

**Engagement Letter from  
Davis Farr, LLP**

**Attachment 2**

July 11, 2016

**Local Agency Formation Commission for San Bernardino County**  
**Attn: Kathleen Rollings-McDonald**  
**215 North D Street, Suite 204**  
**San Bernardino, CA 92415**

Dear Ms. Rollings-McDonald,

We are pleased to confirm the arrangements of our engagement and the nature of the services we will provide the Local Agency Formation Commission for San Bernardino County (the "Entity").

### **ENGAGEMENT OBJECTIVES**

We will audit the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information, which collectively comprise the Entity's basic financial statements, as of June 30, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019, and for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Also, accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("US GAAP") provide for certain required supplementary information ("RSI"), such as management's discussion and analysis ("MD&A"), to supplement the Entity's basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Government 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 Entity's RSI in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America ("US 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 evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance. The following RSI is required by US GAAP and will be subjected to certain limited procedures, but will not be audited.

1. Management's Discussion and Analysis
2. Schedule of Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability
3. Schedule of Contributions – Defined Benefit Pension Plan
4. Schedule of Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability (years ending June 30, 2108 and 2019)
5. Schedule of Contributions – Defined Benefit OPEB Plan (years ending June 30, 2108 and 2019)

### **OUR RESPONSIBILITIES**

The objective of our audit is the expression of an opinion as to whether the financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with US GAAP and to report on the fairness of the additional information referred to above when considered in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

We will also provide a report, which does not include an opinion, on internal controls 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 reports on internal control and compliance will each include a paragraph that states the report is solely to describe the scope and testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or on compliance and that the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering internal control over financial reporting and compliance and that the report is not suitable for any other purpose.

### **Audit**

Our audit will be conducted in accordance with US GAAS and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and will include tests of the accounting records and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such an opinion. We cannot provide assurance that an unmodified opinion will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinion or add an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph. If our opinion on the financial statements is other than unmodified, we will fully discuss the reasons with management in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit, or are unable to form or have not formed an opinion, we may decline to express an opinion or withdraw this engagement.

Our procedures will include tests of documentary evidence supporting the transactions recorded in the accounts (e.g., tests of the physical existence of inventories, direct confirmation of certain assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected customers, creditors, and financial institutions, etc.). We may also request written representations from the Entity's attorneys as part of the engagement, and they may bill the Entity for responding to this inquiry.

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. 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. We will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether from errors, fraudulent financial reporting, misappropriation of assets, or violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the Entity or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the Entity. Because the determination of abuse is subjective, *Government Auditing Standards* do not expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting abuse.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, combined with the inherent limitations of internal controls, and because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, there is a risk that material misstatements may exist and not be detected by us, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with US GAAS. 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. We will inform the appropriate level of management and those charged with governance of any material errors, fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets that comes to our attention. We will also inform the appropriate level of management and those charged with governance of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential, and of any material abuse that comes to our attention. 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.

### **Internal Control**

Our audit will include obtaining an understanding of the Entity and its environment, including internal controls sufficient to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and to design the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures.

We will obtain an understanding of the design of the relevant controls and whether they have been placed in operation, and we will assess control risk. 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. Tests of controls relative to the financial statements are required only if control risk is assessed below the maximum level. 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*.

An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal controls or to identify control deficiencies. However, we will inform management and those charged with governance of internal control matters that are required to be communicated under professional standards.

### **Compliance**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of the Entity's compliance with the provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants. However, the objective of our audit 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*.

The services described above do not relieve management or those charged with governance of their responsibilities.

### **THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE**

The preparation and presentation of the financial statements of the Entity are the responsibility of management with oversight from those charged with governance. Those charged with governance are also responsible for overseeing the strategic direction of the Entity and any obligations related to its accountability, resolving disagreements between management and us regarding financial reporting, appointing us to perform the services described above, and informing us about all known or suspected fraud involving the Entity. In turn, we will provide those charged with governance with any communications required by the professional standards described above.

### **MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

Management is responsible for all management decisions and performing all management functions, and for designating an individual, preferably from senior management, with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience to oversee these services, any bookkeeping services, tax services, or other services we provide. Management is responsible for evaluating the adequacy and results of the services performed and accepting responsibility for them.

Management is responsible for making all financial records and related information available to us and for the accuracy and completeness of that information. Management is also responsible for providing us with (a)

access to all information they are aware of that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, (b) additional information that we may request for the purpose of this engagement, and (c) unrestricted access to persons within the Entity from whom we determine it necessary to obtain information.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining internal controls, including monitoring ongoing activities, for the selection and application of accounting principles, for the safeguarding of assets, and for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in conformity with US GAAP even though we may assist management with their preparation. Accordingly, management may be required to acknowledge in the written representation letter our assistance with preparation of the financial statements and that management has reviewed and approved the financial statements and related notes prior to their issuance and has accepted responsibility for them.

Management is responsible for adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and for 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 latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

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 affecting the Entity involving (a) management, (b) employees who have significant roles in internal controls, and (c) others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. Management is also responsible for informing us of any known allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the Entity received in communications from employees, former employees, regulators, or others. In addition, management is also responsible for identifying and ensuring that the Entity complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants and for taking timely and appropriate steps to remedy any fraud, illegal acts, violations of contracts or grant agreements, or abuse that we may report.

During the course of our engagement, we will request information and explanations from management regarding the Entity. At the conclusion of our engagement, we will require, as a precondition to the issuance of our report, that management provide certain representations in a written representation letter. The procedures we will perform in our engagement and the conclusions we reach as a basis for our report will be heavily influenced by the written and oral representations that we receive from management. In view of the foregoing, the Entity agrees to release our firm, its shareholders, and other personnel from any liability and costs relating to our services under this letter resulting from false or misleading representations made to us by any member of the Entity's management.

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

**OTHER SERVICES**

The Entity must obtain our written consent before including its financial statements and our report in an offering or other document, or otherwise distributing our report or referencing our Firm in connection with an offering. Management agrees to provide reasonable notice to allow sufficient time for us to perform certain additional procedures. Management will also provide us with a copy of the final reproduced material for our approval before it is distributed. Our fees for such services are in addition to those discussed elsewhere in this letter, and the specific terms of any such future services will be determined at the time the services are to be performed.

As a result of our prior or future services, we might be requested to provide information or documents to the Entity or a third party in a legal, administrative, or arbitration or similar proceeding in which we are not a party. If this occurs, our efforts in complying with such requests will be deemed billable to the Entity as a separate engagement. We shall be entitled to compensation for our time and reasonable reimbursement for our expenses (including legal fees) in complying with the request. For all requests, we will observe the confidentiality requirements of our profession and will notify management promptly of the request.

**ENGAGEMENT FEES**

Our fees for the services per our Proposal for Professional Auditing Services dated April 28, 2016 are as follows:

<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
\$7,600	\$7,800	\$8,000	\$8,200

Additionally, our fees are dependent on the availability, quality, and completeness of the Entity's records and, where applicable, upon the Entity's personnel providing the level of assistance identified in the "prepared by client" request list distributed at the end of our planning work (e.g., Entity employees preparing confirmations and schedules we request, locating documents selected by us for testing, etc.).

Should our assumptions with respect to these matters be incorrect, or should the condition of the records, degree of cooperation, or other matters beyond our reasonable control require additional commitments by us beyond those upon which our estimated fees are based, we may adjust our fees and planned completion dates. If significant additional time is necessary, we will discuss it with management and arrive at a new fee estimate as soon as reasonably practicable. In addition, fees for any related projects, such as proposed business combinations or research and/or consultation on special business or financial issues, will be billed separately from the fee referred to above and will be subject to separate arrangements.

We consider telephone calls and meetings on accounting and reporting matters to be an integral part of the engagement and no additional fees are charged for these services. If, however, there is a significant transaction or new accounting issue that requires us to spend a substantial amount of time that was not anticipated in our fees, there may be additional billings.

The fee estimate above assumes no adjustments will be necessary for routine accounting entries normally made before the beginning of the engagement. If, for any reason, we are asked to assist in the preparation of these entries, before beginning this service, we will provide an estimate of the time required to perform such services and the additional fees to be billed.

Invoices will be submitted as the work progresses and a final invoice will be submitted upon completion of the services. Invoices are payable upon receipt. If our invoices for this, or any other engagements the Entity may

have with us, are not paid within 30 days, we may suspend or terminate our services for this and any other engagements. In the event our work is suspended or terminated as a result of nonpayment, the Entity agrees we will not be responsible for any consequences.

**OTHER ENGAGEMENT MATTERS**

This letter sets forth the rights and responsibilities of the parties with respect to the services to be provided. This engagement is being undertaken solely for the benefit of the parties to this agreement and no other person shall be entitled to enforce the terms of this agreement.

The undersigned is the engagement partner responsible for supervising the engagement and signing the report.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide these services and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of our engagement. Please sign the enclosed copy of this letter and return it to us.

Very truly yours,



Jennifer Farr, CPA  
Davis Farr LLP

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The services and arrangements described in this letter are in accordance with our understanding and are acceptable to us.

**Local Agency Formation Commission for San Bernardino County**

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Kathleen Rollings-McDonald, Executive Officer

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date of contract approval by Commission \_\_\_\_\_