



December 1, 2021

To the Board of Directors  
of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority  
Dana Point, California

We have audited the financial statements of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority (the “Authority”), which comprise the statements of net position as of June 30, 2021 and 2020 and the related statements of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the basic financial statements. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards (and, if applicable, *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 in our letter to you dated July 12, 2021. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

#### Significant Audit Matters

##### *Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices*

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the Authority are described in Note 2 to the financial statements.

##### *New Accounting Standards*

**GASB 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 replaces instances of comprehensive annual financial report and its acronym in generally accepted accounting principles for state and local governments. Those provision are effective for fiscal years ending after December 15, 2021. The Authority has elected early implementation. Application of this statement did not have a material effect on the Authority’s financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.

No other new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during 2021. We noted no transactions entered into by the Authority 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 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 estimate(s) affecting the Authority’s financial statements were:

- Management’s estimate of the investment fair market value is based on information provided by the State of California for its investment in the Local Agency Investment Fund. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the investment fair market value in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

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- Management’s estimate of the depreciation on capital assets is based on the industry standard and past experience on actual useful life of the asset groups. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the depreciation on capital assets in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.
- Management’s estimate of the net other postemployment benefit (“OPEB”) liability is based on the actuarial valuation on total OPEB liability and based on audited financial statements for CalPERS plans. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the net OPEB liability in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.
- Management’s estimate of the net pension liabilities is based on the actuarial valuation on total pension liability and based on audited financial statements on fiduciary net position for CalPERS plans. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the net pension liability in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The most sensitive disclosure(s) affecting the financial statements were:

- Note 6 – Other Postemployment Benefits (“OPEB”)
- Note 7 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans
- Note 9 – Commitments and Contingencies
- Note 10 – Subsequent Event

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.

#### *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 the management representation letter dated December 1, 2021.

To the Board of Directors  
of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority  
Dana Point, California  
Page 3

*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 Authority’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 Authority’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 Management’s Discussion and Analysis, the Schedule of the Authority’s Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability and Related Ratios, the Schedule of the Authority’s Contributions – Pensions, the Schedule of Changes in Net OPEB Liability and Related Ratios, and the Schedule of the Authority’s Contributions - OPEB, which is 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 Introductory, Other Information, or Statistical Section, 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 South Orange County Wastewater Authority and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "The Per Group, LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Santa Ana, California