



Certified
Public
Accountants

June 15, 2017

To the Members of the Finance Committee
City of Riverside, California
3900 Main Street
Riverside, CA 92522

Attention: Members of the Finance Committee

This letter is intended to communicate certain matters related to the planned scope and timing of our audit of the City of Riverside, California (the City) financial statements including the Riverside Public Utilities (RPU) and compliance as of and for the year ending June 30, 2017.

Communication

Effective two-way communication between our firm and the Finance Committee is important to understanding matters related to the audit and in developing a constructive working relationship.

Your insights may assist us in understanding the City and RPU and their respective environment, in identifying appropriate sources of audit evidence, and in providing information about specific transactions or events. We will discuss with you your oversight of the effectiveness of internal control and any areas where you request additional procedures to be undertaken. We expect that you will timely communicate with us any matters you consider relevant to the audit. Such matters might include strategic decisions that may significantly affect the nature, timing, and extent of audit procedures, your suspicion or detection of fraud or abuse, or any concerns you may have about the integrity or competence of senior management.

We will timely communicate to you any fraud involving senior management and other fraud that causes a material misstatement of the financial statements, illegal acts, instances of noncompliance, or abuse that come to our attention (unless they are clearly inconsequential), and disagreements with management and other serious difficulties encountered in performing the audit. We also will communicate to you and to management any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control that become known to us during the course of the audit. Other matters arising from the audit that are, in our professional judgment, significant and relevant to you in your oversight of the financial reporting process will be communicated to you in writing after the audit.

Independence

Our independence policies and procedures are designed to provide reasonable assurance that our firm and its personnel comply with applicable professional independence standards. Our policies address financial interests, business and family relationships, and nonaudit services that may be thought to bear on independence. For example, without our permission no partner or professional employee of Macias Gini & O'Connell LLP is permitted to have any direct financial interest or a material indirect financial interest in a client or any affiliates of a client. Also, if an immediate family member or close relative of a partner or professional employee is employed by a client in a key position, the incident must be reported and resolved in accordance with Firm policy. In addition, our policies restrict certain nonaudit services that may be provided by Macias Gini & O'Connell LLP and require audit clients to accept certain responsibilities in connection with the provision of permitted non-attest services.

The Audit Planning Process

Our audit approach places a strong emphasis on obtaining an understanding of how the City functions. This enables us to identify key audit components and tailor our procedures to the unique aspects of your operations. The development of a specific audit plan will begin by meeting with you and with management to obtain an understanding of business objectives, strategies, risks, and performance.

As part of obtaining an understanding of your business and its environment, we will obtain an understanding of internal control. We will use this understanding to identify risks of material misstatement, which will provide us with a basis for designing and implementing responses to the assessed risks of material misstatement. We will also obtain an understanding of the users of the financial statements in order to establish an overall materiality level for audit purposes. We will conduct formal discussions among engagement team members to consider how and where your financial statements might be susceptible to material misstatement due to fraud or error.

We will also use our understanding of internal controls to identify risks of material noncompliance, which will provide us with a basis for designing and implementing responses to the assessed risks of material noncompliance with laws, regulations, and provisions of agreements that have a direct and material impact on major federal programs. We will also obtain an understanding of the users of compliance reporting in order to establish applicable materiality level(s) for compliance audit purposes. We will conduct formal discussions among engagement team members to consider how and where your financial statements and compliance with applicable requirements for major programs might be susceptible to material noncompliance due to fraud, error, or abuse.

The Concept of Materiality in Planning and Executing the Audit

We apply the concept of materiality both in planning and performing the audit, evaluating the effect of identified misstatements and compliance on the audit, and the effect of uncorrected misstatements, if any, on the financial statements, and in forming the opinions in our reports. Our determination of materiality is a matter of professional judgment and is affected by our perception of the financial and compliance information needs of users of the financial statements and compliance reports. We establish performance materiality at an amount less than materiality for the financial statements as a whole to allow for the risk of misstatements that may not be detected by the audit. We use performance materiality for purposes of assessing the risks of material misstatement and determining the nature, timing and extent of further financial audit procedures. Our assessment of materiality throughout the audit will be based on both quantitative and qualitative considerations. Because of the interaction of quantitative and qualitative considerations, misstatements of a relatively small amount could have a material effect on the current financial statements and noncompliance as well as financial statements and noncompliance of future periods. We will accumulate misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial. At the end of the audit, we will inform you of all individual unrecorded misstatements aggregated by us in connection with our evaluation of our audit test results. We will also accumulate information concerning noncompliance during the audit and communicate information concerning noncompliance in accordance with applicable provisions of *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the Single Audit Act, and the *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance).

Our Approach to Internal Control and Compliance Relevant to the Audit

Our audit of the financial statements will include obtaining an understanding of internal control sufficient to plan the audit and to determine the nature, timing, and extent of audit procedures to be performed. An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. Our review and understanding of the City's internal control is not undertaken for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control.

We will issue reports on internal control related to the financial statements and major programs. These reports describe the scope of testing of internal control and the results of our tests of internal controls. Our reports on internal control will include any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the system of which we become aware as a result of obtaining an understanding of internal control and performing tests of internal control consistent with the requirements of the *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the Single Audit Act, and the Uniform Guidance.

We will issue reports on compliance with laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts or grant agreements. We will report on any noncompliance which could have a material effect on the financial statements and any noncompliance which could have a direct and material effect on each major program.

Our reports on compliance will address material errors, fraud, abuse, violations of compliance requirements, and other responsibilities imposed by state and federal statutes and regulations and assumed contracts; and any state or federal grant, entitlement, or loan program questioned costs of which we become aware, consistent with the requirements of the standards and circular identified above.

Using the Work of Internal Auditors

As part of our understanding of internal control, we will obtain and document an understanding of your internal audit function. We will read relevant internal audit reports issued during the year to determine whether such reports indicate a source of potential error or fraud that would require a response when designing our audit procedures. Because internal auditors are employees, they are not independent and their work can never be substituted for the work of the external auditor. We may, however, alter the nature, timing, and extent of our audit procedures, based upon the results of the internal auditor's work or use them to provide direct assistance to us during the performance of our audit.

Timing of the Audit

We have scheduled preliminary audit field work for the week of June 5, 2017 with final field work commencing the week of September 5, 2017. Management's adherence to its closing schedule and timely completion of information used by us in performance of the audit is essential to timely completion of the audit.

Closing

We will be pleased to respond to any questions you have about the foregoing. We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to the City of Riverside, California.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of the Finance Committee and the City Council and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Macias Gini & O'Connell LLP



Peter S. George
Partner