**Annual Financial Statements** 

As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2024

### Annual Financial Statements As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2024

### CONTENTS

	Statemen	t Page No.
Independent Auditor's Report		3
Required Supplemental Information:		
Management's Discussion and Analysis		7
Basic Financial Statements:		
Enterprise Fund Financial Statements:		
Statement of Net Position	A	11
Statement of Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position	В	12
Statement of Cash Flows	C	13
Notes to the Financial Statements		14
Supplemental Information Schedules:	Schedule	Page No.
Schedule of Compensation, Reimbursements, Benefits, and Other Payments to Agency Head and Board of Commissioners	1	24
Schedule of Prior Year Findings	2	25
Independent Auditor's Reports Required by Government Auditing Standards:		
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		27

Columbia, Louisiana Annual Financial Statements As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2024

### CONTENTS (Contd.)

Schedule of Current Year Findings and Management's	
Planned Corrective Action	29
Independent Accountant's Report on	
Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures	30



369 Donaldson Road • Calhoun, Louisiana 71225 • Telephone 318/644-5726

### **Independent Auditor's Report**

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS EAST COLUMBIA WATERWORKS DISTRICT Columbia, Louisiana

### **Opinion**

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of East Columbia Waterworks District (the "District"), a component unit of Caldwell Parish, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, 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 my opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the District, as of December 31, 2024, and the changes in financial position and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

### Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; 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* issued by the Society of Louisiana Certified Public Accountants and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of my report. I am required to be independent of the District and to meet my other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to my audit. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

### Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the 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.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
EAST COLUMBIA WATERWORKS DISTRICT
Columbia, Louisiana
Independent Auditor's Report
December 31, 2024

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 statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My 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 my 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*, I:

- 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.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
EAST COLUMBIA WATERWORKS DISTRICT
Columbia, Louisiana
Independent Auditor's Report
December 31, 2024

• Conclude whether, in my 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.

I am 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 I 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 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. I 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 I obtained during my audit of the basic financial statements. I do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide me with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

### **Supplementary Information**

My audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements that collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements. The Schedule of Compensation, Reimbursements, Benefits, and Other Payments to Agency Head and Board of Commissioners and the Schedule of Prior Year Findings are presented for the 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 my opinion, the Schedule of Compensation, Reimbursements, Benefits, and Other Payments to Agency Head and Board of Commissioners and the Schedule of Prior Year Findings are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
EAST COLUMBIA WATERWORKS DISTRICT
Columbia, Louisiana
Independent Auditor's Report
December 31, 2024

### Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, I have also issued my report dated May 8, 2025, on my consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and on my tests of the District's 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 my 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, I have issued a report dated May 1, 2025, on the results of my statewide 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 statewide agreed-upon procedures, and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on control or compliance.

Calhoun, Louisiana

arleen Dumas

May 8, 2025

### MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Our discussion and analysis of East Columbia Waterworks District's (hereafter referred to as the District) financial performance provides an overview of the District's financial activities for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024. Please read it in conjunction with the District's financial statements that begin on page 11.

### **BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

This annual report consists of a series of financial statements. Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 34, *Basic Financial Statements - and Management's Discussion and Analysis - for State and Local Governments*, provides that special-purpose governments engaged only in business-type activities should present only the financial statements required for enterprise funds. For these governments, basic financial statements and required supplemental information (RSI) consist of:

- a. Management's discussion and analysis (MD&A)
- b. Statement of net position
- c. Statement of revenue, expenses, and changes in net position
- d. Statement of cash flows
- e. Notes to the financial statements
- f. RSI other than MD&A, if applicable

The District is a special-purpose government engaged only in business-type activities.

### **Enterprise Fund Financial Statements**

The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position provide information in a way that shows the change in the District's financial condition resulting from the current year's activities. These statements include all assets and liabilities using the *accrual basis of accounting*, which is similar to the accounting used by most businesses. All of the current year's revenue and expenses are taken into account regardless of when cash is received or paid.

These two statements report the District's *net position* and the changes in it. Net position - the difference between assets (what the District owns) and liabilities (what the District owns) is a way to measure the financial position of the District. Over time, increases or decreases in the District's net position is an indicator of whether the District's financial position is improving or deteriorating.

### EAST COLUMBIA WATERWORKS DISTRICT Columbia, Louisiana MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

The Statement of Cash Flows provides information on the changes in cash during the year. This statement reports the net cash provided or used by operating activities, capital and related financing activities, and investing activities.

### COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL DATA

The District's net position increased by \$51,860 during 2024. Operating revenue remained approximately the same as the prior year even though there was a rate increase in June 2023 and July 2024. The water consumption for 2024 was approximately four million gallons less than the 2023 consumption. Non-operating revenue increased due to funding received through a cooperative endeavor agreement with Tensas Basin Levee District for the installation of a four inch water line along U.S. Highway 165. Operating expenses decreased \$23,418 from the prior year with the largest decrease in maintenance and repairs. The following presents an analysis of net position and changes in net position for the year ended December 31, 2024:

· ·		
	2024	2023
Assets		
Current assets	\$311,507	\$296,719
Restricted assets	187,258	158,008
Capital assets	3,535,168	3,579,055
Total assets	4,033,933	4,033,782
Liabilities		
Current liabilities	84,186	78,321
Liabilities payable from restricted assets	46,719	45,925
Long-term liabilities	3,901,558	3,959,926
Total liabilities	4,032,463	4,084,172
Net Position		
Net investment in capital assets	620,865	607,393
Restricted by bond resolution	140,175	112,083
Unrestricted (deficit)	(759,570)	(769,866)
Total net position	1,470_	(50,390)
Operating revenue	620,276	613,360
Operating expenses	560,892	584,310
Non-operating revenue (expenses)	(7,524)	(52,040)
Change in net position	51,860	(22,990)
Net position (deficit) - beginning	(50,390)	(27,400)
Net position (deficit) - ending	<u>\$1,470</u>	(\$50,390)

EAST COLUMBIA WATERWORKS DISTRICT Columbia, Louisiana MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

### OVERALL FINANCIAL POSITION

Unrestricted net position (deficit) is (\$759,570) at year end. The deficit in unrestricted net position is the result of recording a \$1,046,818 liability related to Utilities Relocation Assistance Funding (URAF) that had not been reported in the financial statements prior to the year ended December 31, 2019. Net position restricted by the bond resolution is \$140,175 and the net investment in capital assets is \$620,865 at year end.

### CAPITAL ASSETS AND DEBT

### **Capital Assets**

At the end of the year, the District has capital assets (net of accumulated depreciation) totaling \$3,535,168. Capital assets include land, the original water system and improvements, construction in progress, and equipment costing \$1,000 or more. The District purchased new billing software and made improvements to the water system in the total amount of \$80,794 during 2024. Additional information about the District's capital assets is presented in Note 4 to the financial statements.

#### Debt

At year end the District has \$2,914,303 in outstanding water revenue bonds. The District also has a long-term URAF liability to the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) with a balance of \$1,045,618. Additional information about the District's debt and URAF liability is presented in Notes 5 and 6 to the financial statements.

### **ECONOMIC FACTORS**

Operating revenue is expected to increase approximately \$25,000 in 2025. Operating expenses for 2025 are expected to be approximately 44,000 less than 2024 amounts. Debt service on the Water Revenue Bonds, Series 2021 for 2024 will be \$108,900. The District has also submitted a loan application to the Louisiana Department of Health Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund for approximately \$630,350 in funding.

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### STATEMENT OF NET POSITION December 31, 2024

ASSETS	
Current assets:	
Cash	\$204,708
Investments	86,816
Receivables (net of allowance for uncollectible accounts)	8,998
Prepaid expenses	10,985_
Total current assets	311,507
Noncurrent assets:	
Restricted cash	187,258
Land	32,950
Property, plant and equipment (net of accumulated depreciation)	3,502,218
Total noncurrent assets	3,722,426
Total assets	4,033,933
LIABILITIES	
Current liabilities:	
Accounts payable	17,376
Payroll withholdings payable	3,992
Sales tax payable	403
Accrued interest payable	4,052
Current portion of bonds payable	58,363
Total current liabilities	84,186
Liabilities payable from restricted assets - customer deposits	46,719
Noncurrent liabilities:	
Utility Relocation Assistance Funding liability	1,045,618
Bonds payable	2,855,940
Total noncurrent liabilities	3,901,558
Total liabilities	4,032,463
NET POSITION	
Net investment in capital assets	620,865
Restricted by bond resolution	140,175
Unrestricted (deficit)	(759,570)
Total net position	<u>\$1,470</u>

See accompanying notes and independent auditor's report.

### STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION

For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

OPERATING REVENUE	
Water sales	\$597,491
Installation fees	6,740
Reconnect fees	1,350
Penalties	13,604
Other revenue	1,091
Total operating revenue	620,276
OPERATING EXPENSES	020,270
Commissioners per diem	3,250
Accounting	5,951
Materials and supplies	36,938
Maintenance and repairs	31,425
Meter expense	10,352
Office expense	14,258
Bad debt expense	16,429
Fees, dues, and permits	1,548
Utilities	35,588
Insurance	25,682
Employees health insurance	32,064
Salaries	181,604
Postage	5,482
Chemicals	12,007
Payroll taxes	14,640
Depreciation	124,682
Training	2,370
Uniforms	290
Mileage and fuel	6,332
Total operating expenses	560,892
OPERATING INCOME	59,384
NON-OPERATING REVENUE (EXPENSES)	
Interest income	2,941
Funding under cooperative endeavor agreement with Tensas Basin Levee Board	41,000
Interest expense	(51,465)
Total non-operating revenue (expenses)	(7,524)
INCREASE IN NET POSITION	51,860
NET POSITION - BEGINNING (Deficit)	(50,390)
NET POSITION - ENDING	\$1,470
See accompanying notes and independent auditor's report.	

### STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	
Receipts from customers	\$607,866
Customer deposit receipts, net	794
Payments to suppliers	(241,544)
Payments to employees and board	(184,854)
Net cash provided by operating activities	182,262
CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES	
Purchase and construction of capital assets	(74,981)
Funding under cooperative endeavor agreement	41,000
Principal paid on debt	(57,356)
Interest paid on debt	(51,544)
Increase in restricted cash	(29,250)
Net cash used by capital financing activities	(172,131)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	
Interest income	2,941
Increase in investments	(2,664)
Net cash provided by investing activities	277
NET INCREASE IN CASH	10,408
CASH AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	194,300
CASH AT END OF YEAR	<u>\$204,708</u>
Reconciliation of Operating Income to Net Cash	
Provided by Operating Activities	
Operating Income	\$59,384
Adjustments:	
Depreciation	124,682
Bad debt expense	16,429
Increase in accounts receivable	(12,410)
Increase in prepaid expenses	(5,737)
Increase in accounts payable	1,097
Decrease in taxes payable	(1,977)
Increase in customer meter deposits	794
Total adjustments	122,878
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$182,262

See accompanying notes and independent auditor's report.

Notes to the Financial Statements As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2024

### INTRODUCTION

East Columbia Waterworks District (the "District") was created by the Caldwell Parish Police Jury on September 6, 1949, as authorized by Louisiana Revised Statute 33:3811 for the purpose of supplying safe drinking water to the population of the District. The District is governed by a five member board of commissioners appointed by the police jury to serve five-year terms. The commissioners receive \$50 per regular and special meeting attended. The District serves approximately 944 customers and has four employees.

Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 14, The Reporting Entity, and No. 39, Determining Whether Certain Organizations Are Component Units - an amendment of GASB Statement No. 14, established criteria for determining the governmental reporting entity and component units that should be included within the reporting entity. Under provisions of these Statements, the District is considered a component unit of the Caldwell Parish Police Jury. As a component unit, the accompanying financial statements maybe included within the reporting of the primary government, either blended into those financial statements or separately reported as a discrete component unit.

#### 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### A. Financial Statements

GASB Statement No. 34, Basic Financial Statements - and Management's Discussion and Analysis - for State and Local Governments, provides that special-purpose governments engaged only in business-type activities should present only the financial statements required for enterprise funds. For these governments, basic financial statements and required supplemental information (RSI) consist of:

- 1. Management's discussion and analysis (MD&A)
- 2. Statement of net position
- 3. Statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position
- 4. Statement of cash flows
- 5. Notes to the financial statements
- 6. RSI other than MD&A, if applicable

The District is a special-purpose government engaged only in business-type activities.

Notes to the Financial Statements

### B. Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting, and Financial Statement Presentation

Enterprise fund statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenue is recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows.

Enterprise funds distinguish operating revenue and expenses from nonoperating items. Operating revenue and expenses generally result from providing services in connection with the fund's principal ongoing operation. The operating revenue of the District is water sales, installation fees, reconnect fees, penalties, and other operating fees. Operating expenses for enterprise funds include the costs of the services, administrative expenses, and depreciation on capital assets. All revenue and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as nonoperating revenue and expenses.

### C. Deposits and Investments

Cash includes amounts in interest-bearing and non-interest bearing demand deposits. State law limits the District's credit risk by restricting the District's investments to collateralized certificates of deposits, government-backed securities, commercial paper, the state sponsored investment pool, and mutual funds consisting solely of government-backed securities. If the original maturities of investments exceed 90 days, they are classified as investments; however, if the original maturities are 90 days or less, they are classified as cash equivalents. At December 31, 2024, the District's investments consist of nonnegotiable certificates of deposits with original maturities that exceed 90 days that are reported in the accompanying financial statements at cost. The District's interest rate risk is limited by the investment of funds for periods not to exceed 24 months.

### D. Receivables

Accounts receivable consist of amounts due from customers for water service provided prior to year end and fees due that the water system collects for other agencies. Receivables from water service are reported net of an allowance for uncollectible accounts which is an estimate based on accounts that are past due 30 or more days at year end. All accounts 30 days past due are subject to being disconnected for nonpayment. Accounts considered uncollectible are written off upon approval from the Board of Commissioners.

#### E. Restricted Assets

Certain resources set aside in accounts required by the letter of conditions for the 2021 Water Revenue Bonds and amounts set aside for the refunding of customer meter

Notes to the Financial Statements

deposits are classified as restricted assets on the statement of net position because their use is limited. It is the policy of the District to first use nonrestricted funds when both restricted and nonrestricted funds are available for the purposes specified by the letter of conditions. The District uses restricted funds first when refunding customer meter deposits.

### F. Property, Plant, and Equipment

Property, plant, and equipment includes the original water system and improvements, construction in progress, and equipment. All of the District's property, plant, and equipment is capitalized at historical cost. The District maintains a threshold level of \$1,000 or more for capitalizing assets. The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend the asset's life are not capitalized. Major outlays for capital assets and improvements are capitalized as projects are constructed. In accordance with GASB Statement 89, Accounting for Interest Cost Incurred before the End of a Construction Period, interest cost incurred before the end of the construction period is recognized as an expense in the period in which the cost is incurred and not capitalized as part of the historical cost of the asset.

Property, plant, and equipment is depreciated using the straight-line method over the following useful lives:

	Estimated
	Lives
	10 - 40
Infrastructure - water system	years
Equipment	3-15 years

### G. Long-Term Liabilities

Water revenue bonds payable and the Utility Relocation Assistance Funding (URAF) liability are reported as a long-term liabilities on the statement of net position.

#### H. Estimates

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

Notes to the Financial Statements

### 2. DEPOSITS IN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

At December 31, 2024, the District has cash, investments, and restricted cash (book balances) as follows:

Non-interest bearing checking accounts	\$86,214
Interest bearing savings accounts	305,752
Investments - certificates of deposit	86,816
Total	\$478.782

These deposits are stated at cost, which approximates market. 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. At December 31, 2024, the District has \$485,081 in deposits (collected bank balances). These deposits are secured from risk by \$382,695 in federal deposit insurance and \$97,406 of pledged securities held by an unaffiliated bank in the name of the fiscal agent bank leaving \$4,980 of the bank balances unsecured at year end.

### 3. RECEIVABLES

At December 31, 2024, the District has net receivables as follows:

Water sales	\$39,994
Fees collected for others	11,129
Allowance for uncollectible accounts	_(42,125)
Net receivables	\$8,998_

### 4. CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital assets and depreciation activity as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, is as follows:

	Balance at			Balance at
	January 1,			December 31,
	2024	Increases	Decreases	2024
Capital assets not being depreciated:				
Land	\$32,950			\$32,950
Construction in				
progress	2,010	\$44,140	(\$5,563)	40,587
Total assets not being				
depreciated	\$34,960	\$44,140	(\$5,563)	\$73,537

### EAST COLUMBIA WATERWORKS DISTRICT Notes to the Financial Statements

	Balance at January 1, 2024	Increases	Decreases	Balance at December 31, 2024
Capital assets being				
depreciated:				
Water system	\$5,388,160	\$26,190		\$5,414,350
Equipment	125,724	16,027		141,751
Total capital assets being	<b>AT 510</b> 004	0.40.045	NONE	<b>AT TTC 101</b>
depreciated	\$5,513,884	\$42,217	NONE	\$5,556,101
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Water system	1,849,760	106,676		1,956,436
Equipment	120,028	18,006		138,034
Total accumulated				
depreciation	1,969,788	124,682	NONE	2,094,470
Total assets being				
depreciated, net	3,544,096	(82,465)	NONE	3,461,631
Total assets	\$3,579,056	(\$38,325)	(\$5,563)	\$3,535,168

Depreciation expense of \$124,682 for the year ended December 31, 2024 was reported in the statement of revenue, expenses, and changes in net position. Construction in progress at December 31, 2024, is the cost incurred for the installation of a four inch water line along U.S. Highway 165 that is being funded through a \$41,000 cooperative endeavor agreement with Tensas Basin Levee District.

### 5. UTILITY RELOCATION ASSISTANCE FUNDING

During the year ended December 31, 2005, the District entered into four separate agreements with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) to relocate the District's water lines that were located within the limits of a road construction project. The agreements with DOTD provide that the District is responsible for repaying the Utility Relocation Assistance Funding (URAF) received during 2005, 2006, and 2007. Section 301(A) of Title 70 of the Louisiana Administrative Code provides that URAF funding is neither a loan nor a grant and there is no interest charged on the funds. However, the water system must eventually repay the portion of the cost it is responsible for or it will not be allowed to locate its facilities within the highway right-of-way. The agreements provide that the District may repay in partial amounts, in exchange for goods and/or services, or any combination thereof. The District made no payments during the year ended December 31, 2024. The amount due under the agreements at December 31, 2024, is \$1,045,618.

Notes to the Financial Statements

### 6. BONDS PAYABLE

The following is a summary of bonds payable transactions for the year ended December 31, 2024:

	Direct Borrowing 2021 Water Revenue Bonds	
Balance at January 1, 2024	\$2,971,659	
Additions	NONE	
Reductions	(57,356)	
Balance at December 31, 2024	\$2,914,303	

The following is a summary of the current (due in one year or less) and long-term (due in more than one year) portions of long-term debt as of December 31, 2024:

Current portion	\$58,363
Long-term portion	2,855,940
Total	\$2,914,303

Water Revenue Bonds, Series 2021 in the amount of \$3,129,000 were sold to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Rural Development on February 2, 2021, and the proceeds were used to pay the principal and accrued interest on bond anticipation notes that provided interim financing for a portion of the costs of water system improvements. The principal and interest on the water revenue bonds will be repaid over a 40 year period in monthly amortized payments of \$9,075 that commenced on March 2, 2021, and will continue monthly thereafter for a total of 480 monthly payments. The unpaid principal of the water revenue bonds bears interest at the rate of 1.750% per annum. The water revenue bonds are secured and payable in principal and interest by a pledge of the income and revenue derived from the operation of the District's water system. The bond resolution contains provisions that in the event of default in the payments of any principal or interest on the bonds or in the making of the payments into any fund required to be maintained by the resolution, or in the failure or refusal to comply the provisions of the resolution, that the owner of the bond shall be entitled to appoint a receiver to take possession of the water system and operate, maintain, manage, and control the water system.

Principal and interest on the Water Revenue Bonds, Series 2021 are due as follows:

	Principal	Interest	
Year Ending December 31,	Payments	Payments_	Total
2025	\$58,363	\$50,537	\$108,900
2026	59,393	49,507	108,900
2027	60,440	48,460	108,900

Notes to the Financial Statements

	Principal	Interest	
Year Ending December 31,	Payments	_Payments	Total
2028	\$61,507	\$47,393	\$108,900
2029	62,592	46,308	108,900
2030 - 2034	329,915	214,585	544,500
2035 - 2039	360,061	184,439	544,500
2040 - 2044	392,960	151,540	544,500
2045 - 2049	428,866	115,634	544,500
2050 - 2054	468,053	76,447	544,500
2055 - 2059	510,820	33,680	544,500
2060 - 2061	121,333	1,293	122,626
Total	\$2,914,303	\$1,019,823	\$3,934,126

#### 7. RESTRICTED CASH

The Letter of Intent to Meet Conditions dated September 25, 2018, that was issued by the District to USDA Rural Development requires the District to establish the following reserves as a condition of the issuance of the Water Revenue Bonds, Series 2021:

- A. Debt Service Reserve The District must establish a Debt Service Reserve Fund equal to at least one annual loan installment that accumulates at the rate of 10% of one annual payment per year for ten years or until the balance is equal to one annual loan payment. Ten percent of the proposed loan installment would equal \$908 per month; to be deposited monthly until a total of \$108,900 has been accumulated. Prior written concurrence from USDA Rural Development must be obtained before funds may be withdrawn from this fund during the life of the loan.
- B. Short-Lived Asset Reserve The District must establish a Short-Lived Asset Reserve Fund and deposit at least \$29,928 annually for the life of the loan to pay for the repairs and/or replacement of major system assets. It is the District's responsibility to assess the facilities short-lived asset needs on a regular basis and adjust the amount deposited to meet those needs.

The following is a summary of transactions in the bond reserve accounts for the year ended December 31, 2024:

Notes to the Financial Statements

		Short-	
	Debt	Lived	
	Service	Asset	
	Reserve	Reserve	Total
Balance at January 1, 2024	\$34,657	\$77,426	\$112,083
Deposits	10,896	29,928	40,824
Withdrawals		(12,856)	(12,856)
Interest earnings	40	84	124
Balance at December 31, 2024	\$45,593	\$94,582	\$140,175

In addition to the above amounts, the District has \$47,083 set aside in a separate checking account for the refunding of customer meter deposits.

#### 8. CONTINGENCY

The District is involved in one lawsuit at December 31, 2024, filed by a former employee due to the District not paying her for accrued vacation leave upon termination of her employment. The District has a written policy that states that the District will not pay compensation for any unused vacation time. It is the opinion of the District's attorney that the cost of an unfavorable judgment would be immaterial to the financial statements as a whole; therefore no liability for an unfavorable judgment has been reported in the accompanying financial statements.

### 9. RISK MANAGEMENT

The District purchased commercial insurance to reduce the risk of loss resulting from property damage or liability claims. There have been no significant reductions in insurance coverage from coverage in the prior year. Settlements have not exceeded insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

### 10. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The District has evaluated subsequent events through May 8, 2025, the date which the financial statements were available to be issued.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION SCHEDULES

### SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION SCHEDULES As of and For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

## SCHEDULE OF COMPENSATION, REIMBURSEMENTS, BENEFITS, AND OTHER PAYMENTS TO AGENCY HEAD AND BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The schedule of compensation, reimbursements, benefits, and other payments to agency head and board of commissioners is presented in compliance with Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513 A (3) and House Concurrent Resolution No. 54 of the 1979 Session of the Louisiana Legislature. As provided by Louisiana Revised Statute 33:3819, the District's commissioners receive \$50 per regular and special meeting attended.

#### SCHEDULE OF PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS

The follow-up and corrective action taken on all prior year findings is presented in Schedule 2.

# SCHEDULE OF COMPENSATION, REIMBURSEMENTS, BENEFITS, AND OTHER PAYMENTS TO AGENCY HEAD AND BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

### **BOARD COMPENSATION**

Agency Head - Jeffrey Masters - President	\$600
Richard Copeland	650
Shelby Cruse	700
Judith McKee	650
Terry McClanahan	650
Total	\$3,250

### SCHEDULE OF PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Finding	Fiscal Year Finding Initially		C C. F.' . 1'
Number	Occurred	Description of Finding	Status of Finding
2023-001	2004	Inadequate Segregation of Accounting Duties	Unresolved - see 2024-001 in current year findings.

### Independent Auditor's Report Required by Government Auditing Standards and the Uniform Guidance

The following independent auditor's report on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance and other matters is presented in compliance with the requirements of *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*, issued by the Society of Louisiana Certified Public Accountants and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor.



369 Donaldson Road • Calhoun, Louisiana 71225 • Telephone 318/644-5726

# 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

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS EAST COLUMBIA WATERWORKS DISTRICT Columbia, Louisiana

I have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; 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*, issued by the Society of Louisiana Certified Public Accountants and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor, the financial statements of East Columbia Waterworks District (the "District"), a component unit of Caldwell Parish, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements, and have issued my report thereon dated May 8, 2025.

### Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing my audit of the financial statements, I 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 my opinion on the financial statements but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, I do not express an opinion of 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 District'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.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS EAST COLUMBIA WATERWORKS DISTRICT

Columbia, Louisiana
Independent Auditor's Report
on Compliance and on
Internal Control, etc.,
December 31, 2024

My 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 and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. I did identify a deficiency in internal control described in the accompanying Schedule of Current Year Findings and Management's Planned Corrective Action as item 2024-001 that I consider to be a material weakness.

### **Report on Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the District's financial statements are free from material misstatement, I performed tests of the District's 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 my audit and, accordingly, I do not express such an opinion. The results of my tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

### District's Response to Finding

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the District's response to the finding identified in my audit and described in the accompanying Schedule of Current Year Findings and Management's Planned Corrective Action. The District's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, I express no opinion on the response.

### Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of my testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the District'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 District's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Calhoun, Louisiana

May 8, 2025

# SCHEDULE OF CURRENT YEAR FINDINGS AND MANAGEMENT'S PLANNED CORRECTIVE ACTION For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

### Section I - Summary of Auditor's Results

#### **Financial Statements**

- 1. Type of auditor's report issued Unmodified opinion.
- 2. Internal control over financial reporting:

Material weakness(es) identified? - Yes

3. Noncompliance material to financial statements noted? - No

### Section II - Financial Statement Findings

### 2024-001. Inadequate Segregation of Accounting Duties

Criteria: Proper internal controls require that accounting duties be performed by separate

individuals so that one individual could not perpetrate and conceal errors or irregularities without them being detected by another individual who was

performing his or her assigned duties.

**Condition:** The accounting duties of collecting, depositing, and posting customer payments to

customers accounts may be performed by either of the office employees.

Cause: Limited number of employees due to the small size of the District.

**Effect:** Errors or irregularities may not be detected within a timely period.

Recommendation: None.

Management's Planned

Corrective Action: It is not economically feasible to correct this deficiency based on the

size of the District and its limited revenues.



369 Donaldson Road • Calhoun, Louisiana 71225 • Telephone 318/644-5726

### Independent Accountant's Report On Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS EAST COLUMBIA WATER DISTRICT Columbia, Louisiana

### LOUISIANA LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR:

I 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, 2024 through December 31, 2024. East Columbia Water District's (the "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, 2024 through December 31, 2024. 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 of 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:

- 1) Written Policies and Procedures (No Testing Required)
- 2) Board or Finance Committee (No Testing Required)

### 3) Bank Reconciliations

A. Obtain a listing of entity bank accounts for the fiscal period from management and management's representation that the listing is complete. Ask management to identify the entity's main operating account. Select the entity's main operating account and randomly select 4 additional accounts (or all accounts if less than 5). Randomly select one month from the fiscal period, obtain and inspect the corresponding bank statement and bank reconciliation for each selected account, and observe that:

- i. Bank reconciliations include evidence that they were prepared within 2 months of the related statement closing date (e.g., initialed and dated, electronically logged);
- ii. Bank reconciliations include 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
- iii. 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.

**Results of procedure:** 

One out of the five bank reconciliations selected included 14 checks that had been outstanding for more than 12 months at 8/13/24 (the test date). However, all of these checks were voided as of December 31, 2024.

No other exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

### 4) Collections (excluding electronic funds transfers)

- A. Obtain a listing of <u>deposit sites</u> for the fiscal period where deposits for cash/checks/money orders (cash) are prepared and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 deposit sites (or all deposit sites if less than 5).
- B. For each deposit site selected, obtain a listing of collection locations and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one collection location for each deposit site (i.e. 5 collection locations for 5 deposit sites), obtain and inspect written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if no written policies or procedures, inquire of employees about their job duties) at each collection location, and observe that job duties are properly segregated at each collection location such that:
  - i. Employees responsible for cash collections do not share cash drawers/registers;
  - ii. 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;

- iii. 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; and
- iv. The employee(s) responsible for reconciling cash collections to the general ledger and/or subsidiary ledgers, by revenue source and/or agency fund additions is (are) not responsible for collecting cash, unless another employee verifies the reconciliation.
- C. Obtain from management a copy of the bond or insurance policy for theft covering all employees who have access to cash. Observe that the bond or insurance policy for theft was in force during the fiscal period.
- D. Randomly select two deposit dates for each of the 5 bank accounts selected for Bank Reconciliations procedure #3A (select the next deposit date chronologically if no deposits were made on the dates randomly selected and randomly select a deposit if multiple deposits are made on the same day). Obtain supporting documentation for each of the 10 deposits and:
  - i. Observe that receipts are sequentially pre-numbered.
  - ii. Trace sequentially pre-numbered receipts, system reports, and other related collection documentation to the deposit slip.
  - iii. Trace the deposit slip total to the actual bank deposit per the bank statement.
  - iv. Observe 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).
  - v. Trace the actual deposit per the bank statement to the general ledger.

Results of procedure:

The two employees who are responsible for cash collections share the same cash drawer.

The two employees who are responsible for cash collections can also prepare the bank deposit.

The two employees who are responsible for cash collections can post collections to the customer account software as well as to the general ledger; however, only one employee has access to on-line banking and this employee performs a daily reconciliation of the bank deposits to the general ledger postings.

The employee responsible for reconciling cash collections to the general ledger may also collect cash without another employee verifying the reconciliation.

No other exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

### 5. Non-Payroll Disbursements (excluding credit card purchases, travel reimbursements, and petty cash purchases)

- A. Obtain a listing of locations that process payments for the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 locations (or all locations if less than 5).
- B. For each location selected under procedure #5A above, obtain a listing of those employees involved with non-payroll purchasing and payment functions. Obtain written policies and procedures relating to job duties (if the agency has no written policies and procedures, then inquire of employees about their job duties), and observe that job duties are properly segregated such that
  - i. At least two employees are involved in initiating a purchase request, approving a purchase, and placing an order or making the purchase;
  - ii. At least two employees are involved in processing and approving payments to vendors;
  - iii. 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:
  - iv. Either the employee/official responsible for signing checks mails the payments or gives the signed checks to an employee to mail who is not responsible for processing payments; and

- v. Only employees/officials authorized to sign checks approve the electronic disbursement (release) of funds, whether through automated clearinghouse (ACH), electronic funds transfer (EFT), wire transfer, or some other electronic means.
- C. For each location selected under procedure #5A above, obtain the entity's non-payroll disbursement transaction population (excluding cards and travel reimbursements) and obtain management's representation that the population is complete. Randomly select 5 disbursements for each location, obtain supporting documentation for each transaction and
  - i. Observe whether the disbursement, whether by 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, and
  - ii. Observe whether the disbursement documentation included evidence (e.g. initial/date, electronic logging) of segregation of duties tested under procedure #5B above, as applicable.
- D. Using the entity's main operating account and the month selected in Bank Reconciliations procedure #3A, randomly select 5 non-payroll-related electronic disbursements (or all electronic disbursements if less than 5) and observe 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. Note: If no electronic payments were made from the main operating account during the month selected the practitioner should select an alternative month and/or account for testing that does include electronic disbursements.

**Results of procedure:** 

An employee responsible for processing payments is also responsible for adding/modifying vendor files.

An employee responsible for processing payments is also responsible for mailing the checks to vendors.

One of the five selected disbursements lacked documentation that deliverables were received.

No other exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

### 6) Credit Cards/Debit Cards/Fuel Cards/Purchase Cards (Cards) - (No Testing Required)

### 7) Travel and Travel-Related Expense Reimbursements (excluding card transactions) - (No Testing Required)

### 8) Contracts - (No Testing Required)

### 9. Payroll and Personnel

- A. Obtain a listing of employees and officials employed during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 employees or officials, obtain related paid salaries and personnel files, and agree paid salaries to authorized salaries/pay rates in the personnel files.
- B. Randomly select one pay period during the fiscal period. For the 5 employees or officials selected under procedure #9A above, obtain attendance records and leave documentation for the pay period, and
  - i. Observe that all selected employees or officials documented their daily attendance and leave (e.g., vacation, sick, compensatory);
  - ii. Observe that supervisors approved the attendance and leave of the selected employees or officials;
  - iii. Observe that any leave accrued or taken during the pay period is reflected in the entity's cumulative leave records;
  - iv. Observe that the rate paid to the employees or officials agrees to the authorized salary/pay rate found within the personnel file;
- C. Obtain a listing of those employees or officials that received termination payments during the fiscal period and management's representation that the list is complete. Randomly select two employees or officials, obtain related documentation of the hours and pay rates used in management's termination payment calculations and the entity's policy on termination payments. Agree the hours to the employee or officials' cumulative leave records, agree the pay rates to the employee or

officials' authorized pay rates in the employee or official's personnel files, and agree the termination payment to entity policy.

D. Obtain 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.

Results of procedure:

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

10) Ethics - (No Testing Required)

11) Debt Service - (No Testing Required)

12) Fraud Notice - (No Testing Required)

13) Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity - (No Testing Required)

### 14) Prevention of Sexual Harassment

- A. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A above, obtain sexual harassment training documentation from management, and observe 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.
- B. Observe that the entity has posted its sexual harassment policy and complaint procedure on its website (or in a conspicuous location on the entity's premises if the entity does not have a website).
- C. Obtain the entity's annual sexual harassment report for the current fiscal period, observe that the report was dated on or before February 1, and observe that it includes the applicable requirements of R.S. 42:344
  - i. Number and percentage of public servants in the agency who have completed the training requirements;

- ii. Number of sexual harassment complaints received by the agency;
- iii. Number of complaints which resulted in a finding that sexual harassment occurred;
- iv. Number of complaints in which the finding of sexual harassment resulted in discipline or corrective action; and
- v. Amount of time it took to resolve each complaint.

Results of procedure:

One of the selected employees did not complete one hour of sexual

harassment training.

No other exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

Management's Response:

We will consider the results of the statewide agreed-upon procedures report and take action as deemed necessary and feasible.

I was engaged by the District to perform this agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted my engagement in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and applicable standards of *Government Auditing Standards*. I was 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, I do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had I performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to my attention that would have been reported to you.

I am required to be independent of the District and to meet my other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to my 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.

Calhoun, Louisiana

May 1, 2025