



## GROVE, MUELLER & SWANK, P.C.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS AND CONSULTANTS  
475 Cottage Street NE, Suite 200, Salem, Oregon 97301  
(503) 581-7788

May 13, 2020

City Council  
City of Sweet Home  
3225 Main Street  
Sweet Home, Oregon 97386

You have requested that we audit the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Sweet Home, Oregon (the City), as of June 30, 2020 and for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the City's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. We are pleased to confirm our acceptance and our understanding of this audit engagement by means of this letter. Our audit will be conducted with the objective of our expressing an opinion on each opinion unit applicable to those basic financial statements.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP) require that certain required supplementary information such as management's discussion and analysis (MD&A) be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (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 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:

- 1) Management's Discussion and Analysis.
- 2) Individual fund budgetary schedules for the general fund and major special revenue funds. Due to Oregon law, this RSI will receive an "in-relation-to" opinion.
- 3) Schedule of the City's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) - Oregon Public Employees Retirement System.
- 4) Schedule of the City's Contributions - Oregon Public Employees Retirement System.
- 5) Schedule of Changes in Other Postemployment Benefits Liability and Related Ratios – Implicit Rate Subsidy.
- 6) Schedule of the City's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset) – Oregon Public Employees Retirement System Retiree Health Insurance Account.
- 7) Schedule of the City's Contributions – Oregon Public Employees Retirement System Retiree Health Insurance Account.

Supplementary information other than RSI will accompany the City's 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 the 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 supplementary information in relation to the financial statements as a whole:

- 1) Combining fund statements.
- 2) Individual fund budgetary schedules other than general fund and major special revenue funds.

Also, the document we submit to you will include an introductory section that will not be subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements, and our auditor's report will not provide an opinion or any assurance on that other information:

### **Auditor Responsibilities**

We will conduct our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAS) and in accordance with the Minimum Standards for Audits of Oregon Municipal Corporations. Those standards 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 may 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 the Minimum Standards for Audits of Oregon Municipal Corporations.

In making our risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the City'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 City'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.

### **Compliance with Laws and Regulations**

As previously discussed, as part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the basic financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of the City'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.

## **Other Services**

We will also prepare the financial statements of the City in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles based on information provided by you. We will perform the services in accordance with applicable professional standards. The other services are limited to the financial statement 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.

With respect to any nonattest services we perform, the City'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.

## **Management's 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 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 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:
  - a. Access to all information of which management is aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements 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 City from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
- 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 the City's auditor;
- e) For identifying and ensuring that the City complies with the laws and regulations applicable to its activities;
- f) 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 under audit are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole;
- 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 the 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 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 the City's basic financial statements. Our report will be addressed to the governing body of the City. We cannot provide assurance that unmodified opinions will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinions or add emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraphs. 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.

We also will issue a written report on compliance with Minimum Standards for Audits of Oregon Municipal Corporations upon completion of our audit.

## **Other**

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.

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.

Katherine Wilson, CPA is the engagement partner for the audit services specified in this letter. Her responsibilities include supervising Grove, Mueller & Swank P.C.'s services performed as part of this engagement and signing or authorizing another qualified firm representative to sign the audit report. To ensure that Grove, Mueller & Swank, PC's independence is not impaired under the AICPA *Code of Professional Conduct*, you agree to inform the engagement partner before entering into any substantive employment discussions with any of our personnel.

Our fee for these services is estimated at \$34,000. Our invoices for these fees will be rendered each month as work progresses and are payable on presentation. The above fee is based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel and the assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered during the audit. If significant additional time is necessary, we will discuss it with you and arrive at a new fee estimate before we incur the additional costs.

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.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of Grove, Mueller & Swank P.C. and constitutes confidential information. However, we may be requested to make certain audit documentation available to the State of Oregon or its designee, a federal agency providing direct or indirect funding, or the U.S. Government Accountability Office pursuant to authority given to them by law or regulation, or to peer reviewers. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of Grove, Mueller & Swank P.C.'s personnel. These parties may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies of information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

The audit documentation for this engagement will be retained for a minimum of five years after the report release date or for any additional period requested. 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 findings for guidance prior to destroying the audit documentation.

At the conclusion of our audit engagement, we will communicate to City Council the following significant findings from the audit:

- 1) Our view about the qualitative aspects of the City's significant accounting practices;
- 2) Significant difficulties, if any, encountered during the audit;
- 3) Uncorrected misstatements, other than those we believe are trivial, if any;
- 4) Disagreements with management, if any;
- 5) 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;
- 6) Material, corrected misstatements that were brought to the attention of management as a result of our audit procedures;
- 7) Representations we requested from management;
- 8) Management's consultations with other accountants, if any; and
- 9) 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 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.

Very truly yours,

  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

RESPONSE:

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of the City of Sweet Home, Oregon.

Management signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Governance signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_