

**CITY OF ALAMEDA
REQUIRED COMMUNICATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

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For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

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REQUIRED COMMUNICATIONS

To the City Council of
the City of Alameda, California

We have audited the basic financial statements of the City of Alameda for the year ended June 30, 2023. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards* and the Uniform Guidance, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information orally during our discussions with the Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Auditor on July 27, 2023, August 18, 2023 and November 13, 2023, respectively. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Matters

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Accounting Policies – Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the City are described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

No new accounting policies were adopted, and the application of existing policies was not changed during the year, except as follows:

Accrual Threshold – The City revised the level at which applicable receipts and disbursements received subsequent to June 30 are accrued as accounts receivable or accounts payable to only those over \$90 thousand for August and those over \$250 thousand for September. Receipts and disbursements in July that are related to June 30 or prior continue to be accrued, regardless of the dollar threshold.

In addition, the following Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements became effective:

GASB 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.

A SBITA is defined as a contract that conveys control of the right to use another party's (a SBITA vendor's) information technology (IT) software, alone or in combination with tangible capital assets (the underlying IT assets), as specified in the contract for a period of time in an exchange or exchange-like transaction.

The subscription term includes the period during which a government has a noncancelable right to use the underlying IT assets. The subscription term also includes periods covered by an option to extend (if it is reasonably certain that the government or SBITA vendor will exercise that option) or to terminate (if it is reasonably certain that the government or SBITA vendor will not exercise that option).

Under this Statement, a government generally should recognize a right-to-use subscription asset—an intangible asset—and a corresponding subscription liability. A government should recognize the subscription liability at the commencement of the subscription term, —which is when the subscription asset is placed into service. The subscription liability should be initially measured at the present value of subscription payments expected to be made during the subscription term. Future subscription payments should be discounted using the interest rate the SBITA vendor charges the government, which may be implicit, or the government’s incremental borrowing rate if the interest rate is not readily determinable. A government should recognize amortization of the discount on the subscription liability as an outflow of resources (for example, interest expense) in subsequent financial reporting periods.

The subscription asset should be initially measured as the sum of (1) the initial subscription liability amount, (2) payments made to the SBITA vendor before commencement of the subscription term, and (3) capitalizable implementation costs, less any incentives received from the SBITA vendor at or before the commencement of the subscription term. A government should recognize amortization of the subscription asset as an outflow of resources over the subscription term.

The pronouncement became effective, and as disclosed in Note 8D to the financial statements required a prior period restatement for the cumulative effect on the financial statements.

The following pronouncements became effective, but did not have a material effect on the financial statements:

- GASB 91 – *Conduit Debt Obligations***
- GASB 94 – *Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements***
- GASB 99 – *Omnibus 2022, paragraphs 11-25***

Unusual Transactions, Controversial or Emerging Areas - We noted no transactions entered into by the City during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting Estimates - Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management’s 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 significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimates affecting the City’s financial statements were:

Estimated Net Pension Liabilities, Total Pension Liabilities and Pension-Related Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources: Management's estimate of the net pension liabilities, total pension liabilities and deferred outflows/inflows of resources are disclosed in Note 9 to the financial statements and are based on accounting valuations determined by the California Public Employees Retirement System as well as actuarial studies determined by a consultant, which are based on the experience of the City. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimate and determined that it is reasonable in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Estimated Net OPEB Liabilities and OPEB-Related Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources: Management's estimate of the net OPEB liabilities and deferred outflows/inflows of resources is disclosed in Note 10 to the financial statements and is based on actuarial valuations determined by a consultant, which is based on the experience of the City. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimate and determined that it is reasonable in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Estimated Fair Value of Investments: As of June 30, 2023, the City held approximately \$461.1 million of cash and investments as measured by fair value as disclosed in Note 2 to the financial statements. Fair value is essentially market pricing in effect as of June 30, 2023. These fair values are not required to be adjusted for changes in general market conditions occurring subsequent to June 30, 2023.

Estimated Investment in Joint Ventures: Management's estimate of the investment in joint ventures is disclosed in Note 12 to the financial statements and is based on the balances from the audited financial statements of Alameda Municipal Power.

Estimate of Depreciation: Management's estimate of the depreciation is based on useful lives determined by management. These lives have been determined by management based on the expected useful lives of assets as disclosed in Note 1G to the financial statements. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the depreciation estimate and determined that it is reasonable in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Estimate of Compensated Absences: Accrued compensated absences which are comprised of accrued vacation, holiday, and certain other compensating time is estimated using accumulated unpaid leave hours and hourly pay rates in effect at the end of the fiscal year as disclosed in Note 1I to the financial statements. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the accrued compensated absences and determined that it is reasonable in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Estimated Claims Liabilities: Management's estimate of the claims liabilities payable is disclosed in Note 11 to the financial statements and is based on actuarial studies determined by a consultant, which are based on the claims experience of the City. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimate and determined that it is reasonable in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Disclosures - The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements. In addition, none of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to each opinion unit's financial statements taken as a whole.

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely uncorrected misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. We have no such misstatements to report to the City Council.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in a management representation letter dated February 29, 2024.

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the City's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Other Audit Findings or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the City's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

Other Matters

We applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information that accompanies and 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 required supplementary information and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the required supplementary information.

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

We were not engaged to report on the Introductory and Statistical Sections which accompany the financial statements, but are not required supplementary information. 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.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maye & Associates".

Pleasant Hill, California
February 29, 2024

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