

**EBARB WATERWORKS DISTRICT NO. 1
ZWOLLE, LOUISIANA**

**ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
DECEMBER 31, 2023**

Ebarb Waterworks District No. 1
Zwolle, Louisiana

Financial Report
December 31, 2023

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Ebarb Waterworks District

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MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

This section of Ebarb Waterworks District No. 1's (hereafter referred to as the District) annual financial report presents an overview and analysis of the District's financial activities for the year ended December 31, 2023. Certain comparative information with the previous year is presented to provide an overview of the District's operations.

Financial Highlights

The Basic Financial Statements of the District report information about the District using Governmental Accounting Standards Board's (GASB) accounting principles. The Statement of Net Position (page 8) includes all of the District's assets and liabilities and provides information about the nature and amount of investments in resources (assets) and the obligations to District creditors (liabilities). All of the current year's revenues and expenses are accounted for in the Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position (page 9). This statement measures improvements in the District's operations over the past year and can be used to determine whether the District has been able to recover all of its costs through its water service revenue and other revenue sources. The final required financial statement is the Statement of Cash Flows (page 10). The primary purpose of this statement is to provide information about the District's cash from operations, investing and financing activities, and to provide answers to such questions as "where did cash come from?", "what was cash used for?" and "what was the change in cash balance during the reporting period?"

Financial Analysis of Ebarb Waterworks District No. 1

The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position report information about the District's activities. These two statements report the net position of the District and changes in them. The District's net position, the difference between assets and liabilities, is one way to measure the District's financial health, or financial position. Over time, increases or decreases in the District's net position is one indicator of whether its financial health is improving or deteriorating.

For comparison purposes, a Condensed Statement of Net Position and a Condensed Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position are presented below:

Condensed Statement of Net Position

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Current and Other Assets	\$ 1,429,639	\$ 1,449,596
Capital Assets, net	<u>2,543,447</u>	<u>2,543,174</u>
 Total Assets	 <u>\$ 3,973,086</u>	 <u>\$ 3,992,770</u>
 Current and Other Liabilities	 \$ 377,270	 \$ 458,059
Noncurrent Liabilities	<u>2,023,339</u>	<u>2,231,709</u>
 Total Current Liabilities	 <u>\$ 2,400,609</u>	 <u>\$ 2,689,768</u>
 Net Position.		
Net Investment in Capital Assets	\$ 588,307	\$ 321,892
Restricted for Debt Service	485,193	430,935
Unrestricted	<u>498,977</u>	<u>550,176</u>
 Total Liabilities & Net Position	 <u>\$ 1,572,477</u>	 <u>\$ 1,303,003</u>

Condensed Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Operating Revenues	\$ 2,110,674	\$ 2,043,823
Operating Expenses	<u>1,781,202</u>	<u>1,632,990</u>
Operating Income (Loss)	\$ 329,472	\$ 410,833
Nonoperating Revenues (expenses)	<u>(59,998)</u>	<u>(687)</u>
Change in Net Position	<u>\$ 269,474</u>	<u>\$ 410,146</u>

Sources of Revenue

Charges for water service totaled \$2,110,674 or 98.7% of total revenue of the District for the year ended December 31, 2023.

Expenses

The majority of the District's total expenses are for personnel services, depreciation, and water purchases. Personnel services totaled \$245,859 which is 14% of total operating expenses. Depreciation totaled \$233,550 which is 13% of total operating expenses. Water Purchases totaled \$477,165 which is 27% of total operating expenses.

Capital Assets

The District's capital assets consist of the distribution system and related equipment, along with land.

Long-Term Debt

The District issued bonds for the purpose of improving the waterworks system. The payments on these bonds and the applicable bond covenants are made on a timely basis.

Economic Factors

The District's major revenue source is from water sales. The District does not anticipate any significant changes for future years.

Contacting the Waterworks District's President

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, customers and creditors with a general overview of the District's finances and to demonstrate the District's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or requests for additional information, contact Board President, P.O. Box 1366, Zwolle, LA 71486.

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Certified Public Accountants

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

President and Members of the Board
Ebarb Waterworks District No. 1
Zwolle, Louisiana 71486

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the business-type activities and major fund of the Ebarb Waterworks District No. 1 (the District), a component unit of the Sabine Parish Police Jury, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the business-type activities and major fund of the District as of December 31, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the District and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statements date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Management's Discussion and Analysis (on pages 1 through 3) be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental 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. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States

of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about 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 do 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.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements. The Schedule of Compensation, Benefits and Other Payments to Agency Head or Chief Executive Officer, Summary of Utility Service Customers, Schedule of Insurance in Force, List of Governing Body Positions and Terms, and Rate List listed as other supplementary information in the Table of Contents are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the Schedule of Compensation, Benefits and Other Payments to Agency Head or Chief Executive Officer, Summary of Utility Service Customers, Schedule of Insurance in Force, List of Governing Body Positions and Terms, and Rate List are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 23, 2024, on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our 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 the District's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In accordance with the requirements of the Louisiana Legislative Auditor, we have issued a report, dated May 23, 2024, on the results of our state wide agreed-upon procedures performed in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the standards applicable to attestation engagements contained in *Government Auditing Standards*. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of testing performed on those control and compliance areas identified in the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's state wide agreed-upon procedures, and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on control or compliance.

Thomas, Cunningham, Broadway & Todtenbier, CPA's

Thomas, Cunningham, Broadway & Todtenbier, CPA's
Natchitoches, Louisiana

May 23, 2024

PROPRIETARY FUND-ENTERPRISE FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Ebarb Waterworks District No. 1
Statement of Net Position
December 31, 2023

ASSETS.

Current Assets:

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$	455,554
Revenue Receivable		162,363
Prepaid Expenses		<u>566</u>
Total Current Assets	\$	<u>618,483</u>

Non-current Assets

Restricted Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$	811,156
Capital Assets, net		<u>2,543,447</u>
Total Non-current Assets	\$	<u>3,354,603</u>

Total Assets	\$	<u><u>3,973,086</u></u>
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LIABILITIES:

Current Liabilities:

Accounts Payable	\$	119,240
Accrued Expenses		10,099
Current portion of capital lease obligation		81,346
Current Portion of long-term debt		<u>166,585</u>
Total Current Liabilities	\$	<u>377,270</u>

Non-current Liabilities

Payable from Restricted Assets- Customers' Meter Deposits	\$	316,130
Capital Lease Obligation		342,881
Long-term debt		<u>1,364,328</u>

Total Non-current Liabilities		<u>2,023,339</u>
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Total Liabilities	\$	<u>2,400,609</u>
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NET POSITION:

Net Investment in Capital Assets	\$	588,307
Restricted for Debt Service		485,193
Unrestricted		<u>498,977</u>
Total Net Position	\$	<u><u>1,572,477</u></u>

See accompanying notes and independent auditor's report.

Ebarb Waterworks District No. 1
Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position
December 31, 2023

OPERATING REVENUES:	
Charges for Services	<u>\$ 2,110,674</u>
OPERATING EXPENSES:	
Personnel Services	\$ 245,859
Operations & Maintenance	1,301,793
Depreciation	<u>233,550</u>
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$ 1,781,202</u>
Operating Income (Loss)	<u>\$ 329,472</u>
Non-Operating Revenues:	
Interest Income	\$ 122
Intergovernmental Income	12,489
Rental Income	2,325
Sale of Assets	2,078
Miscellaneous Income	60
Interest Expense	<u>(77,072)</u>
Total Non-Operating Revenues (expenses)	<u>\$ (59,998)</u>
Change in Net Position	\$ 269,474
Total Net Position at Beginning of Year	<u>1,303,003</u>
Total Net Position at End of Year	<u><u>\$ 1,572,477</u></u>

See accompanying notes and independent auditor's report.

Ebarb Waterworks District No. 1
Statement of Cash Flows
December 31, 2023

Cash Flows from Operating Activities:	
Cash Received from Customers	\$ 2,203,868
Cash Paid to Suppliers	(1,348,845)
Cash Paid to Employees	(245,859)
Net Cash Provided (Used) By Operating Activities	<u>\$ 609,164</u>
Cash Flows from Capital and Related Financing Activities:	
Intergovernmental Revenue	\$ 12,489
Acquisition of Capital Assets	(233,822)
Miscellaneous Income	60
Rental Income	2,325
Sale of Assets	2,078
Proceeds from Debt	29,141
Principal Paid on Capital Debt	(295,284)
Interest Paid on Capital Debt	(77,072)
Net Cash Provided (Used) By Capital and Related Financing Activities	<u>\$ (560,085)</u>
Cash Flows from Investing Activities	
Interest and Dividends	<u>\$ 122</u>
Net Increase in Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 49,201
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year	<u>1,217,509</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year	<u><u>\$ 1,266,710</u></u>
Reconciliation of Operating Income (Loss) to Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities.	
Operating Income (Loss)	\$ 329,472
Adjustments to Reconcile Operating Income (Loss) to Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	
Depreciation Expense	233,550
Changes in Assets and Liabilities:	
(Increase) Decrease in Accounts and Other Receivables	63,603
Increase (Decrease) in Accounts and Other Payables	(47,052)
Increase (Decrease) in Customer Deposits	29,591
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	<u>\$ 609,164</u>
Cash & Cash Equivalents-	
Operating Account	\$ 455,554
Bond Covenant Accounts	485,193
Customers' Meter Deposits	325,963
Total	<u><u>\$ 1,266,710</u></u>

See accompanying notes and independent auditor's report.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Ebarb Waterworks District No. 1
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023

INTRODUCTION

Ebarb Waterworks District No. 1 (District), a political subdivision of the Sabine Parish Police Jury, was created by Louisiana Revised Statute 33:3811 and adopted by the Police Jury on March 16, 1977. The District's purpose is to provide water service to any user within the geographical boundaries of the District. The District is operated by a board that consists of up to five commissioners appointed by the Police Jury.

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies:

A. Basis of Presentation-

The financial statements of the District have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles.

B. Reporting Entity-

As the governing authority of the parish, for reporting purposes, the Sabine Parish Police Jury is the financial reporting entity for Ebarb. The financial reporting entity consists of (a) the primary government (police jury), (b) organizations for which the primary government is financially accountable, and (c) other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the primary government are such that exclusion would cause the reporting entity's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete.

Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 14 established criteria for determining which component units should be considered part of the Sabine Parish Police Jury for financial reporting purposes. The basic criterion for including a potential component unit within the reporting entity is financial accountability. The GASB has set forth criteria to be considered in determining financial accountability. This criteria includes:

1. Appointing a voting majority of an organization's governing body, and
 - a. The ability of the Police Jury to impose its will on that organization and/or
 - b. The potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to or impose specific financial burdens on the Police Jury.
2. Organizations for which the Sabine Parish Police Jury does not appoint a voting majority but are fiscally dependent on the Sabine Parish Police Jury.
3. Organizations for which the reporting entity financial statements would be misleading if data of the organization is not included because of the nature or significance of the relationship

Ebarb Waterworks District No. 1
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023

Because the Sabine Parish Police Jury appoints the District's governing body, and the ability of the Sabine Parish Police Jury to impose its will on the District, the District was determined to be a component unit of the Sabine Parish Police Jury, the financial reporting entity. The accompanying financial statements present information only on the fund maintained by the District and do not present information on the Sabine Parish Police Jury, the general government services provided by that governmental unit, or the other governmental units that comprise the financial reporting entity.

C. Fund Accounting-

The District uses one fund to report on its financial position and the results of its operations. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions relating to certain government functions or activities. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts.

Ebarb Waterworks District No. 1 uses an enterprise fund type of the proprietary fund category to account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to a private business enterprise where the intent of the governing body is that the costs (expenses, including depreciation) of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges.

Proprietary funds distinguish operating revenues and expenses from non-operating items. Operating revenues and expenses generally result from providing services and producing and delivering goods in connection with a proprietary fund's principal ongoing operations. Operating expenses for the proprietary funds include the cost of personal and contractual services, supplies and depreciation on capital assets. All revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as non-operating revenues and expenses.

D. Basis of Accounting-

The accounting and financial treatment applied to a fund is determined by its measurement focus. Proprietary funds are accounted for on a flow of economic resources measurement focus and a determination of net income and capital maintenance. With this measurement focus, all assets and all liabilities associated with the operation of this fund are included on the statement of net position. The proprietary fund uses the accrual basis of accounting; revenues are recognized when earned, and expenses are recognized at the time the related liabilities are incurred.

E. Cash and Cash Equivalents-

The District has deposits in highly liquid investment vehicles such as certificates of deposit. Since all of the District's cash is readily available, these deposits are listed in the financial statements as "Cash & Cash Equivalents". Under State law, the District may deposit funds in demand deposits, interest-bearing demand deposits, money market accounts, or time deposits with state banks organized under Louisiana law and national banks having their principal offices in Louisiana. The District may also purchase investments in securities backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government. For the purpose of the Statement of Cash Flows, "cash and cash equivalents" include all demand and savings accounts.

Ebarb Waterworks District No. 1
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023

F. Compensated Absences-

Full-time employees of Ebarb Waterworks District No. 1 earn annual leave at various rates depending on the number of years in service. Leave cannot be accumulated or carried over from one year to the next. Therefore, no liability for compensated absences has been recorded in the accompanying financial statements.

G. Capital Assets-

The capital assets of Ebarb Waterworks District No. 1 enterprise fund are carried at historical costs and are included on the Statement of Net Position, along with accumulated depreciation. The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of that asset or materially extend the life of that asset are not capitalized. Depreciation of all exhaustible capital assets used by the enterprise fund operation is charged as an expense against operations. Depreciation has been computed using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets, which is generally 10 to 40 years for buildings and building improvements, 7 to 40 years for the distribution system, 5 years for automobiles, and 5 to 10 years for machinery and equipment.

H. Estimates-

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues, expenditures and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

I. Net Position-

In the government-wide statements, equity is classified as net position and displayed in three components:

- a. Net investment in capital assets - Consists of capital assets including restricted capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by the outstanding balances of any bonds, mortgages, notes, or other borrowings that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets.
- b. Restricted net position - Consists of net resources with constraints placed on their use either by (1) external groups such as creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or (2) law through constitutional provision or enabling legislation
- c. Unrestricted net position - All other net resources that do not meet the definition of "restricted" or "net investment in capital assets".

When an expense is incurred for the purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position are available, management applies unrestricted net position first, unless a determination

Ebarb Waterworks District No. 1
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023

is made to use restricted net position. The policy concerning which to apply first varies with the intended use and legal requirements. This decision is typically made by management at the incurrence of the expenses.

J. Accounts Receivable-

All receivables are recognized based on the monthly amounts billed for water consumption of District customers. Uncollectible revenues are generally balances owed by inactive customers. Uncollectible accounts are written off at the end of each year. As such, all outstanding receivables at the end of the year are deemed to be collectible and as such an allowance has not been recognized.

K. Restricted Assets-

Based upon certain bond covenants, the District is required to establish and maintain prescribed amounts of resources (consisting of cash and cash equivalents) in special funds that can be used only to service outstanding debt. The requirements are as follows:

- a) Each month, there will be set aside into a fund called the "Water System Revenue Bond and Interest Sinking Fund" an amount constituting 1/12 of the total principal and interest maturing in the ensuing year. Such amounts shall be fully sufficient to assure the prompt payment of principal and interest installments as they become due, and may be used only for such payments.
- b) Each month, there shall be set aside into a "Water System Reserve Fund" a sum at least equal to five percent (5%) of the annual debt payments until such time as there has been accumulated in said fund a sum equal to the highest combined principal and interest amount falling due in any year. Such money is to be maintained solely for the purpose of paying the principal and interest on bonds payable from the Sinking Fund as to which there would otherwise be default.

The District requires a customer deposit upon initial account opening for use of the District owned water meter at each residence or business. The District must hold the deposits in a separate bank account until the customer's account is closed and at that time the deposit is returned to the customer.

2. Cash and Cash Equivalents:

The cash and cash equivalents of the District are subject to the following risk:

Custodial Credit Risk: Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that, in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, the District will not be able to recover its deposits. Under state law, these deposits (or the resulting bank balances) must be secured by federal deposit insurance or the pledge of securities owned by the fiscal agent bank. The market value of the pledged securities plus the federal deposit insurance must at all times equal or exceed the amount on deposit with the fiscal agent. These securities are held in the name of the pledging fiscal agent bank in a holding or custodial bank that is mutually acceptable to both parties. Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1229 imposes a statutory requirement on the custodial bank to advertise and sell the pledged securities within 10 days of being notified by the District that the fiscal agent bank has failed to pay deposited funds upon demand. Further, Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1224 states that securities held by a third party shall be deemed to be held in the District's name.

Ebarb Waterworks District No. 1
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023

2. Cash and Cash Equivalents (continued):

At December 31, 2023, the District had \$455,554 (book balance) in unrestricted cash and cash equivalents, and \$811,156 in accounts restricted for debt service and customer deposits.

At December 31, 2023, the District had cash and cash equivalents (collected bank balances) totaling \$1,288,917. Cash and cash equivalents are stated at cost, which approximates market.

The deposits at December 31, 2023, were secured as follows:

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$1,288,917
FDIC	(500,000)
Pledged Securities	<u>(788,917)</u>
Amount Uninsured	<u>\$ 0</u>

3. Capital Assets:

Capital assets and depreciation activity as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, is as follows:

	<u>Balance</u> <u>01/01/2023</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deletions</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>12/31/2023</u>
Capital Assets not depreciated-				
Land	\$ 121,043	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 121,043
Construction in Progress	<u>548,276</u>	<u>141,119</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>689,395</u>
Total Capital Assets – not depreciated	<u>\$ 669,319</u>	<u>\$141,119</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 810,438</u>
Capital Assets Depreciated-				
Buildings & Improvements	\$ 55,996	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 55,996
Plant & Distribution System	5,115,188	23,884	0	5,139,072
Service Vehicles	131,481	59,596	0	191,077
Machinery & Equipment	<u>254,080</u>	<u>9,223</u>	<u>5,928</u>	<u>257,375</u>
Total Capital Assets, depreciated	<u>\$5,556,745</u>	<u>\$ 92,703</u>	<u>\$5,928</u>	<u>\$5,643,520</u>
Less, Accumulated Depreciation-				
Buildings & Improvements	\$ 43,126	\$ 3,226	\$ 0	\$ 46,352
Plant & Distribution System	3,348,855	183,707	0	3,532,562
Service Vehicles	93,076	25,375	0	118,451
Machinery & Equipment	<u>197,832</u>	<u>21,242</u>	<u>5,928</u>	<u>213,146</u>
Total Accumulated Depreciation	<u>\$3,682,889</u>	<u>\$233,550</u>	<u>\$5,928</u>	<u>\$3,910,511</u>
Total Capital Assets, Net	<u>\$2,543,175</u>	<u>\$ 272</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$2,543,447</u>

Depreciation expense of \$233,550 was recorded for the year ended December 31, 2023.

Ebarb Waterworks District No. 1
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023

4. Compensation of Board Members.

A detail of compensation paid to individual board members for the year ended December 31, 2023 follows:

P.M. Woods	\$ 3,864
Peter Nugent	2,576
Donald Garcie	3,864
Robert Conyer	3,703
Thomas Danny Lopez	<u>3,703</u>
Total	<u>\$17,710</u>

5 Long-Term Debt:

The following is a summary of the long-term debt obligations of Ebarb Waterworks District No. 1 for the year ended December 31, 2023.

	<u>Balance</u> <u>1/1/2023</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Reductions</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>12/31/2023</u>
Revenue Bonds-1990	\$ 881,692	\$ 0	\$123,792	\$757,900
Revenue Bonds-1993	328,726	0	32,959	295,767
Revenue Bonds-2006	100,669	0	2,551	98,118
Drinking Water Revolving Loan	360,297	29,141	17,000	372,438
Sabine State Bank-2017	19,764	0	19,764	0
Sabine State Bank-2020	<u>24,997</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>18,307</u>	<u>6,690</u>
Total	<u>\$1,716,145</u>	<u>\$29,141</u>	<u>\$214,373</u>	<u>\$1,530,913</u>

The following is a summary schedule by years of future payments under the above debt.

<u>Year Ending</u> <u>December 31</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2024	\$ 191,275	\$ 56,811	\$ 248,086
2025	192,234	47,589	239,823
2026	201,235	39,238	240,473
2027	209,603	30,499	240,102
2028	219,355	21,376	240,731
2029-2033	279,048	42,380	321,428
2034-2038	142,340	24,430	166,770
2039-2043	80,229	8,267	88,496
2044-2048	<u>15,594</u>	<u>981</u>	<u>16,575</u>
Total	<u>\$1,530,913</u>	<u>\$271,571</u>	<u>\$1,802,484</u>

Ebarb Waterworks District No. 1
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023

5. Long-Term Debt (continued):

The terms of the individual debt issues of the District are as follows:

	<u>Interest</u> Rate	<u>Maturity</u> Date	<u>Amount</u> Issued
Revenue Bonds-1990	4.50%	2029	\$2,194,968
Revenue Bonds-1993	4.50%	2032	778,650
Revenue Bonds-2006	4.38%	2046	129,000
Drinking Water Revolving Loan	1.95%	2039	543,282
Sabine State Bank-2016	5.50%	2020	31,080
Sabine State Bank-2017	5.75%	2022	20,012
Sabine State Bank-2020	6.00%	2025	49,640
Total			<u>\$3,746,632</u>

6. Lease Obligations:

The District has entered into two leases as follows:

- a) Five year copier lease, executed in October, 2018, with Toshiba Financial Services, requiring payments of amounting to \$16,575 over the life of the lease (paid in full in 2023),
- b) Ten year lease of electronic water meters, executed in October, 2018, with Sabine State Bank, requiring payments amounting to \$964,879 over the life of the lease.

The following is a schedule of future minimum lease payments and the present value of the net future minimum lease payments as of December 31, 2023:

Year Ending December 31,	Amount
2024	\$ 96,488
2025	96,488
2026	96,488
2027	96,488
2028	<u>80,314</u>
Total minimum payments required	\$466,266
Less amounts representing interest	<u>(42,039)</u>
Present value of minimum lease payments	<u>\$424,227</u>
Current portion	\$ 81,346
Long-term portion	342,881

Ebarb Waterworks District No. 1
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023

7. Contingencies

Management has advised that there are no known claims or litigation pending against the District at December 31, 2023.

The District provides water and sewer services to customers in Sabine Parish, and these services are heavily regulated by DHH and DEQ. Drinking water and sewer treatment discharges are subject to strict guidelines relating to quality. Failure to meet these requirements could subject the District to penalties.

8. New GASB Standard

In the current fiscal year, the District implemented GASB Statement No. 96 – *Subscription-Based Technology Arrangements (SBITAs)*. This statement provides guidance on the accounting and financial reporting for SBITAs for governments. The 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 disclosure regarding a SBITA. To the extent relevant, the standards for SBITAs are based on the standards established in Statement No. 87, *Leases*, as amended. The implementation of this standard had no effect on the District's financial statements or notes to the financial statements

9. Risk Management

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The District maintains commercial insurance coverage covering each of these risks of loss. Management believes such coverage is sufficient to preclude any significant uninsured loss to the District.

10. Subsequent Events:

Management has evaluated events through May 23, 2024, the date which the financial statements were available for issue. There were no items to be reported as subsequent events.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Ebarb Waterworks District No. 1
Schedule of Compensation, Benefits, and Other Payments to
Agency Head
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Agency Head: P.M. Woods, Board President

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Per Diem	\$ 3,864
Mileage	217
	<hr/>
	\$ 4,081

See independent auditor's report.

Ebarb Waterworks District No. 1
Summary of Utility Service Customers
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

<u>Type of Customers</u>	<u>Number of Customers</u>
Residential	3,008
Non-Residential	18
Commercial	<u>64</u>
Total	<u>3,090</u>

See independent auditor's report.

Ebarb Waterworks District No. 1
 Schedule of Insurance in Force
 December 31, 2023

<u>Insurer</u>	<u>Expiration Date</u>	<u>Coverage</u>	<u>Limits</u>
Louisiana Workers' Compensation Corporation	January 1, 2024	Worker's Compensation:	
		Bodily Injury by Accident	\$1,000,000 each accident
		Bodily Injury by Disease	\$1,000,000 policy limit
		Bodily Injury by Disease	\$1,000,000 each employee
National Union Fire Insurance Company of Pittsburgh, PA	February 8, 2024	Commercial General Liability	\$3,000,000 Aggregate \$1,000,000 Occurrence
		Deductible	\$1,000
		Property	\$3,967,018
		Deductible	\$1,000
		Automobile Liability	\$1,000,000 Combined
		Deductible	\$500
		Errors and Omissions	\$100,000 Occurrence
		Deductible	\$1,000

See independent auditor's report.

Ebarb Waterworks District No. 1
List of Governing Body Positions and Terms
December 31, 2023

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
P. M. Woods 1551 N Main Street P. O. Box 93 Zwolle, LA 71486 318-645-9721	President	5 years	2027
Peter Nugent 1269 Parkside Drive Zwolle, LA 71486 318-645-7791	Vice President	5 years	2026
Donald Garcie 101 Rock Hill Lane Noble, LA 71462 318-645-9212	Secretary-Treasurer	5 years	2028
Robert Conyer 895 Village Drive Zwolle, LA 71486 318-256-0091	Member	5 years	2025
Thomas "Danny" Lopez 520 Garcie Road Zwolle, LA 71486 318-773-4099	Member	5 years	2025

See independent auditor's report.

Ebarb Waterworks District No. 1
Rate List
December 31, 2023

<u>Rate List</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Security deposit	\$200.00
Security deposit - renters	\$300.00
Setup Fee	\$100.00
Late Charge	10% of current charges
New Meter Box (customer installed)	\$55.00
New Meter Box (EWD#1 installed)	\$65.00
Move Water Meter (20 feet or less)	\$500.00
Impact Fee	\$250.00
Road Bore Fee	\$1,750.00
Short Tap Fee	\$1,225.00
One Inch Meter (short side)	\$1,750.00
DHH Fee	\$12.00/year
Lock Replacement	\$50.00
Transfer Fee	\$100.00
Replace Cut-off Valve	\$50.00
Replace Water Meter	\$200.00
NSF Check	\$25.00
Pull Meter	\$75.00
Reconnect for Nonpayment	\$50.00
Service Call	\$75.00
Base Rate Residential	\$31.00 1,000 gallons
after 1st 1,000 gallons	\$7.75/1,000 gallon
Base Rate Commercial	\$78.53/10,000 gallons
after 1st 1,000 gallons	\$13.82/1,000 gallons
Bulk Water Rate	\$75 connection + \$13.82/1,000 gallons
Base Rate Non-Residential	\$31.00 1,000 gallons
after 1st 1,000 gallons	\$7.75 1,000 gallons

See independent auditor's report.

OTHER REPORTS SCHEDULES

T | C | B | T
THOMAS, CUNNINGHAM, BROADWAY & TODTENBIER
Certified Public Accountants

Eddie G. Johnson, CPA - A Professional Corporation (1927-1996)

Mark D. Thomas, CPA - A Professional Corporation

Roger M. Cunningham, CPA, LLC

Jessica H. Broadway, CPA - A Professional Corporation

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER
FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS
BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE
WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

Mr. P.M. Woods, President
and Members of the Board
Ebarb Waterworks District No. 1
Zwolle, Louisiana 71486

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*, the financial statements of the business-type activities and major fund as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Ebarb Waterworks District No. 1's (the District) basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated May 23, 2024.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the District's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited. Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor as a public document.

Thomas, Cunningham, Broadway & Todtenbier, CPA's

Thomas, Cunningham, Broadway & Todtenbier, CPA's
Natchitoches, Louisiana

May 23, 2024

Ebarb Waterworks District No. 1
Schedule of Audit Results
Year Ended December 31, 2023

I. Summary of Audit Results

1. The auditor's report expresses an unmodified opinion on the financial statements of Ebarb Waterworks District No. 1.
2. The audit disclosed no material weaknesses that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.
3. The audit disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

II. Current Year Findings in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*

There were no current year findings.

III. Prior Year Audit Findings in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*

There were no prior year findings

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**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT’S REPORT ON APPLYING
STATEWIDE AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES**

To Ebarb Waterworks District No. 1
and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor:

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the control and compliance (C/C) areas identified in the Louisiana Legislative Auditor’s (LLA’s) Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures (SAUPs) for the fiscal period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. Ebarb Waterworks District No. 1’s (District) management is responsible for those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs.

The District has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of the engagement, which is to perform specified procedures on the C/C areas identified in LLA’s SAUPs for the fiscal period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. Additionally, LLA has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate for its purposes. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user for this report and may not meet the needs of all users of this report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes.

The procedures and associated findings are as follows:

Written Policies and Procedures

1. We obtained and inspected the entity’s written policies and procedures and observed that they address each of the following categories and subcategories if applicable to public funds and the operations:
 - ***Budgeting***, including preparing, adopting, monitoring, and amending the budget.
 - ***Purchasing***, including (1) how purchases are initiated; (2) how vendors are added to the vendor list; (3) the preparation and approval process of purchase requisitions and purchase orders; (4) controls to ensure compliance with the public bid law; and (5) documentation required to be maintained for all bids and price quotes.
 - ***Disbursements***, including processing, reviewing, and approving.
 - ***Receipts/Collections***, including receiving, recording, and preparing deposits. Also, policies and procedures should include management’s actions to determine the completeness of all collections for each type of revenue or custodial fund additions (e.g. periodic confirmation with outside parties, reconciliation to utility billing after cutoff procedures, reconciliation of traffic ticket number sequences, custodial fund forfeiture monies confirmation.)

- **Payroll/Personnel**, including (1) payroll processing, and (2) reviewing and approving time and attendance records, including leave and overtime worked, and (3) approval process for employee(s) rate of pay or approval and maintenance of pay rate schedules.
- **Contracting**, including (1) types of services requiring written contracts, (2) standard terms and conditions, (3) legal review, (4) approval process, and (5) monitoring process.
- **Credit Cards (and debit cards, fuel cards, purchase cards, if applicable)**, including (1) how cards are to be controlled, (2) allowable business uses, (3) documentation requirements, (4) required approvers of statements, and (5) monitoring card usage (e.g., determining the reasonableness of fuel card purchases).
- **Travel and expense reimbursement**, including (1) allowable expenses, (2) dollar thresholds by category of expense, (3) documentation requirements, and (4) required approvers.
- **Ethics**, including (1) the prohibitions as defined in Louisiana Revised Statute 42:1111-1121, (2) actions to be taken if an ethics violation takes place, (3) system to monitor possible ethics violations, and (4) a requirement that documentation is maintained to demonstrate that all employees and officials were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy.
- **Debt Service**, including (1) debt issuance approval, (2) continuing disclosure/EMMA reporting requirements, (3) debt reserve requirements, and (4) debt service requirements.
- **Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity**, including (1) identification of critical data and frequency of data backups, (2) storage of backups in a separate physical location isolated from the network, (3) periodic testing/verification that backups can be restored, (4) use of antivirus software on all systems, (5) timely application of all available system and software patches/updates, and (6) identification of personnel, processes, and tools needed to recover operations after a critical event.
- **Prevention of Sexual Harassment**, including R.S. 42:342-344 requirements for (1) agency responsibilities and prohibitions, (2) annual employee training, and (3) annual reporting.

Procedure Results – The District does not have written policies for Receipts/Collections, Contracting, Credit Cards, Debt Service, and IT Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity.

Board or Finance Committee

- 2 We obtained and inspected the board/finance committee minutes for the fiscal period, as well as the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or equivalent documents in effect during the fiscal period, and:
 - Observed that the board finance committee met with a quorum at least monthly, or on a frequency in accordance with the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or other equivalent document.
 - Observed that the minutes referenced or included monthly budget-to-actual comparisons on the General Fund, quarterly budget-to-actual comparisons on all proprietary funds, and semi-annual budget-to-actual comparisons on all special revenue funds.
 - Obtained the prior year audit report and observed the unassigned fund balance in the General Fund. If the General Fund had a negative ending unrestricted net position in the prior year audit report, observed that the minutes for at least one meeting during the fiscal period referenced or included a formal plan to eliminate the negative unassigned fund balance in the General Fund.

- Observed whether the board/finance committee received written updates of the progress of resolving audit finding(s), according to management's corrective action plan at each meeting until the findings are considered fully resolved.

Procedure Results: No exceptions were noted as a result of these procedures.

Bank Reconciliations

- 3 We obtained a listing of entity bank accounts for the fiscal period from management and management's representation that the listing is complete. Management identified the entity's main operating account. We selected the entity's main operating account and randomly selected 4 additional accounts (or all if less than 5). We randomly selected one month from the fiscal period, obtained and inspected the corresponding bank statement and reconciliation for the selected accounts, and observed that:
 - Bank reconciliations include evidence that they were prepared within two months of the related statement closing date (e.g. initialed and dated, electronically logged),
 - Bank reconciliations included written evidence that a member of management or a board member who does not handle cash, post ledgers, or issue checks has reviewed each bank reconciliation within one month of the date the reconciliation was prepared (e.g. initialed and dated, electronically logged); and
 - Management has documentation reflecting that it has researched reconciling items that have been outstanding for more than 12 months from the statement closing date, if applicable.

Procedure Results: No exceptions were noted as a result of these procedures.

Collections (excluding electronic funds transfers)

4. We obtained a listing of deposit sites for the fiscal period where deposits for cash check money orders (cash) are prepared and management's representation that the listing is complete. We randomly selected 5 deposit sites (or all deposit sites if less than 5).
5. We obtained a listing of collection locations and management's representation that the listing is complete. We randomly selected one collection location for each deposit site selected. We obtained and inspected written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if no written policies or procedures, then inquired of employees about their job duties) at each collection location, and observed that job duties were properly segregated at each collection location such that:
 - Employees that are responsible for cash collections do not share cash drawers/registers.
 - Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not also responsible for preparing/making bank deposits, unless another employee official is responsible for reconciling collection documentation (e.g. pre-numbered receipts) to the deposit.
 - Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not also responsible for posting collection entries to the general ledger or subsidiary ledgers, unless another employee official is responsible for reconciling ledger postings to each other and to the deposit.
 - The employee(s) responsible for reconciling cash collections to the general ledger and or subsidiary ledgers, by revenue source and/or custodial fund additions, are not responsible for collecting cash, unless another employee official verifies the reconciliation.

- 6 We obtained from management a copy of the bond or insurance policy for theft covering all employees who have access to cash. We observed that the bond or insurance policy for theft was in force during the fiscal period.
7. We randomly selected two deposit dates for each of the bank accounts selected for procedure #3 under "Bank Reconciliations" above (selected the next deposit date chronologically if no deposits were made on the dates randomly selected and randomly selected a deposit if multiple deposits were made on the same day). We obtained supporting documentation for each of the deposits selected and
 - We observed that receipts are sequentially pre-numbered.
 - We traced sequentially pre-numbered receipts, system reports, and other related collection documentation to the deposit slip.
 - We traced the deposit slip total to the actual deposit per the bank statement.
 - We observed that the deposit was made within one business day of receipt at the collection location (within one week if the depository is more than 10 miles from the collection location or the deposit is less than \$100 and the cash is stored securely in a locked safe or drawer).
 - We traced the actual deposit per the bank statement to the general ledger

Procedure Results: No exceptions were noted as a result of these procedures.

Non-Payroll Disbursements (excluding card purchases, travel reimbursements, and petty cash purchases)

8. We obtained a listing of locations that process payments for the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. We randomly selected the required amount of disbursement locations (or all locations if less than 5).
9. For each location selected under #8 above, obtained a listing of those employees involved with non-payroll purchasing and payment functions. We obtained written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if the agency has no written policies and procedures, then inquired of employees about their job duties), and we observed that job duties are properly segregated such that:
 - At least two employees are involved in initiating a purchase request, approving a purchase, and placing an order or making the purchase.
 - At least two employees are involved in processing and approving payments to vendors.
 - The employee responsible for processing payments is prohibited from adding/modifying vendor files, unless another employee is responsible for periodically reviewing changes to vendor files.
 - Either the employee/official responsible for signing checks mails the payment or gives the signed checks to an employee to mail who is not responsible for processing payments.
 - Only employees/officials authorized to sign checks approved the electronic disbursement (release) of funds, whether through automated clearinghouse (ACH), electronic funds transfer (EFT), wire transfer, or some electronic means.

10. For each location selected under #8 above, we obtained the entity's non-payroll disbursement transaction population (excluding cards and travel reimbursements) and obtained management's representation that the population is complete. We randomly selected 5 disbursements for each location, and obtained supporting documentation for each transaction and:
- We observed that the disbursement, whether paper or electronic means, matched the related original itemized invoice and supporting documentation indicates that deliverables included on the invoice were received by the entity.
 - We observed whether the disbursement documentation included evidence (e.g., initial/date, electronic logging) of segregation of duties tested under #9, as applicable
11. Using the entity's main operating account and the month selected in procedure #3 under Bank Reconciliations, we randomly selected 5 non-payroll-related electronic disbursements (or all electronic disbursements if less than 5) and observed that each electronic disbursement was (a) approved by only those persons authorized to disburse funds (e.g., sign checks) per the entity's policy, and (b) approved by the required number of authorized signers per the entity's policy. If no electronic payments were made from the main operating account during the month selected, we selected an alternative month and/or account for testing that does include electronic disbursements.

Procedure Results: No exceptions were noted as a result of these procedures.

Credit Cards/Debit Cards/Fuel Cards/Purchase Cards (Cards)

12. We obtained from management a listing of all active credit cards, bank debit cards, fuel cards, and purchase cards (cards) for the fiscal period, including the card numbers and the names of the persons who maintained possession of the cards. We obtained management's representation that the listing is complete.
13. Using the listing prepared by management, we randomly selected the required amount of cards (up to five) that were used during the fiscal period. We randomly selected one monthly statement or combined statement for each card (for a debit card, randomly selected one monthly bank statement), and obtained supporting documentation, and:
- We observed that there is evidence that the monthly statement or combined statement and supporting documentation (e.g., original receipts for credit/debit card purchases, exception reports for excessive fuel card usage) was reviewed and approved, in writing (or electronically approved), by someone other than the authorized card holder.
 - We observed that finance charges and late fees were not assessed on the selected statements.
14. Using the monthly statements or combined statements selected under #12 above, excluding fuel cards, we randomly selected the required amount transactions (up to ten) from each statement, and obtained supporting documentation for the transactions. For each transaction, we observed that it is supported by (a) an original itemized receipt that identified precisely what was purchased, (b) written documentation of the business/public purpose, and (c) documentation of the individuals participating in meals (for meal charges only). For missing receipts, we described the nature of the transaction and noted whether management had a compensating control to address missing receipts, such as a "missing receipt statement" that is subject to increased scrutiny.

Procedure Results: No exceptions were noted as a result of these procedures.

Travel and Travel-Related Expense Reimbursements (excluding card transactions)

15. We obtained from management a listing of all travel and travel-related expense reimbursements during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing or general ledger is complete. We randomly selected 5 reimbursements, and obtained the related expense reimbursement forms/prepaid expense documentation of each selected reimbursement, as well as the supporting documentation. For each of the 5 reimbursements selected:

- If reimbursed using a per diem, we observed that the approved reimbursement rate is no more than those rates established by the State of Louisiana or the U.S. General Services Administration (www.gsa.gov).
- If reimbursed using actual costs, we observed that the reimbursement is supported by an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased.
- We observed that each reimbursement was supported by documentation of the business/public purpose (for meal charges, we observed that the documentation includes the names of those individuals participating) and other documentation required by written policy (procedure #1, 8th bullet).
- We observed that each reimbursement was reviewed and approved, in writing, by someone other than the person receiving reimbursement.

Procedure Results: No exceptions were noted as a result of these procedures.

Contracts

16. We obtained from management a listing of all agreements/contracts (or active vendor list) for professional services, materials, and supplies, leases, and construction activities that were initiated or renewed during the fiscal period. We obtained management's representation that the listing is complete. We randomly selected the required amount of contracts (up to 5) from the listing, excluding our contract, and:

- We observed that the contract was bid in accordance with the Louisiana Public Bid Law (e.g., solicited quotes or bids, advertised), if required by law.
- We observed whether the contract was approved by the governing body/board, if required by policy or law (e.g. Lawrason Act, Home Rule Charter).
- If the contract was amended (e.g. change order), we observed that the original contract terms provided for such an amendment and that amendments were made in compliance with the contract terms (e.g. if approval is required for any amendment, the document approval).
- We randomly selected one payment from the fiscal period for each of the selected contracts, obtained the supporting invoice, agreed the invoice to the contract terms, and observed that the invoice and related payment agreed to the terms and conditions of the contract.

Procedure Results: No exceptions were noted as a result of these procedures.

Payroll and Personnel

17. We obtained a listing of employees/elected officials employed during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. We randomly selected 5 employees or officials, obtained related paid salaries and personnel files, and agreed paid salaries to authorized salaries/pay rates in the personnel files.
18. We randomly selected one pay period during the fiscal period. For the 5 employees or officials selected under #17 above, we obtained attendance records and leave documentation for the pay period, and:
- We observed that all selected employees or officials documented their daily attendance and leave (e.g., vacation, sick, compensatory).
 - We observed that supervisors approved the attendance and leave of the selected employees or officials.
 - We observed that any leave accrued or taken during the pay period is reflected in the entity's cumulative leave records.
 - We observed that the rate paid to the employees or officials agree to the authorized salary/pay rate found with the personnel file.
19. We obtained a listing of those employees or officials that received termination payments during the fiscal period and management's representation that the list is complete. If applicable, we selected two employees or officials, and obtained related documentation of the hours and pay rates used in management's termination payment calculations and the entity's policy on termination payments. If applicable, we agreed the hours to the employee's or official's cumulative leave records, and the pay rates to the employee's or official's authorized pay rates in the employee's or official's personnel files, and the termination payment to entity policy.
20. We obtained management's representation that employer and employee portions of third-party payroll related amounts (e.g. payroll taxes, retirement contributions, health insurance premiums, garnishments, workers' compensation premiums, etc.) have been paid, and any associated forms have been filed, by required deadlines

Procedure Results: No exceptions were noted as a result of these procedures.

Ethics

21. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from procedure #17 under "Payroll and Personnel" above, we obtained ethics documentation from management, and:
- We observed whether the documentation demonstrates that each employee/official completed one hour of ethics training during the calendar year as required by R.S. 42:1170.
 - We observed that the entity maintains documentation which demonstrates each employee and official were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy during the fiscal period, as applicable.
22. We inquired and/or observed whether the agency has appointed an ethics designee as required by R.S. 42:1170.

Procedure Results: No exceptions were noted as a result of these procedures.

Debt Service

23. We obtained a listing of bonds/notes and other debt instruments issued during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. We selected all debt instruments on the listing, obtained supporting documentation, and observed that State Bond Commission approval was obtained for each debt instrument issued as required by Article VII, Section 8 of the Louisiana Constitution.
24. We obtained a listing of bonds/notes outstanding at the end of the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. We randomly selected one bond/note, inspected debt covenants, obtained supporting documentation for the reserve balance and payments, and agreed actual reserve balances and payments to those required by debt covenants (including contingency funds, short-lived asset funds, or other funds required by the debt covenants).

Procedure Results: No exceptions were noted as a result of these procedures.

Fraud Notice

25. We obtained a listing of misappropriations of public funds and assets during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. We selected all misappropriations on the listing, obtained supporting documentation, and observed that the entity reported the misappropriation(s) to the legislative auditor and the district attorney of the parish in which the entity is domiciled as required by R.S. 24:523.
26. We observed whether the entity has posted, on its premises and website, the notice required by R.S. 24:523.1 concerning the reporting of misappropriation, fraud, waste, or abuse of public funds.

Procedure Results: No exceptions were noted as a result of these procedures.

Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity

27. We performed the following procedures:
- We obtained and inspected the entity's most recent documentation that it has backed up its critical data (if no written documentation, inquired of personnel responsible for backing up critical data) and observed that such backup (a) occurred within the past week, (b) was not stored on the government's local server or network, and (c) was encrypted.
 - We obtained and inspected the entity's most recent documentation that it has tested/verified that its backups can be restored (if there is no written documentation, then inquired of personnel responsible for testing/verifying backup restoration) and observed evidence that the test verification was successfully performed within the past 3 months.
 - We obtained a listing of the entity's computers currently in use, and their related locations, and management's representation that the listing is complete. We randomly selected the required number of computers (at least 5) and observed while management demonstrates that the selected computers have current and active antivirus software and that the operating system and accounting system software in use are currently supported by the vendor.
28. We randomly selected 5 terminated employees (or all terminated employees if less than 5) using the list of terminated employees obtained in procedure #19, and observed evidence that the selected terminated employees have been removed or disabled from the network.

29. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from procedure #17 under “Payroll and Personnel” above, we obtained cybersecurity training documentation from management, and observed that the documentation demonstrates that the selected employees/officials with access to the agency’s information technology assets have completed cybersecurity training as required by R.S. 42:1267. The requirements are as follows:

- Hired before June 9, 2020, completed the training.
- Hired on or after June 9, 2020, completed the training within 30 days of initial service or employment.

Procedure Results: We performed the procedures and discussed the results with management.

Prevention of Sexual Harassment

30. We randomly selected the employees/officials from procedure #17 under “Payroll and Personnel” above, obtained sexual harassment training documentation from management, and observed that the documentation demonstrates each employee/official completed at least one hour of sexual harassment training during the calendar year as required by R.S. 42:343.

31. We observed that the entity has posted its sexual harassment policy and complaint procedures on its website (or in a conspicuous location on the entity’s premises if the entity does not have a website).

32. We obtained the entity’s annual sexual harassment report for the current fiscal period, observed that the report was dated on or before February 1, and observed that it includes the applicable requirements of R.S. 42:344:

- Number and percentage of public servants in the agency who have completed the training requirements;
- Number of sexual harassment complaints received by the agency;
- Number of complaints which resulted in a finding that sexual harassment occurred;
- Number of complaints in which the finding of sexual harassment resulted in discipline or corrective action; and
- Amount of time it took to resolve each complaint.

Procedure Results: No exceptions were noted as a result of these procedures.

We were engaged by the District to perform this agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and applicable standards of *Government Auditing Standards*. We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or review engagement, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on those C C areas identified in the SAUPs. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you

We are required to be independent of the District and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our agreed-upon procedures engagement.

This report is intended solely to describe the scope of testing performed on those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs, and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on control or compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose. Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the LLA as a public document.

Thomas, Cunningham, Broadway & Todtenbier, CPA's

Thomas, Cunningham, Broadway & Todtenbier, CPA's
Natchitoches, Louisiana

May 23, 2024

Ebarb Waterworks District

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PO BOX 1366
Zwolle, LA 71486
318-645-7722
EWD1@BELLSOUTH.NET

May 23, 2024

Louisiana Legislative Auditor
1600 North Third Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

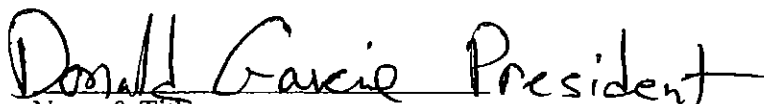
Re: Ebarb Waterworks District #1
Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures
December 31, 2023

The following is our response to the exceptions to the Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures performed by the firm Thomas, Cunningham, Broadway & Todtenbier, Certified Public Accountants, for the year ended December 31, 2023.

Written Policies & Procedures

The District is still developing written policies for the control and compliances identified as exceptions. The District has procedures in place for the majority of the functions addressed and will incorporate those procedures into a written format.

Sincerely,


Name & Title