735 E. Carnegie Dr. Suite 100 San Bernardino, CA 92408 909 889 0871 T 909 889 5361 F ramscpa.net

PARTNERS ,
Brenda L. Odle, CPA, MST
Terry P. Shea, CPA
Kirk A. Franks, CPA
Scott W. Manno, CPA, CGMA
Leena Shanbhag, CPA, MST, CGMA
Bradferd A. Welebir, CPA, MBA, CGMA
Jay H. Zercher, CPA (Partner Emeritus)
Phillip H. Waller, CPA (Partner Emeritus)

MANAGERS / STAFF
Jenny Liu, CPA, MST
Seong-Hyea Lee, CPA, MBA
Charles De Simoni, CPA
Nathan Statham, CPA, MBA
Gardenya Duran, CPA
Brianna Schultz, CPA
Daniel Hernandez, CPA, MBA
Lisa Dongxue Guo, CPA, MSA

MEMBERS American Institute of Certified Public Accountants

PCPS The AICPA Alliance for CPA Firms

Governmental Audit Quality Center

California Society of Certified Public Accountants December 30, 2016

To the Board of Directors Ventura Regional Sanitation District Ventura, California

We have audited the financial statements of Ventura Regional Sanitation District (the District) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2016, and have issued our report thereon dated December 30, 2016. Professional standards require that we advise you of the following matters relating to our audit.

## Our Responsibility in Relation to the Financial Statement Audit

As communicated in our engagement letter dated May 11, 2016, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to form and express an opinion about whether the financial statements that have been prepared by management with your oversight are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of your respective responsibilities.

Our responsibility, as prescribed by professional standards, is to plan and perform our audit to obtain reasonable, rather than absolute, assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit of financial statements includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing 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 over financial reporting. Accordingly, as part of our audit, we considered the internal control of the District solely for the purpose of determining our audit procedures and not to provide any assurance concerning such internal control.

We are also responsible for communicating significant matters related to the audit that are, in our professional judgment, relevant to your responsibilities in overseeing the financial reporting process. However, we are not required to design procedures for the purpose of identifying other matters to communicate to you.

#### Planned Scope and Timing of the Audit

We conducted our audit consistent with the planned scope and timing we previously communicated to you.

## Compliance with All Ethics Requirements Regarding Independence

The engagement team, others in our firm, as appropriate, our firm, and our network firms have complied with all relevant ethical requirements regarding independence.

## **Qualitative Aspects of the Entity's Significant Accounting Practices**

### Significant Accounting Policies

Management has the responsibility to select and use appropriate accounting policies. A summary of the significant accounting policies adopted by the District is included in Note A to the financial statements. As described in Note A to the financial statement, during the year, the District changed its method of accounting for fair value disclosures and pension related issues by adopting Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 72 Fair Value Measurement and Application and GASB Statement No. 82, Pension Issues – An Amendment of GASB Statement No. 67, No. 68, and No. 73. All changes have been applied on a prospective basis. No matters have come to our attention that would require us, under professional standards, to inform you about (1) the methods used to account for significant unusual transactions and (2) the effect of significant accounting policies in controversial or emerging areas for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus.

## Significant Accounting Estimates

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's current judgments. Those judgments are normally based on knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ markedly from management's current judgments. The most sensitive estimates affecting the financial statements were:

Management's estimate of the fair value of investments is based on information provided by financial institutions. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the fair value of investments in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Management's estimate of capital asset depreciation is based on historical estimates of each capitalized item's useful life. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimated useful lives in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Management's estimate of the net pension liability and related deferred inflows and outflows are based on actuarial reports provided by independent actuaries. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimate in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Management's estimate of the liability for other post-employment benefits is based on actuarial reports provided by independent actuaries. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimate in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

#### Financial Statement Disclosures

Certain financial statement disclosures involve significant judgment and are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The most sensitive disclosure affecting the financial statements was:

The disclosure of fair value of investments in Note B1 to the financial statements represents amounts susceptible to market fluctuations.

The disclosure of accumulated depreciation in Note B4 to the financial statements is based on estimated useful lives which could differ from actual useful lives of each capitalized item.

The disclosure of net pension liability and related deferred inflows and outflows are in Note 8 to the financial statements is based on actuarial assumptions. Actual future liabilities may vary from disclosed estimates.

The disclosure of the post-employment benefits other than pensions (OPEB) in Note 9 to the financial statements identifies the annual OPEB cost and the funded status of the actuarial accrued liability. The information disclosed is based on actuarial information.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

# Significant Difficulties Encountered during the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management relating to the performance of the audit.

#### **Uncorrected and Corrected Misstatements**

For purposes of this communication, professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that we believe are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Further, professional standards require us to also communicate the effect of uncorrected misstatements related to prior periods on the relevant classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures, and the financial statements as a whole and each applicable opinion unit. Management has corrected all identified misstatements.

#### **Disagreements with Management**

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, concerning a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, which could be significant to the District's financial statements or the auditor's report. No such disagreements arose during the course of the audit.

## Representations Requested from Management

We have requested certain written representations from management in a letter dated December 30, 2016.

# **Management's Consultations with Other Accountants**

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters. Management informed us that, and to our knowledge, there were no consultations with other accountants regarding auditing and accounting matters.

## Other Significant Matters, Findings, or Issues

In the normal course of our professional association with the District, we generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, operating and regulatory conditions affecting the entity, and operational plans and strategies that may affect the risks of material misstatement. None of the matters discussed resulted in a condition to our retention as the District's auditors.

# Other Information in Documents Containing Audited Financial Statements

Pursuant to professional standards, our responsibility as auditors for other information in documents containing the District's audited financial statements does not extend beyond the financial information identified in the audit report, and we are not required to perform any procedures to corroborate such other information. However, in accordance with such standards, we have applied certain limited procedures to Management's Discussion and Analysis, Schedule of Changes in Net Pension Liability and Related Ratios (PARS), Schedule of Plan Contributions (PARS), Schedule of the District's Proportionate Share of the Plan's Net Pension Liability and Related Ratios as of the Measurement Date (VCERA), Schedule of Plan Contributions (VCERA), and Schedule of Funding Progress (Other Post Employment Benefits). Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We did not audit the Required Supplementary Information (RSI) and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

We were engaged to report on supplementary information, which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. With respect to this supplementary information, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

We were not engaged to report on the introductory section and statistical data, which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. We did not audit or perform other procedures on this other information and we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

Our responsibility also includes communicating to you any information which we believe is a material misstatement of fact. Nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that such information, or its manner of presentation, is materially inconsistent with the information, or manner of its presentation, appearing in the financial statements.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of Directors and Management of the District and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,

Rogers, Anderson, Malody & Scott, LLP

San Bernardino, California December 30, 2016 (This page intentionally left blank)