

**CITY OF ALAMEDA
REQUIRED COMMUNICATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019**

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For the Year Ended June 30, 2019

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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, California, for the year ended June 30, 2019. We did not audit the financial statements of the Alameda Municipal Power Enterprise Fund (AMP) which is a major fund and represents 58.8%, 44.2%, and 85.5% of the assets, net position and revenues, respectively, of the business-type activities. These financial statements were audited by other auditors, whose reports thereon have been furnished to us, and our opinions, insofar as it relates to the amounts included for this entity, is based solely on the report of the other auditors.

Professional standards require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit under generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* and the *Uniform Guidance*.

Significant Audit Findings

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:

Cost Allocation Plan Accounting – Prior to fiscal year 2019, the City recorded the cost allocation to non-General Fund programs as revenue in the General Fund and as an expenditure in the paying fund. Beginning July 1, 2018, the management changed the policy to record the cost allocation as a reduction of the associated expenditures in the General Fund, rather than as revenue, and the allocated costs continue to be recorded in the paying fund.

Other Post-Employment Benefits Plans – During fiscal year 2019, the City established a second OPEB Trust to accumulate assets for the payment of future benefits to safety employees that were active employees as of January 1, 2019 and retire on or after that date. As a result, all of those employees or retirees that were previously participants in the City's OPEB Plan moved over to the newly established Post-2018 Safety OPEB Plan. The prior OPEB Plan was renamed to the Miscellaneous and Pre-2019 OPEB Plan, and the remaining miscellaneous and safety active and retired personnel remained in that Plan.

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

GASB 88 – *Certain Disclosures Related to Debt, including Direct Borrowings and Direct Placements*

The primary objective of this Statement is to improve the information that is disclosed in notes to government financial statements related to debt, including direct borrowings and direct placements. It also clarifies which liabilities governments should include when disclosing information related to debt.

This Statement defines debt for purposes of disclosure in notes to financial statements as a liability that arises from a contractual obligation to pay cash (or other assets that may be used in lieu of cash) in one or more payments to settle an amount that is fixed at the date the contractual obligation is established.

This Statement requires that additional essential information related to debt be disclosed in notes to financial statements, including unused lines of credit; assets pledged as collateral for the debt; and terms specified in debt agreements related to significant events of default with finance-related consequences, significant termination events with finance-related consequences, and significant subjective acceleration clauses.

For notes to financial statements related to debt, this Statement also requires that existing and additional information be provided for direct borrowings and direct placements of debt separately from other debt.

The pronouncement became effective and resulted in revisions to the debt-related disclosures in Note 6 to the financial statements.

The following pronouncement became effective, but did not have an effect on the financial statements:

GASB 83 – *Certain Asset Retirement Obligations*

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. However, events that occurred subsequent to June 30, 2019 discussed below could have an impact on the financial statements:

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the novel strain of coronavirus (COVID-19) a global pandemic and recommended containment and mitigation measures worldwide. The COVID-19 outbreak in the United States has caused business disruption through mandated and voluntary closings of businesses and shelter in place orders for all but those deemed essential services. While the business disruption is currently expected to be temporary, there is considerable uncertainty around the duration of the closings and shelter in place orders. Although many of the City's services are considered essential, City Hall was closed to the public, certain other services transitioned to online-only and because the City's major revenue sources, including businesses that collect sales taxes, are directly impacted by these events, it is probable that this matter will negatively impact the City. However, the ultimate financial impact and duration cannot be reasonably estimated at this time.

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, 2019, the City held approximately \$341.3 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, 2019. These fair values are not required to be adjusted for changes in general market conditions occurring subsequent to June 30, 2019.

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 AMP.

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 1H 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, other than to record the City's post-closing entries related to cash and investments, accounts receivable, interfund transactions, capital assets, pension liabilities and related deferred outflows/inflows of resources, and OPEB liabilities and related deferred outflows/inflows of resources, as discussed in Memorandum on Internal Control comment 2019-01.

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 May 4, 2020.

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 Information Accompanying the Financial Statements

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 "Mary & Associates".

Pleasant Hill, California
May 4, 2020

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