

March 8, 2024



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To the Honorable Mayor and Members  
of the City Council of the City of San Mateo  
San Mateo, 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 City of San Mateo, California (the “City”) for the year ended June 30, 2023. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, and *Government Auditing Standards*, 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 May 1, 2023. Professional standards also require that we communicate the following information related to our audit.

### **Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices**

#### *Accounting Policies*

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 basic financial statements. Other than those standards described below that were implemented in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, no new accounting policies were adopted nor was the application of existing policies changed:

- In May 2019, GASB issued Statement No. 91, *Conduit Debt Obligations* (GASB Statement No. 91), to provide a single method of reporting conduit debt obligations by issuers and eliminate diversity in practice associated with (1) commitments extended by issuers, (2) arrangements associated with conduit debt obligations, and (3) related note disclosures. This Statement achieves those objectives by clarifying the existing definition of a conduit debt obligation; establishing that a conduit debt obligation is not a liability of the issuer; establishing standards for accounting and financial reporting of additional commitments and voluntary commitments extended by issuers and arrangements associated with conduit debt obligations; and improving required note disclosures. Application of this statement did not have an effect on the City’s financial reporting for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.
- In March 2020, GASB issued Statement No. 94, *Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements*. The primary objective of this Statement is to improve financial reporting by addressing issues related to public-private and public-public partnership arrangements (PPPs). As used in this Statement, a PPP is an arrangement in which a government (the transferor) contracts with an operator (a governmental or nongovernmental entity) to provide public services by conveying control of the right to operate or use a nonfinancial asset, such as infrastructure or other capital asset (the underlying PPP asset), for a period of time in an exchange or exchange-like transaction. Application of this statement did not have an effect on the City’s financial reporting for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.
- In May 2020, GASB issued Statement No. 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements*. This Statement provides guidance on the accounting and financial reporting for subscription-based information technology arrangements (SBITAs) for government end users (governments). This Statement (1) defines a SBITA; (2) establishes that a SBITA results in a right-to-use subscription asset—an intangible asset—and a corresponding subscription liability; (3) provides the capitalization criteria for outlays other than subscription payments, including implementation costs of a SBITA; and (4) requires note disclosures regarding a SBITA. To the extent relevant, the standards for SBITAs are based on the standards established in Statement No. 87, *Leases*, as amended. Application of this statement has a moderate effect on the City’s financial reporting for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.

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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*

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 estimate of the investment fair market value is based on information provided by the State of California for the City's investment in Local Agency Investment Fund, provided by the County of San Mateo for the City investment in San Mateo County Investment Pool, and based on market price provided by Chandler Asset Management, the trustee for investments in Medium Term Corporate Notes, U.S. Government Treasury and Agencies Bonds, Negotiable Certificates of Deposits, Asset-Backed Securities, Collateralized Mortgage Obligations, and Municipal Bonds.
- Management's estimate of the depreciation on capital assets is based on the industry standard and past experience on actual useful life of the asset groups.
- Management's estimate of the net OPEB and the net pension liabilities is based on the actuarial valuations for each Plan of total pension/OPEB liability and is based on audited financial statements on fiduciary net position for the CalPERS plans. CalPERS issues publicly available reports that include a full description of the pension plans regarding benefit provisions, assumptions and membership information that can be found on the CalPERS website.

As part of our audit, we evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the accounting estimates described above and in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

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

- Note 1 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies
- Note 11 – Pension Plans
- Note 12 – Other Postemployment Benefits
- Note 15 – Other Required Disclosures
- Note 19 – Prior Period Adjustments
- Note 20 – Commitments and Contingencies

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.

#### *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. There were no misstatements identified during our audit that management had to correct and none of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to each opinion unit's financial statements taken as a whole.

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#### *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 communicated to us in the management representation letter dated March 8, 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 governmental unit'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.

#### *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 governmental unit'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 the Management's Discussion and Analysis, Budgetary Comparison Schedules, Schedules of Changes in Net Pension Liability and Related Ratios, Schedules of Contributions – Pension, Schedule of Changes in Net OPEB Liability and Related Ratios, and Schedule of Contributions – OPEB, which are Required Supplementary Information ("RSI") that supplement 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 Nonmajor Fund Financial Statements and the Budgetary Comparison 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 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 the Introductory and the Statistical Sections, which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. We did not audit or perform other procedures on this other information and we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

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**Restriction on Use**

This information is intended solely for the 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,

*The Pen Group, LLP*

Walnut Creek, California