
Rio Dell City Hall
675 Wildwood Avenue
Rio Dell, CA 95562
(707) 764-3532
cityofriodell.ca.gov



DATE: May 6, 2025

TO: Rio Dell City Council

FROM: Travis Sanborn, Finance Director

THROUGH: Kyle Knopp, City Manager

SUBJECT: Acceptance Of Engagement Letter For Financial Audit Services From Harshwal & Company, LLP

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

Authorize the City Manager to execute the engagement letter with Harshwal & Company, LLP to provide financial audit services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

BACKGROUND

On February 5, 2025, the Finance Department issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for professional auditing services following the expiration of the City's contract with JJA CPA. The RFP was distributed to ensure a broad reach to qualified audit firms in compliance with the City's procurement policies.

The audit services sought include:

- Annual financial audit in accordance with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS) and Government Auditing Standards
- Preparation of the City's basic financial statements
- Single Audit services if federal expenditure thresholds are met
- Required reports on internal control and compliance
- Management letter with recommendations for improvements

Following the RFP process, Harshwal & Company, LLP emerged as the recommended firm based on their competitive pricing, extensive governmental audit experience, and highly qualified audit team.

DISCUSSION

Scope of Services

The engagement letter outlines comprehensive services that fully satisfy the City's requirements:

1. Audit of the financial statements of governmental activities, business-type activities, each major fund, and aggregate remaining fund information
2. Limited procedures on required supplementary information (RSI)
3. Audit of supplementary information in relation to the financial statements
4. Reporting on internal control and compliance in accordance with Government Auditing Standards
5. Single Audit services if required (\$4,500 for first major program, \$3,000 for each additional program)
6. Preparation of financial statements and related notes

Timeline and Deliverables

The engagement letter establishes clear expectations for both parties:

1. The City will provide necessary documentation, including trial balances, schedules, and reconciliations.
2. Harshwal & Company, LLP will perform the audit according to professional standards.
3. Final reports will be addressed to the Mayor and City Council.
4. The engagement includes reporting deadlines aligned with state filing requirements.

Fiscal Impact:

The cost for audit services for fiscal year 2024-25 is \$19,000, with a potential additional \$4,500 if a Single Audit is required. The total maximum cost for FY 2024-25 would be \$23,500. Funds are available in the adopted budget in account 03-5110 (Finance-Accounting), which includes an allocation of \$23,500 for audit services. Funding for subsequent fiscal years would be included in future budget requests.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Engagement Letter from Harshwal & Company, LLP dated April 17, 2025

April 17, 2025

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council
City of Rio Dell
675 Wildwood Avenue
Rio Dell, CA 95562

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the services we are to provide for City of Rio Dell (the "City") for the year ended June 30, 2025.

Audit Scope and Objectives

We will audit the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information, including the disclosures, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements, of the City as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025. Accounting standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) provide for certain required supplementary information (RSI), such as management's discussion and analysis (MD&A), to supplement the City'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 City's RSI in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). These limited procedures will consist 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 will not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient appropriate evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance. The following RSI is required by GAAP and will be subjected to certain limited procedures, but will not be audited:

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

We have also been engaged to report on supplementary information other than RSI that accompanies the City's financial statements. We will subject the following supplementary information to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS, and we will provide an opinion on it in relation to the financial statements as a whole in a report combined with our auditor's report of the financial statements:

- 1) Combining Balance Sheet, Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances.
- 2) Supplementary Schedule as necessary.

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 issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions about whether your financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with GAAP, and report on the fairness of the supplementary information referred to in the second paragraph when considered in relation to the financial statements as a whole. 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 GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* 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 of a reasonable user made based on the financial statements. The objectives also include reporting on:

- Internal control over financial reporting and compliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and award agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

We will conduct our audit in accordance with GAAS; the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and will include tests of accounting records of the City and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions. As part of an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

We will evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management. We will also evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and determine whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation. We will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the government or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the government. Because the determination of waste and abuse is subjective, *Government Auditing Standards* do not expect auditors to perform specific procedures to detect waste or abuse in financial audits nor do they expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting waste or abuse.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, combined with the inherent limitations of internal control, and because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, there is an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements may not be detected by us, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*. In addition, an audit is not designed to detect immaterial misstatements or violations of laws or governmental regulations that do not have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, we will inform the appropriate level of management of any material errors, any fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets that come to our attention. We will also inform the appropriate level of management of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential. Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

We will also conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the government's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our procedures will include tests of documentary evidence supporting the transactions recorded in the accounts, tests of the physical existence of inventories, and direct confirmation of receivables and certain assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected individuals, funding sources, creditors, and financial institutions. We will also request written representations from your attorneys as part of the engagement.

Our audit of financial statements does not relieve you of your responsibilities.

Audit Procedures - Internal Control

We will obtain an understanding of the government and its environment, including the system of internal control, sufficient to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and to design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks and obtain evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinions. Tests of controls may be performed to test the effectiveness of certain controls that we consider relevant to preventing and detecting errors and fraud that are material to the financial statements and to preventing and detecting misstatements resulting from illegal acts and other noncompliance matters that have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. Our tests, if performed, will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on internal control and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*. 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, misrepresentation, or the override of internal control. An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. Accordingly, we will express no such opinion. However, during the audit, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance internal control related matters that are required to be communicated under AICPA professional standards and Government Auditing Standards.

Audit Procedures - Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of the City's compliance with provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and agreements, including grant agreements. However, the objective of those procedures will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion in our report on compliance issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

Other Services

We will also assist in preparing the financial statements, proposed adjusting journal entries, and related notes of the City in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America based on information provided by you. These nonaudit services do not constitute an audit under *Government Auditing Standards* and such services will not be conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. We will perform the services in accordance with applicable professional standards. The other services are limited to the financial statements services previously defined. We, in our sole professional judgment, reserve the right to refuse to perform any procedure or take any action that could be construed as assuming management responsibilities.

You agree to assume all management responsibilities relating for the financial statements and related notes and any other nonaudit services we provide. You will be required to acknowledge in the management representation letter our assistance with preparation of the financial statements and related notes and that you have reviewed and approved the financial statements and related notes prior to their issuance and have accepted responsibility for them. Further, you agree to oversee the nonaudit services by designating an individual, preferably from senior management, with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience; evaluate the adequacy and results of those services; and accept responsibility for them.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that you acknowledge and understand your responsibility for designing, implementing, establishing, and maintaining effective internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and for evaluating and monitoring ongoing activities to help ensure that appropriate goals and objectives are met; following laws and regulations; and ensuring that management and financial information is reliable and properly reported. Management is also responsible for implementing systems designed to achieve compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements. You are also responsible for the selection and application of accounting principles; for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and all accompanying information in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; and for compliance with applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements.

Management is responsible for making drafts of financial statements, all financial records, and related information available to us; for the accuracy and completeness of that information (including information from outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers); and for the evaluation of whether there are any conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the government's ability to continue as a going concern for the 12 months after the financial statements date or shortly thereafter (for example, within an additional three months if currently known). You are also responsible for providing us with (1) access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, such as records, documentation, identification of all related parties and all related-party relationships and transactions, and other matters; (2) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit; and (3) unrestricted access to persons within the government from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence. At the conclusion of our audit, we will require certain written representations from you about your responsibilities for the financial statements; compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements; and other responsibilities required by GAAS and Government Auditing Standards.

Your responsibilities include adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and for confirming to us in the written representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements of each opinion unit taken as a whole.

You are 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 affecting the government involving (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud 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 government received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the government complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants and for taking timely and appropriate steps to remedy fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements that we report.

You are responsible for the preparation of the supplementary information, which we have been engaged to report on, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). You agree to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains, and indicates that we have reported on, the supplementary information. You also agree to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the supplementary information that includes our report thereon OR make the audited financial statements readily available to users of the supplementary information no later than the date the supplementary information is issued with our report thereon.

Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the written representation letter that (1) you are responsible for presentation of the supplementary information in accordance with GAAP; (2) you believe the supplementary information, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with GAAP; (3) the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (4) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the supplementary information.

As per Federal and State Laws, we don't require, nor do we request, demand, collect, or desire any Personal Identifying Information ("PII"). PII includes but is not limited to individual's first name (or first initial) and last name combined with other types of personal information, such as Social Security Number; home addresses; online identifiers; passport numbers; bank or credit card numbers; clearances; biometrics; date of birth; birth place; age; mother's maiden name; medical, criminal, and financial records; educational transcripts; email addresses, phone numbers; birth marks, professional designation; employment history, social media account information; driver's license numbers, any other similar and unique personal identifiers, etc. As such, do not provide our firm, staff, employees, consultants, contractors, managers, admin staff, third-party service providers with any of the aforementioned PII as we will not be perusing the records provided to us to identify and purge such records.

By your signature below, you acknowledge and agree that Harshwal & Company, LLP is not responsible for "sanitizing" or "scrubbing" its workpapers in an attempt to identify and delete PII, and as such is not liable were such information to be retained by us or inadvertently accessed by third parties.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining a process for tracking the status of audit findings and recommendations. Management is also responsible for identifying and providing report copies of previous financial audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or other studies related to the objectives discussed in the Audit Scope and Objectives section of this letter. This responsibility includes relaying to us corrective actions taken to address significant findings and recommendations resulting from those audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or studies. You are also responsible for providing management's views on our current findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as your planned corrective actions, for the report, and for the timing and format for providing that information.

Limitation on Liability

IN NO EVENT WILL EITHER PARTY BE LIABLE TO THE OTHER FOR ANY SPECIAL, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES IN CONNECTION WITH OR OTHERWISE ARISING OUT OF THIS AGREEMENT, EVEN IF ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES. IN NO EVENT SHALL EITHER PARTY BE LIABLE FOR EXEMPLARY OR PUNITIVE DAMAGES ARISING OUT OF OR RELATED TO THIS AGREEMENT.

Subpoena and Other Release of Documents

As a result of our services to you, we may be required or requested to provide information or documents to you or a third-party pursuant to a subpoena, court order or other administrative or legal process in connection with governmental regulations or activities, or a legal, arbitration or administrative proceeding, in which we are not a party. You agree that our efforts in complying with such requests or demands will be deemed a part of this engagement and Harshwal & Company, LLP shall be entitled to additional compensation for our time and reimbursement for our out-of-pocket expenditures (including legal fees) in complying with such request or demand.

Engagement Administration, Fees, and Other

We have our technical resources and audit software in the cloud. We may, from time to time, and depending on the circumstances, use third-party service providers within and outside of the United States in serving your account. As required by Section 54.1(b) of the California Code of Regulations, Title 16, confidential information provided by you to our firm, may be disclosed to persons, outside of the United States in connection with the services provided. We may share confidential information about you with these service providers, but remain committed to maintaining the confidentiality and security of your information. Accordingly, we maintain internal policies, procedures, and safeguards to protect the confidentiality of your personal information.

In addition, we will secure confidentiality agreements with all service providers to maintain the confidentiality of your information and we will take reasonable precautions to determine that they have appropriate procedures in place to prevent the unauthorized release of your confidential information to others. In the event that we are unable to secure an appropriate confidentiality agreement, you will be asked to provide your consent prior to the sharing of your confidential information with the third-party service provider. Furthermore, we will remain responsible for the work provided by any such third-party service providers.

We understand that your employees will prepare all cash, accounts receivable, and other confirmations we request and will locate any documents selected by us for testing.

At the conclusion of the engagement, we will complete the appropriate sections of the Data Collection Form that summarizes our audit findings. It is management's responsibility to electronically submit the reporting package (including financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, summary schedule of prior audit findings, auditor's reports, and corrective action plan) along with the Data Collection Form to the federal audit clearinghouse. We will coordinate with you the electronic submission and certification. The Data Collection Form and the reporting package must be submitted within the earlier of 30 days after receipt of the auditor's reports or nine months after the end of the audit period.

We will provide copies of our reports to the Honorable Mayor and City Council of the City; however, management is responsible for distribution of the reports and the financial statements. Unless restricted by law or regulation, or containing privileged and confidential information, copies of our reports are to be made available for public inspection. Our report on the financial statements must be associated only with the financial statements that were the subject of our engagement. You may make copies of our report, but only if the entire financial statements (including related footnotes and supplementary information, as appropriate) are reproduced and distributed with our report. You agree not to reproduce or associate our report with any other financial statements, or portions thereof, that are not the subject of this engagement.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of Harshwal & Company, LLP and constitutes confidential information. However, subject to applicable laws and regulations, audit documentation and appropriate individuals will be made available upon request and in a timely manner to Cognizant or Oversight Agency for Audit or its designee, a federal agency providing direct or indirect funding, or the U.S. Government Accountability Office for purposes of a quality review of the audit, to resolve audit findings, or to carry out oversight responsibilities.

We will notify you of any such request. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of Harshwal & Company, LLP's personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to the aforementioned parties. These parties may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies or information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

Your records are the primary records for your operations and comprise the backup and support for the results of this engagement. Our records and files, including our engagement documentation whether kept on paper or electronic media, are our property and are not a substitute for your own records. Our firm policy calls for us to destroy our engagement files and all pertinent engagement documentation after a retention period of seven years (or longer, if required by law or regulation), after which time these items will no longer be available. We are under no obligation to notify you regarding the destruction of our records. We reserve the right to modify the retention period without notifying you. Catastrophic events or physical deterioration may result in our firm's records being unavailable before the expiration of the above retention period.

Except as set forth above, you agree that Harshwal & Company, LLP may destroy paper originals and copies of any documents, including, without limitation, correspondence, agreements, and representation letters, and retain only digital images thereof.

The audit documentation for this engagement will be retained for a minimum of seven years after the report release date or for any additional period requested by the Management. If we are aware that a federal awarding agency, pass-through entity, or auditee is contesting an audit finding, we will contact the party (ies) contesting the audit finding for guidance prior to destroying the audit documentation.

Mr. Sanwar Harshwal is the engagement partner and is responsible for supervising the engagement and signing the reports or authorizing another individual to sign them. Fieldwork for audit will be determined with the City's management based on the availability of accounting records and supporting documentation. Our scheduling depends on your completion of the year end closing and adjusting process prior to our arrival to begin the fieldwork. We may experience delays in completing our services due to your staff's unavailability or delays in your closing and adjusting process. You understand our fees are subject to adjustment if we experience these delays in completing our services. Certain engagement personnel who are not licensed as certified public accountants may provide services during this engagement.

Our fee for the services described in this letter including applicable gross receipts taxes and out-of-pocket costs (such as report reproduction, word processing, postage, travel, copies, telephone, etc.) will be as follows:

| <u>Audit Area - Description</u> | <u>FY 2025</u> |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Basic Financial Statements | \$ 19,000 |
| Single Audit (if applicable) | 4,500 |
| Total All-Inclusive Fees | <u>\$ 23,500</u> |

The single audit fee is calculated based on the number of major programs. The audit fee for the first major program will be \$4,500 and the audit for each additional major program will cost \$3,000.

We have estimated our fees, assuming that accounting records will be in balance and supported by appropriate documentation. Also, our cost assumes that the Department personnel will provide supporting schedules for all asset and liability accounts, and provide general assistance, such as locating documents, typing confirmation requests, and coordinating meetings. If there were significant changes to the City's operations or the scope of work related to the financial statements, we will discuss with you additional time and fees that may be incurred.

Our ability to provide services in accordance with our estimated fees depends on the quality, timeliness and accuracy of the City's records, and, for example, the number of general ledger adjustments required as a result of our work. We will also need your accounting staff to be readily available during the engagement to respond in a timely manner to our requests. Lack of preparation, poor records, general ledger adjustments and/or untimely assistance will result in an increase of our fees.

To keep fees at a minimum and provide the reports to you on a timely basis, we are planning on significant assistance from your personnel. In this regard, we will furnish you with a list of schedules and data to facilitate our work. We understand that all records, documentation, and information we request in connection with our audit will be made available to us. Your preparation of schedules and providing supporting evidence requested timely is imperative for us to perform our audit procedures in the most efficient manner possible. If audit related accounting assistance is required to reconcile accounts, these fees will be billed separately at our standard hourly rates.

We will obtain your concurrence before we begin such services significantly beyond the scope of the audit. In the future, you may decide that you need the services of one or more full-time employee. At that time, we could assist you in identifying individuals, our fees for which would then be agreed upon in a separate engagement letter. However, because of the knowledge that our staff have or will obtain of your organization, you may wish to hire one or more of them. If this should occur, please notify us immediately so that we may avoid any potential independence issues. Also if this should occur, we will charge you a recurring fee of one hundred percent (100%) of the annual gross salary or wages (on an annualized basis) offered to our employee to compensate us for the loss of our valued and extensively trained employee(s). Such amount shall be paid within thirty (30) days following the date of such notification.

The above fee is based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel and the assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered during the audit.

The City acknowledges that the following unexpected circumstances will result in an increase of our fees:

- Failure to prepare for the audit as evidenced by accounts and records that have not been subject to normal year-end closing and reconciliation procedures;
- Failure to complete the audit preparation work by the applicable due dates; Significant unanticipated transactions, audit issues, or other such circumstances;
- Delays causing scheduling changes or disruption of fieldwork;
- After audit or post fieldwork circumstances requiring revisions to work previously completed or delays in resolution of issues that extend the period of time necessary to complete the audit;
- Issues with the prior audit firm, prior year account balances or report disclosures that impact the current year engagement; and
- An excessive number of audit adjustments.

Unexpected circumstances are also defined as fire, destruction or disappearance of records, discovery of fraud, or similar situations beyond our control or knowledge. We will endeavor to advise you in the event these circumstances occur, however we may be unable to determine the impact on the estimated fee until the conclusion of the engagement.

Our standard hourly rates vary according to the degree of responsibility involved and the experience level of the personnel assigned to your audit. Our invoices for these fees will be rendered 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. Any invoices left unpaid beyond 30 days will be charged a 1.5% late fee per month, added to the then outstanding balance. If we elect to terminate our services for non-payment, 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.

This engagement letter may be terminated by either party, with or without cause, upon ten (10) days' written notice. In such event, we will stop providing services hereunder except on work, mutually agreed upon in writing, necessary to carry out such termination. In the event of termination, (a) you shall pay us for services provided and expenses incurred through the effective date of termination, (b) we will provide you with all finished reports that we have prepared pursuant to this engagement, and (c) neither party shall be liable to the other for any damages that occur as a result of our ceasing to render services.

In the interest of facilitating our services to you, we may communicate by facsimile transmission or send electronic mail over the Internet. Such communications may include information that is confidential. We employ measures in the use of electronic communications designed to provide reasonable assurance that data security is maintained.

While we will use our best efforts to keep such communications secure in accordance with our obligations under applicable laws and professional standards, you recognize and accept we have no control over the unauthorized interception of these communications once they have been sent. Unless you issue specific instructions to do otherwise, we will assume you consent to our use of electronic communications to your representatives and other use of these electronic devices during the term of this engagement letter as we deem appropriate.

The proposed fee estimate is contingent upon the City having performed the following functions and sending us copies to review at least two weeks prior to us performing the audit fieldwork:

1. Submitting trial balances and general ledger to us in an electronic format.
2. Completing all steps and sending us copies of the requested information on the audit preparation guide, which we will provide.
3. Preparing the schedule of expenditures of federal awards.
4. All material balance sheet accounts need to be reconciled and scheduled. Prepare reconciliations of all checking (payroll and accounts payable, etc.) accounts, savings accounts and investment accounts on a monthly basis and send us copies of the year end reconciliations.
5. Copies of all major federal grants and contracts effect during the audit period need to be made for us along with any modifications, budgets, financial and narrative reports and drawdown requests.
6. Providing us electronic copies of your payroll and accounts payable check registers for the fiscal year under audit.

Reporting

We will issue written reports upon completion of our Audit of City of Rio Dell's financial statements. Our reports will be addressed to Honorable Mayor and City Council of City of Rio Dell. 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 a separate section, or add an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph to our auditor's report, or if necessary, withdraw from this engagement. If our opinions 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 issue reports, or we may withdraw from this engagement.

We will also provide a report (that does not include an opinion) on internal control related to the financial statements and compliance with the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements as required by Government Auditing Standards. The report on internal control and on compliance and other matters will state (1) that the purpose of the report is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control and compliance, and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control on compliance, and (2) that the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. The report will also state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose. If during our audit we become aware that the City is subject to an audit requirement that is not encompassed in the terms of this engagement, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance that an audit in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and the standards for financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards may not satisfy the relevant legal, regulatory, or contractual requirements.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to the City and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of our engagement. If you have any questions, please let us know. If you agree with the terms of our engagement as described in this letter, please sign the enclosed copy and return it to us.

Very truly yours,

Harshwal & Company, LLP



Sanwar Harshwal
(Managing Partner)

RESPONSE:

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of City of Rio Dell.

Management signature: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____