Date: August 24, 2023

To: Governing Board Members

From: Salian Garcia, Fiscal Manager

Through: Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

Subject: Item 8: Receive and File the LCWA Annual Audit and Related Reports for

FY 2021/2022

**RECOMMENDATION**: That the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (LCWA) Governing Board receive and file the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 LCWA Annual Audit and Related Reports as submitted and detailed in the attached Exhibit A.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Attached are the results of the FY 2021/22 LCWA Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2022 (Exhibit A) and its respective Management Report (Exhibit B).

#### SUMMARY/FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS:

- C.J. Brown & Company CPAs (formerly Fedak & Brown LLP) conducted the audit with the cooperation of the City of Long Beach and LCWA staff.
- During the FY 2021/2022, the Authority's net position increased by 2.12% or \$239,937 to \$11,573,740 as a result of the Authority's ongoing operations.
- Total revenues increased by 49.81% or \$296,844 to \$892,740 primarily due to increased project, grant, and land management activity as the pandemic waned. Subsequently, total expenses increased by 57.46% or \$238,211 to \$652,803 primarily due to the increase in consulting and grant management expenditures from the prior year.
- Capital assets amount to \$11,000,000 with no change from the previous fiscal year.
- The Authority continues to have no long-term debt.
- Material weaknesses or deficiencies in internal control were not identified during the audit.
- No findings noted in the current fiscal year.

#### FISCAL:

Receive and file of the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 audit has no financial impact.

Exhibit A



# Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority Annual Financial Report

# For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2022



## **Our Mission Statement**

"To provide for a comprehensive program of acquisition, protection, conservation, restoration, maintenance and operation, and environmental enhancement of the Los Cerritos Wetlands area consistent with the goals of flood protection, habitat protection and restoration, and improved water supply, water quality, groundwater recharge and water conservation."

## **Our Governing Board**

#### **Members**

City of Long Beach

Chair: Suzie Price *Alternate: Vacant* 

## **City of Seal Beach**

Vice-Chair: Joe Kalmick Alternate: Vacant

### **State Coastal Conservancy**

Member: Amy Hutzel *Alternate: Joan Cardellino* 

## **Rivers and Mountains Conservancy**

Member: Roberto Uranga *Alternate: Vacant* 

## **Annual Financial Report**

For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2022

## Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority Annual Financial Report For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2022

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# **Financial Section**





Jonathan Abadesco, CPA

Jeffrey Palmer

## C.J. Brown & Company CPAs

#### An Accountancy Corporation

Cypress Office:

10805 Holder Street, Suite 150 Cypress, California 90630 (657) 214-2307

#### **Riverside Office:**

5051 Canyon Crest Drive, Suite 203 Riverside, California 92507 (657) 214-2307

#### **Independent Auditor's Report**

Governing Board Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority Long Beach, California

#### **Report on the Financial Statements**

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities of Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (Authority) as of and for the year ended September 30, 2022, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Authority's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities of the Authority, as of September 30, 2022, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our 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 State Controller's Minimum Audit Requirements for California Special Districts. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### Responsibility of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes 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.

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 Authority'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.

#### **Independent Auditor's Report, continued**

#### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audits of the Financial Statements

Our 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 our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS 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 GAAS and Government Auditing Standards, we

- 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 Authority'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.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are 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 we identified during the audit.

#### **Independent Auditor's Report, continued**

#### **Other Matters**

#### Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis on pages 4 through 7 and the required supplementary information on page 24 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, 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. We 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 we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

#### Report on Summarized Comparative Information

We have previously audited the Authority's fiscal year end September 30, 2021, financial statements, and we expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those audited financial statements in our report dated August 11, 2022. In our opinion, the summarized comparative information presented herein as of and for the year ended September 30, 2022, is consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements from which it has been derived.

#### Other Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Authority's basic financial statements. The introductory section is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The introductory section has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance.

#### Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

C.J. Brown & Company, CPAs

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated April 21, 2023, on our consideration of the Authority's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on 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 Authority's internal control over financial reporting and compliance. This report can be found on pages 25 and 26.

C.J. Brown & Company CPAs

Cypress, California April 21, 2023

#### Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority Management's Discussion and Analysis For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2022 With Comparative Amounts as of September 30, 2021

As management of the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (Authority), we offer readers of the Authority's financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities and performance of the Authority for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2022. Please read it in conjunction with additional information that we have furnished in the accompanying basic financial statements, which follow this section.

#### **Financial Highlights**

- The Authority's net position increased 2.12% or \$239,937 from \$11,333,803 to \$11,573,740 as a result of ongoing operations.
- The Authority's total revenues increased 49.81% or \$296,844 from \$595,896 to \$892,740.
- The Authority's total expenses increased 57.46% or \$238,211 from \$414,592 to \$652,803.

#### **Using This Financial Report**

This annual report consists of a series of financial statements. The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities provide information about the activities and performance of the Authority using accounting methods similar to those used by private sector companies.

The Statement of Net Position includes all of the Authority's investments in resources (assets), deferred outflows of resources, the obligations to creditors (liabilities), and deferred inflows of resources. It also provides the basis for computing a rate of return, evaluating the capital structure of the Authority, and assessing the liquidity and financial flexibility of the Authority. All of the current year's revenue and expenses are accounted for in the Statement of Activities. This statement measures the success of the Authority's operations over the past year and can be used to determine the Authority's profitability and credit worthiness.

#### **Government-wide Financial Statements**

#### Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities

One of the most important questions asked about the Authority's finances is, "Is the Authority better off or worse off as a result of this year's activities?" The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities report information about the Authority in a way that helps answer this question.

These statements include all assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources, using the *accrual basis of accounting*, which is similar to the accounting used by most private sector companies. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are taken into account regardless of when the cash is received or paid.

These two statements report the Authority's *net position* and changes in them. One can think of the Authority's *net position* and changes in it. One can think of the Authority's net position (assets and deferred outflows of resources, less liabilities and deferred inflows of resources), as one way to measure the Authority's financial health, or *financial position*. Over time, *increases or decreases* in the Authority's net position are one indicator of whether its *financial health* is improving or deteriorating. However, one will need to consider other non-financial factors such as changes in the Authority's organizational agreements to assess the *overall health* of the Authority in future periods.

Management's Discussion and Analysis, continued For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2022 With Comparative Amounts as of September 30, 2021

#### **Governmental Funds Financial Statements**

#### Balance Sheet and Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance

Governmental funds are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-wide financial statements, governmental fund financial statements focus on near-term inflows and outflows of spendable resources, as well as on balances of spendable resources available at the end of the fiscal year. Such information may be useful in evaluating a government's near-term financing requirements.

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for *governmental funds* with similar information presented for *governmental activities* in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, readers may better understand the long-term impact of the government's near-term financing decisions. Both the governmental fund balance sheet and the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance provide a reconciliation to facilitate this comparison between *governmental funds* and *governmental activities*.

#### **Notes to the Basic Financial Statements**

The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements. The notes to the basic financial statements can be found on pages 12 through 23.

#### Other Information

In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also presents certain required supplementary information concerning the Authority's budgetary information and compliance.

#### **Government-wide Financial Analysis**

#### **Condensed Statements of Net Position**

	_	2022	2021	Change
Assets:				
Current assets	\$	845,526	501,688	343,838
Capital assets, net	_	11,000,000	11,000,000	
Total assets	_	11,845,526	11,501,688	343,838
Liabilities:				
Current liabilities	_	271,786	167,885	103,901
<b>Total liabilities</b>	_	271,786	167,885	103,901
Net position:				
Net investment in capital assets		11,000,000	11,000,000	-
Unrestricted	_	573,740	333,803	239,937
<b>Total net position</b>	\$_	11,573,740	11,333,803	239,937

As noted earlier, net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. In the case of the Authority, assets of the Authority exceeded liabilities by \$11,573,740 as of September 30, 2022. At the end of fiscal year 2022, the Authority shows a positive balance in its unrestricted net position of \$573,740.

Management's Discussion and Analysis, continued For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2022 With Comparative Amounts as of September 30, 2021

#### Government-wide Financial Analysis, continued

#### **Condensed Statements of Activities**

Governmental Activities	_	2022	2021	Change
Expenses:				
Authority operations	\$_	652,803	414,592	238,211
<b>Total expenses</b>	_	652,803	414,592	238,211
Revenues:				
Program revenues		802,050	525,057	276,993
General revenues	_	90,690	70,839	19,851
Total revenues	_	892,740	595,896	296,844
Change in net position		239,937	181,304	58,633
Net position – beginning of year	_	11,333,803	11,152,499	181,304
Net position – end of year	\$_	11,573,740	11,333,803	239,937

The Statement of Activities shows how the government's net position changed during the fiscal year. In the case of the Authority, net position increased by \$239,937 during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2022.

#### A closer examination reveals that:

The Authority's total revenues from all sources increased 49.81% or \$296,844 to \$892,740. Program revenues increased 52.75% or \$276,993 to \$802,050, due to increases of \$400,664 in capital grants sourcing from private agencies and \$500 in contributions for operations, which were offset by decreases of \$103,822 in capital grants sourcing from state and county agencies and \$20,349 in land transfer agreement reimbursements. General revenues increased 28.02% or \$19,851 to \$90,690, primarily due to increases of \$17,900 in miscellaneous income and \$1,892 in rental income as compared to the prior year.

The Authority's total expenses increased 57.46%, or \$238,211 to \$652,803, primarily due to increases of \$215,254 in consulting fees, \$23,401 in grant management, and \$11,979 in bad debt expense, which were offset by a decrease of \$15,701 in legal fees as compared to the prior year.

#### **Governmental Funds Financial Analysis**

The focus of the Authority's *governmental funds* is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of *spendable* resources. Such information is useful in assessing the Authority's financing requirements. In particular, the *unreserved fund balance* may serve as a useful measure of the government's net resources for spending at the end of the fiscal year.

As of September 30, 2022, the Authority's General Fund reported a fund balance of \$573,740. Of the fund balance reported, an amount of \$7,814 is designated as *non-spendable* as it has already been spent towards prepaid insurance. The remaining balance of \$565,926 constitutes the Authority's *unassigned fund balance* that is available for future Authority expenditures.

Management's Discussion and Analysis, continued For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2022 With Comparative Amounts as of September 30, 2021

#### **General Fund Budgetary Highlights**

At fiscal year-end, actual expenditures for the General Fund were \$132,092 more than final budgeted expenditures and actual revenues were \$417,873 more than final budgeted revenues. This was principally due to higher than anticipated grant funding of \$405,359 from private agencies and \$12,514 from state and county sources, which were offset by lower than anticipated revenue of \$60,311 from land transfer agreement reimbursements.

#### **Capital Asset Administration**

At the end of fiscal year 2022, the Authority's investment in capital assets amounted to \$11,000,000. This investment in capital assets includes land that is managed by the Authority.

Changes in capital assets for 2022 were as follows:

	Balance			Balance
_	2021	Additions	Deletions	2022
Land \$_	11,000,000		_	11,000,000
Total capital assets, net \$	11,000,000			11,000,000

#### **Conditions Affecting Current Financial Position**

The COVID-19 pandemic in the United States has caused business disruption through labor shortages and business closings. While the disruption is currently expected to be temporary, there is considerable uncertainty around the duration of the disruption. However, the related financial impact on the Authority and the duration cannot be estimated at this time.

Management is unaware of any other conditions which could have a significant impact on the Authority's current financial position, net position or operating results based on past, present, and future events.

#### **Requests for Information**

The Authority's basic financial statements are designed to present users with a general overview of the Authority's finances and to demonstrate the Authority's accountability. If you have any questions about the report or need additional information, please contact the Authority at Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority, C/O the City of Long Beach Financial Management Department, 411 W. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90802 or directly at 100 Old San Gabriel Canyon Rd., Azusa, CA 91702, (626) 815-1019.

# **Basic Financial Statements**

#### Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority Statement of Net Position September 30, 2022

	_	2022
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents (note 2)	\$	634,840
Accounts receivable (note 3)		202,872
Prepaid insurance	_	7,814
Total current assets	_	845,526
Non-current assets:		
Capital assets, net (note 4)	_	11,000,000
Total assets	_	11,845,526
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable		269,886
Security deposit	_	1,900
Total current liabilities	_	271,786
Total liabilities	_	271,786
Net position:		
Net investment in capital assets		11,000,000
Unrestricted	_	573,740
Total net position	\$_	11,573,740

#### Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority Statement of Activities For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2022

Governmental Activities:	_	2022
Expenses:		
Authority operations	\$_	652,803
Total expenses	_	652,803
Program revenues:		
Contributions – operating		50,000
Capital grants – state and county		278,880
Capital grants – private agency		469,645
Land transfer agreement reimbursements	_	3,525
Total program revenues	_	802,050
Net program expense	_	(149,247)
General revenues:		
Rental income		65,612
Interest earnings		78
Miscellaneous income	_	25,000
Total general revenues	_	90,690
Change in net position		239,937
Net position – beginning of year	_	11,333,803
Net position – end of year	\$_	11,573,740

#### Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority Reconciliation of the Balance Sheet of Governmental Type Funds to the Statement of Net Position September 30, 2022

Current assets:           Cash and cash equivalents         \$ 634,840         -         634,840           Accounts receivable, net         202,872         -         202,872           Prepaid insurance         7,814         -         7,814           Total current assets         845,526         -         845,526           Non-current assets:           Capital assets, net         -         -         11,000,000         11,000,000           Total assets         \$ 845,526         11,000,000         11,845,526           Current liabilities:           Accounts payable         \$ 269,886         -         269,886           Security deposit         1,900         -         1,900           Total current liabilities         271,786         -         271,786           Total liabilities         271,786         -         271,786           Total liabilities         7,814         (7,814)         -           Unassigned         7,814         (7,814)         -           Total fund balance         \$ 373,740         (573,740)         -           Total fund balance         \$ 373,740         573,740		_	General Fund	Reclassifications & Eliminations	Statement of Net Position	
Accounts receivable, net         202,872         -         202,872           Prepaid insurance         7,814         -         7,814           Total current assets         845,526         -         845,526           Non-current assets:           Capital assets, net         -         11,000,000         11,000,000           Total assets         \$ 845,526         11,000,000         11,845,526           Current liabilities:           Accounts payable         \$ 269,886         -         269,886           Security deposit         1,900         -         1,900           Total current liabilities         271,786         -         271,786           Total liabilities         271,786         -         271,786           Fund balance: (note 5)         (7,814         (7,814)         -           Unassigned         573,740         (573,740)         -           Total fund balance         \$ 271,786         -         -         -           Total sibilities and fund balance         \$ 573,740         (573,740)         -         -           Net position:         11,000,000         11,000,000         11,000,000         11,000,000         11,000,000         11,573,740         573,74	Current assets:					
Prepaid insurance         7,814         -         7,814           Total current assets         845,526         -         845,526           Non-current assets:           Capital assets, net         -         11,000,000         11,000,000           Total assets         845,526         11,000,000         11,845,526           Current liabilities           Accounts payable         \$ 269,886         -         269,886           Security deposit         1,900         -         1,900           Total current liabilities         271,786         -         271,786           Total liabilities         7,814         (7,814)         -         271,786           Total fund balance         565,926         (565,926)         - <td>Cash and cash equivalents</td> <td>\$</td> <td>634,840</td> <td>-</td> <td>634,840</td>	Cash and cash equivalents	\$	634,840	-	634,840	
Non-current assets:         845,526         -         845,526           Non-current assets:         -         11,000,000         11,000,000           Total assets         845,526         11,000,000         11,845,526           Current liabilities:         845,526         11,000,000         11,845,526           Accounts payable         \$ 269,886         -         269,886           Security deposit         1,900         -         1,900           Total current liabilities         271,786         -         271,786           Total liabilities         271,786         -         271,786           Fund balance: (note 5)         7,814         (7,814)         -           Unassigned         7,814         (7,814)         -           Unassigned         565,926         (565,926)         -           Total fund balance         \$ 845,526         -           Net position:         8         845,526         -           Net position:         11,000,000         11,000,000         11,000,000           Unrestricted         573,740         573,740         573,740           Total net position         \$ 11,573,740         11,573,740           Seconciliation:	Accounts receivable, net		202,872	-	202,872	
Non-current assets:         11,000,000         11,573,740         1573,740         573,740 <th colspan<="" td=""><td>Prepaid insurance</td><td>_</td><td>7,814</td><td></td><td>7,814</td></th>	<td>Prepaid insurance</td> <td>_</td> <td>7,814</td> <td></td> <td>7,814</td>	Prepaid insurance	_	7,814		7,814
Capital assets, net         -         11,000,000         11,000,000           Total assets         845,526         11,000,000         11,845,526           Current liabilities:           Accounts payable         \$ 269,886         -         269,886           Security deposit         1,900         -         1,900           Total current liabilities         271,786         -         271,786           Total liabilities         271,786         -         271,786           Fund balance: (note 5)         7,814         (7,814)         -           Unassigned         565,926         (565,926)         -           Total fund balance         573,740         (573,740)         -           Total liabilities and fund balance         845,526         *           Net position:           Net investment in capital assets         11,000,000         11,000,000           Unrestricted         573,740         573,740         573,740           Total net position         \$ 11,573,740         11,573,740           Reconciliation:           Fund balance of governmental funds         \$ 573,740         \$ 573,740           Amounts reported for governmental activities are not current financial res	Total current assets	_	845,526		845,526	
Total assets         \$ 845,526         11,000,000         11,845,526           Current liabilities:           Accounts payable         \$ 269,886         -         269,886           Security deposit         1,900         -         1,900           Total current liabilities         271,786         -         271,786           Total liabilities         271,786         -         271,786           Fund balance: (note 5)         (note 5)         -         271,786           Nonspendable         7,814         (7,814)         -           Unassigned         565,926         (565,926)         -           Total fund balance         \$ 845,526         -           Net position:           Net position:         11,000,000         11,000,000           Unrestricted         573,740         573,740         573,740           Total net position         \$ 11,573,740         11,573,740           Reconciliation:           Fund balance of governmental funds         \$ 573,740           Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position is different because:           Capital assets used in governmental activities are not current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the	Non-current assets:					
Current liabilities:           Accounts payable         \$ 269,886         -         269,886           Security deposit         1,900         -         1,900           Total current liabilities         271,786         -         271,786           Total liabilities         271,786         -         271,786           Fund balance: (note 5)         Nonspendable         7,814         (7,814)         -           Unassigned         565,926         (565,926)         -           Total fund balance         \$ 73,740         (573,740)         -           Total liabilities and fund balance         \$ 845,526         *           Net position:           Net investment in capital assets         11,000,000         11,000,000           Unrestricted         573,740         573,740         573,740           Total net position         \$ 11,573,740         11,573,740           Reconciliation:           Fund balance of governmental funds         \$ 573,740           Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position is different because:           Capital assets used in governmental activities are not current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds balance sheet.         11,000,0	Capital assets, net	_	-	11,000,000	11,000,000	
Accounts payable         \$ 269,886         -         269,886           Security deposit         1,900         -         1,900           Total current liabilities         271,786         -         271,786           Total liabilities         271,786         -         271,786           Fund balance: (note 5)           Nonspendable         7,814         (7,814)         -           Unassigned         565,926         (565,926)         -           Total fund balance         \$ 845,526         -           Net position:           Net investment in capital assets         11,000,000         11,000,000           Unrestricted         573,740         573,740         573,740           Total net position         \$ 11,573,740         11,573,740           Reconciliation:           Fund balance of governmental funds         \$ 573,740         573,740           Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position is different because:           Capital assets used in governmental activities are not current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds balance sheet.         11,000,000	Total assets	\$ _	845,526	11,000,000	11,845,526	
Security deposit         1,900         -         1,900           Total current liabilities         271,786         -         271,786           Total liabilities         271,786         -         271,786           Fund balance: (note 5)         (7,814)         -         -           Nonspendable         7,814         (7,814)         -           Unassigned         565,926         (565,926)         -           Total fund balance         \$73,740         (573,740)         -           Net position:         11,000,000         11,000,000         11,000,000           Unrestricted         573,740         573,740         573,740           Total net position         \$11,573,740         11,573,740           Reconciliation:           Fund balance of governmental funds         \$573,740           Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position is different because:           Capital assets used in governmental activities are not current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds balance sheet.         11,000,000	Current liabilities:					
Total current liabilities         271,786         -         271,786           Total liabilities         271,786         -         271,786           Fund balance: (note 5)           Nonspendable         7,814         (7,814)         -           Unassigned         565,926         (565,926)         -           Total fund balance         \$73,740         (573,740)         -           Total liabilities and fund balance         \$845,526         845,526 </td <td>Accounts payable</td> <td>\$</td> <td>269,886</td> <td>-</td> <td>269,886</td>	Accounts payable	\$	269,886	-	269,886	
Total liabilities         271,786         -         271,786           Fund balance: (note 5)           Nonspendable         7,814         (7,814)         -           Unassigned         565,926         (565,926)         -           Total fund balance         573,740         (573,740)         -           Total liabilities and fund balance         845,526         *           Net position:           Net investment in capital assets         11,000,000         11,000,000           Unrestricted         573,740         573,740           Total net position         \$ 11,573,740         11,573,740           Reconciliation:           Fund balance of governmental funds         \$ 573,740           Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position is different because:           Capital assets used in governmental activities are not current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds balance sheet.         11,000,000	Security deposit	_	1,900		1,900	
Fund balance: (note 5)  Nonspendable Unassigned  Total fund balance  Total fund balance  Total liabilities and fund balance  Total liabili	Total current liabilities	_	271,786		271,786	
Nonspendable 7,814 (7,814) - Unassigned 565,926 (565,926) -  Total fund balance 573,740 (573,740) -  Total liabilities and fund balance 845,526  Net position:  Net investment in capital assets 11,000,000 11,000,000 Unrestricted 573,740 573,740 573,740 573,740   Total net position:  Reconciliation:  Fund balance of governmental funds \$573,740 11,573,740 11,573,740  11,573,740	Total liabilities	_	271,786		271,786	
Unassigned 565,926 (565,926) -  Total fund balance 573,740 (573,740) -  Total liabilities and fund balance \$845,526  Net position:  Net investment in capital assets 11,000,000 11,000,000 Unrestricted 573,740 573,740  Total net position \$11,573,740 11,573,740  Reconciliation:  Fund balance of governmental funds \$573,740 and 573,740 and 573,740  Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position is different because:  Capital assets used in governmental activities are not current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds balance sheet. 11,000,000	Fund balance: (note 5)					
Total fund balance 573,740 (573,740) - Total liabilities and fund balance 845,526  Net position: Net investment in capital assets 11,000,000 11,000,000 Unrestricted 573,740 573,740  Total net position \$11,573,740 11,573,740  Reconciliation: Fund balance of governmental funds \$573,740 \$573,740  Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position is different because:  Capital assets used in governmental activities are not current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds balance sheet. 11,000,000	Nonspendable		7,814	(7,814)	-	
Total liabilities and fund balance \$ 845,526  Net position:  Net investment in capital assets 11,000,000 11,000,000 Unrestricted 573,740 573,740  Total net position \$ 11,573,740 11,573,740  Reconciliation:  Fund balance of governmental funds \$ 573,740  Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position is different because:  Capital assets used in governmental activities are not current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds balance sheet. 11,000,000	Unassigned	_	565,926	(565,926)		
Net investment in capital assets Unrestricted  Total net position  Reconciliation:  Fund balance of governmental funds  Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position is different because:  Capital assets used in governmental funds balance sheet.  11,000,000  11,000,000  11,000,000  11,573,740  11,573,740  11,573,740  11,573,740  11,000,000	Total fund balance	_	573,740	(573,740)		
Net investment in capital assets Unrestricted  Total net position  Sample 11,000,000  11,000,000  573,740  11,573,740  11,573,740  Reconciliation:  Fund balance of governmental funds  Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position is different because:  Capital assets used in governmental activities are not current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds balance sheet.  11,000,000  11,000,000  11,000,000  11,000,000	Total liabilities and fund balance	\$ _	845,526			
Unrestricted573,740573,740Total net position\$ 11,573,74011,573,740Reconciliation:Fund balance of governmental funds\$ 573,740Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position is different because:\$ 573,740Capital assets used in governmental activities are not current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds balance sheet.\$ 11,000,000	Net position:					
Total net position \$ 11,573,740 11,573,740  Reconciliation:  Fund balance of governmental funds \$ 573,740  Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position is different because:  Capital assets used in governmental activities are not current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds balance sheet. 11,000,000	Net investment in capital assets			11,000,000	11,000,000	
Reconciliation:  Fund balance of governmental funds \$ 573,740  Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position is different because:  Capital assets used in governmental activities are not current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds balance sheet. 11,000,000	Unrestricted			573,740	573,740	
Fund balance of governmental funds \$ 573,740  Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position is different because:  Capital assets used in governmental activities are not current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds balance sheet. 11,000,000	Total net position			\$ 11,573,740	11,573,740	
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position is different because:  Capital assets used in governmental activities are not current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds balance sheet.  11,000,000	Reconciliation:					
is different because:  Capital assets used in governmental activities are not current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds balance sheet.  11,000,000	Fund balance of governmental funds			5	573,740	
and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds balance sheet. 11,000,000		s in th	ne statement o	f net position		
	-				11,000,000	
thet position of governmental activities	Net position of governmental activities			9	5 11,573,740	

See the accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

## Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance of Governmental Type Funds to the Statement of Activities For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2022

	<u>-</u>	General Fund	Reclassifications & Eliminations	Statement of Activities
Expenditures/Expenses:				
Authority operations	\$_	652,803		652,803
Total expenditures/expenses	_	652,803		652,803
Program revenues:				
Contributions – operating		50,000	-	50,000
Capital grant – state and county		278,880	-	278,880
Capital grant – private agency		469,645	-	469,645
Land transfer agreement reimbursements	_	3,525		3,525
Total program revenues	_	802,050		802,050
Net program revenue				(149,247)
General revenues:				
Rental income		65,612	-	65,612
Interest earnings		78	-	78
Miscellaneous income	_	25,000		25,000
Total general revenues	_	90,690		90,690
Total revenues	_	892,740		
Excess of revenues				
over expenditures		239,937	(239,937)	-
Change in net position		-	239,937	239,937
Fund balance/Net position -				
beginning of year	_	333,803		11,333,803
Fund balance/Net position	\$ _	573,740		11,573,740
Reconciliation:				
Net change in fund balance of governmental fur	nd		\$	239,937
Change in net position of governmental activitie	s		\$	239,937

See the accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

#### (1) Reporting Entity and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### A. Organization and Operations of the Reporting Entity

In February 2006, a joint powers agreement was adopted among the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, State Coastal Conservancy, City of Long Beach, and the City of Seal Beach. The agreement established the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (Authority). Each party shall, subject to the availability of funds, make equal annual contributions (minimum \$5,000 and maximum \$25,000) to, or on behalf of, the Authority. The purpose of the Authority is to provide for a comprehensive program of acquisition, protection, conservation, restoration, maintenance and operation, and environmental enhancement of the Los Cerritos Wetlands area consistent with the goals of flood protection, habitat protection and restoration and improved water supply, water quality, groundwater recharge and water conservation. The Authority has the ability to acquire and own real property, although it does not have the power of eminent domain. A second major purpose of the Authority is to conduct restoration planning and implement that restoration.

The Authority entered into an agreement of land transfer with the Trust for Public Land for approximately 68 acres of property and surface rights; commonly known as the Bryant property in Long Beach, California. The Bryant property has been an active oil field for several decades and currently contains several active oil wells and associated pipelines, roads and buildings.

The acquisition of the Bryant property involved several legal agreements as follows:

- <u>Land Transfer Agreement</u> Under this agreement the Trust for Public Lands would cause the conveyance of surface fee interest in the 68 acres to the Authority. The Authority would not acquire the mineral rights or the lessor's interest in the oil and gas lease. The Authority would accept title to the surface fee interest property as-is, subject to the Land Use Agreement and the Indemnification Agreement as discussed below.
- <u>Land Use Agreement</u> This agreement is between Trust for Public Lands, Signal Hill Petroleum, and the Authority, acknowledging the intended use of the conveyed property and the retained property by Signal Hill Petroleum and the Authority. The purpose of the agreement is to ensure the intended use and access of the property for both the Authority and Signal Hill Petroleum.
- Termination of Oil and Gas Lease and Grant of Easement Agreement This agreement is to define the specific access over and use of the surface property that the Authority grants Signal Hill Petroleum to allow for the existing and future oil operations. The agreement also defines conditions for the oil operations to ensure that they are consistent with the Authority's intended use for habitat restoration and public access. The Authority grants specific easements to Signal Hill Petroleum for oil operations. The easement shall expire when all oil operations are abandoned, and Signal Hill Petroleum shall pay rent of \$25,000 per year to the Authority for the use of these easements.
- Environmental Indemnity Agreement- Under the terms of this agreement, Signal Hill Petroleum indemnifies parties from liabilities associated with any release of materials generated from the oil or gas operations beyond the levels accepted for industrial use. This indemnification only includes liabilities associated with past and future environmental releases associated with oil and gas operations but not for liability for contamination that is unrelated to those activities.

#### (1) Reporting Entity and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies, continued

#### **B.** Basis of Accounting and Measurement Focus

The basic financial statements of the Authority are composed of the following:

- Government-wide financial statements
- Fund financial statements
- Notes to the basic financial statements

#### Government-wide Financial Statements

These statements are presented on an *economic resources* measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Accordingly, all of the Authority's assets (including capital assets), deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources, including capital assets, are included in the accompanying Statement of Net Position. The Statement of Activities presents changes in net position. Under the accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized in the period in which the liability is incurred. The Statement of Activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function are offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function. The types of transactions reported as program revenues for the Authority are to be reported in three categories, if applicable: 1) charges for services, 2) operating grants and contributions, and 3) capital grants and contributions. Charges for services include revenues from customers or applicants who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods, services, or privileges provided by a given function. Grant and contributions include revenues restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function. Items not properly included among program revenues are reported instead as general revenues.

#### **Fund Financial Statements**

These statements include a Balance Sheet and a Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances for all major governmental funds. Accompanying these statements is a schedule to reconcile and explain the differences in net position as presented in these statements to the net position presented in the Government-wide Financial Statements.

Governmental funds are accounted for on a spending or *current financial resources* measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Accordingly, only current assets and liabilities are included on the Balance Sheet. The Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances present increases (revenues and other financing sources) and decreases (expenditures and other financing uses) in net current position. Under modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized in the accounting period in which they become measurable and available to finance expenditures of the current period. Accordingly, revenues are recorded when received in cash, except that revenues subject to accrual (generally 60-days after year-end) are recognized when due. The primary sources susceptible to accrual for the Authority are interest earnings, investment revenue and operating and capital grant revenues. Expenditures are generally recognized under the modified accrual basis of accounting when the related fund liability is incurred. However, exceptions to this rule include principal and interest on debt, which are recognized when due.

The Authority reports the following major governmental fund:

**General Fund** – is a government's only operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources of the Authority, except those required to be accounted for in another fund when necessary.

#### (1) Reporting Entity and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies, continued

#### C. Financial Reporting

The Authority's basic financial statements have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), as applied to governmental funds. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles.

The Authority has adopted the following GASB pronouncements in the current year:

In June 2017, the GASB issued Statement No. 87 - Leases. The objective of this Statement is to better meet the information needs of financial statement users by improving accounting and financial reporting for leases by governments. This Statement increases the usefulness of governments' financial statements by requiring recognition of certain lease assets and liabilities for leases that previously were classified as operating leases and recognized as inflows of resources or outflows of resources based on the payment provisions of the contract. It establishes a single model for lease accounting based on the foundational principle that leases are financings of the right to use an underlying asset. Under this Statement, a lessee is required to recognize a lease liability and an intangible right-to-use lease asset, and a lessor is required to recognize a lease receivable and a deferred inflow of resources, thereby enhancing the relevance and consistency of information about governments' leasing activities.

The requirements of this Statement were effective for reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2019; however, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the effective date has been postponed by 18 months.

In October 2021, the GASB issued Statement No. 98 – *The Annual Comprehensive Financial Report*. This Statement establishes the term annual comprehensive financial report and its acronym ACFR. That new term and acronym replace instances of Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and its acronym in generally accepted accounting principles for state and local governments.

This Statement was developed in response to concerns raised by stakeholders that the common pronunciation of the acronym for Annual Comprehensive Financial Report sounds like a profoundly objectionable racial slur. This Statement's introduction of the new term is founded on a commitment to promoting inclusiveness.

#### **D.** Financial Statement Elements

#### 1. Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources and disclosures of contingent assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources at the date of the financial statements and the reported changes in the Authority's net position during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

#### 2. Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Authority has contracted with the City of Long Beach Treasurer's Office to act as its fiscal agent. Substantially all of the Authority's cash is held in a financial institution bank account. The Authority considers all highly liquid investments with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

#### (1) Reporting Entity and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies, continued

#### D. Financial Statement Elements, continued

#### 3. Accounts Receivable and Allowance for Doubtful Accounts

The Authority extends credit to customers in the normal course of operations. When management deems customer accounts uncollectible, the Authority uses the allowance method for the reservation and write-off of those accounts.

#### 4. Prepaids

Certain payments to vendors reflect costs or deposits applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepaid items in both the government-wide and fund financial statements.

#### 5. Capital Assets

Capital assets are recorded in the government-wide financial statements. Included in capital assets is land held by the Authority. Donated assets are recorded at estimated fair market value at the date of donation. Capital outlay is recorded as expenditures of the General Fund and as assets in the government-wide financial statements to the extent the Authority's capitalization threshold is met.

#### 6. Net Position/Fund Balances

The financial statements utilize a net position presentation. Net position categories are follows:

- **Net Investment in Capital Assets** consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by any debt outstanding against the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets.
- **Restricted** consists of constraints placed on net position use through external constraints imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws and regulations of other governments, or constraints imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.
- **Unrestricted** consists of net position that do not meet the definition of *restricted* or *net investment in capital assets*.

#### 7. Fund Equity

The financial statements, governmental funds report fund balance as non-spendable, restricted, committed, assigned or unassigned based primarily on the extent to which the Authority is bound to honor constraints on how specific amounts can be spent.

- Nonspendable consists of amounts that cannot be spent because they are either (a) not spendable in form or (b) legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.
- Restricted consists of amounts with constraints placed on their use that are either (a) externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or (b) imposed by law through constitutional provisions enabling legislation.
- Committed consists of amounts that can only be used for specific purposes determined by formal action of the Authority's highest level of decision-making authority (the Governing Board) and that remain binding unless removed in the same manner. The underlying action that imposed the limitation needs to occur no later than the close of the reporting period.

#### (1) Reporting Entity and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies, continued

#### D. Financial Statement Elements, continued

#### 7. Fund Equity, continued

- Assigned consists of amounts that are constrained by the Authority's intent to be used for specific purposes. The intent can be established at either the highest level of decision-making, or by a body or an official designated for that purpose. This is also the classification for residual funds in the Authority's special revenue funds.
- Unassigned consists of the residual classification for the Authority's general fund that includes amounts not contained in the other classifications. In other funds, the unassigned classification is used only if expenditures incurred for specific purposes exceed the amounts restricted, committed, or assigned to those purposes.

The Governing Board established, modifies, or rescinds fund balance commitments and assignments by passage of an ordinance or resolution. This is done through adoption of the budget and subsequent budget amendments that occur throughout the year.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the Authority's policy to use restricted resources first, followed by the unrestricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned resources as they are needed.

#### Fund Balance Policy

The Authority believes that sound financial management principles require that sufficient funds be retained by the Authority to provide a stable financial base at all times. To retain this stable financial base, the Authority needs to maintain an unrestricted fund balance in its funds sufficient to fund cash flows of the Authority and to provide financial reserves for unanticipated expenditures and/or revenue shortfalls of an emergency nature. Committed, assigned, and unassigned fund balances are considered unrestricted.

The purpose of the Authority's fund balance policy is to maintain a prudent level of financial resources to protect against reducing service levels or raising taxes and fees because of temporary revenue shortfalls or unpredicted one-time expenditures.

#### 8. Budgetary Policies

The Authority follows specific instructions in establishing the budgetary data reflected in the financial statements. Each year the Authority's Executive Officer prepares and submits an operating and capital budget to the Board of Directors no later than September. The basis used to prepare the budget does not differ substantially in form from the modified accrual basis of accounting. The adopted budget becomes operative on October 1. The Board of Directors must approve all supplemental appropriations to the budget and transfers between major accounts.

#### (2) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents as of September 30, 2022 consisted of the following:

	2022
Deposits held with financial institutions	\$ 634,840

#### Custodial Credit Risk

Custodial credit risk for *deposits* is the risk that, in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, a government will not be able to recover its deposits or will not be able to recover collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The California Government Code and the Authority's investment policy does not contain legal or policy requirements that would limit the exposure to custodial credit risk for deposits, other than the following provision for deposits: The California Government Code requires that a financial institution secure deposits made by state or local governmental units by pledging securities in an undivided collateral pool held by a depository regulated under state law (unless so waived by the governmental unit). The market value of the pledged securities in the collateral pool must equal at least 110% of the total amount deposited by the public agencies. The Authority had deposits with a bank balance of \$634,840 as of September 30, 2022. Of the bank balance, up to \$250,000 is federally insured and any remaining balance is collateralized in accordance with the Code; however, the collateralized securities are not held in the Authority's name.

#### (3) Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts as of September 30, 2022 consists of the following:

	_	2022
Accounts receivable	\$	9,342
Accounts receivable - member agencies		10,000
Accounts receivable - grants		183,530
Total accounts receivable, net	\$	202,872

#### (4) Capital Assets

Changes in capital assets for the year were as follows:

	<b>Balance 2021</b>	Additions	Deletions	Balance 2022
Land \$	11,000,000			11,000,000
Total capital assets, net \$	11,000,000			11,000,000

#### (5) Fund Balance

Fund balances are presented in the following categories: Nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned (See Note (1) D.7 for a description of these categories). A detailed schedule of fund balance and their funding composition at September 30, 2022, is as follows:

Fund Balance Category			
Nonspendable: Prepaid insurance	\$	7,814	
Unassigned fund balance:		565,926	
Total fund balance	\$	573,740	

#### (6) Land Option and Exchange Agreement

On September 27, 2016, the Authority entered into a land exchange option agreement with Los Cerritos Wetlands, LLC (the LLC). Terms of the agreement call for non-refundable consideration in the amount of \$300,000 to be paid to the Authority for an initial option term of 4 years, with an optional term of 4 years thereafter. The agreement provides a right of termination clause in the event the LLC determines to terminate the agreement. Upon termination, the agreement calls for the Authority to refund the LLC \$200,000 within the first year of the agreement, or \$100,000 if exercised within second year of the agreement.

As of September 30, 2020, the Authority and the LLC had exercised the right to extend the term of the Land Exchange Agreement option to September 2, 2024.

#### (7) Risk Management

The Authority is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts, theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The Authority has purchased various commercial insurance policies to manage the potential liabilities that may occur from the previously named sources.

Settled claims have not exceeded any of the coverage amounts in any of the last three fiscal years and there were no reductions in the Authority's insurance coverage during the years ending September 30, 2022, 2021, and 2020. Liabilities are recorded when it is probable that a loss has been incurred and the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated net of the respective insurance coverage. Liabilities include an amount for claims that have been incurred but not reported (IBNR). There were no IBNR claims payable as of September 30, 2022, 2021, and 2020.

#### (8) Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statements Issued, Not Yet Effective

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) has issued several pronouncements prior to September 30, 2022, that have effective dates that may impact future financial presentations.

#### Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 91

In May 2019, the GASB issued Statement No. 91 – Conduit Debt Obligations. The primary objectives of this Statement are to provide a single method of reporting conduit debt obligations by issuers and eliminate diversity in practice associated with (1) commitments extended by issuers, (2) arrangements associated with conduit debt obligations, and (3) related note disclosures. This Statement achieves those objectives by clarifying the existing definition of a conduit debt obligation; establishing that a conduit debt obligation is not a liability of the issuer; establishing standards for accounting and financial reporting of additional commitments and voluntary commitments extended by issuers and arrangements associated with conduit debt obligations; and improving required note disclosures.

This Statement also addresses arrangements—often characterized as leases—that are associated with conduit debt obligations. In those arrangements, capital assets are constructed or acquired with the proceeds of a conduit debt obligation and used by third-party obligors in the course of their activities. Payments from third-party obligors are intended to cover and coincide with debt service payments. During those arrangements, issuers retain the titles to the capital assets. Those titles may or may not pass to the obligors at the end of the arrangements.

This Statement requires issuers to disclose general information about their conduit debt obligations, organized by type of commitment, including the aggregate outstanding principal amount of the issuers' conduit debt obligations and a description of each type of commitment. Issuers that recognize liabilities related to supporting the debt service of conduit debt obligations also should disclose information about the amount recognized and how the liabilities changed during the reporting period.

The requirements of this Statement were effective for reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2020; however, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the effective date has been postponed by one year. Earlier application is encouraged.

#### Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 92

In January 2020, the GASB issued Statement No. 92 – *Omnibus 2020*. The objectives of this Statement are to enhance comparability in accounting and financial reporting and to improve the consistency of authoritative literature by addressing practice issues that have been identified during implementation and application of certain GASB Statements.

The requirements of this Statement were as follows: (1) The requirements related to the effective date of Statement 87 and Implementation Guide 2019-3, reinsurance recoveries, and terminology used to refer to derivative instruments are effective upon issuance; (2) The requirements related to intra-entity transfers of assets and those related to the applicability of Statements 73 and 74 are effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2020; (3) The requirements related to application of Statement 84 to postemployment benefit arrangements and those related to nonrecurring fair value measurements of assets or liabilities are effective for reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2020; and (4) The requirements related to the measurement of liabilities (and assets, if any) associated with AROs in a government acquisition are effective for government acquisitions occurring in reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2020; however, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the effective date has been postponed by one year. Earlier application is encouraged and is permitted by topic.

# (8) Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statements Issued, Not Yet Effective, continued

#### Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 93

In March 2020, the GASB issued Statement No. 93 – Replacement of Interbank Offered Rates. The objective of this Statement is to address accounting and financial reporting implications that result from the replacement of an IBOR. This Statement achieves that objective by: (1) Providing exceptions for certain hedging derivative instruments to the hedge accounting termination provisions when an IBOR is replaced as the reference rate of the hedging derivative instrument's variable payment; (2) Clarifying the hedge accounting termination provisions when a hedged item is amended to replace the reference rate; (3) Clarifying that the uncertainty related to the continued availability of IBORs does not, by itself, affect the assessment of whether the occurrence of a hedged expected transaction is probable; (4) Removing LIBOR as an appropriate benchmark interest rate for the qualitative evaluation of the effectiveness of an interest rate swap; (5) Identifying a Secured Overnight Financing Rate and the Effective Federal Funds Rate as appropriate benchmark interest rates for the qualitative evaluation of the effectiveness of an interest rate swap; (6) Clarifying the definition of reference rate, as it is used in Statement 53, as amended; and (7) Providing an exception to the lease modifications guidance in Statement 87, as amended, for certain lease contracts that are amended solely to replace an IBOR as the rate upon which variable payments depend.

The requirements of this Statement were effective as follows: (1) The removal of LIBOR as an appropriate benchmark interest rate is effective for reporting periods ending after December 31, 2021; and (2) All other requirements of this Statement are effective for reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2020; however, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the effective dates have been postponed by one year. Earlier application is encouraged.

#### Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 94

In March 2020, the GASB issued Statement No. 94 – *Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements*. The primary objective of this Statement is to improve financial reporting by addressing issues related to public-private and public-public partnership arrangements (PPPs). As used in this Statement, a PPP is an arrangement in which a government (the transferor) contracts with an operator (a governmental or nongovernmental entity) to provide public services by conveying control of the right to operate or use a nonfinancial asset, such as infrastructure or other capital asset (the underlying PPP asset), for a period of time in an exchange or exchange-like transaction. Some PPPs meet the definition of a service concession arrangement (SCA), which the Board defines in this Statement as a PPP in which (1) the operator collects and is compensated by fees from third parties; (2) the transferor determines or has the ability to modify or approve which services the operator is required to provide, to whom the operator is required to provide the services, and the prices or rates that can be charged for the services; and (3) the transferor is entitled to significant residual interest in the service utility of the underlying PPP asset at the end of the arrangement.

This Statement also provides guidance for accounting and financial reporting for availability payment arrangements (APAs). As defined in this Statement, an APA is an arrangement in which a government compensates an operator for services that may include designing, constructing, financing, maintaining, or operating an underlying nonfinancial asset for a period of time in an exchange or exchange-like transaction.

The requirements of this Statement are effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2022, and all reporting periods thereafter. Earlier application is encouraged.

# (8) Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statements Issued, Not Yet Effective, continued

#### Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 96

In May 2020, the GASB issued Statement No. 96 – Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements. This Statement provides guidance on the accounting and financial reporting for subscription-based information technology arrangements (SBITAs) for government end users (governments). This Statement (1) defines a SBITA; (2) establishes that a SBITA results in a right-to-use subscription asset—an intangible asset—and a corresponding subscription liability; (3) provides the capitalization criteria for outlays other than subscription payments, including implementation costs of a SBITA; and (4) requires note disclosures regarding a SBITA. To the extent relevant, the standards for SBITAs are based on the standards established in Statement No. 87, Leases, as amended.

The requirements of this Statement are effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2022, and all reporting periods thereafter. Earlier application is encouraged.

#### Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 97

In June 2020, the GASB issued Statement No. 97 – Certain Component Unit Criteria, and Accounting and Financial Reporting for Internal Revenue Code Section 457 Deferred Compensation Plans—an amendment of GASB Statements No. 41 and No. 84, and a supersession of GASB Statement No. 32. The primary objectives of this Statement are to (1) increase consistency and comparability related to the reporting of fiduciary component units in circumstances in which a potential component unit does not have a governing board and the primary government performs the duties that a governing board typically would perform; (2) mitigate costs associated with the reporting of certain defined contribution pension plans, defined contribution other postemployment benefit (OPEB) plans, and employee benefit plans other than pension plans or OPEB plans (other employee benefit plans) as fiduciary component units in fiduciary fund financial statements; and (3) enhance the relevance, consistency, and comparability of the accounting and financial reporting for Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 457 deferred compensation plans (Section 457 plans) that meet the definition of a pension plan and for benefits provided through those plans.

The requirements of this Statement that (1) exempt primary governments that perform the duties that a governing board typically performs from treating the absence of a governing board the same as the appointment of a voting majority of a governing board in determining whether they are financially accountable for defined contribution pension plans, defined contribution OPEB plans, or other employee benefit plans and (2) limit the applicability of the financial burden criterion in paragraph 7 of Statement 84 to defined benefit pension plans and defined benefit OPEB plans that are administered through trusts that meet the criteria in paragraph 3 of Statement 67 or paragraph 3 of Statement 74, respectively, are effective immediately. The requirements of this Statement that are related to the accounting and financial reporting for Section 457 plans are effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2021. For purposes of determining whether a primary government is financially accountable for a potential component unit, the requirements of this Statement that provide that for all other arrangements, the absence of a governing board be treated the same as the appointment of a voting majority of a governing board if the primary government performs the duties that a governing board typically would perform, are effective for reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2021. Earlier application of those requirements is encouraged and permitted by requirement as specified within this Statement. The Board considered the effective dates for the requirements of this Statement in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and in concert with Statement No. 95, Postponement of the Effective Dates of Certain Authoritative Guidance.

# (8) Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statements Issued, Not Yet Effective, continued

#### Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 99

In April 2022, the GASB issued Statement No. 99 – *Omnibus 2022*. The objectives of this Statement are to enhance comparability in accounting and financial reporting and to improve the consistency of authoritative literature by addressing (1) practice issues that have been identified during implementation and application of certain GASB Statements and (2) accounting and financial reporting for financial guarantees.

The requirements of this Statement will enhance comparability in the application of accounting and financial reporting requirements and will improve the consistency of authoritative literature. Consistent authoritative literature enables governments and other stakeholders to locate and apply the correct accounting and financial reporting provisions, which improves the consistency with which such provisions are applied. The comparability of financial statements also will improve as a result of this Statement. Better consistency and comparability improve the usefulness of information for users of state and local government financial statements.

The requirements of this Statement are effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2023, and all reporting periods thereafter. Earlier application is encouraged.

#### Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 100

In June 2022, the GASB issued Statement No. 100 – Accounting Changes and Error Corrections – An Amendment of GASB Statement No. 62. The primary objective of this Statement is to enhance accounting and financial reporting requirements for accounting changes and error corrections to provide more understandable, reliable, relevant, consistent, and comparable information for making decisions or assessing accountability.

This Statement defines accounting changes as changes in accounting principles, changes in accounting estimates, and changes to or within the financial reporting entity and describes the transactions or other events that constitute those changes. As part of those descriptions, for (1) certain changes in accounting principles and (2) certain changes in accounting estimates that result from a change in measurement methodology, a new principle or methodology should be justified on the basis that it is preferable to the principle or methodology used before the change. That preferability should be based on the qualitative characteristics of financial reporting—understandability, reliability, relevance, timeliness, consistency, and comparability. This Statement also addresses corrections of errors in previously issued financial statements.

The requirements of this Statement will improve the clarity of the accounting and financial reporting requirements for accounting changes and error corrections, which will result in greater consistency in application in practice. In turn, more understandable, reliable, relevant, consistent, and comparable information will be provided to financial statement users for making decisions or assessing accountability. In addition, the display and note disclosure requirements will result in more consistent, decision useful, understandable, and comprehensive information for users about accounting changes and error corrections.

The requirements of this Statement are effective for accounting changes and error corrections made in fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2023, and all reporting periods thereafter. Earlier application is encouraged.

# (8) Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statements Issued, Not Yet Effective, continued

#### Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 101

In June 2022, the GASB issued Statement No. 101 – Compensated Absences. The objective of this Statement is to better meet the information needs of financial statement users by updating the recognition and measurement guidance for compensated absences. That objective is achieved by aligning the recognition and measurement guidance under a unified model and by amending certain previously required disclosures.

This Statement requires that liabilities for compensated absences be recognized for (1) leave that has not been used and (2) leave that has been used but not yet paid in cash or settled through noncash means. A liability should be recognized for leave that has not been used if (a) the leave is attributable to services already rendered, (b) the leave accumulates, and (c) the leave is more likely than not to be used for time off or otherwise paid in cash or settled through noncash means. Leave is attributable to services already rendered when an employee has performed the services required to earn the leave. Leave that accumulates is carried forward from the reporting period in which it is earned to a future reporting period during which it may be used for time off or otherwise paid or settled. In estimating the leave that is more likely than not to be used or otherwise paid or settled, a government should consider relevant factors such as employment policies related to compensated absences and historical information about the use or payment of compensated absences. However, leave that is more likely than not to be settled through conversion to defined benefit postemployment benefits should not be included in a liability for compensated absences.

The requirements of this Statement are effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2023, and all reporting periods thereafter. Earlier application is encouraged.

#### (9) Commitments and Contingencies

#### **Grant Awards**

Grant funds received by the Authority are subject to audit by the grantor agencies. Such an audit could lead to requests for reimbursements to the grantor agencies for expenditures disallowed under terms of the grant. Management of the Authority believes that such disallowances, if any, would not be significant.

#### Litigation

In the ordinary course of operations, the Authority is subject to claims and litigation from outside parties. After consultation with legal counsel, the Authority believes the ultimate outcome of such matters, if any, will not materially affect its financial condition.

#### (10) Subsequent Events

Events occurring after September 30, 2022, have been evaluated for possible adjustment to the financial statements or disclosure as of April 21, 2023, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

# **Required Supplementary Information**

#### Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority Budgetary Comparison Schedule – General Fund For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2022

	_	Adopted Original Budget	Board Approved Changes	Revised Budget	Actual Budgetary Basis	Variance Positive (Negative)
Expenditures/Expenses:						
Authority operations:						
Services and supplies	\$	120,215	94,667	214,882	121,891	92,991
Capital outlay	_	300,000	5,829	305,829	530,912	(225,083)
Total expenditures/expenses	_	420,215	100,496	520,711	652,803	(132,092)
Program revenues:						
Contributions – operating		50,000	-	50,000	50,000	-
Capital grant - state and county		234,992	31,374	266,366	278,880	12,514
Capital grant - private agency		-	64,286	64,286	469,645	405,359
Land transfer agreement reimbursements	_	50,000	13,836	63,836	3,525	(60,311)
Total program revenues	_	334,992	109,496	444,488	802,050	417,873
General revenues:						
Rental income		75,223	-	75,223	65,612	(9,611)
Interest earnings		-	-	-	78	78
Miscellaneous income	_	10,000	(9,000)	1,000	25,000	24,000
Total general revenues	_	85,223	(9,000)	76,223	90,690	14,467
<b>Total revenues</b>	-	420,215	100,496	520,711	892,740	432,340
Excess(deficiency) of revenues over(under) expenditures	_		<u> </u>		239,937	564,432
Fund balance – beginning of year	_	333,803		333,803	333,803	
Fund balance – end of year	\$ _	333,803		333,803	573,740	

#### **Notes to Required Supplementary Information**

#### (1) Budgets and Budgetary Data

The Authority follows specific instructions in establishing the budgetary data reflected in the financial statements. Each year the Authority's Executive Officer prepares and submits an operating and capital budget to the Board of Directors no later than September. The basis used to prepare the budget does not differ substantially in form from the modified accrual basis of accounting. The adopted budget becomes operative on October 1. The Board of Directors must approve all supplemental appropriations to the budget and transfers between major accounts.

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# Report on Internal Controls and Compliance





# C.J. Brown & Company CPAs

## An Accountancy Corporation

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10805 Holder Street, Suite 150 Cypress, California 90630 (657) 214-2307

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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* 

Governing Board Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority Long Beach, California

We have audited, in accordance with the 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, the financial statements of the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (Authority) as of and for the year ended September 30, 2022, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprises the Authority's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated April 21, 2023.

### **Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Authority's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the 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 Authority's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority'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 Authority'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.

Our 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. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

#### **Compliance and Other Matters**

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

## Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority Schedule of Findings and Responses For the Year Ended September 30, 2022

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*, continued

#### **Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority'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 Authority's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

C.J. Brown & Company CPAs

C.J. Brown & Company, CPAs

Cypress, California April 21, 2023 **Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority** 

**Management Report** 

**September 30, 2022** 



# **Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority**

# **Management Report**

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#### **CONFIDENTIAL**

Jonathan Abadesco, CPA

Jeffrey Palmer

Board of Directors Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority Long Beach, California

#### **Dear Members of the Board:**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (Authority) as of and for the year ended September 30, 2022, 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 Authority'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 Authority'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.

#### **Current Year Comment and Recommendation**

#### Disclosure of Audit Adjustments and Reclassifications

As your external auditor, we assume that the books and records of the Authority are properly adjusted before the audit begins. However, in many cases audit adjustments and reclassifications are made in the normal course of the audit process to present the Authority'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.

#### Management's Response

We have reviewed and approved all of the audit adjustment and reclassification entries and have entered them into the general ledger of the Authority as of year end.

#### **Prior Year Comments and Recommendations**

#### Grants Receivable

We noted that grant income earned in fiscal year 2021 but not received until after fiscal year-end was not properly recorded in grants receivable as of September 30, 2021. As a result, the financial reports may not accurately reflect all activity.

We recommend grants receivable be recorded appropriately at fiscal year-end on the modified accrual basis of accounting; whereby, revenues are recognized in the accounting period in which they become measurable and available to finance expenditures of the current period. Accordingly, revenues are recorded when received in cash, except that, revenues subject to accrual are recognized when due.

#### Management's Response

Authority and City management agree with the auditors' recommendation. The Authority and City's management are aware of the identified issue and are currently in the process of taking the proper corrective action to recognize grants receivable based on the modified accrual basis of accounting.

#### Communication between Authority and City

We noted that communication and timely coordination were insufficient between Authority personnel and the City accounting personnel; resulting in a deficiency of understanding related to the Authority's grant award activity and year-end cut-off. We consider this issue to be a material weakness within the Authority's control structure for transaction processing.

We recommend that the Authority and the City work together to develop policies and procedures that enable Authority and City staff to communicate, coordinate procedures, and obtain an understanding of the Authority's grant awards to properly account for grant award activity. This will require the Authority and City to dedicate staff time towards sharing support, reviewing, and cataloging grant agreements and amendments. We also recommend that the Authority and City personnel work together in preparing and maintaining a schedule of Grant Awards and Contracts to be reported and reviewed on a periodic and fiscal year-end basis by Authority and City management.

We believe the recommendation noted above will provide the City with a comprehensive and complete understanding of the Authority's grant activity necessary to meet proper reporting requirements.

Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority Page 3

#### Prior Year Comments and Recommendations, continued

Management's Response

The Authority and City agree with the auditors' recommendation. The Authority and City's management are aware of the identified issue and are currently in the process of taking the proper corrective action.

#### Disclosure of Audit Adjustments and Reclassifications

As your external auditor, we assume that the books and records of the Authority 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 Authority'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.

#### Management's Response

We have reviewed and approved all of the audit adjustment and reclassification entries and have entered them into the general ledger of the Authority as of year end.

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Board of Directors, and others within the Authority, 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 April 21, 2023

# **APPENDIX**

**Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority** 

**Audit/Finance Committee Letter** 

**September 30, 2022** 



Jeffrey Palmer

# C.J. Brown & Company CPAs

# An Accountancy Corporation

**Cypress Office:** 

10805 Holder Street, Suite 150 Cypress, California 90630 (657) 214-2307

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Board of Directors Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority Long Beach, California

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities of the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (Authority) for the year ended September 30, 2022, and have issued our report thereon dated April 21, 2023. 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 January 1, 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 Authority 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 April 21, 2023.

#### 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.

An auditor that is not involved in the engagement performed an independent review of the financial statements that was prepared by us based on the information provided by management. This safeguard reduces the threat of self-review risk to an acceptable level.

#### Required Risk Assessment Procedures per Auditing Standards:

As auditors of the Authority, 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 Authority is included in Note 1 to the financial statements. As of and for the year ended September 30, 2022, the Authority implemented the provisions of *GASB Statement No. 87 – Leases*. There have been no initial selection of accounting policies and no changes in significant accounting policies or their application during 2022. No 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 estimate affecting the financial statements is 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.

Certain financial statement disclosures involve significant judgment and are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The most sensitive disclosure affecting the Authority's financial statements relates to:

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

#### **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 were identified as a result of our audit procedures that 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 4 discloses all material misstatements that we identified as a result of our audit procedures that 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 Authority'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 April 21, 2023.

#### **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 Authority, 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 Authority's auditors.

Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority Page 4

#### **Other Matters**

We applied certain limited procedures to the Management Discussion and Analysis, Schedules of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget to Actual, 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 not engaged to report on the Letter of Transmittal, which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. Such information has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

#### **Restriction on Use**

This information is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of Directors and management of the Authority 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 Maxie Novahom, Performance Auditor, Michael Carrigg, Senior Accountant, Jennifer Mota, Accounting Technician at the City of Long Beach and Salian Garcia, Staff Services Manager at the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority, 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 Authority.

C.J. Brown & Company CPAs

C.J. Brown & Company, CPAs

Cypress, California April 21, 2023

## Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority Schedule of Adjusting & Proposed Journal Entries September 30, 2022

Account	Description		Debit	Credit
Adjusting Jour	rnal Entries JE # 1			
AJE - To write	off allowance based on Authority determination of all accounts			
are 100% collec	etible at September 30, 2022.			
129	Allowance for doubtful accounts	\$	25,000.00	
453	Miscellaneous Income	_		25,000.00
Total		_	25,000.00	25,000.00
Adjusting Jou	rnal Entries JE # 2	_	_	
-	sify reimbursement income to proper account at September			
30, 2022				
453	Miscellaneous Income		3,525.10	
404	Land Transfer Agreement Reimbursement	_		3,525.10
Total		_	3,525.10	3,525.10
Adjusting Jour	rnal Entries JE # 3			
• •	sify the write-off of a reimbursement to bad debt expense at			
September 30, 2	•			
599	Bad Debt Expense	\$	11,978.75	
403	Grant Income - Private Assoc/Agency		,	11,978.75
Total	Ç ,	-	11,978.75	11,978.75
		=		
	Total Adjusting Journal Entries	_	40,503.85	40,503.85
Proposed Journal Entries JE # 100				
PAJE - To accr	rue reimbursement income for LCW Southern Area			
Restoration Plan	nning Project related to FY 2021. Do not post.			
127	Grants Receivable		3,978.69	
401	Grant income - State/County	_		3,978.69
Total		_	3,978.69	3,978.69
	T (ID II ID)	-	2.050.00	2.070.60
	Total Proposed Journal Entries	=	3,978.69	3,978.69
	Total All Journal Entries	\$	44,482.54	44,482.54
Legend:				
AJE	Audit Adjusting Journal Entry			