



January 30, 2024

To the Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
City of Palm Desert, California

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the discretely presented component unit, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Palm Desert, California (the "City") for the year ended June 30, 2023. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards and, *Government Auditing Standards* and the Uniform Guidance, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated January 30, 2024. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Matters

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the City are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. As described in Note 1 to the financial statements, the City changed accounting policies related to conduit debt obligations, subscription-based information technology arrangements, and public-private and public-public partnerships and availability payment arrangements, and by adopting Statement of Governmental Accounting Standards (GASB Statement) Nos. 91, 94, and 96, in fiscal year 2022-2023. Accordingly, the cumulative effect of the accounting change as of the beginning of the year is reported in the Governmental and Enterprise statements. We noted no transactions entered into by the City 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 City's financial statements were:

Management's estimates of the net pension liability and net other postemployment benefits liability are based on actuarial valuation estimates. We evaluated the methods, assumptions, and data used to develop the actuarial valuation estimates in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

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



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Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. The attached schedule summarizes uncorrected misstatements of the financial statements. Management has determined that their effects are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole. The uncorrected misstatements or the matters underlying them could potentially cause future period financial statements to be materially misstated, even though, in our judgment, such uncorrected misstatements are immaterial to the financial statements under audit. 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, a disagreement with management is 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 January 30, 2024.

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 City'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 City'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

We applied certain limited procedures to management's discussion and analysis, the budgetary comparison schedules for the General Fund and the major special revenue funds, and the required pension and other postemployment benefits schedules, which are required supplementary information (RSI) that supplements the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted 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 did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

We were engaged to report on the combining and individual fund financial statements and schedules which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. With respect to this supplementary information, 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



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information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

We were not engaged to report on other information included in the annual report which is comprised of the introductory and statistical sections, which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. Such information has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements, and accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

Future GASB Pronouncements

The following Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements will be effective for the following fiscal years' audits and should be reviewed for proper implementation by management:

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

GASB Statement No. 99, *Omnibus 2022*.

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

GASB Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*.

Future Projects

Comprehensive Project, *Financial Reporting Model*.

Comprehensive Project, *Revenue and Expense Recognition*.

Major Project, *Going Concern Uncertainties and Severe Financial Stress*.

Major Project, *Infrastructure Assets*.

Practice Issue, *Classification of Nonfinancial Assets*.

Practice Issue, *Risks and Uncertainties Disclosures*.

Pre-Agenda Research Activities, *Subsequent Events* .

Restriction on Use

This information is intended solely for the information and use of the City Council and management of the City and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lance, Solt & Lughard, LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brea, California



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ATTACHMENT

Summary of Unadjusted Audit Differences

Name of Governmental Unit: City of Palm Desert

Date of Combined Balance Sheet: June 30, 2023

Opinion Unit, Fund Type or Fund: General Fund

<u>Unadjusted Audit Differences</u>	<u>Cause</u>	<u>Current Year Over (Under) Revenues and Expenditures/Expenses and Changes in Fund Balance/Equity</u>
Fiscal year 2022 reimbursements from SARDA recognized in fiscal year 2023	Improper cutoff	\$ 364,000
Understated beginning fund balance	Improper cutoff	(364,000)
Cumulative effect (before effect of prior year differences)		-
Effect of unadjusted audit difference - prior year		-
Cumulative effect (after effect of prior year differences)		\$ -