

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY CENTRAL
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

MEMORANDUM ON INTERNAL CONTROL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

This Page Left Intentionally Blank

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY CENTRAL
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

MEMORANDUM ON INTERNAL CONTROL

For The Year Ended June 30, 2023

Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
<i>Memorandum on Internal Control</i>	1
Schedule of Other Matters	3

This Page Left Intentionally Blank

MEMORANDUM ON INTERNAL CONTROL

To the Board of Directors of
Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District
Los Gatos, California

In planning and performing our audit of the basic financial statements of the Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District (District), a component unit of the County of Santa Clara as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered the District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing 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 District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the District'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 District'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.

Management's written responses included in this report have not been subjected to the audit procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of management, District Board, others within the organization and agencies and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

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

Pleasant Hill, California
November 17, 2023

This Page Left Intentionally Blank

MEMORANDUM ON INTERNAL CONTROL

SCHEDULE OF OTHER MATTERS

2023-01 TIMELY POSTING OF JOURNAL ENTRIES

In order for the general ledger to be accurate and effective, journal entries should be prepared, reviewed, and posted timely within 30-45 days of the event's effective date.

We noted that two out of the forty journal entries tested were posted more than 45 days after the effective date.

It appeared that the delays were due to an employee being promoted and needed to be trained.

Delays in the posting and review of journal entries increase the likelihood of misstatements in the financial statements or errors in account balances.

We recommend that Finance make journal entry processing a priority and establish procedures to ensure monthly journal entries are prepared, reviewed, and posted timely, even if the District is short staffed.

Management Responses:

We concur with the recommendation and will establish a procedure to ensure the timely posting of journal entries. We have already put into place the reduction and transition of several voluminous procurement card journal entry transactions to accounts payable transactions. The District has also taken steps to dedicate more resources to the finance function of the District. In June 2023, the Information Technology unit transitioned to its own division and out of the Business Services Division – thereby reducing the direct reports of the Business Services Director by almost half. Additionally, the District is exploring the addition of a third analyst level position to support the finance function of the District in fiscal year 2024. These changes will better enable the Business Services Division to prioritize the preparation, review and timely posting of journal entries, with redundant staffing to reduce the negative impact of short staffing periods.

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 few years. We cite them here to keep you informed of developments:

EFFECTIVE FISCAL YEARS 2022, 2023 and 2024:

GASB 99 – Omnibus 2022

The objectives of this Statement are to enhance comparability in accounting and financial reporting and to improve the consistency of authoritative literature by addressing (1) practice issues that have been identified during implementation and application of certain GASB Statements and (2) accounting and financial reporting for financial guarantees. The practice issues addressed by this Statement are as follows:

- Classification and reporting of derivative instruments within the scope of Statement No. 53, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Derivative Instruments*, that do not meet the definition of either an investment derivative instrument or a hedging derivative instrument
- Clarification of provisions in Statement No. 87, *Leases*, as amended, related to the determination of the lease term, classification of a lease as a short term lease, recognition and measurement of a lease liability and a lease asset, and identification of lease incentives
- Clarification of provisions in Statement No. 94, *Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements*, related to (a) the determination of the public-private and public-public partnership (PPP) term and (b) recognition and measurement of installment payments and the transfer of the underlying PPP asset
- Clarification of provisions in Statement No. 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements*, related to the subscription-based information technology arrangement (SBITA) term, classification of a SBITA as a short term SBITA, and recognition and measurement of a subscription liability
- Extension of the period during which the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) is considered an appropriate benchmark interest rate for the qualitative evaluation of the effectiveness of an interest rate swap that hedges the interest rate risk of taxable debt
- Accounting for the distribution of benefits as part of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Disclosures related to nonmonetary transactions
- Pledges of future revenues when resources are not received by the pledging government

MEMORANDUM ON INTERNAL CONTROL

SCHEDULE OF OTHER MATTERS

GASB 99 – Omnibus 2022 (Continued)

- Clarification of provisions in Statement No. 34, *Basic Financial Statements—and Management’s Discussion and Analysis—for State and Local Governments*, as amended, related to the focus of the government-wide financial statements
- Terminology updates related to certain provisions of Statement No. 63, *Financial Reporting of Deferred Outflows of Resources, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Net Position*
- Terminology used in Statement 53 to refer to resource flows statements.

The Requirements of this Statement are Effective as Follows:

The requirements in paragraphs 26–32 related to extension of the use of LIBOR, accounting for SNAP distributions, disclosures of nonmonetary transactions, pledges of future revenues by pledging governments, clarification of certain provisions in Statement 34, as amended, and terminology updates related to Statement 53 and Statement 63 are effective upon issuance.

The requirements in paragraphs 11–25 related to leases, PPPs, and SBITAs are effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2022, and all reporting periods thereafter.

The requirements in paragraphs 4–10 related to financial guarantees and the classification and reporting of derivative instruments within the scope of Statement 53 are effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2023, and all reporting periods thereafter.

Earlier application is encouraged and is permitted by individual topic.

How the Changes in This Statement Will Improve Financial Reporting

The requirements of this Statement will enhance comparability in the application of accounting and financial reporting requirements and will improve the consistency of authoritative literature. Consistent authoritative literature enables governments and other stakeholders to more easily locate and apply the correct accounting and financial reporting provisions, which improves the consistency with which such provisions are applied. The comparability of financial statements also will improve as a result of this Statement. Better consistency and comparability improve the usefulness of information for users of state and local government financial statements.

MEMORANDUM ON INTERNAL CONTROL

SCHEDULE OF OTHER MATTERS

EFFECTIVE FISCAL YEAR 2024:

GASB 100 – Accounting for Changes and Error Corrections

The primary objective of this Statement is to enhance accounting and financial reporting requirements for accounting changes and error corrections to provide more understandable, reliable, relevant, consistent, and comparable information for making decisions or assessing accountability

This Statement defines *accounting changes* as changes in accounting principles, changes in accounting estimates, and changes to or within the financial reporting entity and describes the transactions or other events that constitute those changes. As part of those descriptions, for (1) certain changes in accounting principles and (2) certain changes in accounting estimates that result from a change in measurement methodology, a new principle or methodology should be justified on the basis that it is preferable to the principle or methodology used before the change. That preferability should be based on the qualitative characteristics of financial reporting—understandability, reliability, relevance, timeliness, consistency, and comparability. This Statement also addresses corrections of errors in previously issued financial statements.

This Statement prescribes the accounting and financial reporting for (1) each type of accounting change and (2) error corrections. This Statement requires that (a) changes in accounting principles and error corrections be reported retroactively by restating prior periods, (b) changes to or within the financial reporting entity be reported by adjusting beginning balances of the current period, and (c) changes in accounting estimates be reported prospectively by recognizing the change in the current period. The requirements of this Statement for changes in accounting principles apply to the implementation of a new pronouncement in absence of specific transition provisions in the new pronouncement. This Statement also requires that the aggregate amount of adjustments to and restatements of beginning net position, fund balance, or fund net position, as applicable, be displayed by reporting unit in the financial statements.

This Statement requires disclosure in notes to financial statements of descriptive information about accounting changes and error corrections, such as their nature. In addition, information about the quantitative effects on beginning balances of each accounting change and error correction should be disclosed by reporting unit in a tabular format to reconcile beginning balances as previously reported to beginning balances as restated.

Furthermore, this Statement addresses how information that is affected by a change in accounting principle or error correction should be presented in required supplementary information (RSI) and supplementary information (SI). For periods that are earlier than those included in the basic financial statements, information presented in RSI or SI should be restated for error corrections, if practicable, but not for changes in accounting principles.

MEMORANDUM ON INTERNAL CONTROL

SCHEDULE OF OTHER MATTERS

EFFECTIVE FISCAL YEAR 2025:

GASB 101 – *Compensated Absences*

The objective of this Statement is to better meet the information needs of financial statement users by updating the recognition and measurement guidance for compensated absences. That objective is achieved by aligning the recognition and measurement guidance under a unified model and by amending certain previously required disclosures.

Recognition And Measurement

This Statement requires that liabilities for compensated absences be recognized for (1) leave that has not been used and (2) leave that has been used but not yet paid in cash or settled through noncash means. A liability should be recognized for leave that has not been used if (a) the leave is attributable to services already rendered, (b) the leave accumulates, and (c) the leave is more likely than not to be used for time off or otherwise paid in cash or settled through noncash means. Leave is attributable to services already rendered when an employee has performed the services required to earn the leave. Leave that accumulates is carried forward from the reporting period in which it is earned to a future reporting period during which it may be used for time off or otherwise paid or settled. In estimating the leave that is more likely than not to be used or otherwise paid or settled, a government should consider relevant factors such as employment policies related to compensated absences and historical information about the use or payment of compensated absences. However, leave that is more likely than not to be settled through conversion to defined benefit postemployment benefits should not be included in a liability for compensated absences.

This Statement requires that a liability for certain types of compensated absences—including parental leave, military leave, and jury duty leave—not be recognized until the leave commences. This Statement also requires that a liability for specific types of compensated absences not be recognized until the leave is used.

This Statement also establishes guidance for measuring a liability for leave that has not been used, generally using an employee's pay rate as of the date of the financial statements. A liability for leave that has been used but not yet paid or settled should be measured at the amount of the cash payment or noncash settlement to be made. Certain salary-related payments that are directly and incrementally associated with payments for leave also should be included in the measurement of the liabilities.

With respect to financial statements prepared using the current financial resources measurement focus, this Statement requires that expenditures be recognized for the amount that normally would be liquidated with expendable available financial resources.

Notes To Financial Statements

This Statement amends the existing requirement to disclose the gross increases and decreases in a liability for compensated absences to allow governments to disclose only the net change in the liability (as long as they identify it as a net change). In addition, governments are no longer required to disclose which governmental funds typically have been used to liquidate the liability for compensated absences.

MEMORANDUM ON INTERNAL CONTROL

SCHEDULE OF OTHER MATTERS

GASB 101 – Compensated Absences (Continued)

How the Changes in this Statement Will Improve Financial Reporting

The unified recognition and measurement model in this Statement will result in a liability for compensated absences that more appropriately reflects when a government incurs an obligation. In addition, the model can be applied consistently to any type of compensated absence and will eliminate potential comparability issues between governments that offer different types of leave.

The model also will result in a more robust estimate of the amount of compensated absences that a government will pay or settle, which will enhance the relevance and reliability of information about the liability for compensated absences.