

S T A F F R E P O R T

SUBJECT: 2017 Audit of LAVTA's Financial Statements

FROM: Tamara Edwards, Director of Finance

DATE: June 27, 2017

Action Requested

This is an information item for review and discussion.

Background

LAVTA has engaged an accountancy firm to audit the financial statements for each previous fiscal year. Part of that process is based on the Statement on Auditing Standards (SAS) No. 114 which requires the auditor to communicate with those charged with governance, including:

- An overview of the planned scope and timing of the audit.
- Representations the auditor is requesting from management.
- Additional guidance on the forms and timing of communication.
- An evaluation of the adequacy of the two-way communication.

Discussion

Maze and Associates is conducting the financial audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2017. The attached agenda is provided for the Committee's review and Mr. David Alvey of Maze and Associates will be available to discuss these items with the Committee.

Budget

No budget impact.

Next Steps

Maze and Associates will work with Staff to complete the financial audit and are available to the LAVTA Board of Directors if any questions or concerns arise.

Recommendation

This is an information item for review and discussion.

Attachments:

1. Agenda from Maze and Associates

**LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY
TRANSIT AUTHORITY
AUDIT PLANNING MEETING AGENDA
For The Year Ended June 30, 2017**

Date of Meeting: June 27, 2017

Form of communication: Live meeting with Finance and Administration Committee

Purpose of meeting: Cover discussions related to fraud considerations as required by Statement of Auditing Standards (SAS) Statement 99 and 114.

The main purpose of this discussion is to open up two-way communication between the auditors and “those charged with governance” at the Authority.

SAS 114 – Audit Timing, Scope and Management Representation

Audit Timing

In regards to Audit Timing, we finished our interim phase (control testing) and are wrapping up the final phase and the report.

Audit Scope

In terms of audit scope, we begin with

- Performing a risk assessment brainstorming of the Authority
- Then create an audit plan tailored to the Authority and sector
- We review and document our understanding of the Authority’s internal controls and segregation of duties. Here we have a focused attention to conflict of duties – employees with access to assets and related records used to control and account for those assets, and we test mitigating controls.
- We determine the most effective way to test significant audit areas and balances, usually by
 - Testing controls over key transactions cycles via sampling (such as disbursements, payroll and journal entries)
 - Testing information system application controls
 - Sending 3rd party confirmations when they can be effective
 - Testing accruals at year end
 - Analytical Review
 - Projections and forecasts
 - Testing bank reconciliations
 - Reviewing actuarial studies utilized for Retirement Plans and OPEB

- Perform compliance tests
 - Certain Government code provisions applicable to cash and investments
 - Local policy compliance, typically:
 - Investment
 - Purchasing
 - Grants (Single Audits)

- Financial Statement preparation assistance
 - Staff has requested that we provide assistance with the preparation of financial statements and disclosures.
 - We are satisfied staff have the capability to perform this task themselves.

Management Representations

We will request representations from management that data and assertions provided are complete and accurate. We rely primarily on our audit verification tests and procedures, however, management assertions and judgments unavoidably affect financial data.

SAS 99 – Fraud Consideration

Fraud Considerations: Statement of Audit Standard (SAS) #99, *Consideration of Fraud in a Financial Statement Audit*. This Standard came out of the fall out of Enron/ WorldCom and other private sector frauds.

1. “Fraud” is defined as an intentional act that results in a *material misstatement in financial statements* that are subject to audit. In this case, fraud includes two concepts:
 - a. Fraudulent financial reporting:
 - i. Misstatement including misapplication of accounting principles, omission of data or disclosures, fictitious transactions or sham transactions
 - ii. Concealment
 - b. Misappropriations of assets:
 - i. Theft
 - ii. Concealment
 - iii. Conversion
2. SAS 99 requires an inquiry of client
 - a. Client officials to include:
 - i. Board Members
 - ii. Management
 - iii. Others outside Finance (optional)
 - b. Areas to be discussed:
 - i. Is management aware of known instances of fraud?
 - ii. Are there areas you believe are “Susceptible to Fraud”?
 - iii. Any known related party transactions?
 - iv. Do you feel all Authority employees are honest and have integrity?
 - c. Areas automatically deemed susceptible to fraud:
 - i. Improper revenue recognition
 - ii. Management override of Internal Control
3. SAS 99 also requires that we address our client’s “Fraud Risk Assessment and Monitoring Programs” (AKA internal controls plus)
 - a. Prevention techniques
 - b. Deterrence techniques
 - c. Detection techniques

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