

August 20, 2024

Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission  
Ventura, California

The following represents our understanding of the services we will provide to Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission (Commission).

You have requested that we audit the governmental activities and the general fund of the Commission, as of June 30, 2024, and for the year then ended, and the related notes, which collectively comprise Commission's basic financial statements. We are pleased to confirm our acceptance and our understanding of this audit engagement by means of this letter.

The objectives of our audit 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 auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, and/or state or regulatory audit requirements will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements, including omissions, can arise from fraud or error and 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.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP), as promulgated by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) require that certain information be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the GASB, 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 (U.S. GAAS). 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 U.S. GAAP. This RSI will be subjected to certain limited procedures but will not be audited:

- Management's Discussion and Analysis
- Budgetary Comparison Information for the General Fund, and related note

## Auditor Responsibilities

We will conduct our audit in accordance with GAAS and in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, and/or any state or regulatory audit requirements. As part of an audit in accordance with GAAS and in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, and/or any state or regulatory audit requirements we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. 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 controls.
- Obtain an understanding of the system of internal control 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 entity's internal control. However, 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.
- 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, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Commission's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of internal control, an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements may not be detected exists, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with U.S. GAAS and, if applicable, in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and/or state or regulatory audit requirements. Please note that the determination of abuse is subjective, and *Government Auditing Standards* does not require auditors to detect abuse.

## Compliance with Laws and Regulations

As previously discussed, as part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the basic financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of the Commission'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.

## Management Responsibilities

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that management and, when appropriate, those charged with governance, acknowledge and understand that they have responsibility:

- a. For the preparation and fair presentation of the basic financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America;
- b. For the design, implementation, and maintenance of the system of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of basic financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to error, fraudulent financial reporting, misappropriation of assets, or violations of laws, governmental regulations, grant agreements, or contractual agreements; and

- c. To provide us with:
  - i. Access to all information of which management is aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the basic financial statements such as records, documentation, and other matters;
  - ii. Additional information that we may request from management for the purpose of the audit;
  - iii. Unrestricted access to persons within the entity and others from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
- d. For including the auditor's report in any document containing financial statements that indicates that such financial statements have been audited by us, including
  - a. A written acknowledgement of all the documents that management expects to issue that will be included in the annual report and the planned timing and method of issuance of that annual report; and
  - b. A final version of the annual report (including all the documents that, together, comprise the annual report) in a timely manner prior to the date of the auditor's report;
- e. For identifying and ensuring that the entity complies with the laws and regulations applicable to its activities;
- f. For adjusting the basic financial statements to correct material misstatements and confirming to us in the management representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the current period under audit are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the basic financial statements as a whole; and
- g. For maintaining adequate records, selecting and applying accounting principles, and safeguarding assets.
- h. For informing us of any known or suspected fraud affecting the entity involving management, employees with significant role in the system of internal control and others where fraud could have a material effect on the financials; and
- i. For the accuracy and completeness of all information provided.

As part of our audit process, we will request from management and, when appropriate, those charged with governance, written confirmation concerning representations made to us in connection with the audit.

## Reporting

We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of the Commission's basic financial statements. Our report will be addressed to the governing body of the Commission. Circumstances may arise in which our report may differ from its expected form and content based on the results of our audit. Depending on the nature of these circumstances, it may be necessary for us to modify our opinions, add an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph(s), to our auditor's report, or if necessary, withdraw from the engagement. If our opinions on the basic 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.

In accordance with the requirements of *Government Auditing Standards*, we will also issue a written report describing the scope of our testing over internal control over financial reporting and over compliance with laws, regulations, and provisions of grants and contracts, including the results of that testing. However, providing an opinion on internal control and compliance over financial reporting will not be an objective of the audit and, therefore, no such opinion will be expressed.

## **Other**

We understand that your employees will prepare all confirmations we request and will locate any documents or support for any other transactions we select for testing.

If you intend to publish or otherwise reproduce the basic 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.

Regarding the electronic dissemination of audited financial statements, including financial statements published electronically on your website or elsewhere, you understand that electronic sites are a means to distribute information and, therefore, we are not required to read the information contained in these sites or to consider the consistency of other information in the electronic site with the original document.

Professional standards prohibit us from being the sole host and/or the sole storage for your financial and non-financial data. As such, it is your responsibility to maintain your original data and records and we cannot be responsible to maintain such original information. By signing this engagement letter, you affirm that you have all the data and records required to make your books and records complete.

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

During the course of the engagement, we will only provide confidential engagement documentation to you via Eide Bailly's secure portal or other secure methods, and request that you use the same or similar tools in providing information to us. Should you choose not to utilize secure communication applications, you acknowledge that such communication contains a risk of the information being made available to unintended third parties. Similarly, we may communicate with you or your personnel via e-mail or other electronic methods, and you acknowledge that communication in those mediums contains a risk of misdirected or intercepted communications.

Should you provide us with remote access to your information technology environment, including but not limited to your financial reporting system, you agree to (1) assign unique usernames and passwords for use by our personnel in accessing the system and to provide this information in a secure manner; (2) limit access to "read only" to prevent any unintentional deletion or alteration of your data; (3) limit access to the areas of your technology environment necessary to perform the procedures agreed upon; and (4) disable all usernames and passwords provided to us upon the completion of procedures for which access was provided. We agree to only access your technology environment to the extent necessary to perform the identified procedures.

Jessica Andersen is the engagement partner for the audit services specified in this letter. The engagement partner's responsibilities include supervising services performed as part of this engagement and signing or authorizing another qualified firm representative to sign the audit report. We expect to begin our audit approximately October 2024 and issue our report no later than January 2025.

Our fees are based on the amount of time required at various levels of responsibility, plus actual out-of-pocket expenses, administrative charges and a technology fee. Invoices are payable upon presentation. We estimate that our fee for the audit will be \$14,000.

We will notify you immediately of any circumstances we encounter that could significantly affect this initial fee estimate. Whenever possible, we will attempt to use the Commission's personnel to assist in the preparation of schedules and analyses of accounts. This effort could substantially reduce our time requirements and facilitate the timely conclusion of the audit. Further, we will be available during the year to consult with you on financial management and accounting matters of a routine nature.

The ability to perform and complete our engagement consistent with the estimated fee included above depends upon the quality of your underlying accounting records and the timeliness of your personnel in providing information and responding to our requests. To assist with this process, we will provide you with an itemized request list that identifies the information you will need to prepare and provide in preparation for our engagement, as well as the requested delivery date for those items. A lack of preparation, including not providing this information in an accurate and timely manner, unanticipated audit adjustments, and/or untimely assistance by your personnel may result in an increase in our fees and/or a delay in the completion of our engagement.

We may be requested to make certain audit documentation available to outside parties, including regulators, pursuant to authority provided by law or regulation or applicable professional standards. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of Eide Bailly LLP's personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to the outside party, who may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies of information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies. We will be compensated for any time and expenses, including time and expenses of legal counsel, we may incur in making such audit documentation available or in conducting or responding to discovery requests or participating as a witness or otherwise in any legal, regulatory, or other proceedings as a result of our Firm's performance of these services. You and your attorney will receive, if lawful, a copy of every subpoena we are asked to respond to on your behalf and will have the ability to control the extent of the discovery process to control the costs you may incur.

Should our relationship terminate before our audit procedures are completed and a report issued, you will be billed for services to the date of termination. All bills are payable upon receipt. A service charge of 1% per month, which is an annual rate of 12%, will be added to all accounts unpaid 30 days after billing date. If collection action is necessary, expenses and reasonable attorney's fees will be added to the amount due.

We may use third party service providers and/or affiliated entities (including Eide Bailly Shared Services Private Limited) (collectively, "service providers") in order to facilitate delivering our services to you. Our use of service providers may require access to client information by the service provider. We will take reasonable precautions to determine that they have the appropriate procedures in place to prevent the unauthorized release of confidential information to others. We will remain responsible for the confidentiality of client information accessed by such service provider and any work performed by such service provider. You acknowledge that your information may be disclosed to such service providers, including those outside the United States.

Neither of us may use or disclose the other's confidential information for any purpose except as permitted under this engagement letter or as otherwise necessary for Eide Bailly to provide the services. Your confidential information is defined as any information you provide to us that is not available to the public. Eide Bailly's confidential information includes our audit documentation for this engagement. Our audit documentation shall at all times remain the property of Eide Bailly LLP. The confidentiality obligations described in this paragraph shall supersede and replace any and all prior confidentiality and/or nondisclosure agreements (NDAs) between us.

You agree to share all facts that may affect your financial statements, even if you first become aware of those facts after the date of the auditor's report but before the date your financial statements are issued.

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

At the conclusion of our audit engagement, we will communicate to management and the Board of Commissioners 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.

*Government Auditing Standards* require that we provide, upon request, a copy of our most recent external peer review report and any subsequent review reports to the party contracting for the audit. Accordingly, we will provide a copy of our most recent peer review report at your request.

Eide Bailly LLP is a member of HLB International, a worldwide organization of accounting firms and business advisors, ("HLB"). Each member firm of HLB, including Eide Bailly LLP is a separate and independent legal entity and is not owned or controlled by any other member of HLB. Each member firm of HLB is solely responsible for its own acts and omissions and no other member assumes any liability for such acts or omissions. Neither Eide Bailly LLP, nor any of its affiliates, are responsible or liable for any acts or omission of HLB or any other member firm of HLB and hereby specifically disclaim any and all responsibility, even if Eide Bailly LLP, or any of its affiliates are aware of such acts or omissions of another member of HLB.

Eide Bailly LLP formed The Eide Bailly Alliance Network, a network for small to mid-sized CPA firms across the nation. Each member firm of The Eide Bailly Alliance, including Eide Bailly LLP, is a separate and independent legal entity and is not owned or controlled by any other member of The Eide Bailly Alliance. Each member firm of The Eide Bailly Alliance is solely responsible for its own acts and omissions and no other member assumes any liability for such acts or omissions. Neither Eide Bailly LLP, nor any of its affiliates, are responsible or liable for any acts or omission of The Eide Bailly Alliance or any other member firm of The Eide Bailly Alliance and hereby specifically disclaim any and all responsibility, even if Eide Bailly LLP, or any of its affiliates are aware of such acts or omissions of another member of The Eide Bailly Alliance.

Eide Bailly LLP has owners that are not licensed as certified public accountants as permitted under Section 5079 of the California Business and Professions Code. It is not anticipated that any of the non-licensee owners will be performing services for the Commission.

## **MEDIATION**

Any disagreement, controversy or claim arising out of or related to any aspect of our services or relationship with you (hereafter a “Dispute”) shall, as a precondition to litigation in court, first be submitted to mediation. In mediation, the parties attempt to reach an amicable resolution of the Dispute with the aid of an impartial mediator. Mediation shall begin by service of a written demand. The mediator will be selected by mutual agreement. If we cannot agree on a mediator, one shall be designated by the American Arbitration Association (“AAA”). Mediation shall be conducted with the parties in person in Ventura County, California. Each party will bear its own costs in the mediation. The fees and expenses of the mediator will be shared equally by the parties. Neither party may commence a lawsuit until the mediator declares an impasse.

## **LIMITED INDEMNITY**

Eide Bailly LLP and its partners, affiliates, officers and employees (collectively “Eide Bailly”) shall not be responsible for any misstatements in your financial statements that we may fail to detect as a result of misrepresentations or concealment of information by any of your owners, directors, officers or employees. You shall indemnify and hold Eide Bailly harmless from any claims, losses, settlements, judgments, awards, damages and attorneys’ fees arising from any such misstatement or concealment of information.

If through no fault of Eide Bailly we are named as a party to a dispute between you and a third party, you shall indemnify and hold Eide Bailly harmless against any losses, damages, settlements, judgments, awards, and the costs of litigation (including attorneys’ fees) we incur in connection with the dispute.

Eide Bailly shall not be entitled to indemnification under this agreement unless the services were performed in accordance with professional standards in all material respects.

## **LIMITATION OF LIABILITY**

The exclusive remedy available to you for any alleged loss or damages arising from or related to Eide Bailly’s services or relationship with you shall be the right to pursue claims for actual damages that are directly caused by Eide Bailly’s breach of this agreement or Eide Bailly’s violation of applicable professional standards. In no event shall Eide Bailly’s aggregate liability to you exceed two times fees paid under this agreement, nor shall Eide Bailly ever be liable to you for incidental, consequential, punitive or exemplary damages, or attorneys’ fees.

## **TIME LIMITATION**

You may not bring any legal proceeding against Eide Bailly unless it is commenced within forty eight (48) months (“Limitation Period”) after the date when we delivered our report, return, or other deliverable under this agreement to you, regardless of whether we do other services for you or that may relate to the audit. The Limitation Period applies and begins to run even if you have not suffered any damage or loss, or have not become aware of a possible Dispute.

## **GOVERNING LAW AND VENUE**

Any Dispute between us, including any Dispute related to the engagement contemplated by this agreement, shall be governed by California law. Any unresolved Dispute shall be submitted to a federal or state court located in Ventura County, California.

## ASSIGNMENTS PROHIBITED

You shall not assign, sell, barter or transfer any legal rights, causes of actions, claims or Disputes you may have against Eide Bailly to any person.

Please sign and return the attached copy of this letter to indicate your acknowledgment of, and agreement with, the arrangements for our audit of the financial statements including our respective responsibilities.

We appreciate the opportunity to be your certified public accountants and look forward to working with you and your staff.

Respectfully,



On behalf of Jessica Andersen, Partner  
Kinnaly Soukhaseum, Partner

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### RESPONSE:

This letter correctly sets forth our understanding.

Acknowledged and agreed on behalf of Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission by:

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

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

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