



BROWN ARMSTRONG

Certified Public Accountants

To the Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara, California

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the County of Santa Barbara (the County) for the year ended June 30, 2012, and have issued our report thereon dated August 29, 2012. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and OMB Circular A-133, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our engagement letter dated March 16, 2012. 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 County 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 2012. We noted no transactions entered into by the County 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 financial statements were the year-end estimate of accruals for accounts payable, estimate for self-insurance liability, and estimate of contingent settlement liability with the State of California and contract service providers relating to the Santa Barbara County Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Services (ADMHS) Fund:

Management's estimate of the year-end payables is based on information received from the individual departments. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimate of payables in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole. We also evaluated the self-insurance liability as determined by the County using actuarial reports prepared and provided by an independent third party. Furthermore, we reviewed management's analysis and supporting documents relating to contingent settlement liability with the State of California and contract service providers for ADMHS Fund and determined that it is reasonable and conservative.

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

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REGISTERED with the Public Company
Accounting Oversight Board and
MEMBER of the American Institute of
Certified Public Accountants

- Note 14 Commitments and Contingencies
- Note 18 Retained Deficit
- Note 25 Successor Agency Trust for Assets of Former Redevelopment Agency

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements. In addition, none of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to each opinion unit's financial statements taken as a whole.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as 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 August 29, 2012.

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

Other Matters

With respect to the supplementary information accompanying the financial statements, 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.

This information is intended solely for the use of Board of Supervisors and management of the County of Santa Barbara and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

BROWN ARMSTRONG
ACCOUNTANCY CORPORATION

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Accountancy Corporation

Bakersfield, California
August 29, 2012