



# Office of the Washington State Auditor

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## Pat McCarthy

### Exit Conference: Town of La Conner

The Office of the Washington State Auditor's vision is increased trust in government. Our mission is to provide citizens with independent and transparent examinations of how state and local governments use public funds, and develop strategies that make government more efficient and effective.

The purpose of this meeting is to share the results of your audit and our draft reporting. We value and appreciate your participation.

#### Audit Reports

We will publish the following reports:

- Accountability audit for January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022 – see draft report.
- Financial statement audits for January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022 – see draft report.

#### Audit Highlights

We would like to thank Finance Director Maria DeGoede for working hard to ensure that we have everything we have asked for during the audit. We would also like to thank Maria for reaching out and utilizing the HelpDesk throughout the year as questions come up. This helps to streamline the process and ensure that accurate and timely information is given.

#### Financial Statement Audit Communication

We would like to bring the following to your attention:

- We didn't identify any material misstatements during the audit.
- Uncorrected misstatements in the audited financial statements are summarized on the attached schedule. We agree with management's representation that these misstatements are immaterial to the fair presentation of the financial statements. There were no uncorrected misstatements in the audited financial statements.
- The audit addressed the following risks, which required special consideration:
  - Due to the possibility that management may be able to circumvent certain controls, standards require the auditor to assess the risk of management override.
  - The Town adopted new accounting guidance by implementing the provisions of GASB statement No.87 Leases, which establishes standards for the accounting of leases. The implementation of this statement changed the presentation and disclosure of leases. This change necessitated the auditor to assess the risk related to the implementation of this accounting standard.
  - Considering changes in restricted fund balance presentation we focused on the correct classification of those restricted fund balances.

## **Finalizing Your Audit**

### **Report Publication**

Audit reports are published on our website and distributed via e-mail in an electronic .pdf file. We also offer a subscription service that allows you to be notified by email when audit reports are released or posted to our website. You can sign up for this convenient service at: <https://portal.sao.wa.gov/SAOPortal>.

### **Audit Cost**

At the entrance conference, we estimated the cost of the audit to be \$34,000 and actual audit costs will approximate that amount.

### **Your Next Scheduled Audit**

Your next audit is scheduled to be conducted in 2025 and will cover the following general areas:

- Accountability for Public Resources
- Financial Statement

The estimated cost for the next audit based on current rates is \$38,000 plus travel expenses. This preliminary estimate is provided as a budgeting tool and not a guarantee of final cost.

If expenditures of federal awards are \$750,000 or more in any fiscal year, notify our Office so we can schedule your audit to meet federal single audit requirements. Federal awards can include grants, loans, and non-cash assistance such as equipment and supplies.

## **Working Together to Improve Government**

### **Audit Survey**

When your report is released you will receive an audit survey from us. We value your opinions on our audit services and hope you provide feedback.

### **Local Government Support Team**

This team provides support services to local governments through technical assistance, comparative statistics, training, and tools to help prevent and detect a loss of public funds. Our website and client portal offers many resources, including a client Help Desk that answers auditing and accounting questions. Additionally this team assists with the online filing of your financial statements.

### **The Center for Government Innovation**

The Center for Government Innovation of the Office of the Washington State Auditor is designed to offer services specifically to help you help the residents you serve at no additional cost to your government. What does this mean? We provide expert advice in areas like Lean, peer-to-peer networking and culture-building to help local governments find ways to be more efficient, effective and transparent. The Center can help you by providing assistance in financial management, cybersecurity and more. Check out our best practices and other resources that help local governments act on accounting standard changes, comply with regulations, and respond to recommendations in your audit. The Center understands that time is your most precious commodity as a public

servant, and we are here to help you do more with the limited hours you have. If you are interested in learning how we can help you maximize your effect in government, call us at (564) 999-0818 or email us at [Center@sao.wa.gov](mailto:Center@sao.wa.gov).

### **Questions?**

Please contact us with any questions about information in this document or related audit reports.

**Kelly Collins, CPA, CFE, Director of Local Audit, (564) 999-0807, [Kelly.Collins@sao.wa.gov](mailto:Kelly.Collins@sao.wa.gov)**

**Wendy Choy, Assistant Director of Local Audit, (425) 502-7067, [Wendy.Choi@sao.wa.gov](mailto:Wendy.Choi@sao.wa.gov)**

**Deena Garza, Audit Manager (360) 676-2165 or [Deena.Garza@sao.wa.gov](mailto:Deena.Garza@sao.wa.gov)**

**Scott Hylton, CPA, Assistant Audit Manager (360) 676-2165 or [Scott.Hylton@sao.wa.gov](mailto:Scott.Hylton@sao.wa.gov)**

**David Yost, (360) 676-2165 or [David.Yost@sao.wa.gov](mailto:David.Yost@sao.wa.gov)**



Office of the Washington State Auditor  
Pat McCarthy

**Preliminary Draft - Please do not duplicate, distribute, or disclose.**

# Accountability Audit Report

## Town of La Conner

For the period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022

*Published (Inserted by OS)*  
Report No. 1034103



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## Office of the Washington State Auditor Pat McCarthy

Issue Date – (Inserted by OS)

Council  
Town of La Conner  
La Conner, Washington

### Report on Accountability

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you to promote accountability, integrity and openness in government. The Office of the Washington State Auditor takes seriously our role of providing state and local governments with assurance and accountability as the independent auditor of public accounts. In this way, we strive to help government work better, cost less, deliver higher value and earn greater public trust.

Independent audits provide essential accountability and transparency for Town operations. This information is valuable to management, the governing body and public stakeholders when assessing the government's stewardship of public resources.

Attached is our independent audit report on the Town's compliance with applicable requirements and safeguarding of public resources for the areas we examined. We appreciate the opportunity to work with your staff and value your cooperation during the audit.

Sincerely,

Pat McCarthy, State Auditor  
Olympia, WA

### *Americans with Disabilities*

*In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, we will make this document available in alternative formats. For more information, please contact our Office at (564) 999-0950, TDD Relay at (800) 833-6388, or email our webmaster at [webmaster@sao.wa.gov](mailto:webmaster@sao.wa.gov).*

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## AUDIT RESULTS

### Results in brief

This report describes the overall results and conclusions for the areas we examined. In those selected areas, Town operations complied, in all material respects, with applicable state laws, regulations, and its own policies, and provided adequate controls over the safeguarding of public resources.

In keeping with general auditing practices, we do not examine every transaction, activity, policy, internal control, or area. As a result, no information is provided on the areas that were not examined.

### About the audit

This report contains the results of our independent accountability audit of the Town of La Conner from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022.

Management is responsible for ensuring compliance and adequate safeguarding of public resources from fraud, loss or abuse. This includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal controls relevant to these objectives.

This audit was conducted under the authority of RCW 43.09.260, which requires the Office of the Washington State Auditor to examine the financial affairs of all local governments. Our audit involved obtaining evidence about the Town's use of public resources, compliance with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures, and internal controls over such matters. The procedures performed were based on our assessment of risks in the areas we examined.

Based on our risk assessment for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, the areas examined were those representing the highest risk of fraud, loss, abuse, or noncompliance. We examined the following areas during this audit period:

- Accounts payable – general disbursements
- Procurement – public works, purchases and cooperative purchases
- Tracking, safeguarding, and monitoring of resource inventories and sales, such as compose and other stored materials
- Open public meetings – compliance with minutes, meetings and executive session requirements
- Financial condition – reviewing for indications of financial distress

## RELATED REPORTS

### **Financial**

Our opinion on the Town's financial statements is provided in a separate report, which includes the Town's financial statements. That report is available on our website, <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE TOWN

The Town of La Conner serves approximately 900 citizens in Skagit County. It is administered by a mayor-council form of government with an elected, five-member Town Council and an independently elected Mayor. The Town's 16 employees provide an array of services including water, sewer, public works, finance, police, fire, planning and economic development.

For fiscal years 2021 and 2022, the Town had a general fund expense budget of \$1,923,550 and \$1,572,131, respectively.

### Contact information related to this report

Address:	Town of La Conner P.O. Box 400 La Conner, WA 98257
Contact:	Maria DeGoede, Finance Director
Telephone:	(360) 466-3125
Website:	<a href="http://www.townoflaconner.org">www.townoflaconner.org</a>

*Information current as of report publish date.*

### Audit history

You can find current and past audit reports for the Town of La Conner at <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

## ABOUT THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

The State Auditor's Office is established in the Washington State Constitution and is part of the executive branch of state government. The State Auditor is elected by the people of Washington and serves four-year terms.

We work with state agencies, local governments and the public to achieve our vision of increasing trust in government by helping governments work better and deliver higher value.

In fulfilling our mission to provide citizens with independent and transparent examinations of how state and local governments use public funds, we hold ourselves to those same standards by continually improving our audit quality and operational efficiency, and by developing highly engaged and committed employees.

As an agency, the State Auditor's Office has the independence necessary to objectively perform audits, attestation engagements and investigations. Our work is designed to comply with professional standards as well as to satisfy the requirements of federal, state and local laws. The Office also has an extensive quality control program and undergoes regular external peer review to ensure our work meets the highest possible standards of accuracy, objectivity and clarity.

Our audits look at financial information and compliance with federal, state and local laws for all local governments, including schools, and all state agencies, including institutions of higher education. In addition, we conduct performance audits and cybersecurity audits of state agencies and local governments, as well as state whistleblower, fraud and citizen hotline investigations.

The results of our work are available to everyone through the more than 2,000 reports we publish each year on our website, [www.sao.wa.gov](http://www.sao.wa.gov). Additionally, we share regular news and other information via an email subscription service and social media channels.

We take our role as partners in accountability seriously. The Office provides training and technical assistance to governments both directly and through partnerships with other governmental support organizations.

### Stay connected at [sao.wa.gov](http://sao.wa.gov)

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- [Request public records](#)
- Search BARS Manuals ([GAAP](#) and [cash](#)), and find [reporting templates](#)
- Learn about our [training workshops](#) and [on-demand videos](#)
- Discover [which governments serve you](#) — enter an address on our map
- Explore public financial data with the [Financial Intelligence Tool](#)

### Other ways to stay in touch

- Main telephone:  
(564) 999-0950
- Toll-free Citizen Hotline:  
(866) 902-3900
- Email:  
[webmaster@sao.wa.gov](mailto:webmaster@sao.wa.gov)



Office of the Washington State Auditor

Pat McCarthy

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# Financial Statements Audit Report

## Town of La Conner

For the period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022

*Published (Inserted by OS)*

Report No. 1034102



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## **Office of the Washington State Auditor Pat McCarthy**

Issue Date – (Inserted by OS)

Council

Town of La Conner

La Conner, Washington

### **Report on Financial Statements**

Please find attached our report on the Town of La Conner's financial statements.

We are issuing this report in order to provide information on the Town's financial activities and condition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat McCarthy".

Pat McCarthy, State Auditor

Olympia, WA

### ***Americans with Disabilities***

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## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*

### **Town of La Conner**

#### **January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022**

Council  
Town of La Conner  
La Conner, Washington

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the Town of La Conner, as of and for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town's financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated January 26, 2024.

We issued an unmodified opinion on the fair presentation of the Town's financial statements in accordance with its regulatory basis of accounting. We issued an adverse opinion on the fair presentation with regard to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) because the financial statements are prepared by the Town using accounting practices prescribed by state law and the State Auditor's *Budgeting, Accounting and Reporting System* (BARS) Manual described in Note 1, which is a basis of accounting other than GAAP. The effects on the financial statements of the variances between the basis of accounting described in Note 1 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material.

## **REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING**

In planning and performing our audits of the financial statements, we considered the Town's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Town's financial statements will not be prevented or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses.

## **REPORT ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Town's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

## **PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Town's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose. However, this

report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited. It also serves to disseminate information to the public as a reporting tool to help citizens assess government operations.



Pat McCarthy, State Auditor

Olympia, WA

January 26, 2024

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

#### **Town of La Conner January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022**

Council  
Town of La Conner  
La Conner, Washington

## REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### **Unmodified and Adverse Opinions**

We have audited the financial statements of the Town of La Conner, as of and for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, as listed in the financial section of our report.

### **Unmodified Opinion on the Regulatory Basis of Accounting (BARS Manual)**

As described in Note 1, the Town has prepared these financial statements to meet the financial reporting requirements of state law and accounting practices prescribed by the State Auditor's *Budgeting, Accounting and Reporting System* (BARS) Manual. Those accounting practices differ from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). The differences in these accounting practices are also described in Note 1.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash and investments of the Town of La Conner, and its changes in cash and investments, for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, on the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

### **Adverse Opinion on U.S. GAAP**

The financial statements referred to above were not intended to, and in our opinion, they do not, present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Town of La Conner, as of December 31, 2022 and 2021, or the changes in financial position or cash flows thereof for the years then ended, because of the significance of the matter discussed below.

## **Basis for Unmodified and Adverse Opinions**

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and *Government Auditing Standards*. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Town, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit unmodified and adverse opinions.

## **Matter Giving Rise to Adverse Opinion on U.S. GAAP**

Auditing standards issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) require auditors to formally acknowledge when governments do not prepare their financial statements, intended for general use, in accordance with GAAP. As described in Note 1 of the financial statements, the financial statements are prepared by the Town in accordance with state law using accounting practices prescribed by the BARS Manual, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive.

## **Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of state law and the BARS Manual described in Note 1. This includes determining that the basis of accounting is acceptable for the presentation of the financial statements in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Town's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

## **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and

*Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

Performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* includes the following responsibilities:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit;
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements;
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed;
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements;
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Town's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time; and
- We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

## **Supplementary Information**

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Town's financial statements. The Schedules of Liabilities are presented for purposes of additional analysis, as required by the prescribed BARS Manual. These schedules are not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the

United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

## **OTHER REPORTING REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated January 26, 2024 on our consideration of the Town's internal control over financial reporting and on the tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Town's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Pat McCarthy, State Auditor  
Olympia, WA  
January 26, 2024

## FINANCIAL SECTION

**Preliminary Draft - Please do not duplicate, distribute, or disclose.**

### **Town of La Conner January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022**

#### **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

- Fund Resources and Uses Arising from Cash Transactions – 2022
- Fund Resources and Uses Arising from Cash Transactions – 2021
- Fiduciary Fund Resources and Uses Arising from Cash Transactions – 2022
- Fiduciary Fund Resources and Uses Arising from Cash Transactions – 2021
- Notes to Financial Statements – 2022
- Notes to Financial Statements – 2021

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY AND OTHER INFORMATION**

- Schedule of Liabilities – 2022
- Schedule of Liabilities – 2021

## ABOUT THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

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- Toll-free Citizen Hotline:  
(866) 902-3900
- Email:  
[webmaster@sao.wa.gov](mailto:webmaster@sao.wa.gov)



# *Town of La Conner*

January 26, 2024

Office of the Washington State Auditor  
11 Bellwether Way  
Suite 211  
Bellingham, WA 98225

To the Office of the Washington State Auditor:

We are providing this letter in connection with your audit of the Town of La Conner for the period from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022. Representations are in relation to matters existing during or subsequent to the audit period up to the date of this letter.

Certain representations in this letter are described as being limited to matters that are significant or material. Information is considered significant or material if it is probable that it would change or influence the judgment of a reasonable person.

We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, having made appropriate inquiries to be able to provide our representations, the following representations made to you during your audit. If we subsequently discover information that would change our representations related to this period, we will notify you in a timely manner.

## **General Representations:**

1. We have provided you with unrestricted access to people you wished to speak with and made available all relevant and requested information of which we are aware, including:
  - a. Financial records and related data.
  - b. Minutes of the meetings of the governing body or summaries of actions of recent meetings for which minutes have not yet been prepared.
  - c. Other internal or external audits, examinations, investigations or studies that might concern the objectives of the audit and the corrective action taken to address significant findings and recommendations.

- d. Communications from regulatory agencies, government representatives or others concerning possible noncompliance, deficiencies in internal control or other matters that might concern the objectives of the audit.
- e. Related party relationships and transactions.
- f. Results of our internal assessment of business risks and risks related to financial reporting, compliance and fraud.

2. We acknowledge our responsibility for compliance with requirements related to confidentiality of certain information, and have notified you whenever records or data containing information subject to any confidentiality requirements were made available.

3. We acknowledge our responsibility for compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements.

4. We have identified and disclosed all laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements that could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts, including legal and contractual provisions for reporting specific activities in separate funds.

5. We have complied with all material aspects of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements.

6. We acknowledge our responsibility for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls over compliance with applicable laws and regulations and safeguarding of public resources, including controls to prevent and detect fraud.

7. We have established adequate procedures and controls to provide reasonable assurance of safeguarding public resources and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

8. We have no knowledge of any loss of public funds or assets or other illegal activity, or any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud involving management or employees.

9. In accordance with RCW 43.09.200, all transactions have been properly recorded in the financial records.

**Additional representations related to the financial statements:**

10. We acknowledge our responsibility for fair presentation of the financial statements and believe financial statements are fairly presented in accordance with the *Budgeting, Accounting and Reporting Standards Manual* (BARS Manual), which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

11. We acknowledge our responsibility for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting.
12. The financial statements properly classify all funds and activities.
13. Revenues are appropriately classified by fund and account in accordance with the BARS Manual.
14. Expenses are appropriately classified by fund and account, and allocations have been made on a reasonable basis.
15. Ending cash and investments are properly classified as nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned.
16. Significant assumptions we used in making accounting estimates are reasonable.
17. The following have been properly classified, reported and disclosed in the financial statements. as applicable:
  - a. Interfund, internal, and intra-entity activity and balances.
  - b. Related-party transactions, including sales, purchases, loans, transfers, leasing arrangements, and guarantees, and amounts receivable from or payable to related parties.
  - c. Joint ventures and other related organizations.
  - d. Guarantees under which the government is contingently liable.
  - e. All events occurring subsequent to the fiscal year end through the date of this letter that would require adjustment to, or disclosure in, the financial statements.
  - f. Effects of all known actual or possible litigation, claims, assessments, violations of laws, regulations, contracts or grant agreements and other loss contingencies.
18. We have accurately disclosed to you all known actual or possible pending or threatened litigation, claims or assessments whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements. We have also accurately disclosed to you the nature and extent of our consultation with outside attorneys concerning litigation, claims and assessments.
19. We acknowledge our responsibility to include all necessary and applicable disclosures required by the BARS Manual, including:
  - a. Description of the basis of accounting, summary of significant accounting policies and how this differs from Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).
  - b. Disclosures similar to those required by GAAP to the extent they are applicable to items reported in the financial statements.

- c. Any additional disclosures beyond those specifically required by the BARS Manual that may be necessary for the statements to be fairly presented.
- 20. We acknowledge our responsibility for reporting supplementary information (Schedule of Liabilities) in accordance with applicable requirements and believe supplementary information is fairly presented, in both form and content in accordance with those requirements.
- 21. We have disclosed to you all significant changes to the methods of measurement and presentation of supplementary information, reasons for any changes and all significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation.
- 22. We believe there are no uncorrected misstatements that would be material individually and in the aggregate to the financial statements taken as a whole.
- 23. We acknowledge our responsibility not to publish any document containing the audit report with any change in the financial statements, supplementary and other information referenced in the auditor's report. We will contact the auditor if we have any needs for publishing the audit report with different content included.



Marna Hanneman  
Mayor



Maria DeGoede  
Finance Director