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November 17, 2021

To the Board of Directors
Linn-Benton-Lincoln ESD
Albany, Oregon

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of Linn-Benton-Lincoln ESD for the year ended June 30, 2021. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* and *Government Auditing Standards and Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance)*, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Purpose of the Audit

Our audit was conducted using sampling, inquiries and analytical work to opine on the fair presentation of the financial statements and compliance with:

- generally accepted accounting principles and auditing standards
- the Oregon Municipal Audit Law and the related administrative rules
- federal, state and other agency rules and regulations related to financial awards

Our Responsibility under U.S. Generally Accepted Auditing Standards and the Uniform Guidance

As stated in our engagement letter, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to express opinions about whether the financial statements prepared by management with your oversight are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of your responsibilities. Our engagement letter details our nonaudit services we provide; these services do not constitute an audit under Government Auditing Standards.

In planning and performing our audit, we considered internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. We also considered internal control over compliance with requirements that could have a direct and material effect on a major federal program in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on compliance and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance.

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions is not an objective of our audit. Also in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, we examined, on a test basis, evidence about compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the OMB's Compliance Supplement applicable to each of its major federal programs for the purpose of expressing an opinion on compliance with those requirements. While our audit will provide a reasonable basis for our opinion, it will not provide a legal determination on compliance with those requirements.

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Our responsibility for the supplementary information accompanying the financial statements, as described by professional standards, is to evaluate the presentation of the supplementary information in relation to the financial statements as a whole and to report on whether the supplementary information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Planned Scope and Timing of the Audit

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; therefore, our audit will involve judgment about the number of transactions to be examined and the areas to be tested.

Our audit included obtaining an understanding of the entity and its environment, including internal control, sufficient to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and to design the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures. Material misstatements may result from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the entity or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the entity. We communicate our significant findings at the conclusion of the audit. However, some matters may have been communicated sooner, particularly if significant difficulties are encountered during the audit where assistance is needed to overcome the difficulties or if the difficulties may lead to a modified opinion. We also communicated any internal control related matters that are required to be communicated under professional standards.

Results of Audit

1. Audit opinion letter - an unmodified opinion on the financial statements has been issued. This means we have given a “clean” opinion with no reservations.
2. State minimum standards – We noted two instances where actual expenditures exceeded appropriations as noted on page 51 of the financial report.
3. Federal Awards - We found no issues of non-compliance and no questioned costs. We have responsibility to review these programs and give our opinion on the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, the internal control system, compliance with laws and regulations, and general and specific requirements mandated by the various grants.
4. Management letter – No separate management letter was issued.

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 are described in the notes to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during 2021. We noted no transactions entered into by the governmental unit 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 significant estimate in the financial statements is the actuarial estimate of the District’s portion of the statewide Net Pension Liability (or Asset). Other sensitive estimates affecting the financial statements were Management’s estimate of Accounts Receivable and Capital Asset Depreciation, which are based on estimated collectability of receivables and useful lives of assets. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop these estimates in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

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Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The disclosures in the financial statements are neutral, consistent, and clear.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties 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 or determined that their effects are immaterial. There were no uncorrected misstatements noted during the audit.

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 auditors' 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.

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 governmental unit's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditors' 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 our retention as the auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

Required Supplementary Information

We applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information 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 required supplementary information and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

Supplementary Information

We were engaged to report on the supplementary information, which accompany the basic 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 basic financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves.

Other Information

We were not engaged to report on the other information, which accompanies the basic financial statements but is 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.

Other Matters – Future Accounting and Auditing Issues

In order to keep you aware of new auditing standards issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and accounting statements issued by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), we have prepared the following summary of the more significant upcoming issues:

GASB 87 – LEASES

This Statement is effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2021, as extended by GASB 95. The primary objective of this Statement is to better meet the information needs of financial statement users by improving accounting and financial reporting for leases by governments. This Statement increases the usefulness of governments' financial statements by requiring recognition of certain lease assets and liabilities for leases that previously were classified as operating leases and recognized as inflows of resources or outflows of resources based on the payment provisions of the contract. It establishes a single model for lease accounting based on the foundational principle that leases are financings of the right to use an underlying asset. Under this Statement, a lessee is required to recognize a lease liability and an intangible right-to-use lease asset, and a lessor is required to recognize a lease receivable and a deferred inflow of resources, thereby enhancing the relevance and consistency of information about governments' leasing activities.

GASB 89 – ACCOUNTING FOR INTEREST COST INCURRED BEFORE THE END OF A CONSTRUCTION PERIOD

This Statement is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2020, as extended by GASB 95. The objectives of this Statement are to enhance the relevance and comparability of information about capital assets and the cost of borrowing for a reporting period and to simplify accounting for interest cost incurred before the end of a construction period. This Statement establishes accounting requirements for interest cost incurred before the end of a construction period. Such interest cost includes all interest that previously was accounted for in accordance with the requirements of paragraphs 5-22 of Statement No. 62, Codification of Accounting and Financial Reporting Guidance Contained in Pre-November 30, 2009 FASB and AICPA Pronouncements, which are superseded by this Statement. This Statement requires that interest cost incurred before the end of a construction period be recognized as an expense in the period in which the cost is incurred for financial statements prepared using the economic resources measurement focus. As a result, interest cost incurred before the end of a construction period will not be included in the historical cost of a capital asset reported in a business-type activity or enterprise fund. This Statement also reiterates that in financial statements prepared using the current financial resources measurement focus, interest cost incurred before the end of a

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construction period should be recognized as an expenditure on a basis consistent with governmental fund accounting principles.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Allen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

Kenneth Allen, CPA
PAULY, ROGERS AND CO., P.C.