

January 22, 2024

City Council
City of West Covina
West Covina, CA

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of West Covina 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 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 June 9, 2023. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Findings

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

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 fiscal year, except for the implementation of GASB Statement No. 87, *Leases*. 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 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 financial statements were:

Management's estimate of the fair value of investments is based on information provided by financial institutions. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the fair value of investments in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Management's estimate of capital assets depreciation is based on historical estimates of each capitalized item's useful life. We evaluated key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimated useful lives in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Management's estimate of the net pension and net OPEB liabilities/(assets) are based on actuarial information provided by the California Public Employee Retirement System's (CalPERS) actuarial office, and other sources. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop these liabilities in determining that the estimated liabilities/(assets) are reasonable in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

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

The disclosure of the fair value of investments in Note 2 to the financial statements represents amounts susceptible to market fluctuation.

The disclosure of accumulated depreciation in Note 6 to the financial statements is based on estimated useful lives which could differ from actual useful lives of each capitalized item.

The disclosures for the net OPEB and net pension liabilities/(assets) in the Notes to the financial statements are based on assumptions for discount rates, etc., which could differ from actual experience. The notes disclose the differences in these liabilities/(assets) if different assumptions are used in estimating these liabilities/(assets).

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 trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. 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 January 22, 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 management’s discussion and analysis and the schedules listed as required supplementary information in the table of contents, which are 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 engaged to report on the supplementary information as listed in the table of contents, which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. 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 sections, which accompanies the financial statements but is 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.

Restrictions on Use

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

Very truly yours,

Van Lant + Fankhaenel, LLP