

**CITY OF SAN RAFAEL
MEMORANDUM ON INTERNAL CONTROL
AND
REQUIRED COMMUNICATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017**

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**CITY OF SAN RAFAEL
MEMORANDUM ON INTERNAL CONTROL
AND
REQUIRED COMMUNICATIONS**

For The Year Ended June 30, 2017

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MEMORANDUM ON INTERNAL CONTROL

To the City Council of
the City of San Rafael, California

We have audited the basic financial statements of the City of San Rafael for the year ended June 30, 2017, and have issued our report thereon dated September 28, 2017. Our opinions on the basic financial statements and this report, insofar as they relate to San Rafael Sanitation District (District), are based solely on the report of other auditors. In planning and performing our audit of the basic financial statements of the City of San Rafael, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered the City's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing our auditing 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 City's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the City'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 City's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses. In addition, because of inherent limitations in internal control, including the possibility of management override of controls, misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected by such controls. Given these limitations during our audit, we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Included in the Schedule of Other Matters are recommendations not meeting the above definitions that we believe are opportunities for strengthening internal controls and operating efficiency.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of management, City Council, others within the organization, and agencies and pass-through entities requiring compliance with *Government Auditing Standards*, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Maze & Associates' in a cursive, flowing script.

Pleasant Hill, California
September 28, 2017

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CITY OF SAN RAFAEL
MEMORANDUM ON INTERNAL CONTROL

SCHEDULE OF OTHER MATTERS

NEW GASB PRONOUNCEMENTS OR PRONOUNCEMENTS NOT YET EFFECTIVE

The following comment represents new pronouncements taking effect in the next two years. We have cited them here to keep you abreast of developments:

Effective in fiscal year 2017-18:

GASB 81 – Irrevocable Split-Interest Agreements

This Statement requires that a government that receives resources pursuant to an irrevocable split-interest agreement recognize assets, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources at the inception of the agreement. Furthermore, this Statement requires that a government recognize assets representing its beneficial interests in irrevocable split-interest agreements that are administered by a third party, if the government controls the present service capacity of the beneficial interests. This Statement requires that a government recognize revenue when the resources become applicable to the reporting period.

GASB 85 – Omnibus 2017

The objective of this Statement is to address practice issues that have been identified during implementation and application of certain GASB Statements. This Statement addresses a variety of topics including issues related to blending component units, goodwill, fair value measurement and application, and postemployment benefits (pensions and other postemployment benefits [OPEB]).

GASB 86 – Certain Debt Extinguishment Issues

The primary objective of this Statement is to improve consistency in accounting and financial reporting for in-substance defeasance of debt by providing guidance for transactions in which cash and other monetary assets acquired with only existing resources—resources other than the proceeds of refunding debt—are placed in an irrevocable trust for the sole purpose of extinguishing debt. This Statement also improves accounting and financial reporting for prepaid insurance on debt that is extinguished and notes to financial statements for debt that is defeased in substance.

Effective in fiscal year 2018-19:

GASB 83 - Certain Asset Retirement Obligations

This Statement addresses accounting and financial reporting for certain asset retirement obligations (AROs). An ARO is a legally enforceable liability associated with the retirement of a tangible capital asset. A government that has legal obligations to perform future asset retirement activities related to its tangible capital assets should recognize a liability based on the guidance in this Statement.

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**CITY OF SAN RAFAEL
MEMORANDUM ON INTERNAL CONTROL**

STATUS OF PRIOR YEAR SIGNIFICANT DEFICIENCIES

2016 – 01: Internal Controls over Revenue at Community Center

Current Year Status: Recommendation implemented.

2016 – 02: Timely Preparation and Review of Bank Reconciliations

Current Year Status: Recommendation implemented.

2015 – 1: Accuracy of Special Assessment Tax Rolls

Current Year Status: Recommendation implemented.

2015 -- 2: Internal Control over Employee Benefits and Claims Activities

Current Year Status: Recommendation implemented.

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REQUIRED COMMUNICATIONS

To the City Council of
the City of San Rafael, California

We have audited the basic financial statements of the City of San Rafael for the year ended June 30, 2017. We did not audit the financial statements of the San Rafael Sanitation District, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2017, which represent 19%, 35%, and 15% of the assets, net position and revenues, respectively, of the entity-wide reporting entity. These component unit financial statements were audited by another auditor, whose report thereon has been furnished to us, and our opinion, insofar as it relates to the amounts included for this entity, is based solely on the report of the other auditor.

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 of San Rafael 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:

The following Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements became effective, but did not have a material effect on the financial statements:

- GASB 73 - *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions and Related Assets That Are Not within the Scope of GASB Statement 68, and Amendments to Certain Provisions of GASB Statements 67 and 68*
- GASB 74 - *Financial Reporting for Post-employment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans*
- GASB 77 - *Tax Abatement Disclosures*
- GASB 80 - *Blending Requirements for Certain Component Units—an amendment of GASB Statement No. 14*
- GASB 82 - *Pension Issues—an amendment of GASB Statements No. 67, No. 68, and No. 73*

The following GASB pronouncement becomes effective in fiscal year 2018. However, the City elected to adopt the provisions of this statement in fiscal year 2017. As disclosed in Note 1 to the financial statements, this statement required a prior period adjustment for the cumulative effect on the financial statements.

GASB Statement No. 75 – Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions

The objective of this Statement is to improve accounting and financial reporting by state and local governments for postemployment benefits other than pensions (OPEB). The Statement replaces the requirements of Statements No. 45 Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other than Pensions, as amended, and No. 57, OPEB Measurements by Agent Employers and Agent Multiple-Employer Plans, for OPEB.

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 estimate(s) affecting the City's financial statements was (were):

- *Estimated Net Pension Liabilities and Pension-Related Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources:* Management's estimate of the net pension liabilities and deferred outflows/inflows of resources are disclosed in Note 9 to the financial statements and are based on 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 Liability:* Management's estimate of the net OPEB liability is disclosed in Note 11 to the financial statements and is based on actuarial study 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.
- *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 life of assets as disclosed in Note 1 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.

- *Estimated Fair Value of Investments:* As of June 30, 2017, cash and investments were measured by fair value. Fair value is essentially market pricing in effect as of June 30, 2017. These fair values are not required to be adjusted for changes in general market conditions occurring subsequent to June 30, 2017.

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/certain 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 September 28, 2017.

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 governmental unit'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.

Very truly yours,

Maze & Associates

Pleasant Hill, California
September 28, 2017