

REQUIRED COMMUNICATIONS

May 11, 2021

Members of the Albany Water Board and
Albany Municipal Water Finance Authority

We have audited the financial statements of the Albany Water Board and the Albany Municipal Water Finance Authority (the System), which is a discretely presented component unit of the City of Albany, New York for the year ended December 31, 2020. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated February 8, 2021. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Findings

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the System are described in the notes to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted, and the application of existing policies were not significantly changed during 2020.

We noted no transactions entered into by the System during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Significant Estimates

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's 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 significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimates affecting the System's financial statements were:

- Management's estimate of the depreciable lives of capital assets which is based on judgements regarding the length of time an asset will provide value to the System.
- Management's estimate of unbilled customer accounts receivable at December 31, 2020.
- Management's estimate of the allowance for uncollectible accounts receivable at December 31, 2020.

We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the accounting estimates noted above in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Financial Statement Disclosures

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The most sensitive disclosures affecting the financial statements were:

- The disclosure of capital assets describes the historical cost of the property, plant, and equipment. The note also discloses the current year activity for these classifications.
- The disclosures of bonds and notes payable describes the types of bonds and notes issued by the System. The note also discloses the current year activity for these classifications.
- The disclosure of the transactions with the City of Albany describes the balances of amounts due to and from the City.
- The disclosures related to the Albany Pool – Long-Term Control Plan describes the System's and six other municipalities obligations regarding the consent order with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to address the combined sewer overflow discharges into the Hudson River and the improvement of overall water quality.

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

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated as of the date of this letter.

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the System's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Other Audit Findings or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the System's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

Other Matters

We applied certain limited procedures to management's discussion and analysis, which is required supplementary information (RSI) that supplements the basic financial statements. 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 RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

Restriction on Use

This information is intended solely for the use of the Members of the Boards and management of the System and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,

Bonadio & Co., LLP