invoice and related payment agreed to the terms and conditions of the contract.

Results of procedure: No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

9. Payroll and Personnel

- A. Obtain a listing of employees and officials employed during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 employees or officials, obtain related paid salaries and personnel files, and agree paid salaries to authorized salaries/pay rates in the personnel files.
- B. Randomly select one pay period during the fiscal period. For the 5 employees or officials selected under procedure #9A above, obtain attendance records and leave documentation for the pay period, and:
- i. Observe that all selected employees or officials documented their daily attendance and leave (e.g., vacation, sick, compensatory).

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- ii. Observe that supervisors approved the attendance and leave of the selected employees or officials.
 - iii. Observe that any leave accrued or taken during the pay period is reflected in the entity's cumulative leave records.
 - iv. Observe that the rate paid to the employees or officials agrees to the authorized salary/pay rate found within the personnel file.
- C. Obtain a listing of those employees or officials that received termination payments during the fiscal period and management's representation that the list is complete. Randomly select two employees or officials, obtain related documentation of the hours and pay rates used in management's termination payment calculations and the entity's policy on termination payments. Agree the hours to the employee or officials' cumulative leave records, agree the pay rates to the employee or officials' authorized pay rates in the employee or official's personnel files, and agree the termination payment to entity policy.
- D. Obtain management's representation that employer and employee portions of third-party payroll related amounts (e.g. payroll taxes, retirement contributions, health insurance premiums, garnishments, workers compensation premiums, etc.) have been paid, and any associated forms have been filed, by required deadlines.

Results of procedure: A terminated employee was paid for unused vacation and sick leave but the District's policy states that employees will not be compensated for any unused vacation or sick time.

No other exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

10) Ethics

- A. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A above, obtain ethics documentation from management, and:
- i. Observe whether the documentation demonstrates each employee/official completed one hour of ethics training during the calendar year as required by R.S. 42:1170.

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- ii. Observe whether the entity maintains documentation which demonstrates that each employee and official were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy during the fiscal period, as applicable.
- B. Inquire and/or observe whether the agency has appointed an ethics designee as required by R.S. 42:1170.

Results of procedure: No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

11) Debt Service

- A. Obtain a listing of bonds/notes and other debt instruments issued during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Select all debt instruments on the listing, obtain supporting documentation, and observe that State Bond Commission approval was obtained for each debt instrument issued as required by Article VII, Section 8 of the Louisiana Constitution.
- B. Obtain a listing of bonds/notes outstanding at the end of the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one bond/note, inspect debt covenants, obtain supporting documentation for the reserve balance and payments, and agree actual reserve balances and payments to those required by the debt covenants (including contingency funds, short-lived asset funds, or other funds required by debt covenants).

Results of procedure: No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

12) Fraud Notice

- A. Obtain a listing of misappropriations of public funds and assets during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Select all misappropriations on the listing, obtain supporting documentation and observe that the entity reported the misappropriation (s) to the legislative auditor and the district attorney of the parish in which the entity is domiciled as required by R.S. 24:523.
- B. Observe that the entity has posted on its premises and website, the notice required by R.S. 24:523.1. concerning the reporting of misappropriation, fraud, waste, or abuse of public funds.

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Results of procedure: No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

13) Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity

- A. Perform the following procedures, **verbally discuss the results with management, and report "We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management."**
- i. Obtain and inspect the entity's most recent documentation that it has backed up its critical data (if no written documentation, then inquire of personnel responsible for backing up critical data) and observe that such backup (a) occurred within the past week, (b) was not stored on the government's local server or network, and (c) was encrypted.
 - ii. Obtain and inspect the entity's most recent documentation that it has tested/verified that its backups can be restored (if there is no written documentation, then inquire of personnel responsible for testing/verifying backup restoration) and observe evidence that the test/verification was successfully performed within the past 3 months.
 - iii. Obtain a listing of the entity's computers currently in use, and their related locations, and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 computers and observe while management demonstrates that the selected computers have current and active antivirus software and that the operating system and accounting system software in use are currently supported by the vendor.
- B. Randomly select 5 terminated employees (or all terminated employees if less than 5) using the list of terminated employees obtained in procedure #9C above. Observe evidence that the selected terminated employees have been removed or disabled from the network.
- C. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A above, obtain cybersecurity training documentation from management, and observe that the documentation demonstrates that the following employees/officials with access to the entity's information technology assets have completed cybersecurity training as required by R. S. 42:1267: The requirements are as follows:
- Hired before June 9, 2020 - completed the training
 - Hired on or after June 9, 2020 - completed the training within 30 days of initial service or employment.

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Results of procedure: I performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

14) Prevention of Sexual Harassment

- A. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A above, obtain sexual harassment training documentation from management, and observe that the documentation demonstrates each employee/official completed at least one hour of sexual harassment training during the calendar year as required by R.S. 42:343.
- B. Observe that the entity has posted its sexual harassment policy and complaint procedure on its website (or in a conspicuous location on the entity's premises if the entity does not have a website).
- C. Obtain the entity's annual sexual harassment report for the current fiscal period, observe that the report was dated on or before February 1, and observe that it includes the applicable requirements of R.S. 42:344:
 - i. Number and percentage of public servants in the agency who have completed the training requirements;
 - ii. Number of sexual harassment complaints received by the agency;
 - iii. Number of complaints which resulted in a finding that sexual harassment occurred;
 - iv. Number of complaints in which the finding of sexual harassment resulted in discipline or corrective action; and
 - v. Amount of time it took to resolve each complaint.

Results of procedure: Two selected board members did not complete one hour of sexual harassment training.

No other exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

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Management's Response We will consider the results of the statewide agreed-upon procedures report and take action as deemed necessary and feasible.

I was engaged by the District to perform this agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted my engagement in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and applicable standards of *Government Auditing Standards*. I was not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or review engagement, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs. Accordingly, I do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had I performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to my attention that would have been reported to you.

I am required to be independent of the District and to meet my other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to my agreed-upon procedures engagement.

This report is intended solely to describe the scope of testing performed on those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs, and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on control or compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose. Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the LLA as a public document.



Calhoun, Louisiana
April 30, 2024