

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

We are engaged to audit the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component unit, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the County of Santa Barbara, California, (the County) for the year ended June 30, 2026. Professional standards require that we provide you with the following information related to our audit. We would also appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this information further since a two-way dialogue can provide valuable information for the audit process.

**Our Responsibility under Auditing Standards Generally Accepted in the United States of America (GAAS), Government Auditing Standards, and the Uniform Guidance**

As stated in our engagement letter dated May 5, 2026, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to express opinions about whether the financial statements prepared by management with your oversight are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of your responsibilities.

In planning and performing our audit, we will consider the County's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. We will also consider internal control over compliance with requirements that could have a direct and material effect on a major federal program in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on compliance and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance.

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the County's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions is not an objective of our audit. Also in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, we will examine, on a test basis, evidence about the County's compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) *Compliance Supplement* applicable to each of its major federal programs for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the County's compliance with those requirements. While our audit will provide a reasonable basis for our opinion, it will not provide a legal determination on the County's compliance with those requirements.

GAAP provides for certain required supplementary information (RSI) to supplement the basic financial statements. Our responsibility with respect to the RSI, which supplements the basic financial statements, is to apply certain limited procedures in accordance with GAAS. However, the RSI will not be audited and, because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient appropriate evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance, we will not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

We have been engaged to report on the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and the Combining and Individual Nonmajor Fund Financial Statements and Schedules, which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. Our responsibility for this supplementary information, as described by professional standards, is to evaluate the presentation of the supplementary information in relation to the financial statements as a whole and to report on whether the supplementary information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

We have not been engaged to report on the Introductory Section and Statistical Section, which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. Our responsibility with respect to this other information in documents containing the audited financial statements and auditor's report does not extend beyond the financial information identified in the report. We have no responsibility for determining whether this other information is properly stated. This other information will not be audited and we will not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

**Planned Scope, Timing of the Audit, Significant Risks, and Other**

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; therefore, our audit will involve judgment about the number of transactions to be examined and the areas to be tested.

Our audit will include obtaining an understanding of the County and its environment, including the system of internal control, sufficient to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and to design the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures. Material misstatements may result from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the County or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the County. We will generally communicate our significant findings at the conclusion of the audit. However, some matters could be communicated sooner, particularly if significant difficulties are encountered during the audit where assistance is needed to overcome the difficulties or if the difficulties may lead to a modified opinion. We will also communicate any internal control related matters that are required to be communicated under professional standards.

According to GAAS, significant risks include management override of controls, and GAAS presumes that revenue recognition is a significant risk. Accordingly, we have considered these as significant risks.

We expect to begin our audit on approximately June 8, 2026, and issue our report on the financial statements on approximately September 4, 2026, and single audit report by March 31, 2027. Lindsey Zimmerman is the engagement partner and is responsible for supervising the engagement and signing the report or authorizing another individual to sign it.

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

BROWN ARMSTRONG  
ACCOUNTANCY CORPORATION

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brown Armstrong Accountancy Corporation". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bakersfield, California  
May 5, 2026