



BARTLETT, PRINGLE & WOLF, LLP
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS AND CONSULTANTS

January 9, 2025

Board of Directors
Summerland Sanitary District
P.O. Box 417
Summerland, CA 93067

This letter is to inform the Board of Directors of Summerland Sanitary District (the District) about significant matters related to the conduct of our audit as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, so that it can appropriately discharge its oversight responsibility, and we can comply with professional responsibilities.

Auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (AU-C 260, *The Auditor's Communication With Those Charged With Governance*) require the auditor to promote effective two-way communication between the auditor and those charged with governance. Consistent with this requirement, the following summarizes our responsibilities regarding the financial statement audit as well as observations arising from our audit that are significant and relevant to your responsibility to oversee the financial reporting process.

Our Responsibilities With Regard to the Financial Statement Audit

Our responsibilities under auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America have been described to you in our arrangement letter dated June 24, 2024. The audit of the financial statements does not relieve management or those charged with governance of their responsibilities which are also described in that letter.

Overview of the Planned Scope and Timing of the Financial Statement Audit

We have issued a separate communication dated September 16, 2024 regarding the planned scope and timing of our audit and identified significant risks.

Accounting Policies and Practices

Preferability of Accounting Policies and Practices

Under generally accepted accounting principles, in certain circumstances, management may select among alternative accounting practices. In our view, in such circumstances, management has selected the preferable accounting practice.

Adoption of, or Change in, Accounting Policies

Management has the ultimate responsibility for the appropriateness of the accounting policies used by the District. The District did not adopt any significant new accounting policies nor have there been any changes in existing significant accounting policies during the current period.

Significant Accounting Policies

We did not identify any significant accounting policies in controversial or emerging areas for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus.

Significant Unusual Transactions

We did not identify any significant unusual transactions.

Management's Judgments and Accounting Estimates

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the preparation of financial statements and are based upon management's current judgment. The process used by management encompasses their knowledge and experience about past and current events and certain assumptions about future events. You may wish to monitor throughout the year the process used to compute and record these accounting estimates. The following describes the significant accounting estimates reflected in the District's financial statements:

Useful Lives of Capitalized Assets and Depreciation

The District assigns useful lives to capital assets of between 5 and 50 years. The District depreciates the assets on a straight-line basis. The actual useful lives of these assets could differ from the assigned lives.

Other Postemployment Benefits

In accordance with GASB Statement No. 75, each participating cost-sharing employer is required to report its proportionate share of the collective net OPEB liability, OPEB expense, and deferred outflows/inflows of resources. SBCERS actuaries calculated these amounts in accordance with the parameters of GASB 75.

Net Pension Liability

In accordance with GASB Statement No. 68, each participating cost-sharing employer is required to report its proportionate share of the collective net pension liability, pension expense, and deferred outflows/inflows of resources. SBCERS actuaries calculated these amounts in accordance with the parameters of GASB 68.

Audit Adjustments and Uncorrected Misstatements

Audit adjustments, other than those that are clearly trivial, proposed by us and recorded by the District are noted below. Audit adjustments for this purpose, do not include those adjustments resulting from bookkeeping assistance that management has requested we provide in connection with the audit.

The following adjustments were recorded after the initial trial balance was provided:

- \$40,150 to include cash accounts not recorded by the County.
- \$18,576 to accrue accounts payable at year end.
- \$11,000 to correct cash transferred to District's cash accounts which was recorded as an expense.

We are not aware of any uncorrected misstatements other than misstatements that are clearly trivial.

Observations About the Audit Process

Disagreements with Management

We encountered no disagreements with management over the application of significant accounting principles, the basis for management's judgments on any significant matters, the scope of the audit, or significant disclosures to be included in the financial statements.

Consultations with Other Accountants

We are not aware of any consultations management had with other accountants about accounting or auditing matters.

Significant Issues Discussed with Management

No significant issues arising from the audit were discussed or were the subject of correspondence with management.

Significant Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We did not encounter any difficulties in dealing with management during the audit.

Difficult or Contentious Matters That Required Consultation

We did not encounter any significant and difficult or contentious matters that required consultation outside the engagement team.

Shared Responsibilities: AICPA Independence

The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) regularly emphasizes that auditor independence is a **joint responsibility** and is managed most effectively when management, audit committees (or their equivalents), and audit firms work together in considering compliance with AICPA independence rules. For Bartlett, Pringle and Wolf, LLP (BPW) to fulfill its professional responsibility to maintain and monitor independence, management, the Board of Directors, and BPW each play an important role.

Our Responsibilities

- AICPA rules require independence both of mind and in appearance when providing audit and other attestation services. BPW is to ensure that the AICPA's General Requirements for performing non-attest services are adhered to and included in all letters of engagement.
- Maintain a system of quality management over compliance with independence rules and firm policies.

The District's Responsibilities

- Timely inform BPW, before the effective date of transactions or other business changes, of the following:
 - New affiliates, directors, or officers.
 - Change in corporate structure impacting affiliates such as add-on acquisitions or exits.
- Provide necessary affiliate information such as new or updated investment structure charts, as well as financial information required to perform materiality calculations needed for making affiliate determinations.
- Understand and conclude on the permissibility, prior to the District and its affiliates, officers, directors, or persons in a decision-making capacity, engaging in business relationships with BPW.
- Not entering into relationships resulting in close family members of BPW covered persons, temporarily or permanently acting as an officer, director, or person in an accounting or financial reporting oversight role at the District.

Significant Written Communications Between Management and Our Firm

Copies of significant written communications between our firm and the management of the District, including the draft representation letter to be dated January 9, 2025 and provided to us by management.

Conclusion

This letter is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of Directors and management it is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties. It will be our pleasure to respond to any questions you have about this report. We appreciate the opportunity to continue to be of service to Summerland Sanitary District.

Very truly yours,

Bartlett, Pringle & Wolf, LLP

BARTLETT, PRINGLE & WOLF, LLP
Certified Public Accountants and Consultants