

City Council Memorandum

City of Arts & Innovation

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TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL DATE: MARCH 25, 2025

FROM: FINANCE DEPARTMENT WARD: ALL

SUBJECT: ANNUAL AUDIT REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL INDEPENDENT AUDITOR, CLIFTONLARSONALLEN LLP, ON CITY OF RIVERSIDE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023/24

ISSUE:

Receive the annual audit reports from external independent auditor CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, on the City of Riverside financial results for Fiscal Year 2023/24.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council receive the annual audit reports from external independent auditor CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, on the City of Riverside financial results for Fiscal Year 2023/24, as required by the Riverside City Charter.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On March 12, 2025, the Finance Committee received and provided input on the annual financial audit reports for Fiscal Year 2023/24 and voted unanimously to forward the item to the City Council.

BACKGROUND:

On March 13, 2024, the Finance Committee received the staff report and presentation for the appointment of a new independent external auditor. Following the presentation and discussion, the Committee recommended that the City Council appoint CliftonLarsonAllen LLP to serve as the City's independent auditors in accordance with its annual audit requirements for a five-year period, subject to annual renewals, beginning with the Fiscal Year (FY) ending June 30, 2024.

On April 16, 2024, City Council awarded a Professional Consultant Services Agreement for Certified Public Accountant Services to CliftonLarsonAllen LLP to serve as the City's independent auditor for a five-year term and appointed CliftonLarsonAllen LLP as the City's independent external auditor for a five-year term, subject to annual renewals.

DISCUSSION:

The City's external independent auditor CliftonLarsonAllen LLP (CLA) has completed the annual audit of the City's financial statements and other financial reports subject to audit, as follows:

1. Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR)
2. Electric and Water Financial Reports
3. Successor Agency Financial Report
4. Riverside Public Financing Authority Financial Report
5. Single Audit Report on Federal Awards
6. Air Quality Management District Compliance Report
7. Appropriations Limit (Gann) Calculation Agreed-Upon Procedures

Audit Opinion

The auditors issued an unmodified (clean) opinion, confirming that the City's financial statements are presented fairly and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). This clean audit opinion reflects the City's adherence to GAAP and statutory requirements.

Auditor Reports

As part of the audit process and in accordance with Government Auditing Standards, CLA has communicated certain information pertaining to the audit directly to those charged with governance, referred to as a governance letter. This letter communicates key information, including audit procedures performed, identified risks, significant accounting estimates, uncorrected and corrected misstatements, and any difficulties encountered during the audit.

In the governance letter, the auditors identified two corrected material misstatements, which were addressed by management. Additionally, they identified a material weakness in internal controls over financial reporting related to one of the corrected misstatements and a significant deficiency in internal controls over compliance related to the Single Audit. Further details on these items are provided below.

Revenue Recognition Adjustment (Corrected Misstatement)

The City recorded an adjustment in the General Fund to properly classify certain accounts receivable as unavailable revenue rather than recognized revenue, in accordance with its period of availability policy. While the City has historically reviewed the largest receivable balances at year-end to determine if they meet the 60-day collection criteria, this adjustment highlighted the need for a more comprehensive review.

In response, the City has enhanced its procedures to ensure that all receivables, regardless of size, are analyzed for cash receipts beyond the 60-day period. This refinement strengthens our financial reporting practices and ensures consistent application of the availability criteria.

Lease Receivable Adjustment (Corrected Misstatement and Material Weakness)

An adjustment was recorded in the Water Fund to correct an error in the calculation of two lease receivables, along with related accounts and beginning net position. The auditors determined this to be a material weakness in internal controls over financial reporting.

The misstatement originated during the initial implementation of GASB 87 in FY 2021/22, a complex accounting standard that required a review of approximately 440 leases, with over 270 meeting the criteria for GASB 87 reporting. To ensure compliance, the Finance Department engaged an external consultant to assist with the implementation, and the City's external auditors reviewed the leases during the FY 2021/22 audit without identifying discrepancies at that time.

Recognizing the ongoing challenges posed by evolving accounting standards, Finance has since strengthened its internal capacity by hiring additional staff in FY 2023/24 to support compliance and accuracy. Notably, there were no findings related to newly implemented leases or modifications during the current audit period, demonstrating the effectiveness of these improvements. Management is confident that current processes and procedures provide a strong framework for ensuring the continued accuracy of GASB 87 lease calculations moving forward.

Significant Deficiency – Single Audit Report

A significant deficiency in internal controls over compliance was identified in the Single Audit Report related to the reporting of projects under the revenue replacement category for the City's Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSLFRF), a component of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Specifically, the project and expenditure reports did not include details on current period and cumulative obligations and expenditures for these projects.

The City has since corrected this reporting in its subsequent submission. On December 5, 2024, City staff met with the U.S. Department of the Treasury to clarify reporting requirements and confirm the appropriate approach for addressing the revenue replacement category. Because the Treasury portal does not allow adjustments to prior-period reports, all revenue replacement projects were fully reported in the fourth quarter project and expenditure report (October - December 2024), ensuring compliance with all required reporting elements.

The City has taken corrective action to address the audit findings and strengthen internal controls. Details of each finding, along with the City's Corrective Action Plan, are provided in the attachment to this report.

Report Distribution

The City's financial statements are distributed to the City Council, federal and state agencies, bondholders, rating agencies, and financial institutions in accordance with contractual obligations. They are also made available in City libraries for public access.

Government Finance Officers Association Award

For the thirty-seventh consecutive year, the City received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting for its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. Staff is confident that the current ACFR meets all program requirements and has submitted it to the GFOA for consideration again this year.

Additionally, the City has produced its eighth Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR). Established by the GFOA in 1991, the PAFR presents key information from the ACFR in an accessible and easy-to-understand format for the general public, in both English and Spanish languages. This year, for the seventh time, the City earned the GFOA's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Financial Reporting for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. Staff believes the current report continues to meet the program's criteria and has submitted it to the GFOA for potential certification.

Audit Contract

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP has completed its first-year audit of a five-year contract, consistent with the City's charter, which requires auditor rotation after five years. This practice follows industry best practices as promulgated by the national organization of municipal financial professionals, the GFOA.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This item contributes to **Strategic Priority 5 – High Performing Government** and **Goal No. 5.2**, Utilize technology, data, and process improvement strategies to increase efficiencies, guide decision making, and ensure services are accessible and distributed equitably throughout all geographic areas of the City.

The item aligns with each of the five Cross-Cutting Threads as follows:

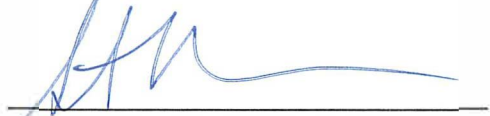
1. **Community Trust** – The City's transparent financial reporting, public availability of audit results, and recognition by the GFOA demonstrate a commitment to accountability and public trust.
2. **Equity** – The publication of financial reports in both English and Spanish ensures accessibility for diverse community members, reinforcing equitable access to City information.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – The City's clean audit opinion and continued compliance with GAAP reflect prudent financial stewardship and sound fiscal management.
4. **Innovation** – The City's proactive adjustments to evolving accounting standards, such as GASB 87, and enhancements to internal financial controls illustrate adaptability and forward-thinking financial management.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – Strengthening internal audit processes, hiring additional staff for compliance, and ensuring long-term accuracy in financial reporting contribute to the City's financial resilience and long-term sustainability.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report. Funding for the annual audit of FY 2024/25 is included in the FY 2025/26 budget.

Prepared by: Ryan Carter, Controller
Approved by: Julie Nemes, Deputy Finance Director
Certified as to
availability of funds: Kristie Thomas, Finance Director/Assistant Chief Financial Officer
Approved by: Edward Enriquez, Assistant City Manager/Chief Financial Officer/
City Treasurer
Approved as to form: Jack Liu, Interim City Attorney

Concurs with:



Steve Hemenway, Chair
Finance Committee

Attachments:

1. Electric and Water Financial Reports
2. Successor Agency Financial Report
3. Single Audit Report on Federal Awards
4. Corrective Action Plan
5. Air Quality Management District Report
6. Appropriations Limit (Gann) Calculation Agreed-Upon Procedures Report
7. Independent Auditors' Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting
8. Governance Letter
9. Presentation – Finance Department
10. Presentation – CliftonLarsonAllen LLP
11. Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR)
12. Riverside Public Financing Authority Financial Report
13. Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) - English
14. Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) - Spanish