



January 18, 2022

To the Governing Board
Newport-Mesa Unified School District
Costa Mesa, California

We have audited the financial statements of Newport-Mesa Unified School District (the District) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2021, and have issued our report thereon dated January 18, 2022. Professional standards require that we advise you of the following matters relating to our audit.

Our Responsibility in Relation to the Financial Statement Audit under Generally Accepted Auditing Standards and *Government Auditing Standards* and our Compliance Audit under the Uniform Guidance

As communicated in our engagement letter dated June 1, 2021, 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 and to express an opinion on whether the District complied with the types of compliance requirements described in the OMB Compliance Supplement that could have a direct and material effect on the District's major federal program. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of its 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.

Our responsibility, as prescribed by professional standards as it relates to the audit of the District's major federal program compliance, is to express an opinion on the compliance for the District's major federal program based on our audit of the types of compliance requirements referred to above. An audit of major program compliance includes consideration of internal control over compliance with the types of compliance requirements referred to above as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, as a part of our major program compliance audit, we considered internal control over compliance for these purposes and not to provide any assurance on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over compliance

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.

We have provided our comments regarding internal controls during our audit in our 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* dated January 18, 2022. We have also provided our comments regarding compliance with the types of compliance requirements referred to above and internal controls over compliance during our audit in our Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance with Each Major Federal Program and Report on Internal Control Over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance dated January 18, 2022.

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 other firms utilized in the engagement, if applicable, 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 1 to the financial statements. As described in Notes 1 and 17 to the financial statements, the District changed accounting policies related to accounting for fiduciary activities to adopt the provisions of GASB Statement No. 84, Fiduciary Activities. Accordingly, the accounting change has been retrospectively applied to the financial statements beginning July 1, 2020. 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 accounting estimates affecting the financial statements were:

Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) requires the District to calculate, recognize, and report the costs and obligations associated with pensions in their financial statements. These amounts were all based on the District's proportionate share of the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS) and the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) estimated net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources, and pension expense, which were actuarially determined; utilizing projections of future contributions and future earnings, actuarial assumptions such as inflation, salary increases, mortality rates, and investment rate of return and discount rates in the determination of the final balances reported in the CalSTRS and CalPERS audited financial statements. The District's proportionate share was determined by calculating the District's share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the contributions of all participating entities in the plan.

Management's estimate of the Net OPEB liability, related deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources, and OPEB expense are based on a calculation of actuarially determined contributions for health insurance benefits.

Management's estimate of the claims liability is based on a calculation of actuarially determined projected liabilities of the District's self-insured workers' compensation insurance program.

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 disclosures affecting the District's financial statements relate to Net Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB) Liability and Plan (Note 9), Risk Management (Note 13), and the Employee Retirement Systems (Note 14).

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. There were no corrected or uncorrected misstatements of the financial statements.

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 that are included in the management representation letter dated January 18, 2022.

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, business conditions affecting the entity, and business 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.

Modification of the Auditor's Report

We have made the following modification to our auditor's report.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Notes 1 and 17 to the financial statements, Newport-Mesa Unified School District has adopted the provisions of GASB Statement No. 84, Fiduciary Activities, which has resulted in a restatement of the net position and fund balance as of July 1, 2020. Our opinions are not modified with respect to this matter.

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



Rancho Cucamonga, California