



**HINKLE &  
COMPANY**  
Strategic PC  
Business Advisors

February 14, 2024

Board of County Commissioners  
Huerfano County Government  
401 Main Street, Suite 201  
Walsenburg, Colorado 81089

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the services we are to provide to the Huerfano County Government (the County). We will audit the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, the aggregate remaining fund information, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements of the County as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023.

In addition, we will audit the entity's compliance over major federal award programs for the period ended December 31, 2023, if required. We are pleased to confirm our acceptance and our understanding of this audit engagement by means of this letter. Our audits will be conducted with the objectives of our expressing an opinion on each opinion unit and an opinion on compliance regarding the entity's major federal award programs.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that supplementary information (RSI), such as management's discussion and analysis (MD&A), budgetary comparison schedule for the General Fund, schedules of the County's proportionate share of the net pension liability and the County's contributions, if applicable, be presented to supplement the County's basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the *Governmental Accounting Standards Board* 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 required supplementary information (RSI) in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. 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 accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. This RSI will be subjected to certain limited procedures but will not be audited:

- Management's Discussions and Analysis
- Budgetary Comparison Schedules
- Schedule of the County's proportionate share of the net pension liability, if applicable
- Schedule of the County's contributions, if applicable

Office Locations:

Colorado Springs, CO  
Denver, CO  
Frisco, CO  
Tulsa, OK

Denver Office:

750 W. Hampden Avenue,  
Suite 400  
Englewood,  
Colorado 80110  
TEL: 303.796.1000  
FAX: 303.796.1001  
[www.HinkleCPAs.com](http://www.HinkleCPAs.com)

Supplementary information other than RSI will accompany the Huerfano County Government basic financial statements. We will subject the following supplementary information to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling supplementary information to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. We intend to provide an opinion on the following information in relation to the financial statements as a whole:

- Schedule of expenditures of federal awards (if required)
- Combining and Individual Fund Financial Statements and Schedules
- Local highway finance report

**Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards** (if required)

We will subject the schedule of expenditures of federal awards to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling the schedule to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. We intend to provide an opinion on whether the schedule of expenditures of federal awards is presented fairly in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

**Data Collection Form** (if required)

Prior to the completion of our engagement, we will complete the sections of the Data Collection Form that are our responsibility. The form will summarize our audit findings, amounts and conclusions. It is management's responsibility to submit a reporting package including financial statements, schedule of expenditure of federal awards, summary schedule of prior audit findings and corrective action plan along with the Data Collection Form to the federal audit clearinghouse. The financial reporting package must be text searchable, unencrypted, and unlocked. Otherwise, the reporting package will not be accepted by the federal audit clearinghouse. We will assist you in the electronic submission and certification. You may request from us copies of our report for you to include with the reporting package submitted to pass-through entities.

The Data Collection Form is required to be submitted within the earlier of 30 days after receipt of our auditor's reports or nine months after the end of the audit period, unless specifically waived by a federal cognizant or oversight agency for audits. Data Collection Forms submitted untimely are one of the factors in assessing programs at a higher risk.



## **Audit of the Financial Statements**

We will conduct our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAS), the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States of America; the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance) and, if applicable, in accordance with any state or regulatory audit requirements. Those standards and the Uniform Guidance require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the basic financial statements are free from material misstatement. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error, fraudulent financial reporting, misappropriation of assets, or violations of laws, governmental regulations, grant agreements, or contractual agreements.

An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. If appropriate, our procedures will therefore include tests of documentary evidence that support the transactions recorded in the accounts, tests of the physical existence of inventories, and direct confirmation of cash, investments, and certain other assets and liabilities by correspondence with creditors and financial institutions. As part of our audit process, we will request written representations from your attorneys, and they may bill you for responding. At the conclusion of our audit, we will also request certain written representations from you about the financial statements and related matters.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of internal control, an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements or noncompliance (whether caused by errors, fraudulent financial reporting, misappropriation of assets, detected abuse, or violations of laws or governmental regulations) may not be detected exists, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with U.S. GAAS and Government Auditing Standards of the Comptroller General of the United States of America and, if applicable, in accordance with any state or regulatory audit requirements. Please note that the determination of abuse is subjective, and Government Auditing Standards does not require auditors to detect abuse.

In making our risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements 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. Our responsibility as auditors is, of course, limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any other periods.



We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of the County's basic financial statements. Our report will be addressed to the governing body of the County. We cannot provide assurance that unmodified opinions will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinions, add an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph(s), or withdraw from the engagement.

In accordance with the requirements of Government Auditing Standards, we will also issue a written report describing the scope of our testing over 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 over financial reporting will not be an objective of the audit and, therefore, no such opinion will be expressed.

### **Audit of Major Program Compliance**

If a Single Audit is required, our audit of the County's major federal award program(s) compliance will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Single Audit Act, as amended; and the Uniform Guidance, and will include tests of accounting records, a determination of major programs in accordance with the Uniform Guidance and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such an opinion on major federal award program compliance and to render the required reports. We cannot provide assurance that an unmodified opinion on compliance will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinion or withdraw from the engagement.

The Uniform Guidance requires that we also plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the entity has complied with applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements applicable to major federal award programs. Our procedures will consist of determining major federal programs and performing the applicable procedures described in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget OMB Compliance Supplement for the types of compliance requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each of the entity's major programs. The purpose of those procedures will be to express an opinion on the entity's compliance with requirements applicable to each of its major programs in our report on compliance issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance.

Also, as required by the Uniform Guidance, we will perform tests of controls to evaluate the effectiveness of the design and operation of controls that we consider relevant to preventing or detecting material noncompliance with compliance requirements applicable to each of the entity's major federal award programs. However, our tests will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on these controls and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report.

We will issue a report on compliance that will include an opinion or disclaimer of opinion regarding the entity's major federal award programs, and a report on internal controls over compliance that will report any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses identified; however, such report will not express an opinion on internal control.



### **Management Responsibilities**

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that management acknowledge and understand that they have responsibility:

1. For the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America;
2. For the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error;
3. For identifying, in its accounts, all federal awards received and expended during the period and the federal programs under which they were received, including federal awards and funding increments received prior to December 26, 2014 (if any), and those received in accordance with the Uniform Guidance (generally received after December 26, 2014);
4. For maintaining records that adequately identify the source and application of funds for federally funded activities;
5. For preparing the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, if required, (including notes and noncash assistance received) in accordance with the Uniform Guidance;
6. For the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control over federal awards;
7. For establishing and maintaining effective internal control over federal awards that provides reasonable assurance that the nonfederal entity is managing federal awards in compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the federal awards;
8. For identifying and ensuring that the entity complies with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal award programs and implementing systems designed to achieve compliance with applicable federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal award programs;
9. For disclosing accurately, currently, and completely the financial results of each federal award in accordance with the requirements of the award;
10. For identifying and providing report copies of previous audits, attestation engagements, or other studies that directly relate to the objectives of the audit, including whether related recommendations have been implemented;
11. For taking prompt action when instances of noncompliance are identified;
12. For addressing the findings and recommendations of auditors, for establishing and maintaining a process to track the status of such findings and recommendations and taking corrective action on reported audit findings from prior periods and preparing a summary schedule of prior audit findings;
13. For following up and taking corrective action on current year audit findings and preparing a corrective action plan for such findings;
14. For submitting the reporting package and data collection form, if required, to the appropriate parties;
15. For making the auditor aware of any significant contractor relationships where the contractor is responsible for program compliance;
16. To provide us with:
  - a. Access to all information of which management is aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, and relevant to federal award programs, such as records, documentation, and other matters;
  - b. Additional information that we may request from management for the purpose of the audit; and
  - c. Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence.



17. For adjusting the 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 financial statements as a whole;
18. For maintaining adequate records, selecting and applying accounting principles, and safeguarding assets;
19. For taking reasonable measures to safeguard protected personally identifiable and other sensitive information; and
20. For confirming your understanding of your responsibilities as defined in this letter to us in your management representation letter.

Management is responsible for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud, and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud or illegal acts affecting the County involving (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud or illegal acts could have a material effect on the financial statements. Your responsibilities include informing us of your knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the County received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the County complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants.

With regard to the schedule of expenditures of federal awards referred to above, if applicable, you acknowledge and understand your responsibility (a) for the preparation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, (b) to provide us with the appropriate written representations regarding the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, (c) to include our report on the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in any document that contains the schedule of expenditures of federal awards and that indicates that we have reported on such schedule, and (d) to present the schedule of expenditures of federal awards with the audited financial statements, or if the schedule will not be presented with the audited financial statements, to make the audited financial statements readily available to the intended users of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards no later than the date of issuance by you of the schedule and our report thereon.

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

We understand that your employees will prepare all confirmations we request and will locate any documents or invoices selected by us for testing.

If you intend to publish or otherwise reproduce the 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.



### **Fees and Timing**

Jim Hinkle is the engagement partner for the audit services specified in this letter. His responsibilities include supervising the auditing services performed as part of this engagement and signing or authorizing another qualified firm representative to sign the audit report.

Our fees are based on the amount of time required at various levels of responsibility, plus actual out-of-pocket expenses (such as printing, postage, travel, etc.). Invoices will be rendered every two weeks and are payable upon presentation. We estimate that our fee for the audit will be \$9,500. If the County is required to perform a Single Audit, the additional fees will not exceed \$5,300, per Federal program tested. We will notify you immediately of any circumstances we encounter that could significantly affect this initial fee estimate. Whenever possible, we will attempt to use the County's personnel to assist in the preparation of schedules and analyses of accounts. This effort could substantially reduce our time requirements and facilitate the timely conclusion of the audit.

### **Other Matters**

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.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of Hinkle & Company, PC and constitutes confidential information. However, we may be requested to make certain audit documentation available to state and federal agencies and the U.S. Government Accountability Office 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 Hinkle & Company, PC'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. We agree to retain our audit documentation or work papers for a period of at least five years from the date of our report.

Further, we will be available during the year to consult with you on financial management and accounting matters of a routine nature.

With respect to any nonattest services we perform, the County's management is responsible for (a) making all management decisions and performing all management functions; (b) assigning a competent individual to oversee the services; (c) evaluating the adequacy of the services performed; (d) evaluating and accepting responsibility for the results of the services performed; and (e) establishing and maintaining internal controls, including monitoring ongoing activities.

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 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 the Board of County Commissioners, 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.

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 financial statements, Single Audit (if required) and compliance over major federal award programs including our respective responsibilities (if required).

In accordance with the requirements of *Government Auditing Standards*, we have attached a copy of our latest external peer review report of our firm for your consideration and files.

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

*Hick & Company, PC*

This letter correctly sets forth our understanding of the Huerfano County Government.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title





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## **Report on the Firm's System of Quality Control**

To the Partners of Hinkle & Company, PC and  
the Peer Review Committee of the Oklahoma Society of CPAs

We have reviewed the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of Hinkle & Company, PC (the "firm") in effect for the year ended September 30, 2022. Our peer review was conducted in accordance with the Standards for Performing and Reporting on Peer Reviews established by the Peer Review Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("Standards").

A summary of the nature, objectives, scope, limitations of, and the procedures performed in a System Review as described in the Standards may be found at [www.aicpa.org/prsummary](http://www.aicpa.org/prsummary). The summary also includes an explanation of how engagements identified as not performed or reported on in conformity with applicable professional standards, if any, are evaluated by a peer reviewer to determine a peer review rating.

### **Firm's Responsibility**

The firm is responsible for designing a system of quality control and complying with it to provide the firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with applicable professional standards in all material respects. The firm is also responsible for evaluating actions to promptly remediate engagements deemed as not performed or reported on in conformity with the requirements of applicable professional standards, when appropriate, and for remediating weaknesses in its system of quality control, if any.

### **Peer Reviewer's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the design of and compliance with the firm's system of quality control based on our review.

### **Required Selections and Considerations**

Engagements selected for review included engagements performed under *Government Auditing Standards*, including compliance audits under the Single Audit Act.

As a part of our peer review, we considered reviews by regulatory entities as communicated by the firm, if applicable, in determining the nature and extent of our procedures.

To the Partners of Hinkle & Company, PC and  
the Peer Review Committee of the Oklahoma Society of CPAs  
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**Opinion**

In our opinion, the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of Hinkle & Company, PC in effect for the year ended September 30, 2022, has been suitably designed and complied with to provide the firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with applicable professional standards in all material respects. Firms can receive a rating of *pass*, *pass with deficiency(ies)*, or *fail*. Hinkle & Company, PC has received a peer review rating of *pass*.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Finley & Cook, PLLC". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shawnee, Oklahoma  
August 30, 2023