



## **Solano Local Agency Formation Commission**

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### **Staff Report**

DATE: April 13, 2020  
TO: Local Agency Formation Commission  
FROM: Michelle McIntyre  
SUBJECT: **Audit Engagement Letter – Financial Audit of Fiscal Years 2018/19 and 2019/20**

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The Commission schedules financial statement audits on a biennial basis. The last audit covered the fiscal years (FY) ending on June 30, 2017 and 2018. The next audit will cover FY 2018/19 and FY 2019/20.

The last audit was conducted by James Marta & Company, LLP and staff recommends the Commission enter into a contract with the same firm for the upcoming audit. The contract totals \$14,500 and will be budgeted within the Commission's FY 2020-21 Budget.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the Commission authorize the Executive Officer to enter into a contract with James Marta & Company, LLP for the Commission's financial statements audit of FY 2018/19 and FY 2019/20.

### **Attachment:**

Audit Engagement Letter for FY 2018/19 and 2019/20

#### **Commissioners**

Nancy Shopay, Chair • Ron Rowlett, Vice-Chair • Harry Price • Jim Sperring • John Vasquez

#### **Alternate Commissioners**

Ron Kott • Shawn Smith • Skip Thomson

#### **Staff**

Rich Seithel, Executive Officer • Michelle McIntyre, Sr. Analyst • P. Scott Browne, Legal Counsel

February 6, 2020

Rich Seithel  
Executive Officer  
Local Agency Formation Commission of Solano County  
675 Texas Street Ste. 6700  
Fairfield, CA 94533

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the arrangements for our biennial audit of the financial statements of Local Agency Formation Commission of Solano County for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2019-2020.

This letter confirms the services you have asked our firm to perform and the terms under which we have agreed to do that work. Please read this letter carefully because it is important to both our firm and you that you understand what you can and cannot expect from our work. In other words, we want you to know the limitations of the services you have asked us to perform. If you are confused at all by this letter or believe we have misunderstood what you need, please call to discuss this letter before you sign it.

### **Scope of Work**

You have requested that we audit the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Local Agency Formation Commission of Solano County, as of June 30, 2019-2020, and for the years then ended and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Local Agency Formation Commission of Solano County's basic financial statements and provide assistance with the preparation of the financial statements. We are pleased to confirm our acceptance and our understanding of this audit engagement by means of this letter. Our audit will be conducted with the objective of our expressing an opinion on each opinion unit.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and Governmental Accounting Standards require that the Management's Discussion and Analysis and budgetary comparison information be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by 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.

As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information (RSI) in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. These limited procedures will consist primarily of inquiries of management regarding their methods of measurement and presentation, and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries. We will not express an opinion or provide any form of assurance on the RSI. The following RSI is required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. This RSI will be subjected to certain limited procedures but will not be audited:

- Management's Discussion and Analysis
- Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget (Non-GAAP) and Actual
- Schedule of Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability
- Schedule of Contribution
- Notes to Required Supplementary Information

We are not aware of any other supplementary information other than RSI that will accompany Local Agency Formation Commission of Solano County's basic financial statements.

### **The Objective of an Audit**

The objective of our audit is the expression of opinions as to whether your basic financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles and Governmental Accounting Standards and to report on the fairness of the supplementary information referred to in the second paragraph when considered in relation to the financial statements as a whole. Our audit will be conducted in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards (GAAS) and in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the State Controller's Minimum Audit Requirements for California Special Districts, the Office of Management and Budget's Compliance Supplement for Single Audits, and the Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Section 200), Audits of States, Local Government, and Nonprofit Organizations, as applicable, and will include tests of the accounting records and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions. We cannot provide assurance that unmodified opinions will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinions or add emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph(s). If our opinions on the financial statements are other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed opinions, we may decline to express opinions or to issue a report as a result of this engagement.

## **General Audit Procedures**

We will conduct our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAS), *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the State Controller's Minimum Audit Requirements for California Special Districts; the Office of Management and Budget's Compliance Supplement for Single Audits, and the Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Section 200), Audits of States, Local Government, and Nonprofit Organizations, as applicable. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the basic financial statements are free from material misstatement and are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. As such, our audit will involve performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements and will include tests of the accounting records of Local Agency Formation Commission of Solano County and other procedures we consider necessary. The procedures we determine necessary will depend on our "auditor's" judgment and will be based, in part, on our assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error.

An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used, and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. If appropriate, our procedures will therefore include tests of documentary evidence that support the transactions recorded in the accounts, tests of the physical existence of inventories, and direct confirmation of cash, investments, and certain other assets and liabilities by correspondence with creditors and financial institutions. As part of our audit process, we will request written representations from your attorneys, and they may bill you for responding. At the conclusion of our audit, we will also request certain written representations from you about the financial statements and related matters.

## **Internal Control Audit Procedures**

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of internal control, an unavoidable risk exists that some material misstatements (whether caused by errors, fraudulent financial reporting, misappropriation of assets, or violations of laws or governmental regulations) may not be detected by our firm, even though our audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, promulgated by the United States Comptroller General; the Office of Management and Budget's Compliance Supplement for Single Audits; and the Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Section 200), Audits of States, Local Government, and Nonprofit Organizations, as applicable. In addition, an audit is not designed to detect immaterial misstatements or violations of laws or governmental regulations that do not have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, we will inform you of any material errors that come to our attention, and we will inform you, or the appropriate level of management, of any fraudulent financial reporting or misappropriation of assets that comes to our attention. We will also inform you of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential.

In making our risk assessments, we will consider internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of your entity's financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances. However, our audit procedures are not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of your entity's internal control. We will

communicate to you in writing concerning any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control relevant to the audit of the financial statements that we have identified during the audit. Our responsibility as auditors is, of course, limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any other periods.

### **Compliance with Laws and Regulations**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform required tests of Local Agency Formation Commission of Solano County's compliance with the provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and agreements. However, the objective of our audit will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion.

- State Controller's Minimum Audit Requirements for California Special Districts

### **Management Responsibilities**

As part of our engagement, we may advise you about appropriate accounting principles and their application; however, management acknowledges and understands that the final responsibility for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America remains with you. As such, management is responsible for adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and for confirming to us in the representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole. Other management responsibilities include maintaining adequate records, selecting and applying accounting principles, and safeguarding assets.

By your signature below, you also acknowledge that you are responsible 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. This responsibility includes having appropriate programs and controls in place to prevent and detect fraud, and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud affecting the company that involves management, employees who have significant roles in internal control, and others where fraud could have a material impact on the financial statements. You are also responsible for informing us of your knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the company received in communications from employees, former employees, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the company complies with applicable laws and regulations. You agree that management will confirm its understanding of its responsibilities as defined in this letter to us in a management representation letter.

Management's responsibilities also include designating qualified individuals with the skill, knowledge, and experience to be responsible and accountable for overseeing financial statement preparation and any other nonattest services we perform as part of this engagement, as well as evaluating the adequacy and results of those services and accepting responsibility for them.

You further acknowledge and understand that management is responsible for providing us with access to all information management is aware of that is relevant to the preparation and fair

presentation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters; for the accuracy and completeness of the information that is provided to us; and for informing us of events occurring or facts discovered subsequent to the date of the financial statements that may affect the financial statements. This responsibility also includes providing us with any additional information that we may request from management for the purpose of the audit; as well as allowing us unrestricted access to individuals within the organization from whom we may determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence, including access to your designated employees who will type all confirmations we request.

## **Reporting**

We expect to issue a written report upon completion of our audit of Local Agency Formation Commission of Solano County's basic financial statements. Our report will be addressed to the board of directors of Local Agency Formation Commission of Solano County. We cannot provide assurance that an unmodified opinion will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinion, add an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph, decline to express an opinion, or withdraw from the engagement.

We also will issue a written 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*, and on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program and on Internal Control over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance (if applicable) upon completion of our audit.

## **Other**

We understand that your employees will prepare all confirmations we request and will locate any documents or invoices selected by us for testing.

If you intend to publish or otherwise reproduce the financial statements and make reference to our firm, you agree to provide us with printers' proofs or masters for our review and approval before printing. You also agree to provide us with a copy of the final reproduced material for our approval before it is distributed.

## **Provisions of Engagement Administration, Timing and Fees**

During the course of the engagement, we may communicate with you or your personnel via fax or e-mail, and you should be aware that communication in those mediums contains a risk of misdirected or intercepted communications.

We expect to begin our audit in August, 2020 and to complete and issue our report no later than October 31, 2020.

Jesse Deol, CPA is the engagement partner for the audit services specified in this letter. His responsibilities include supervising James Marta & Company LLP's services performed as part of this engagement and signing or authorizing another qualified firm representative to sign the audit report.

Our liability as auditors shall be limited to the period covered by our audit and shall not extend to later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

### **Record Retention**

It is our policy to keep records related to this engagement for 7 years. However, James Marta & Company LLP does not keep any original client records, so we will return those to you at the completion of the services rendered under this engagement. When records are returned to you, it is your responsibility to retain and protect your records for possible future use, including potential examination by any government or regulatory agencies.

By your signature below, you acknowledge and agree that upon the expiration of the 7 year period James Marta & Company LLP shall be free to destroy our records related to this engagement.

### **Fees**

Our fee for the biennial audit of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2019-2020 will be \$14,500. The engagement fee does not include the cost of a single audit in conformance with the Uniform Guidance; however, if a single audit is necessary to be performed, an additional fee will be agreed-upon for every major program audited.

We will bill you on a monthly basis for our services and invoices are payable upon presentation. Unpaid fee balances 30 days overdue will bear interest at 18 percent per annum. We may require full payment prior to issuance of the reports. This fee is based upon the assumption that the closing journal entries will be made and accounting will be finalized and closed before the year end audit fieldwork. If compliance requirements change, or if the Commission is involved in issuing an exempt offering, additional fees and an amended engagement letter may be required. Additional time and billing charges will be charged at our standard hourly rates and costs in the event of the following:

- Account reconciliations are not completed for, (example but not limited to):
  - Cash Accounts
  - Accounts Receivable and Allowance for Doubtful Accounts
  - Accounts Payable
  - Compensated Absences
  - Unearned Revenue
  - Tax Revenues
  - Charges for Services
- Accounting system or account group changes from prior year
- Allocation of expenses not completed
- Allocation of investments not completed
- Allocation of income not completed
- Changes in accounts after beginning of audit work that necessitates additional or redo of audit work.
- Changes or revision of the initial trial balance
- Addition of new activities
  - New funding sources

- New funds
- New debt

Whenever possible, we will attempt to use your personnel to assist in the preparation of schedules and analyses of accounts. We understand that your employees will prepare all cash or other confirmations we request and will locate any invoices selected by us for testing. This effort could substantially reduce our time requirements and facilitate the timely conclusion of the audit. Our initial fee estimate assumes we will receive the aforementioned assistance from your personnel and unexpected circumstances will not be encountered. In the event that the GASB, FASB, AICPA, GAO, OMB, or the State of California issues additional standards or audit procedures that require additional work during the audit period, we will discuss these requirements with you before proceeding further. Before starting the additional work, we will prepare an estimate of the time necessary, as well as the fee for performing the additional work. Our fee for addressing the additional requirements will be at our standard hourly rates for each person involved in the additional work.

In the event we are required to respond to discovery requests, subpoenas, and outside inquiries, we will first obtain your permission unless otherwise required to comply under the law. Our time and expense to comply with such requests will be charged at our standard hour rates in addition to the stated contract.

We agree to retain our audit documentation or work papers for a period of at least seven years from the date of our report.

At the conclusion of our audit engagement, we will communicate to the governing board the following significant findings from the audit:

- Our view about the qualitative aspects of the entity's significant accounting practices;
- Significant difficulties, if any, encountered during the audit;
- Uncorrected misstatements, other than those we believe are trivial, if any;
- Disagreements with management, if any;
- Other findings or issues, if any, arising from the audit that are, in our professional judgment, significant and relevant to those charged with governance regarding their oversight of the financial reporting process;
- Material, corrected misstatements that were brought to the attention of management as a result of our audit procedures;
- Representations we requested from management;
- Management's consultations with other accountants, if any; and
- Significant issues, if any, arising from the audit that were discussed, or the subject of correspondence, with management.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of James Marta & Company LLP and constitutes confidential information. However, we may be requested to make certain audit documentation available pursuant to authority given to any regulator by law or regulation, or to peer reviewers. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of James Marta & Company LLP's personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to any regulator. They may intend, or decide, to

distribute the copies of information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

**Mediation Provision**

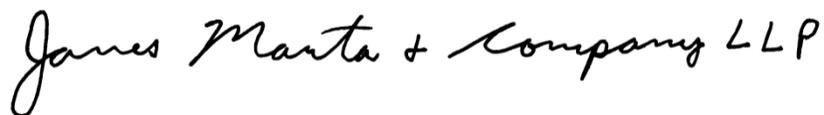
Disputes arising under this agreement (including scope, nature, and quality of services to be performed by us, our fees and other terms of the engagement) shall be submitted to mediation. A competent and impartial third party, acceptable to both parties shall be appointed to mediate, and each disputing party shall pay an equal percentage of the mediator's fees and expenses. No suit or arbitration proceedings shall be commenced under this agreement until at least 60 days after the mediator's first meeting with the involved parties. If the dispute requires litigation, the court shall be authorized to impose all defense costs against any non-prevailing party found not to have participated in the mediation process in good faith.

Several technical accounting and auditing words and phrases have been used herein. We presume you to understand their meaning or that you will notify us otherwise so that we can furnish appropriate explanations.

We have attached a copy of our latest external peer review report of our firm for your consideration and files.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to you and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of our engagement. If you have any questions, please let us know. If you agree with the terms of our engagement as described in this letter, please sign the enclosed copy and return it to us. This letter will continue in effect until canceled by either party.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Marta & Company LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James Marta & Company LLP  
Certified Public Accountants  
Sacramento, California

RESPONSE:

This letter correctly sets forth our understanding.

Acknowledged and agreed on behalf of Local Agency Formation Commission of Solano County

Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_