

Aromas Water District

Management Report

June 30, 2023



C.J. Brown & Company CPAs
An Accountancy Corporation

**Aromas Water District
Management Report**

Table of Contents

<u>Item</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
General Introduction	1
Other Comments	2
Appendix:	
Audit/Finance Committee Letter	1-4
Schedule of Audit Adjusting and Reclassifying Journal Entries	5



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An Accountancy Corporation

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Board of Directors
Aromas Water District
Aromas, California

Dear Members of the Board:

In planning and performing our audit of the basic financial statements of the Aromas Water District (District) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, we 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 our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting.

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 over financial reporting, 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 reasonable possibility exists when the likelihood of an event occurring is either reasonably possible or probable as defined as follows:

- *Reasonably possible*. The chance of the future event or events occurring is more than remote but less than likely.
- *Probable*. The future event or events are likely to occur.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Other Comments

Our only comment, that has been discussed, all of which have been discussed with the appropriate members of management, is summarized as follows:

Disclosure of Audit Adjustments and Reclassifications

As your external auditor, we assume that the books and records of the District are properly adjusted before the audit begins. In many cases, however, audit adjustments and reclassifications are made in the normal course of the audit process to present the District's financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America or for comparison purposes with the prior year. For the Board of Directors to gain a full and complete understanding and appreciation of the scope and extent of the audit process, we have presented these audit adjustments and reclassifications as an attachment to this letter. There can be very reasonable explanations for situations of having numerous adjustments as well as having no adjustments at all. However, the issue is simply disclosure of the adjustments and reclassifications that were made and to provide the Board of Directors with a better understanding of the scope of the audit.

* * * * *

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Board of Directors, and others within the District, and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties. This restriction is not intended to limit the distribution of this letter, which is a matter of public record.

We appreciate the courtesy and cooperation extended to us during our examination. We would be pleased to discuss the contents of this letter with you at your convenience. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

C.J. Brown & Company, CPAs

C.J. Brown & Company, CPAs
Cypress, California
January 23, 2024

APPENDIX

Aromas Water District

Audit/Finance Committee Letter

June 30, 2023



Christopher J. Brown, CPA, CGMA
Jonathan Abadesco, CPA
Jeffrey Palmer

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Board of Directors
Aromas Water District
Aromas, California

We have audited the financial statements of the Aromas Water District (District) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and have issued our report thereon dated January 23, 2024. Professional standards require that we advise you of the following matters relating to our audit.

Our Responsibility in Relation to the Financial Statement Audit

As communicated in our engagement letter dated May 11, 2023, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to form and express an opinion about whether the financial statements that have been prepared by management with your oversight are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of your respective responsibilities.

Our responsibility, as prescribed by professional standards, is to plan and perform our audit to obtain reasonable, rather than absolute, assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit of financial statements includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, as part of our audit, we considered the internal control of the District solely for the purpose of determining our audit procedures and not to provide any assurance concerning such internal control.

We are also responsible for communicating significant matters related to the audit that are, in our professional judgment, relevant to your responsibilities in overseeing the financial reporting process. However, we are not required to design procedures for the purpose of identifying other matters to communicate to you.

If any, we have provided our findings regarding significant control deficiencies over financial reporting and material noncompliance, and other matters noted during our audit in a separate letter to you dated January 23, 2024.

Planned Scope and Timing of the Audit

We conducted our audit consistent with the planned scope and timing we previously communicated to you.

Compliance with All Ethics Requirements Regarding Independence

The engagement team, others in our firm, as appropriate, our firm, and our network firms have complied with all relevant ethical requirements regarding independence.

In preparing the financial statements based on information provided by the District, an auditor that was not part of the engagement team performed an independent review of the financial statements to reduce the threat of self-review to an acceptable level.

Required Risk Assessment Procedures per Auditing Standards

As auditors of the District, we are required per AU-C Section 240, “Consideration of Fraud in a Financial Statement Audit”, to “ordinarily” presume and consider the following risks in designing our audit procedures:

- Management override of controls
- Revenue recognition

Qualitative Aspects of the Entity’s Significant Accounting Practices

Significant Accounting Policies

Management has the responsibility to select and use appropriate accounting policies. A summary of the significant accounting policies adopted by the District is included in Note 1 to the financial statements. There have been no initial selection of accounting policies and no other changes in significant accounting policies or their application during 2023. No other matters have come to our attention that would require us, under professional standards, to inform you about (1) the methods used to account for significant unusual transactions and (2) the effect of significant accounting policies in controversial or emerging areas for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus.

Significant Accounting Estimates

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management’s current judgments. Those judgments are normally based on knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ markedly from management’s current judgments. The most sensitive accounting estimates affecting the financial statements are as follows:

Management’s estimate of the fair value of cash and investments is based on information provided by financial institutions. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the fair value of cash and investments in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Management’s estimate of capital assets depreciation is based on historical estimates of each capitalized item’s useful life expectancy or cost recovery period. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the capital asset depreciation calculations in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Management’s estimate of the defined benefit pension plan’s deferred outflows of resources, net pension liability, and deferred inflows of resources are based on an actuarial valuation of these amounts which was conducted by a third-party actuary. We evaluated the basis, actuarial methods and assumptions used by the actuary to calculate these amounts for the District to determine that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Financial Statement Disclosures

Certain financial statement disclosures involve significant judgment and are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The most sensitive disclosures affecting the District’s financial statements relate to:

The disclosure of fair value of cash and cash equivalents in Note 2 to the basic financial statements represents amounts susceptible to market fluctuations.

The disclosure of capital assets, net in Note 3 to the basic financial statements is based on historical information which could differ from actual useful lives of each capitalized item.

Financial Statement Disclosures, continued

The disclosure of the District's defined benefit pension plan in Note 7 to the basic financial statements is based on actuarial assumptions which could differ from actual costs.

Significant Unusual Transactions

For purposes of this communication, professional standards require us to communicate to you significant unusual transactions identified during our audit. No significant unusual transactions identified as a result of our audit procedures were brought to the attention of management:

Identified or Suspected Fraud

We have not identified or have not obtained information that indicates that fraud may have occurred.

Significant Difficulties Encountered during the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management relating to the performance of the audit.

Uncorrected and Corrected Misstatements

For purposes of this communication, professional standards also require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that we believe are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Further, professional standards require us to also communicate the effect of uncorrected misstatements related to prior periods on the relevant classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures, and the financial statements as a whole and each applicable opinion unit. There were no uncorrected misstatements whose effects in the current and prior periods, as determined by management, are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

In addition, professional standards require us to communicate to you all material, corrected misstatements that were brought to the attention of management as a result of our audit procedures. The attached schedule on page 5 presents the material journal entries that we identified as a result of our audit procedures and were brought to the attention of, and corrected by, management.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, concerning a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, which could be significant to the District's financial statements or the auditor's report. No such disagreements arose during the course of the audit.

Circumstances that Affect the Form and Content of the Auditor's Report

For purposes of this letter, professional standards require that we communicate any circumstances that affect the form and content of our auditor's report. There were no circumstances that affect the form and content of the auditor's report.

Representations Requested from Management

We have requested certain written representations from management, which are included in the attached letter dated January 23, 2024.

Management's Consultations with Other Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters. Management informed us that, and to our knowledge, there were no consultations with other accountants regarding auditing and accounting matters.

Other Significant Matters, Findings, or Issues

In the normal course of our professional association with the District, we generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, significant events or transactions that occurred during the year, operating and regulatory conditions affecting the entity, and operational plans and strategies that may affect the risks of material misstatement. None of the matters discussed resulted in a condition to our retention as the District's auditors.

Other Matters

We applied certain limited procedures to the Management Discussion and Analysis, Schedules of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability, and Schedules of Pension Plan Contributions, which are required supplementary information (RSI) that supplements the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

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

Restrictions on Use

This information is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of Directors and management of the District and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties. This restriction is not intended to limit the distribution of this letter, which is a matter of public record.

Conclusion

We appreciate the cooperation extended us by Robert Johnson, General Manager, and Ester Giron, Management Analyst, in the performance of our audit testwork.

We will be pleased to respond to any questions you have about the foregoing. We appreciate the opportunity to continue to be of service to the District.

C.J. Brown & Company, CPAs

C.J. Brown & Company, CPAs

Cypress, California

January 23, 2024

Aromas Water District
Schedule of Audit Adjusting and Reclassifying Journal Entries
June 30, 2023

Account	Description	Debit	Credit
Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 1			
To adjust LAIF account with FMV adjustment.			
CJB308	Unrealized LAIF FMV Adjustment	\$ 100,412.72	
1020	LAIF-State of Ca xx-05		100,412.72
Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 2			
To adjust net pensions liability.			
1700	Deferred Outflow of Resources	178,299.00	
2900	Deferred Inflows- Actuarial	268,375.00	
2400	GASB 68 Pension Liability		296,068.00
477	Retirement		150,606.00
Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 3			
To adjust interest payable			
2200	Interest Payable	34,237.33	
417	Capital Loan Interest		34,237.33
Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 4			
To adjust assessment receivable			
3090	Oakridge / OAWA Assessments	58,546.68	
1291	Accounts Rec - Orchard Acres		14,508.96
1292	Accounts Rec - USDA Loan	\$	44,037.72