

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY CENTRAL
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

REQUIRED COMMUNICATIONS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

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FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

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For The Year Ended June 30, 2023

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REQUIRED COMMUNICATIONS

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

We have audited the basic financial statements of the Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District (District), a component unit of the County of Santa Clara, for the year ended June 30, 2023. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards, 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 May 1, 2023. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Matters

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Accounting Policies – Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the District 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 pronouncements became effective, but did not have a material effect on the financial statements:

- GASB 91** – *Conduit Debt Obligations*
- GASB 94** – *Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements*
- GASB 96** – *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements*
- GASB 99** – *Omnibus 2022, paragraphs 11-25*

Unusual Transactions, Controversial or Emerging Areas – We noted no transactions entered into by the District 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 estimates affecting the District's financial statements were:

Estimated Net Pension Liability and Pension-Related Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources: Management's estimate of the net pension liability and deferred outflows/inflows of resources are disclosed in Note 7 to the financial statements and are based on actuarial studies determined by a consultant, which are based on the experience of the District. 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 and OPEB-Related Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources: Management's estimate of the net OPEB liability is disclosed in Note 8 to the financial statements and is based on actuarial study determined by a consultant, which is based on the experience of the District. 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 Fair Value of Investments: As of June 30, 2023, the District held approximately \$103.5 million of cash and investments as measured by fair value as disclosed in Note 3 to the financial statements. Fair value is essentially market pricing in effect as of June 30, 2023. These fair values are not required to be adjusted for changes in general market conditions occurring subsequent to June 30, 2023.

Estimate of Depreciation: 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 1F 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.

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 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 Board of Directors.

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 November 17, 2023.

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 District’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 District’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 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 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 them.

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.

Maze & Associates

Pleasant Hill, California
November 17, 2023

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