



**HINTONBURDICK**  
CPAs & ADVISORS

August 3, 2023

Board and Management  
of Big Plains Water & Sewer SSD  
Town of Apple Valley  
1777 North Meadowlark Drive  
Apple Valley, UT 84737

The following represents our understanding of the services we will provide Big Plains Water & Sewer SSD.

You have requested that we audit the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Big Plains Water & Sewer SSD, as of June 30, 2023, and for the year then ended and the related notes, which collectively comprise Big Plains Water & Sewer SSD's basic financial statement. We are pleased to confirm our acceptance and our understanding of this audit engagement by means of this letter.

The objectives of our audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, and/or any state or regulatory audit requirements will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements, including omissions, can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, (U.S. GAAP,) as promulgated by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) require that certain required supplementary information (RSI) such as management's discussion and analysis and budgetary comparison be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the GASB, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to the RSI in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, (U.S. GAAS). These limited procedures will consist primarily of inquiries of management regarding their methods of measurement and presentation, and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries. We will not express an opinion or provide any form of assurance on the RSI. The following RSI is required by U.S. GAAP. This RSI will be subjected to certain limited procedures but will not be audited:

- 1) Management's Discussion and Analysis
- 2) Budgetary Comparison Schedules

Also, the document we submit to you will include the following other additional information that will not be subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the basic financial statements:

- 1) Bond Disclosures

## Auditor Responsibilities

We will conduct our audit in accordance with GAAS and in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, and/or any state or regulatory audit requirements. As part of an audit in accordance with GAAS and in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, and/or any state or regulatory audit requirements, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. However, we will communicate to you in writing concerning any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control relevant to the audit of the financial statements that we have identified during the audit.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Big Plains Water & Sewer SSD's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of internal control, an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements may not be detected exists, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with GAAS and in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, and/or any state or regulatory audit requirements.

Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any other periods.

Our firm may transmit confidential information that you provided us to third parties in order to facilitate delivering our services to you. We have obtained confidentiality agreements with all our service providers to maintain the confidentiality of your information and we will take reasonable precautions to determine that they have the appropriate procedures in place to prevent the unauthorized release of confidential information to others. We will remain responsible for the work provided by any third-party service providers used under this agreement. By your signature below, you consent to having confidential information transmitted to entities outside the firm. Please feel free to inquire if you would like additional information regarding the transmission of confidential information to entities outside the firm.

## Compliance with Laws and Regulations

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the basic financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of Big Plains Water & Sewer SSD's compliance with the provisions of

applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and agreements. However, the objective of our audit will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion.

### Management Responsibilities

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that management and, when appropriate, those charged with governance acknowledge and understand that they have responsibility:

- a. For the preparation and fair presentation of the basic financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America;
- b. For the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of basic financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to error, fraudulent financial reporting, misappropriation of assets, or violations of laws, governmental regulations, grant agreements, or contractual agreements; and
- c. To provide us with:
  - i. Access to all information of which management is aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the basic financial statements such as records, documentation, and other matters;
  - ii. Additional information that we may request from management for the purpose of the audit;
  - iii. Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
  - iv. A written acknowledgement of all the documents that management expects to issue that will be included in the annual report and the planned timing and method of issuance of that annual report; and
  - v. A final version of the annual report (including all the documents that, together, comprise the annual report) in a timely manner prior to the date of the auditor's report.
- d. For including the auditor's report in any document containing basic financial statements that indicates that such basic financial statements have been audited by us;
- e. For identifying and ensuring that the entity complies with the laws and regulations applicable to its activities;
- f. For adjusting the basic financial statements to correct material misstatements and confirming to us in the management representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the current year period(s) under audit are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the basic financial statements as a whole; and
- g. For acceptance of nonattest services, including identifying the proper party to oversee nonattest work;
- h. For maintaining adequate records, selecting and applying accounting principles, and safeguarding assets;
- i. For informing us of any known or suspected fraud affecting the entity involving management, employees with significant role in internal control and others where fraud could have a material effect on the financials; and
- j. For the accuracy and completeness of all information provided.

With regard to the supplementary information referred to above, you acknowledge and understand your responsibility: (a) for the preparation of the supplementary information in accordance with the applicable criteria; (b) to provide us with the appropriate written representations regarding supplementary information; (c) to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains the supplementary information and that indicates that we have reported on such supplementary information;

and (d) to present the supplementary information with the audited basic financial statements, or if the supplementary information will not be presented with the audited basic financial statements, to make the audited basic financial statements readily available to the intended users of the supplementary information no later than the date of issuance by you of the supplementary information and our report thereon.

As part of our audit process, we will request from management and, when appropriate, those charged with governance, written confirmation concerning representations made to us in connection with the audit.

## Reporting

We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of Big Plains Water & Sewer SSD's basic financial statements. Our report will be addressed to Board and Management of Big Plains Water & Sewer SSD. Circumstances may arise in which our report may differ from its expected form and content based on the results of our audit. Depending on the nature of these circumstances, it may be necessary for us to modify our opinions, add an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph(s) to our auditor's report, or if necessary, withdraw from the engagement. If our opinions on the basic financial statements are other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed opinions, we may decline to express opinions or to issue a report as a result of this engagement.

In accordance with the requirements of *Government Auditing Standards*, we will also issue a written report describing the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and over compliance with laws, regulations, and provisions of grants and contracts, including the results of that testing. However, providing an opinion on internal control and compliance will not be an objective of the audit and, therefore, no such opinion will be expressed.

## Other

We understand that your employees will prepare all confirmations we request and will locate any documents or support for any other transactions we select for testing.

If you intend to publish or otherwise reproduce the basic financial statements and make reference to our firm, you agree to provide us with printers' proofs or masters for our review and approval before printing. You also agree to provide us with a copy of the final reproduced material for our approval before it is distributed.

Regarding the electronic dissemination of audited financial statements, including financial statements published electronically on your Internet website, you understand that electronic sites are a means to distribute information and, therefore, we are not required to read the information contained in these sites or to consider the consistency of other information in the electronic site with the original document.

Professional standards prohibit us from being the sole host and/or the sole storage for your financial and non-financial data. As such, it is your responsibility to maintain your original data and records and we cannot be responsible to maintain such original information. By signing this engagement letter, you affirm that you have all the data and records required to make your books and records complete.

## Provisions of Engagement Administration, Timing and Fees

During the course of the engagement, we may communicate with you or your personnel via fax or e-mail, and you should be aware that communication in those mediums contains a risk of misdirected or intercepted communications.

We expect to begin our audit in approximately November 2023 and to issue our report no later than December 31, 2023.

R. McKay Hall, CPA is the engagement partner for the audit services specified in this letter. His responsibilities include supervising HintonBurdick, PLLC's services performed as part of this engagement and signing or authorizing another qualified firm representative to sign the audit report.

Our price estimate for the financial audit, including out-of-pocket costs (such as report reproduction, postage, travel, etc.), will not exceed \$18,500.

The above prices are based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel, timely receipt of information, and the assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered during the audit.

We will schedule the engagement based in part on deadlines, working conditions, and the availability of your key personnel. We will plan the engagement based on the assumption that your personnel will cooperate and provide assistance by performing tasks such as preparing requested schedules, retrieving supporting documents, and preparing confirmations. If your personnel are unavailable to provide assistance in a timely manner, if your staff are unavailable during our scheduled fieldwork dates or requested information has not been prepared, it substantially increases the work we have to do to complete the engagement within the established deadlines. The following circumstances will result in additional fees:

- Delivery of the trial balance less than a week before the established fieldwork dates will result in a minimum increase in fees of 10% over our original fee estimate.
- New versions of the trial balance or more than 15 required audit adjustments will result in a minimum increase in fees of 10% over our original fee estimate.
- If the entity is unable to provide requested information before the final day of scheduled fieldwork or a mutually agreed upon date, inconveniences could create additional fees of 10% over our original fee estimate.

Fees requested or required for additional accounting, consultation and non-audit services beyond the above listed circumstances will be billed in addition to the above fees and will be dependent on the level of service provided. If our fees for these additional services will be significantly more than in prior years, we will discuss the situation with you before we proceed.

Our invoices for these fees will be rendered each month as work progresses and are payable on presentation. In accordance with our firm policies, work may be suspended if your account becomes 30 days or more overdue and may not be resumed until your account is paid in full. If we elect to terminate our services for nonpayment, our engagement will be deemed to have been completed upon written notification of termination, even if we have not completed our report(s). You will be obligated to compensate us for all time expended and to reimburse us for all out-of-pocket costs through the date of termination. Interim billings may be submitted as work progresses and expenses are incurred. In the event any statement or invoice rendered by us to you is not paid within thirty (30) days of the date of the invoice, a late charge shall be accrued on the unpaid balance at the rate of 1.5 percent per month until paid. If billings are not paid within thirty (30) days of the invoice date, at our election, we may stop all work until your



account is brought current or we may withdraw from this engagement. You acknowledge and agree that we are not required to continue work in the event of your failure to pay on a timely basis for services rendered as required by this engagement letter. You further acknowledge and agree that in the event we stop work or withdraw from this engagement we shall not be liable to you for any damages that occur as a result of our ceasing to render services.

Our liability as auditors shall be limited to the period covered by our audit and shall not extend to periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

It is our policy to keep work papers related to this engagement for seven (7) years. Upon the expiration of the seven (7) year period, you agree that we shall be free to destroy our work papers. When records are returned to you, it is your responsibility to retain and protect your records for possible future uses, including potential examination by governmental or regulatory agencies.

In the event of any dispute, claim, question, or disagreement arising from or relating to this Agreement or the breach thereof, the parties hereto shall use their best efforts to settle the dispute, claim, question, or disagreement. To this effect, they shall consult and negotiate with each other in good faith and recognizing their mutual interests, attempt to reach a just and equitable solution satisfactory to both parties. If the dispute cannot be settled through direct discussions, the parties agree to endeavor first to settle the dispute in an amicable manner by mediation administered by the American Arbitration Association under its Commercial Mediation Rules before resorting to other legal remedies. If the parties are unable to resolve the dispute through mediation within sixty (60) days from the date notice is first given, then they may proceed to resolve the matter by arbitration. Such arbitration shall be binding and final. Any dispute over fees will be submitted for resolution by arbitration in accordance with the rules of the American Arbitration Association. In agreeing to arbitration both parties acknowledge that, in the event of a dispute each party is giving up the right to have the dispute decided in a court of law before a judge or jury and instead are accepting the use of arbitration for resolution. Costs of any mediation proceeding shall be shared equally by all parties. The prevailing party in the arbitration shall be entitled to an award of reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred in connection with the application of the dispute in an amount to be determined by the arbitrator.

During the course of the audit we may observe opportunities for economy in, or improved controls over, your operations. We will bring such matters to the attention of the appropriate level of management, either orally or in writing.

You agree to inform us of facts that may affect the basic financial statements of which you may become aware during the period from the date of the auditor's report to the date the financial statements are issued.

At the conclusion of our audit engagement, we will communicate to Board and Management the following significant findings from the audit:

- Our view about the qualitative aspects of the entity's significant accounting practices;
- Significant difficulties, if any, encountered during the audit;
- Uncorrected misstatements, other than those we believe are trivial, if any;
- Disagreements with management, if any;
- Other findings or issues, if any, arising from the audit that are, in our professional judgment, significant and relevant to those charged with governance regarding their oversight of the financial reporting process;



- Material, corrected misstatements that were brought to the attention of management as a result of our audit procedures;
- Representations we requested from management;
- Management’s consultations with other accountants, if any; and
- Significant issues, if any, arising from the audit that were discussed, or the subject of correspondence, with management.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of HintonBurdick, PLLC and constitutes confidential information. However, we may be requested to make certain audit documentation available to regulators and federal agencies pursuant to authority given to it by law or regulation, or to peer reviewers. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of HintonBurdick, PLLC’s personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to these agencies and regulators. The regulators and agencies may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies of information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

In accordance with the requirements of *Government Auditing Standards*, a copy of our latest external peer review report of our firm is available on our website for your consideration and files.

Please sign and return the attached copy of this letter to indicate your acknowledgment of, and agreement with, the arrangements for our audit of the basic financial statements including our respective responsibilities.

We appreciate the opportunity to be your financial statement auditors and look forward to working with you and your staff.

Respectfully,

*HintonBurdick, PLLC*

RESPONSE:

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of Big Plains Water & Sewer SSD

Management Signature (required): \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Governance Signature (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Title: \_\_\_\_\_