

September 24, 2024

City Council
City of Clearlake
Clearlake, California

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Clearlake (City) for the year ended June 30, 2023. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance, 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 August 17, 2023. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

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 by the City 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 fiscal year. We noted no transactions entered into by the City 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 sensitive estimates affecting the City's financial statements were:

Management's estimate of the fair value of investments is based on information provided by financial institutions. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the fair value of investments in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Management's estimate of capital assets depreciation is based on historical estimates of each capitalized item's useful life. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimated useful lives in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Management's estimates for the net pension liability is based on actuarial information provided by the California Public Employee Retirement System's (CalPERS) actuarial office. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions to develop the liability in determining that the estimated liability are reasonable in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The most sensitive disclosures affecting the financial statements were:

The disclosure of the fair value of investments in Note 2 to the financial statements represents amounts susceptible to market fluctuation.

The disclosure of accumulated depreciation in Note 5 to the financial statements is based on estimated useful lives which could differ from actual useful lives of each capitalized item.

The disclosures for the net pension liability in Note 7 to the financial statements is based on assumptions for discount rates, etc., which could differ from actual experience. The notes disclose the differences in these liabilities if different assumptions are used in estimating these liabilities.

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, other than delays in completing the audit due to the significant general ledger accounting and reconciliations needed.

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. The following material misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures were corrected by management:

- 1) Adjustments were made to grants receivable at year-end.
- 2) Adjustments were made to accounts payable at year-end.

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 the management representation letter dated September 24, 2024.

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 City'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 City's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

Findings and Recommendations:

In addition to our audit opinion on the financial statements, we issued our “Independent Auditor’s Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*” dated September 24, 2024, in which we identified a material weakness in internal controls.

Other Matters

We applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information, as listed in the City’s financial statements, which are required supplementary information (RSI) 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 RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

We were engaged to report on the supplementary information (e.g., budgetary schedules, combining statements, individual fund statements), which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. 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 financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

Restriction on Use

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

Very truly yours,

Van Lant & Fankhaed, LLP