

# **Agenda**

## **Sacramento Suburban Water District Audit Committee Meeting**

3701 Marconi Avenue  
Sacramento, CA 95821

Monday, November 4, 2024  
5:00 p.m.

**This meeting will be conducted both in-person in the District’s Boardroom at the address above, and by videoconference and teleconference using the information provided below. The public is invited to listen, observe, and provide comments during the meeting by any method provided. The Chairperson will call for public comment on each agenda item at the appropriate time. If a member of the public chooses to participate in this public meeting via videoconference and/or teleconference, please see the instructions below.**

**For members of the public interested in viewing and having the ability to comment at the public meeting via Zoom, an internet enabled computer equipped with a microphone and speaker or a mobile device with a data plan is required. Use of a webcam is optional. You also may call in to the meeting using teleconference without video. Please use the following login information for videoconferencing or teleconferencing:**

**Join the meeting from a computer, tablet or smartphone:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81736722959?pwd=b6a0poV8toPa5JURddiN2K1CGwAS3c.1>

**Meeting ID: 817 3672 2959**

**Password: 010078**

**You can also dial in using your phone: 1-669-900-6833**

New to Zoom? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: <https://zoom.us/>. Zoom uses encryption of data during Zoom meetings. The District uses a secure password to restrict access to scheduled meetings. The meeting host has control of content sharing, recording, and chat.

**Please mute your line.**

Where appropriate or deemed necessary, the Committee may take action on any item listed on the agenda, including items listed as information items. Public documents relating to any open session item listed on this agenda that are distributed to all or a majority of the members of the Board of Directors less than 72 hours before the meeting are available for public inspection in the customer service area of the District’s Administrative Office at the address listed above.

The public may address the Committee concerning an agenda item either before or during the Committee’s consideration of that agenda item. Persons who wish to comment on either agenda or non-agenda items should fill out a Comment Card and give it to the General Manager. The President will call for comments at the appropriate time. Comments will be subject to reasonable time limits (3 minutes).

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you have a disability, and you need a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, then please contact Sacramento Suburban Water District Human Resources at 916.679.3972. Requests must be made as early as possible, and at least one full business day before the start of the meeting.

**Call to Order**

**Roll Call**

**Public Comment**

This is an opportunity for the public to comment on non-agenda items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee. Comments are limited to 3 minutes.

**Consent Items**

The committee will be asked to approve all Consent Items at one time without discussion. Consent Items are expected to be routine and non-controversial. If any member of the Committee, staff or interested person requests that an item be removed from the Consent Items, it will be considered with the action items.

- 1. **Draft Minutes of April 24, 2024, Audit Committee Meeting**  
*Recommendation: Approve the draft minutes of April 24, 2024, Audit Committee Meeting.*

**Items for Discussion and/or Action**

- 2. **2024 Audit Engagement Letter and Task Order 5**  
*Recommendation: Recommend approval of the 2024 Audit Engagement Letter and Task Order 5, with Maze & Associates Accountancy Corporation, to the full Board of Directors and request authorization for the Audit Committee Chair to execute the Engagement Letter and Task Order 5.*

**Adjournment**

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**Upcoming Meetings:**

- Wednesday, November 6, 2024, at 5:00 p.m., Special Board Meeting
- Monday, November 11, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., Special Board Meeting – Budget Workshop
- Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 5:00 p.m., Special Board Meeting
- Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., DPMWD/SSWD Joint Special Board Meeting
- Monday, November 18, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting

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Audit Committee Meeting Agenda

November 4, 2024

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I certify that the foregoing agenda for the November 4, 2024, meeting of the Sacramento Suburban Water District was posted by October 30, 2024, in a publicly-accessible location at the Sacramento Suburban Water District office, 3701 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento, California, and was made available to the public during normal business hours.

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Dan York  
General Manager/Secretary  
Sacramento Suburban Water District



## **Agenda Item: 1**

**Date:** November 4, 2024

**Subject:** Draft Minutes of April 24, 2024, Audit Committee Meeting

**Staff Contact:** Dan York, General Manager

**Recommended Board Action:**

Approve the Draft Minutes of April 24, 2024, Audit Committee Meeting.

**Attachment:**

1 – Draft Minutes of April 24, 2024, Audit Committee Meeting.

## Minutes

### Sacramento Suburban Water District Audit Committee Meeting Wednesday, April 24, 2024

**Location:**

3701 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95821

**Call to Order – Videoconference/Audioconference Meeting**

Chair Locke called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Locke led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call**

Directors Present: Jay Boatwright and Craig Locke.

Directors Absent: None.

Staff Present: General Manager Dan York, Assistant General Manager Matt Underwood, Heather Hernandez-Fort, Lynn Pham, and Jeff Ott.

Public Present: David Alvey and Jennifer Harris.

**Public Comment**

Jennifer Harris commented about the COVID relief funding with relation to tenants of apartment complexes.

**Consent Items**

1. **Draft Minutes of the November 1, 2023, Audit Committee Meeting**

Director Boatwright moved to approve the staff recommendation; Chair Locke seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

AYES:	Boatwright and Locke.	ABSTAINED:	
NOES:		RECUSED:	
ABSENT:			

**Items for Discussion and/or Action**

2. **2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and Audit Results**

Lynn Pham presented the staff report and introduced David Alvey (Mr. Alvey) with Maze and Associates, an independent auditor.

Mr. Alvey presented the 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and Audit Results, noting there were no material weaknesses or internal control deficiencies. He congratulated the Board on another very clean audit.

General Manager Dan York commended staff on continuing to follow policies and procedures and highlighted that with over one million dollars in inventory, in an open warehouse, he was proud to be able to report that there were no findings.

Chair Locke moved to approve the staff recommendation; Director Boatwright seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

AYES:	Boatwright and Locke.	ABSTAINED:	
NOES:		RECUSED:	
ABSENT:			

**3. Ethics Policy (PL – BOD 004) Training Compliance Report**

Jeff Ott presented the staff report.

**Adjournment**

Chair Locke adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

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Dan York  
General Manager/Secretary  
Sacramento Suburban Water District



## Agenda Item: 2

**Date:** November 4, 2024

**Subject:** 2024 Audit Engagement Letter and Task Order 5

**Staff Contact:** Jeffery S. Ott, Director of Finance and Administration

### **Recommended Committee Action:**

Recommend approval of the 2024 Audit Engagement Letter and Task Order 5, with Maze & Associates Accountancy Corporation, to the full Board of Directors and request authorization for the Audit Committee Chair to execute the Engagement Letter and Task Order 5.

### **Background:**

Per the District’s “Engagement of Auditor Policy” (PL – Fin 001), “the Audit Committee is responsible for recommending the District’s independent auditor to the full Board for appointment and compensation, and administering the relationship between the District and independent auditor during the course of the audit...” Therefore, the Audit Committee (Committee) will review Audit results as the Audit progresses. At the conclusion of the Audit, the auditors will provide a report to the Committee and the Board of Directors.

### **Discussion:**

The District has received the “Required Communication Letter” and the “Engagement Letter” for the December 31, 2024, Audit from Maze & Associates Accountancy Corporation (Attachment 1 & 2, respectively). Staff have prepared Task Order 5 as the Scope of Work for the Audit (Attachment 3). The Master Services Agreement (MSA) (Attachment 4) between the District and the auditors is for the full five-year term, unless terminated by either party.

Staff have reviewed the Engagement Letter and confirmed it meets all the services requested by the Board in previous years, including the expanded expenditure testing that has been requested for the past seventeen years over and above that is required for a standard public agency audit and the Federal Grant Single Audit, if necessary. Staff have confirmed the 2024 Audit fee per the 2020 proposal response received from Maze and Associates. The Chair of the Committee needs authorization to sign the Engagement Letter and Task Order 5.

### **Fiscal Impact:**

\$43,549 for the complete Audit comprised of \$37,671 for the financial statement audit and \$5,878 for the District requested additional procedures. An additional \$4,546 may be needed if a Federal Grant Single Audit is deemed necessary.

**Strategic Plan Alignment:**

**Goal B**            Optimize Operational and Organizational Efficiencies

**Goal C**            Ensure Fiscal Responsibility and Affordable Rates

**Attachments:**

- 1) Required Communication Letter
- 2) Engagement Letter
- 3) Task Order 5
- 4) Master Services Agreement



Audit Committee  
Sacramento Suburban Water District  
Sacramento, CA

We are engaged to audit of the Sacramento Suburban Water District (District) financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2024. Professional standards require that we provide you with the following information related to our audit. Topics include audit scope, management representations, fraud risk considerations and audit timing. We have presented an overview of these topics below: We would also appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this information further since a two-way dialogue can provide valuable information for the audit process.

***Our Responsibility under U.S. Generally Accepted Auditing Standards and Government Auditing Standards***

As stated in our engagement letter provided to the Chair of the Audit Committee on October 18, 2024 (copy enclosed), our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to express opinions about whether the financial statements prepared by management with your oversight are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of your responsibilities.

In planning and performing our audit, we will consider the District's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. We will also consider internal control over compliance with requirements that could have a direct and material effect on a major federal program in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on compliance and to test report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance.

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the District's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions is not an objective of our audit. Also, in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, we will examine, on a test basis, evidence about the District's compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Compliance Supplement applicable to each of its major federal programs for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the District's compliance with those requirements. While our audit will provide a reasonable basis for our opinion, it will not provide a legal determination on the District's compliance with those requirements.

Generally accepted accounting principles provide for certain required supplementary information (RSI) to supplement the basic financial statements. Our responsibility with respect to the Required Supplementary Information which supplements the basic financial statements, is to apply certain limited procedures in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. However, the RSI will not be audited and, because of the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient appropriate evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance, we will not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

We have not been engaged to report on the Introductory and Statistical Section, which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. Our responsibility with respect to this other information in documents containing the audited financial statements and auditor's report does not extend beyond the financial information identified in the report. We have no responsibility for determining whether this other information is properly stated. This other information will not be audited and we will not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

### ***Planned Scope and Other***

The audit scope is included in the engagement letter provided to the Chair of the Audit Committee on October 18, 2024 (copy enclosed). It defines what an audit of the District's financial statements is and discusses internal control, fraud considerations and management responsibilities for data contained in financial statements. It is the standard used when a financial statement audit is to be conducted. This letter is a clarification of the audit process contemplated in the contract we have entered into with the District pursuant to the Board's approval.

### ***Management Representations***

We will request representations from management that data and assertions provided are complete and accurate. We rely primarily on our audit verification tests and procedures, however, management assertions and judgments unavoidably affect financial data.

### ***Fraud Risk Considerations***

Audit standards require us to have discussions with our clients to discuss both the potential for and any occurrences of fraud and the impact on financial statements. "Fraud" is defined as an intentional act that results in a *material misstatement in financial statements* that are subject to audit. In this case, fraud includes two concepts. The first is fraudulent financial reporting, including misapplication of accounting principles, the omission of data or disclosures, fictitious transactions or sham transactions and concealment of relevant data. The second concept is that of misappropriations of assets, including theft, its concealment and conversion to cash.

In accordance with audit standards, we met with management and asked:

- a. Is management aware of known instances of fraud or allegations of suspected fraud?
- b. Are there areas management believes are "Susceptible to Fraud"?
  - i. Areas presumed susceptible to fraud under audit standards:
    - i. Improper revenue recognition
    - ii. Management override of Internal Control

***Audit Timing***

We have met with District staff and agreed to the following schedule:

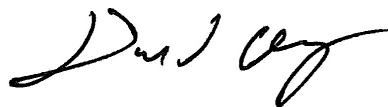
- The interim phase of the audit (internal control review and tests) is in process (January 2025).
- The final phase of the audit (substantive tests and financial report preparation) is scheduled for March 2025
- Our plan is to finalize the reports by the end of April 2025

***Communicating the Audit Process***

We discussed the above topics with staff and wish to provide you with an opportunity to participate in the audit process prior to its completion. If you could please respond to the following questions related to the District and its component units and if the answer to any question is “yes,” please provide an explanation:

- a. Are you aware of any instances of fraud or allegations of suspected fraud?
- b. Are there any areas you believe are “Susceptible to Fraud”?
- c. Are you aware of any possible or actual noncompliance or waste or abuse of programs and controls?
- d. Are you aware of any related-party transactions? (Transactions between the District or its component units and elected or appointed officials)

Sincerely,



David Alvey  
Audit Partner  
Maze & Associates



October 18, 2024

Craig M. Locke, Chair  
Audit Committee  
Sacramento Suburban Water District  
3701 Marconi Avenue, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95821

Dear Chair Locke,

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the services we are to provide for the Sacramento Suburban Water District as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024.

### **Audit Scope and Objectives**

The services we have been engaged to provide are outlined below, but we are also available to provide additional services at your request:

1. Audit of the Basic Financial Statements, preparation of the Memorandum on Internal Control and issuance of our reports thereon.
2. Extended audit procedures as outlined in section 3e of the RFP for Professional Auditing Services dated May 2020.
3. Single Audit, if needed.

Accounting standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) provide for certain required supplementary information (RSI), such as management's discussion and analysis, to supplement the District's basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the 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 District's RSI in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). These limited procedures will consist 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 will not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

If the District's financial statements are accompanied by supplementary information other than RSI, we will subject the supplementary information to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, and we will provide an opinion on it in relation to the financial statements as a whole, in a report combined with our auditor's report on the financial statements.

In connection with our audit of the basic financial statements, we will read the other information accompanying the financial statements and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the basic financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

The objectives of our audit are to obtain reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion about whether your financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with GAAP; and report on the fairness of the accompanying supplementary information when considered in relation to the financial statements as a whole. 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 GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* 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 of a reasonable user made based on the financial statements. The objectives also include reporting on:

- Internal control over financial reporting and compliance with the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and award agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.
- Internal control over compliance related to major programs and an opinion (or disclaimer of opinion) on compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards that could have a direct and material effect on each major program in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance).

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

We will conduct our audit in accordance with GAAS and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996; and the provisions of the Uniform Guidance, and will include tests of the accounting records, a determination of major program(s) in accordance with Uniform Guidance, and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions. As part of an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

We will evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management. We will also evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and determine whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation. We will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the District or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the District. Because the determination of waste and abuse is subjective, *Governmental Auditing Standards* do not expect auditors to perform specific procedures to detect waste or abuse in financial audits nor do they expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting waste or abuse.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, combined with the inherent limitations of internal control, and because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, an unavoidable risk exists that some material misstatements or noncompliance may exist and not be detected by us, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*. 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 or major programs. However, we will inform the appropriate level of management of any material errors, fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets that comes to our attention. We will also inform the appropriate level of management of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential. We will include such matters in the reports required for a Single Audit. Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

We will also conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the government's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our procedures will include tests of documentary evidence supporting the transactions recorded in the accounts, and may include tests of physical existence of inventories, and direct confirmation of cash, investments and certain other assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected customers, funding sources, creditors and financial institutions. We will also request written representations from your attorneys as part of the engagement, and they may bill the District for responding to this inquiry.

We may from time to time, and depending on the circumstances, use third-party service providers in serving your account. We may share confidential information about you with these service providers, but remain committed to maintaining the confidentiality and security of your information. Accordingly, we maintain internal policies, procedures, and safeguards to protect the confidentiality of your personal information. In addition, we will secure confidentiality agreements with all service providers to maintain the confidentiality of your information and we will take reasonable precautions to determine that they have appropriate procedures in place to prevent the unauthorized release of your confidential information to others. In the event that we are unable to secure an appropriate confidentiality agreement, you will be asked to provide your consent prior to the sharing of your confidential information with the third-party service provider. Furthermore, we will remain responsible for the work provided by any such third-party service providers.

### **Audit Procedures - Internal Control**

We will obtain an understanding of the District and its environment, including internal control relevant to the audit, sufficient to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and to design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks and obtain evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinions. 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 internal control. Tests of controls may be performed to test the effectiveness of certain controls that we consider relevant to preventing and detecting errors and fraud that are material to the financial statements and to preventing and detecting misstatements resulting from illegal acts and other noncompliance matters that have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. Our tests, if performed, will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on internal control and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

As required by the Uniform Guidance, we will perform tests of controls over compliance to evaluate the effectiveness of the design and operation of controls that we consider relevant to preventing or detecting material noncompliance with compliance requirements applicable to each major federal award program. However, our tests will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on those controls and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance.

An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. Accordingly, we will express no such opinion. However, during the audit, we will communicate to management and the Board internal control related matters that are required to be communicated under AICPA professional standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance.

### **Audit Procedures - Compliance**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of the District's compliance with provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and agreements, including grant agreements. However, the objective of those procedures will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion in our report on compliance issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

The Uniform Guidance requires that we also plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the District has complied with federal statutes, regulations and the terms and conditions of federal awards applicable to major programs. Our procedures will consist of tests of transactions and other applicable procedures described in the *OMB Compliance Supplement* for the types of compliance requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each major program. For federal programs that are included in the Compliance Supplement, our compliance and internal control procedures will relate to the compliance requirements that the Compliance Supplement, identifies as being subject to audit. The purpose of these procedures will be to express an opinion on the District's compliance with requirements applicable to each of its major programs in our report on compliance issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance.

### **Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements and Single Audit**

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that you acknowledge and understand your responsibility for (1) designing, implementing, establishing and maintaining effective internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, including internal controls over federal awards, and for evaluating and monitoring ongoing activities to help ensure that appropriate goals and objectives are met; (2) following laws and regulations; (3) ensuring that there is reasonable assurance that government programs are administered in compliance with compliance requirements; and (4) ensuring that management and financial information is reliable and properly reported. Management is also responsible for implementing systems designed to achieve compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements. Management is also responsible for the selection and application of accounting principles; for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and all accompanying information in conformity with GAAP; and for compliance with applicable laws and regulations (including federal statutes) and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements (including award agreements). Management's responsibilities also include identifying significant contractor relationships in which the contractor has responsibility for program compliance and for the accuracy and completeness of that information.

Management is also responsible for making drafts of financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, all financial records and related information available to us and for the accuracy and completeness of that information (including information from outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers) and for the evaluation of whether there are any conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for the 12 months after the financial statement date or shortly thereafter (for example, within an additional three months if currently known). Management is also responsible for providing us with (1) access to all information of which management is aware is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, including identification of all related parties and all related-party relationships and transactions, and other matters; (2) access to personnel, accounts, books, records, supporting documentation, and other information as needed to perform an audit under the Uniform Guidance; (3) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit; and (4) unrestricted access to persons within the government from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence. We understand that the District will provide us with the Closing Checklist information required for our audit and that the District is responsible for the accuracy and completeness of that information. At the conclusion of our audit, we will require certain written representations from management about responsibilities for the financial statements; schedule of expenditures of federal awards; federal award programs; compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements; and related matters.

Management's responsibilities include adjusting the 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 latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements of each opinion unit as a whole.

Management is responsible for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud, and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud affecting the District involving (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. Management's responsibilities include informing us of its knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the District received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, management is responsible for identifying and ensuring that it complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements and grants. Management is also responsible for taking timely and appropriate steps to remedy fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements that we report. Additionally, as required by the Uniform Guidance, it is management's responsibility to evaluate and monitor noncompliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards; take prompt action when instances of noncompliance are identified including noncompliance identified in audit findings; promptly follow up and take corrective action on reported audit findings; and prepare a summary schedule of prior audit findings and a separate corrective action plan. The summary schedule of prior audit findings must be made available for our review.

With regard to including the auditor's report in an exempt offering document, you agree that the aforementioned auditor's report, or reference to Maze & Associates, will not be included in any such offering document without our prior permission or consent. Any agreement to perform work in connection with an exempt offering document, including an agreement to provide permission or consent will be a separate engagement. With regard to an exempt offering document with which Maze & Associates is not involved, you agree to clearly indicate in the exempt offering document that Maze & Associates is not involved with the contents of such offering document.

Management is also responsible for identifying all federal awards received and understanding and complying with the compliance requirements and for the preparation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards (including notes and noncash assistance received, and COVID-19-related concepts, such as lost revenues, if applicable) in conformity with the Uniform Guidance. Management agrees to include our report on the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in any document that contains and indicates that we have reported on the schedule of expenditures of federal awards. Management also agrees to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards that includes our report thereon. Management's responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the written representation letter that: (1) you are responsible for presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in accordance with the Uniform Guidance; (2) you believe the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, including its form and content, is stated fairly in accordance with the Uniform Guidance; (3) the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (4) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards.

Management is also responsible for the preparation of the other supplementary information, which we have been engaged to report on, in conformity with GAAP. Management agrees to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains and indicates that we have reported on the supplementary information. Management also agrees to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the supplementary information that includes our report thereon. Management's responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the representation letter that: (1) management is responsible for presentation of the supplementary information in accordance with GAAP; (2) that management believes the supplementary information, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with GAAP; (3) the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (4) management has disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the supplementary information.



Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining of a process for tracking the status of audit findings and recommendations. Management is also responsible for identifying and providing report copies of previous financial audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or other studies related to the objectives discussed in the Audit Scope and Objective section of this letter. This responsibility includes relaying to us corrective actions taken to address significant findings and recommendations resulting from those audits, attestation engagements, performance audits or other studies. Management is also responsible for providing management's views on our current findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as your planned corrective actions, for the report, and for the timing and format for providing that information.

With regard to the electronic dissemination of audited financial statements, including financial statements published electronically on your website, 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.

In connection with this engagement, we may communicate with you or others via email transmission. As emails can be intercepted and read, disclosed, or otherwise communicated by an unintended third party, or may not be delivered to each of the parties to whom they are directed and only to such parties, we cannot guarantee or warrant that emails from us will be properly delivered and read only by the addressee. Therefore, we specifically disclaim and waive any liability or responsibility whatsoever for interception or unintentional disclosure of emails transmitted by us in connection with the performance of this engagement. In that regard, you agree that we shall have no liability for any loss or damage to any person or entity resulting from the use of email transmissions, including any consequential, incidental, direct, indirect or special damages, such as loss of revenues or anticipated profits, or disclosure or communication of confidential or proprietary information.

### **Other Services**

We will also assist in preparing the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and related notes in conformity with GAAP and the Uniform Guidance based on information provided by you. These nonaudit services do not constitute an audit under *Government Auditing Standards* and such services will not be conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. We will perform the services in accordance with applicable professional standards. The other services are limited to the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and the related notes services previously defined. We, in our sole professional judgment, reserve the right to refuse to perform any procedure or take any action that could be construed as assuming management's responsibilities.

Management agrees to assume all management responsibilities relating to the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, related notes, and any other nonaudit services we provide. Management will be required to acknowledge in the management representation letter our assistance with the preparation of the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards and related notes and any other nonaudit services we provide and that you have reviewed and approved the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards and related notes and any other nonaudit services we provide prior to their issuance and have accepted responsibility for them. Further, management agrees to oversee the nonaudit services by designating an individual, preferably from senior management, with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience; evaluate the adequacy and results of those services; and accept responsibility for them.

### **Engagement Administration, Fees, and Other**

At the conclusion of the engagement, we will complete the appropriate sections of the Data Collection Form that summarizes our audit findings. It is management's responsibility to electronically submit the reporting package (including financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, summary schedule of prior audit findings, auditor's reports, and corrective action plan) along with the Data Collection Form to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse. We will coordinate with you the electronic submission and certification. If applicable, we will provide copies of our report to you to include with the reporting package you will submit to pass-through entities. The Data Collection Form and the reporting package must be submitted within the earlier of 30 calendar days after receipt of the auditors' reports or nine months after the end of the audit period.

We will provide copies of our reports to the District; however, management is responsible for distribution of the reports and the financial statements. Unless restricted by law or regulation, or containing privileged and confidential information, copies of our reports are to be made available for public inspection.

The audit documentation for this engagement is our property and constitutes confidential information. However, subject to applicable laws and regulations, audit documentation and appropriate individuals will be made available upon request and in a timely manner to a federal agency providing direct or indirect funding, or the U.S. Government Accountability Office for purposes of a quality review of the audit, to resolve audit findings, or to carry out oversight responsibilities. We will notify you of any such request. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of Maze & Associates personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to the aforementioned parties. These parties may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies or information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

We will retain audit documentation for this engagement for seven years after the report release date pursuant to state regulations. If we are aware that a federal awarding agency, pass-through entity, or auditee is contesting an audit finding, we will contact the party(ies) contesting the audit finding for guidance prior to destroying the audit documentation.

As an attest client, we cannot retain your documents on your behalf. This is in accordance with ET 1.295.143 of the *AICPA Code of Professional Conduct*. The District is responsible for maintaining its own data and records.

SharePoint/OneDrive are used solely to transmit data or as a method of exchanging information and is not intended to store the District's information. The District is responsible for downloading any deliverables and other records from the SharePoint/OneDrive that it wishes to retain for its own records at the completion of the engagement. For multi-year engagements, such downloading should occur annually.

Upon completion of the engagement, data and other content will either be removed from SharePoint/OneDrive or become unavailable to the District within a reasonable timeframe (generally one week after issuance of our report). For multi-year engagements, completion of the engagement occurs when the deliverables are completed for that year.

We expect to begin our audit in February 2025 and to issue our reports no later than May 2025. David Alvey is the engagement partner and is responsible for supervising the engagement and signing the reports or authorizing another individual to sign them.

To ensure that Maze & Associates' independence is not impaired under the *AICPA Code of Professional Conduct*, you agree to inform the engagement partner before entering into any substantive employment discussions with any of our personnel.

Our fees for these services are billed based on our contract with the District. Our standard hourly rates vary according to the degree of responsibility involved and the experience level of the personnel assigned to your audit. Our invoices for these fees will be rendered each month as work progresses and are payable on presentation. In accordance with our firm policies, work may be suspended if the District's account becomes thirty days or more overdue and may not be resumed until the District's account is paid in full. If we elect to terminate our services for nonpayment, our engagement will be deemed to have been completed upon written notification of termination, even if we have not completed our report(s). You will be obligated to compensate us for all time expended and to reimburse us for all out-of-pocket costs through the date of termination.

These fees are based on anticipated cooperation from District personnel, the completion of schedules and data requested on our Checklists by District personnel, preparation of audit confirmations we request by District personnel, location of any documents selected by us for testing, and the assumption that there will be no unexpected increases in work scope, such as new Single Audit Act major programs, new debt issues, etc., or delays which are beyond our control, as discussed on the Fees Attachment to this letter. If significant additional time is necessary, we will discuss it with District management and arrive at a new fee before we incur any additional costs.

We understand you will provide us with basic workspace sufficient to accommodate the audit team assigned to your audit. We understand the basic workspace will be equipped with a telephone and direct Internet access, preferably a temporary network outside of your network, a public IP address and a wired connection. We understand you will also provide us with access to a fax machine and read only access to your general ledger system.

You may request that we perform additional services not addressed in this engagement letter. If this occurs, we will communicate with you regarding the scope of the additional services and the estimated fees. We also may issue a separate engagement letter covering the additional services. In the absence of any other written communication from us documenting such additional services, our services will continue to be governed by the terms of this engagement letter.

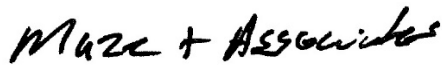
Our most recent peer review report accompanies this letter.

**Reporting**

The *Government Auditing Standards* report on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance and other matters will state that (1) that the purpose of the report is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control or on compliance, and (2) the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering internal control and compliance. The Uniform Guidance report on internal control over compliance will state that the purpose of the report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control over compliance and results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Both reports will state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose.

\*\*\*\*\*

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to the District 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 and return a full copy of this letter to us.



Maze & Associates

RESPONSE:

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of the District.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Sacramento Suburban Water Engagement Letter  
Fees Attachment  
December 31, 2024**

Our fees for the work described in the attached engagement letter will be as follows, unless they are adjusted for one or more of the items below.

Service	Fees
Annual Comprehensive Financial Report	\$37,671
Memorandum on Internal Control	Included above
Other Items:	
Expanded Audit Procedures	5,878
Single Audit (Per tested program), if needed	4,546
	\$48,095

**2025 Fees** – Our fees have been based on our Proposal with the District dated June 24, 2020.

Our price includes “print to PDF” versions of all reports issued. Due to the significant increase in the cost of paper products, our price also includes up to 10 bound copies of each report, except for the ACFR. If you require additional bound copies, we will provide a cost estimate before proceeding.

**Additional Services** - The above fees are for audit and assurance services described in the accompanying engagement letter. They do not include fees for assisting with closing the books nor providing other accounting services. Should the District require assistance beyond audit services we will provide a cost estimate before proceeding.

**Post-Closing Client Adjusting Entries** - The first step in our year-end audit is the preparation of financial statement drafts from your final closing trial balance. That means any entries you make after handing us your closing trial balance must be handled as audit adjustments, or in extreme cases, by re-inputting the entire trial balance, even if the amounts are immaterial. If you make such entries and the amounts are in fact immaterial, we will bill you for the costs of the adjustments or re-input at our normal hourly rates.

**Recurring Audit Adjustments** - Each year we include the prior year’s adjusting entries as new steps in our Closing Checklist, so that you can incorporate these entries in your closing. If we are required to continue to make these same adjustments as part of this year’s audit, we will bill for this service at our normal hourly rates.

**Single Audit Act** - Additional programs will each cost \$4,546 in 2024, unless there are other factors which add to that program’s cost; in that case, we will provide a cost estimate before proceeding.

**Grant Programs Requiring Separate Audit** - Grant programs requiring separate audits represent a significant increase in work scope, and fees for these audits vary based on the grant requirements. If you wish us to determine and identify which programs are subject to audit, we will bill you for that time at our normal hourly rates.

**Changes in District Personnel** - Our experience is that changes and /or reductions in Finance Department staff can have a pronounced impact on costs of performing the audit. If such changes occur, we will meet with you to assess their impact and arrive at a new fee before we begin the next phase of our work. However, we reserve the right to revisit this subject at the conclusion of the audit, based on your actual performance and our actual costs.



## Report on the Firm's System of Quality Control

### **MAZE & ASSOCIATES ACCOUNTANCY CORPORATION** and the Peer Review Committee of the California Society of CPAs

We have reviewed the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of Maze & Associates Accountancy Corporation (the firm) in effect for the year ended May 31, 2023. Our peer review was conducted in accordance with the Standards for Performing and Reporting on Peer Reviews established by the Peer Review Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (Standards).

A summary of the nature, objectives, scope, limitations of, and the procedures performed in a system review as described in the Standards may be found at [www.aicpa.org/prsummary](http://www.aicpa.org/prsummary). The summary also includes an explanation of how engagements identified as not performed or reported on in conformity with applicable professional standards, if any, are evaluated by a peer reviewer to determine a peer review rating.

#### **Firm's Responsibility**

The firm is responsible for designing and complying with a system of quality control to provide the firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with the requirements of applicable professional standards in all material respects. The firm is also responsible for evaluating actions to promptly remediate engagements deemed as not performed or reported on in conformity with the requirements of applicable professional standards, when appropriate, and for remediating weaknesses in its system of quality control, if any.

#### **Peer Reviewer's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the design of and compliance with the firm's system of quality control based on our review.

#### **Required Selections and Considerations**

Engagements selected for review included engagements performed under *Government Auditing Standards*, including compliance audits under the Single Audit Act.

As part of our peer review, we considered reviews by regulatory entities as communicated by the firm, if applicable, in determining the nature and extent of our procedures.

#### **CPAs ■ Advisors**

 4120 Concourse, Suite 100, Ontario, CA 91764  
 909.948.9990 / 800.644.0696 / FAX 909.948.9633  
 [gyl@gylcpa.com](mailto:gyl@gylcpa.com)  
 [www.gylcpa.com](http://www.gylcpa.com)

**CPAmerica**  
Member  Crowe Global

Peer Review Report  
Page 2 of 2

### Opinion

In our opinion, the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of Maze & Associates Accountancy Corporation in effect for the year ended May 31, 2023, has been suitably designed and complied with to provide the firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with applicable professional standards in all material respects. Firms can receive a rating of *pass*, *pass with deficiency(ies)* or *fail*. Maze & Associates Accountancy Corporation has received a peer review rating of *pass*.

***GYL LLP***

Ontario, California  
February 6, 2024

**GYL**

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October 18, 2024

Craig M. Locke, Chair  
Audit Committee  
Sacramento Suburban Water District  
3701 Marconi Avenue, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95821

Dear Chair Locke,

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the services we are to provide for the Sacramento Suburban Water District as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024.

### **Audit Scope and Objectives**

The services we have been engaged to provide are outlined below, but we are also available to provide additional services at your request:

1. Audit of the Basic Financial Statements, preparation of the Memorandum on Internal Control and issuance of our reports thereon.
2. Extended audit procedures as outlined in section 3e of the RFP for Professional Auditing Services dated May 2020.
3. Single Audit, if needed.

Accounting standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) provide for certain required supplementary information (RSI), such as management's discussion and analysis, to supplement the District's basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the 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 District's RSI in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). These limited procedures will consist 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 will not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

If the District's financial statements are accompanied by supplementary information other than RSI, we will subject the supplementary information to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, and we will provide an opinion on it in relation to the financial statements as a whole, in a report combined with our auditor's report on the financial statements.

In connection with our audit of the basic financial statements, we will read the other information accompanying the financial statements and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the basic financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

The objectives of our audit are to obtain reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion about whether your financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with GAAP; and report on the fairness of the accompanying supplementary information when considered in relation to the financial statements as a whole. 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 GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* 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 of a reasonable user made based on the financial statements. The objectives also include reporting on:

- Internal control over financial reporting and compliance with the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and award agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.
- Internal control over compliance related to major programs and an opinion (or disclaimer of opinion) on compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards that could have a direct and material effect on each major program in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance).

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

We will conduct our audit in accordance with GAAS and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996; and the provisions of the Uniform Guidance, and will include tests of the accounting records, a determination of major program(s) in accordance with Uniform Guidance, and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions. As part of an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

We will evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management. We will also evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and determine whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation. We will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the District or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the District. Because the determination of waste and abuse is subjective, *Governmental Auditing Standards* do not expect auditors to perform specific procedures to detect waste or abuse in financial audits nor do they expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting waste or abuse.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, combined with the inherent limitations of internal control, and because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, an unavoidable risk exists that some material misstatements or noncompliance may exist and not be detected by us, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*. 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 or major programs. However, we will inform the appropriate level of management of any material errors, fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets that comes to our attention. We will also inform the appropriate level of management of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential. We will include such matters in the reports required for a Single Audit. Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.



We will also conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the government's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our procedures will include tests of documentary evidence supporting the transactions recorded in the accounts, and may include tests of physical existence of inventories, and direct confirmation of cash, investments and certain other assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected customers, funding sources, creditors and financial institutions. We will also request written representations from your attorneys as part of the engagement, and they may bill the District for responding to this inquiry.

We may from time to time, and depending on the circumstances, use third-party service providers in serving your account. We may share confidential information about you with these service providers, but remain committed to maintaining the confidentiality and security of your information. Accordingly, we maintain internal policies, procedures, and safeguards to protect the confidentiality of your personal information. In addition, we will secure confidentiality agreements with all service providers to maintain the confidentiality of your information and we will take reasonable precautions to determine that they have appropriate procedures in place to prevent the unauthorized release of your confidential information to others. In the event that we are unable to secure an appropriate confidentiality agreement, you will be asked to provide your consent prior to the sharing of your confidential information with the third-party service provider. Furthermore, we will remain responsible for the work provided by any such third-party service providers.

### **Audit Procedures - Internal Control**

We will obtain an understanding of the District and its environment, including internal control relevant to the audit, sufficient to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and to design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks and obtain evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinions. 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 internal control. Tests of controls may be performed to test the effectiveness of certain controls that we consider relevant to preventing and detecting errors and fraud that are material to the financial statements and to preventing and detecting misstatements resulting from illegal acts and other noncompliance matters that have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. Our tests, if performed, will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on internal control and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

As required by the Uniform Guidance, we will perform tests of controls over compliance to evaluate the effectiveness of the design and operation of controls that we consider relevant to preventing or detecting material noncompliance with compliance requirements applicable to each major federal award program. However, our tests will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on those controls and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance.

An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. Accordingly, we will express no such opinion. However, during the audit, we will communicate to management and the Board internal control related matters that are required to be communicated under AICPA professional standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance.

### **Audit Procedures - Compliance**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of the District's compliance with provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and agreements, including grant agreements. However, the objective of those procedures will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion in our report on compliance issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

The Uniform Guidance requires that we also plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the District has complied with federal statutes, regulations and the terms and conditions of federal awards applicable to major programs. Our procedures will consist of tests of transactions and other applicable procedures described in the *OMB Compliance Supplement* for the types of compliance requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each major program. For federal programs that are included in the Compliance Supplement, our compliance and internal control procedures will relate to the compliance requirements that the Compliance Supplement, identifies as being subject to audit. The purpose of these procedures will be to express an opinion on the District's compliance with requirements applicable to each of its major programs in our report on compliance issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance.

### **Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements and Single Audit**

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that you acknowledge and understand your responsibility for (1) designing, implementing, establishing and maintaining effective internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, including internal controls over federal awards, and for evaluating and monitoring ongoing activities to help ensure that appropriate goals and objectives are met; (2) following laws and regulations; (3) ensuring that there is reasonable assurance that government programs are administered in compliance with compliance requirements; and (4) ensuring that management and financial information is reliable and properly reported. Management is also responsible for implementing systems designed to achieve compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements. Management is also responsible for the selection and application of accounting principles; for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and all accompanying information in conformity with GAAP; and for compliance with applicable laws and regulations (including federal statutes) and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements (including award agreements). Management's responsibilities also include identifying significant contractor relationships in which the contractor has responsibility for program compliance and for the accuracy and completeness of that information.

Management is also responsible for making drafts of financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, all financial records and related information available to us and for the accuracy and completeness of that information (including information from outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers) and for the evaluation of whether there are any conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for the 12 months after the financial statement date or shortly thereafter (for example, within an additional three months if currently known). Management is also responsible for providing us with (1) access to all information of which management is aware is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, including identification of all related parties and all related-party relationships and transactions, and other matters; (2) access to personnel, accounts, books, records, supporting documentation, and other information as needed to perform an audit under the Uniform Guidance; (3) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit; and (4) unrestricted access to persons within the government from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence. We understand that the District will provide us with the Closing Checklist information required for our audit and that the District is responsible for the accuracy and completeness of that information. At the conclusion of our audit, we will require certain written representations from management about responsibilities for the financial statements; schedule of expenditures of federal awards; federal award programs; compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements; and related matters.

Management's responsibilities include adjusting the 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 latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements of each opinion unit as a whole.

Management is responsible for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud, and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud affecting the District involving (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. Management's responsibilities include informing us of its knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the District received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, management is responsible for identifying and ensuring that it complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements and grants. Management is also responsible for taking timely and appropriate steps to remedy fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements that we report. Additionally, as required by the Uniform Guidance, it is management's responsibility to evaluate and monitor noncompliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards; take prompt action when instances of noncompliance are identified including noncompliance identified in audit findings; promptly follow up and take corrective action on reported audit findings; and prepare a summary schedule of prior audit findings and a separate corrective action plan. The summary schedule of prior audit findings must be made available for our review.

With regard to including the auditor's report in an exempt offering document, you agree that the aforementioned auditor's report, or reference to Maze & Associates, will not be included in any such offering document without our prior permission or consent. Any agreement to perform work in connection with an exempt offering document, including an agreement to provide permission or consent will be a separate engagement. With regard to an exempt offering document with which Maze & Associates is not involved, you agree to clearly indicate in the exempt offering document that Maze & Associates is not involved with the contents of such offering document.

Management is also responsible for identifying all federal awards received and understanding and complying with the compliance requirements and for the preparation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards (including notes and noncash assistance received, and COVID-19-related concepts, such as lost revenues, if applicable) in conformity with the Uniform Guidance. Management agrees to include our report on the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in any document that contains and indicates that we have reported on the schedule of expenditures of federal awards. Management also agrees to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards that includes our report thereon. Management's responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the written representation letter that: (1) you are responsible for presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in accordance with the Uniform Guidance; (2) you believe the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, including its form and content, is stated fairly in accordance with the Uniform Guidance; (3) the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (4) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards.

Management is also responsible for the preparation of the other supplementary information, which we have been engaged to report on, in conformity with GAAP. Management agrees to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains and indicates that we have reported on the supplementary information. Management also agrees to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the supplementary information that includes our report thereon. Management's responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the representation letter that: (1) management is responsible for presentation of the supplementary information in accordance with GAAP; (2) that management believes the supplementary information, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with GAAP; (3) the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (4) management has disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the supplementary information.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining of a process for tracking the status of audit findings and recommendations. Management is also responsible for identifying and providing report copies of previous financial audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or other studies related to the objectives discussed in the Audit Scope and Objective section of this letter. This responsibility includes relaying to us corrective actions taken to address significant findings and recommendations resulting from those audits, attestation engagements, performance audits or other studies. Management is also responsible for providing management's views on our current findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as your planned corrective actions, for the report, and for the timing and format for providing that information.

With regard to the electronic dissemination of audited financial statements, including financial statements published electronically on your website, 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.

In connection with this engagement, we may communicate with you or others via email transmission. As emails can be intercepted and read, disclosed, or otherwise communicated by an unintended third party, or may not be delivered to each of the parties to whom they are directed and only to such parties, we cannot guarantee or warrant that emails from us will be properly delivered and read only by the addressee. Therefore, we specifically disclaim and waive any liability or responsibility whatsoever for interception or unintentional disclosure of emails transmitted by us in connection with the performance of this engagement. In that regard, you agree that we shall have no liability for any loss or damage to any person or entity resulting from the use of email transmissions, including any consequential, incidental, direct, indirect or special damages, such as loss of revenues or anticipated profits, or disclosure or communication of confidential or proprietary information.

### **Other Services**

We will also assist in preparing the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and related notes in conformity with GAAP and the Uniform Guidance based on information provided by you. These nonaudit services do not constitute an audit under *Government Auditing Standards* and such services will not be conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. We will perform the services in accordance with applicable professional standards. The other services are limited to the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and the related notes services previously defined. We, in our sole professional judgment, reserve the right to refuse to perform any procedure or take any action that could be construed as assuming management's responsibilities.

Management agrees to assume all management responsibilities relating to the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, related notes, and any other nonaudit services we provide. Management will be required to acknowledge in the management representation letter our assistance with the preparation of the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards and related notes and any other nonaudit services we provide and that you have reviewed and approved the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards and related notes and any other nonaudit services we provide prior to their issuance and have accepted responsibility for them. Further, management agrees to oversee the nonaudit services by designating an individual, preferably from senior management, with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience; evaluate the adequacy and results of those services; and accept responsibility for them.

### **Engagement Administration, Fees, and Other**

At the conclusion of the engagement, we will complete the appropriate sections of the Data Collection Form that summarizes our audit findings. It is management's responsibility to electronically submit the reporting package (including financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, summary schedule of prior audit findings, auditor's reports, and corrective action plan) along with the Data Collection Form to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse. We will coordinate with you the electronic submission and certification. If applicable, we will provide copies of our report to you to include with the reporting package you will submit to pass-through entities. The Data Collection Form and the reporting package must be submitted within the earlier of 30 calendar days after receipt of the auditors' reports or nine months after the end of the audit period.

We will provide copies of our reports to the District; however, management is responsible for distribution of the reports and the financial statements. Unless restricted by law or regulation, or containing privileged and confidential information, copies of our reports are to be made available for public inspection.

The audit documentation for this engagement is our property and constitutes confidential information. However, subject to applicable laws and regulations, audit documentation and appropriate individuals will be made available upon request and in a timely manner to a federal agency providing direct or indirect funding, or the U.S. Government Accountability Office for purposes of a quality review of the audit, to resolve audit findings, or to carry out oversight responsibilities. We will notify you of any such request. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of Maze & Associates personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to the aforementioned parties. These parties may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies or information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

We will retain audit documentation for this engagement for seven years after the report release date pursuant to state regulations. If we are aware that a federal awarding agency, pass-through entity, or auditee is contesting an audit finding, we will contact the party(ies) contesting the audit finding for guidance prior to destroying the audit documentation.

As an attest client, we cannot retain your documents on your behalf. This is in accordance with ET 1.295.143 of the *AICPA Code of Professional Conduct*. The District is responsible for maintaining its own data and records.

SharePoint/OneDrive are used solely to transmit data or as a method of exchanging information and is not intended to store the District's information. The District is responsible for downloading any deliverables and other records from the SharePoint/OneDrive that it wishes to retain for its own records at the completion of the engagement. For multi-year engagements, such downloading should occur annually.

Upon completion of the engagement, data and other content will either be removed from SharePoint/OneDrive or become unavailable to the District within a reasonable timeframe (generally one week after issuance of our report). For multi-year engagements, completion of the engagement occurs when the deliverables are completed for that year.

We expect to begin our audit in February 2025 and to issue our reports no later than May 2025. David Alvey is the engagement partner and is responsible for supervising the engagement and signing the reports or authorizing another individual to sign them.

To ensure that Maze & Associates' independence is not impaired under the *AICPA Code of Professional Conduct*, you agree to inform the engagement partner before entering into any substantive employment discussions with any of our personnel.

Our fees for these services are billed based on our contract with the District. Our standard hourly rates vary according to the degree of responsibility involved and the experience level of the personnel assigned to your audit. Our invoices for these fees will be rendered each month as work progresses and are payable on presentation. In accordance with our firm policies, work may be suspended if the District's account becomes thirty days or more overdue and may not be resumed until the District's account is paid in full. If we elect to terminate our services for nonpayment, our engagement will be deemed to have been completed upon written notification of termination, even if we have not completed our report(s). You will be obligated to compensate us for all time expended and to reimburse us for all out-of-pocket costs through the date of termination.

These fees are based on anticipated cooperation from District personnel, the completion of schedules and data requested on our Checklists by District personnel, preparation of audit confirmations we request by District personnel, location of any documents selected by us for testing, and the assumption that there will be no unexpected increases in work scope, such as new Single Audit Act major programs, new debt issues, etc., or delays which are beyond our control, as discussed on the Fees Attachment to this letter. If significant additional time is necessary, we will discuss it with District management and arrive at a new fee before we incur any additional costs.

We understand you will provide us with basic workspace sufficient to accommodate the audit team assigned to your audit. We understand the basic workspace will be equipped with a telephone and direct Internet access, preferably a temporary network outside of your network, a public IP address and a wired connection. We understand you will also provide us with access to a fax machine and read only access to your general ledger system.

You may request that we perform additional services not addressed in this engagement letter. If this occurs, we will communicate with you regarding the scope of the additional services and the estimated fees. We also may issue a separate engagement letter covering the additional services. In the absence of any other written communication from us documenting such additional services, our services will continue to be governed by the terms of this engagement letter.

Our most recent peer review report accompanies this letter.

**Reporting**

The *Government Auditing Standards* report on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance and other matters will state that (1) that the purpose of the report is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control or on compliance, and (2) the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering internal control and compliance. The Uniform Guidance report on internal control over compliance will state that the purpose of the report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control over compliance and results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Both reports will state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose.

\*\*\*\*\*

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to the District 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 and return a full copy of this letter to us.

*Maze + Associates*

Maze & Associates

RESPONSE:

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of the District.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Sacramento Suburban Water Engagement Letter  
Fees Attachment  
December 31, 2024**

Our fees for the work described in the attached engagement letter will be as follows, unless they are adjusted for one or more of the items below.

Service	Fees
Annual Comprehensive Financial Report	\$37,671
Memorandum on Internal Control	Included above
Other Items:	
Expanded Audit Procedures	5,878
Single Audit (Per tested program), if needed	4,546
	\$48,095

**2025 Fees** – Our fees have been based on our Proposal with the District dated June 24, 2020.

Our price includes “print to PDF” versions of all reports issued. Due to the significant increase in the cost of paper products, our price also includes up to 10 bound copies of each report, except for the ACFR. If you require additional bound copies, we will provide a cost estimate before proceeding.

**Additional Services** - The above fees are for audit and assurance services described in the accompanying engagement letter. They do not include fees for assisting with closing the books nor providing other accounting services. Should the District require assistance beyond audit services we will provide a cost estimate before proceeding.

**Post-Closing Client Adjusting Entries** - The first step in our year-end audit is the preparation of financial statement drafts from your final closing trial balance. That means any entries you make after handing us your closing trial balance must be handled as audit adjustments, or in extreme cases, by re-inputting the entire trial balance, even if the amounts are immaterial. If you make such entries and the amounts are in fact immaterial, we will bill you for the costs of the adjustments or re-input at our normal hourly rates.

**Recurring Audit Adjustments** - Each year we include the prior year’s adjusting entries as new steps in our Closing Checklist, so that you can incorporate these entries in your closing. If we are required to continue to make these same adjustments as part of this year’s audit, we will bill for this service at our normal hourly rates.

**Single Audit Act** - Additional programs will each cost \$4,546 in 2024, unless there are other factors which add to that program’s cost; in that case, we will provide a cost estimate before proceeding.

**Grant Programs Requiring Separate Audit** - Grant programs requiring separate audits represent a significant increase in work scope, and fees for these audits vary based on the grant requirements. If you wish us to determine and identify which programs are subject to audit, we will bill you for that time at our normal hourly rates.

**Changes in District Personnel** - Our experience is that changes and /or reductions in Finance Department staff can have a pronounced impact on costs of performing the audit. If such changes occur, we will meet with you to assess their impact and arrive at a new fee before we begin the next phase of our work. However, we reserve the right to revisit this subject at the conclusion of the audit, based on your actual performance and our actual costs.



## Report on the Firm's System of Quality Control

### **MAZE & ASSOCIATES ACCOUNTANCY CORPORATION** and the Peer Review Committee of the California Society of CPAs

We have reviewed the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of Maze & Associates Accountancy Corporation (the firm) in effect for the year ended May 31, 2023. Our peer review was conducted in accordance with the Standards for Performing and Reporting on Peer Reviews established by the Peer Review Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (Standards).

A summary of the nature, objectives, scope, limitations of, and the procedures performed in a system review as described in the Standards may be found at [www.aicpa.org/prsummary](http://www.aicpa.org/prsummary). The summary also includes an explanation of how engagements identified as not performed or reported on in conformity with applicable professional standards, if any, are evaluated by a peer reviewer to determine a peer review rating.

#### **Firm's Responsibility**

The firm is responsible for designing and complying with a system of quality control to provide the firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with the requirements of applicable professional standards in all material respects. The firm is also responsible for evaluating actions to promptly remediate engagements deemed as not performed or reported on in conformity with the requirements of applicable professional standards, when appropriate, and for remediating weaknesses in its system of quality control, if any.

#### **Peer Reviewer's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the design of and compliance with the firm's system of quality control based on our review.

#### **Required Selections and Considerations**

Engagements selected for review included engagements performed under *Government Auditing Standards*, including compliance audits under the Single Audit Act.

As part of our peer review, we considered reviews by regulatory entities as communicated by the firm, if applicable, in determining the nature and extent of our procedures.

#### **CPAs ■ Advisors**

 4120 Concourse, Suite 100, Ontario, CA 91764  
 909.948.9990 / 800.644.0696 / FAX 909.948.9633  
 [gyl@gylcpa.com](mailto:gyl@gylcpa.com)  
 [www.gylcpa.com](http://www.gylcpa.com)

**CPAmerica**  
Member  Crowe Global



Peer Review Report  
Page 2 of 2

### Opinion

In our opinion, the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of Maze & Associates Accountancy Corporation in effect for the year ended May 31, 2023, has been suitably designed and complied with to provide the firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with applicable professional standards in all material respects. Firms can receive a rating of *pass*, *pass with deficiency(ies)* or *fail*. Maze & Associates Accountancy Corporation has received a peer review rating of *pass*.

***GYL LLP***

Ontario, California  
February 6, 2024

**GYL**

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**Task Order 5 to Master Services Agreement (MSA) Between  
Sacramento Suburban Water District and Maze & Associates  
Dated October 26, 2021**

This Task Order 5 (Task Order) is issued by the Sacramento Suburban Water District (“District”) to the Contractor listed above (“Contractor”), who agrees as follows:

**1 General Provisions**

- 1.1 Terms and Conditions: This Task Order is governed by all of the terms, conditions, and stipulations as stated in the MSA referenced above.
- 1.2 Order of Precedence: The MSA will take precedence for any conflicts between this Task Order and the MSA.

**2 Scope of Work**

The following is the agreed to scope of work:

- 2.1 Audit the District's basic financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS) in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the State Controller’s Minimum Audit Requirements for California Special Districts.
- 2.2 Express an opinion on the financial statements as to whether they present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the District and the changes in financial position and cash flows in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), and issue an independent auditors' report stating this opinion.
- 2.3 Test internal controls over financial reporting and on compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters, in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and those issue by the Comptroller General of the United States, and issue an independent auditors’ report on their consideration.
- 2.4 Apply limited procedures related to the Required Supplementary Information (RSI), Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) and the additional Supplementary Information contained in the ACFR, which is prepared by District staff.
- 2.5 Perform additional procedures by expanding the scope of your expense testing to include additional sample sizes for general cash disbursements, payroll disbursements, wire and ACH transfers, petty cash, and purchasing card payments. This testing will include verifying payments to District employees and Board members on a sample basis. Payment verification will include verifying the pay rates for at least one period of senior management, finance staff, anyone involved in the payroll processing function and a sample of 10 other employees.

- 2.6 Prepare a “Single Audit” Report and issue a related audit opinion, if necessary, for federal grant monies received and expenses made.
- 2.7 Prepare a Report to the Board of Directors which identifies significant audit findings, difficulties encountered in performing the audit, identify any corrected and uncorrected misstatements, disagreements with management, management representations, control deficiencies, significant deficiencies and material weaknesses, if any, and your recommendations for improvements in accounting and administrative controls.
- 2.8 Present and discuss the results of the audit and the annual financial statements to the Audit Committee of the Board and the full Board of Directors during one of its regularly scheduled meetings before June.
- 2.9 Communicate immediately and in writing all irregularities and illegal acts, or indications of illegal acts, of which the auditor becomes aware, to the appropriate level of management and/or Directors of the District.
- 2.10 Provide general consultation as required, during the year, on financial accounting and reporting matters.
- 2.11 Present to the Audit Committee a written statement indicating the independence of the Contractor as required by generally accepted auditing standards.

### 3 Cost

The total compensation for the services provided under in this Task Order shall be on a Fixed Fee basis as follows. Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and Management Letter, \$37,671; Expanded Audit Procedures, \$5,878; and, Single Audit (if necessary), \$4,546. Compensation shall be based on scope of work as stated above. There shall be no compensation for extra or additional work or services by Contractor unless approved in advance in writing by District. Contractor’s fee includes all of Contractor’s costs and expenses related to the Scope of Work.

### 4 Term

This Task Order shall take effect on the date fully executed below, and continue in effect until the earlier of the work being completed or December 31, 2025, unless sooner terminated as provided in the MSA.

**Sacramento Suburban Water District:**

**Maze & Associates:**

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: October 21, 2024

By: \_\_\_\_\_

By:  \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name: David Alvey

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

Title: Audit Partner/Vice President

## Sacramento Suburban Water District Master Services Agreement

This Master Services Agreement (“Agreement”) is entered into as of the date last signed and dated below by and between Sacramento Suburban Water District, a local government agency (“District”), and Maze & Associates Accountancy Corporation, a California Professional Corporation (“Contractor”), who agree as follows:

### 1 Scope of Work

This Agreement is a Master Services Agreement for Contractor to perform services for District. Contractor shall perform the work and render the services described in individual task orders issued by the District and agreed to by Contractor (the “Work”). Contractor shall provide all labor, services, equipment, tools, material and supplies required or necessary to properly, competently and completely perform the Work. Contractor shall determine the method, details and means of doing the Work.

### 2 Payment

2.1 District shall pay to Contractor a fee based on the fee arrangement described in each task order. There shall be no compensation for extra or additional work or services by Contractor unless approved in advance in writing by District. Contractor’s fee includes all of Contractor’s costs and expenses related to the Work.

2.2 At the end of each month, Contractor shall submit to District an invoice for the Work performed during the preceding month. The invoice shall include a brief description of the Work performed, the dates of Work, number of hours worked and by whom (if payment is based on time), payment due, and an itemization of any reimbursable expenditures. If the Work is satisfactorily completed and the invoice is accurately computed, District shall pay the invoice within 30 days of its receipt.

### 3 Term

3.1 This Agreement shall take effect on the above date and continue in effect until June 30, 2025, unless sooner terminated as provided below. Time is of the essence in this Agreement. If each individual task order includes a schedule or deadline, then Contractor must complete the work required by the task order in accordance with the specified schedule or deadline, which may be extended by District for good cause shown by Contractor. If each individual task order does not include a schedule or deadline, then Contractor must perform the work required by the task order diligently and as expeditiously as possible, consistent with the professional skill and care appropriate for the orderly progress of the Work.

3.2 This Agreement may be terminated at any time by District upon 10 days advance written notice to Contractor. In the event of such termination, Contractor shall be fairly compensated for all work performed to the date of termination as calculated by District based on the above fee and payment provisions. Compensation under this section shall not include any termination-related expenses, cancellation or demobilization charges, or lost profit associated with the expected completion of the Work or other such similar payments relating to Contractor’s claimed benefit of the bargain.

#### 4 Professional Ability of Contractor

4.1 Contractor represents that it is specially trained and experienced, and possesses the skill, ability, knowledge and certification, to competently perform the Work provided by this Agreement. District has relied upon Contractor's training, experience, skill, ability, knowledge and certification as a material inducement to enter into this Agreement. All Work performed by Contractor shall be in accordance with applicable legal requirements and meet the standard of care and quality ordinarily to be expected of competent professionals in Contractor's field.

#### 4.2 *Intentionally omitted*

#### 5 Conflict of Interest

Contractor (including principals, associates and professional employees) represents and acknowledges that (a) it does not now have and shall not acquire any direct or indirect investment, interest in real property or source of income that would be affected in any manner or degree by the performance of Contractor's services under this agreement, and (b) no person having any such interest shall perform any portion of the Work. The parties agree that Contractor is not a designated employee within the meaning of the Political Reform Act and District's conflict of interest code because Contractor will perform the Work independent of the control and direction of the District or of any District official, other than normal contract monitoring, and Contractor possesses no authority with respect to any District decision beyond the rendition of information, advice, recommendation or counsel.

#### 6 Contractor Records

6.1 Contractor shall keep and maintain all ledgers, books of account, invoices, vouchers, canceled checks, and other records and documents evidencing or relating to the Work and invoice preparation and support for a minimum period of three years (or for any longer period required by law) from the date of final payment to Contractor under this Agreement. District may inspect and audit such books and records, including source documents, to verify all charges, payments and reimbursable costs under this Agreement.

6.2 In accordance with California Government Code section 8546.7, the parties acknowledge that this Agreement, and performance and payments under it, are subject to examination and audit by the California State Auditor for three years following final payment under the Agreement.

#### 7 Ownership of Documents

All works of authorship and every report, study, spreadsheet, worksheet, plan, design, blueprint, specification, drawing, map, photograph, computer model, computer disk, magnetic tape, CAD data file, computer software and any other document or thing prepared, developed or created by Contractor under this Agreement and provided to District ("Work Product") shall be the property of District, and District shall have the rights to use, modify, reuse, reproduce, publish, display, broadcast and distribute the Work Product and to prepare derivative and additional documents or works based on the Work Product without further compensation to Contractor or any other party. Contractor may retain a copy of any Work Product and use, reproduce, publish, display, broadcast and distribute any Work Product and

prepare derivative and additional documents or works based on any Work Product; provided, however, that Contractor shall not provide any Work Product to any third party without District's prior written approval, unless compelled to do so by legal process. If any Work Product is copyrightable, Contractor may copyright the same, except that, as to any Work Product that is copyrighted by Contractor, District reserves a royalty-free, nonexclusive and irrevocable license to use, reuse, reproduce, publish, display, broadcast and distribute the Work Product and to prepare derivative and additional documents or works based on the Work Product. If District reuses or modifies any Work Product for a use or purpose other than that intended by the scope of work under this Agreement, then District shall hold Contractor harmless against all claims, damages, losses and expenses arising from such reuse or modification. For any Work Product provided to District in paper format, upon request by District at any time (including, but not limited to, at expiration or termination of this Agreement), Contractor agrees to provide the Work Product to District in a readable, transferable and usable electronic format generally acknowledged as being an industry-standard format for information exchange between computers (e.g., Word file, Excel spreadsheet file, AutoCAD file).

## 8 Confidentiality of Information

8.1 Contractor shall keep in strict confidence all confidential, privileged, trade secret, and proprietary information, data and other materials in any format generated, used or obtained by the District or created by Contractor in connection with the performance of the Work under this Agreement (the "Confidential Material"). Contractor shall not use any Confidential Material for any purpose other than the performance of the Work under this Agreement, unless otherwise authorized in writing by District. Contractor also shall not disclose any Confidential Material to any person or entity not connected with the performance of the Work under this Agreement, unless otherwise authorized in advance in writing by District. If there is a question if Confidential Material is protected from disclosure or is a public record or in the public domain, the party considering disclosure of such materials shall consult with the other party concerning the proposed disclosure.

8.2 Contractor, and its officers, employees, agents, and subcontractors, shall at all times take all steps that are necessary to protect and preserve all Confidential Material. At no time shall Contractor, or its officers, employees, agents, or subcontractors in any manner, either directly or indirectly, use for personal benefit or divulge, disclose, or communicate in any manner, any Confidential Material to any person or entity unless specifically authorized in writing by the District or by order of a court or regulatory entity with jurisdiction over the matter. Contractor, and its officers, employees, agents, and subcontractors shall protect the Confidential Material and treat it as strictly confidential in accordance with applicable law, District policies and directives, and best industry security practices and standards.

8.3 If any person or entity, other than District or Contractor, requests or demands, by subpoena, discovery request, California Public Records Act request or otherwise, Confidential Material or its contents, the party to whom the request is made will immediately notify the other party, so that the parties may collectively consider appropriate steps to protect the disclosure of those materials. The parties agree to take all steps reasonably necessary to preserve the confidential and privileged nature of the Confidential Material and its content. In the event that the parties cannot agree whether to oppose or comply with a disclosure demand, the opposing party may oppose the demand at its sole cost and expense,

in which event the party favoring disclosure will refrain from disclosing the demanded Confidential Material until such time as a final agreement regarding disclosure is reached or, if an agreement is not reached, a judicial determination is made concerning the demand.

8.4 Unless otherwise directed in writing by the District, upon contract completion or termination, Contractor must destroy all Confidential Materials (written, printed and/or electronic) and shall provide a written statement to the District that such materials have been destroyed.

## 9 Compliance with Laws

9.1 General. Contractor shall perform the Work in compliance with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations. Contractor shall possess, maintain and comply with all federal, state and local permits, licenses and certificates that may be required for it to perform the Work. Contractor shall comply with all federal, state and local air pollution control laws and regulations applicable to the Contractor and its Work (as required by California Code of Regulations title 13, section 2022.1). Contractor shall be responsible for the safety of its workers and Contractor shall comply with applicable federal and state worker safety-related laws and regulations.

### 9.2 *Intentionally omitted*

## 10 Indemnification.

10.1 Contractor shall indemnify, defend, protect, and hold harmless District, and its officers, employees and agents ("Indemnitees") from and against any claims, liability, losses, damages and expenses (including attorney, expert witness and Contractor fees, and litigation costs) (collectively a "Claim") that arise out of, pertain to, or relate to the negligence, recklessness, or willful misconduct of Contractor or its employees, agents or subcontractors. The duty to indemnify, including the duty and the cost to defend, is limited as provided in this section. However, this indemnity provision will not apply to any Claim arising from the sole negligence or willful misconduct of District or its employees or agents. Contractor's obligations under this indemnification provision shall survive the termination of, or completion of Work under, this Agreement.

### 10.2 *Intentionally omitted*

## 11 Insurance

Types & Limits. Contractor at its sole cost and expense shall procure and maintain for the duration of this Agreement the following types and limits of insurance:

<i>Type</i>	<i>Limits</i>	<i>Scope</i>
Commercial general liability	\$2,000,000 per occurrence & \$4,000,000 aggregate	at least as broad as Insurance Services Office (ISO) Commercial General Liability Coverage (Occurrence Form CG 00 01) including products and completed operations,

		property damage, bodily injury, personal and advertising injury
Automobile liability	\$1,000,000 per accident	at least as broad as ISO Business Auto Coverage (Form CA 00 01)
Workers' compensation	Statutory limits	
Employers' liability	\$1,000,000 per accident	
Professional liability*	\$1,000,000 per claim	

\*Required only if Contractor is a licensed engineer, land surveyor, geologist, architect, doctor, attorney or accountant.

11.1 **Other Requirements.** The general and automobile liability policy(ies) shall be endorsed to name District, its officers, employees, volunteers and agents as additional insureds regarding liability arising out of the Work. Contractor's coverage shall be primary and apply separately to each insurer against whom claim is made or suit is brought, except with respect to the limits of the insurer's liability. District's insurance or self-insurance, if any, shall be excess and shall not contribute with Contractor's insurance. Each insurance policy shall be endorsed to state that coverage shall not be canceled, except after 30 days (10 days for non-payment of premium) prior written notice to District. Insurance is to be placed with admitted insurers with a current A.M. Best's rating of A:VII or better unless otherwise acceptable to District. Workers' compensation insurance issued by the State Compensation Insurance Fund is acceptable. Contractor agrees to waive subrogation that any insurer may acquire from Contractor by virtue of the payment of any loss relating to the Work. Contractor agrees to obtain any endorsement that may be necessary to implement this subrogation waiver. The workers' compensation policy must be endorsed to contain a subrogation waiver in favor of District for the Work performed by Contractor.

11.2 **Proof of Insurance.** Upon request, Contractor shall provide to District the following proof of insurance: (a) certificate(s) of insurance evidencing this insurance; and (b) endorsement(s) on ISO Form CG 2010 (or insurer's equivalent), signed by a person authorized to bind coverage on behalf of the insurer(s), and certifying the additional insured coverage.

## 12 General Provisions

12.1 **Entire Agreement; Amendment.** The parties intend this writing to be the sole, final, complete, exclusive and integrated expression and statement of the terms of their contract concerning the Work. This Agreement supersedes all prior oral or written negotiations, representations, contracts or other documents that may be related to the Work, except those other documents (if any) that are expressly referenced in this Agreement. This Agreement may be amended only by a subsequent written contract approved and signed by both parties.

12.2 **Independent Contractor.** Contractor's relationship to District is that of an independent contractor. All persons hired by Contractor and performing the Work shall be Contractor's employees or agents. Contractor and its officers, employees and agents are not



District employees, and they are not entitled to District employment salary, wages or benefits. Contractor shall pay, and District shall not be responsible in any way for, the salary, wages, workers' compensation, unemployment insurance, disability insurance, tax withholding, and benefits to and on behalf of Contractor's employees. Contractor shall, to the fullest extent permitted by law, indemnify District, and its officers, employees, volunteers and agents from and against any and all liability, penalties, expenses and costs resulting from any adverse determination by the federal Internal Revenue Service, California Franchise Tax Board, other federal or state agency, or court concerning Contractor's independent contractor status or employment-related liability.

**12.3 Subcontractors.** No subcontract shall be awarded nor any subcontractor engaged by Contractor without District's prior written approval. Contractor shall be responsible for requiring and confirming that each approved subcontractor meets the minimum insurance requirements specified in section 11 of this Agreement. Any approved subcontractor shall obtain the required insurance coverages and provide proof of same to District in the manner provided in section 11 of this Agreement.

**12.4 Assignment.** This Agreement and all rights and obligations under it are personal to the parties. The Agreement may not be transferred, assigned, delegated or subcontracted in whole or in part, whether by assignment, subcontract, merger, operation of law or otherwise, by either party without the prior written consent of the other party. Any transfer, assignment, delegation, or subcontract in violation of this provision is null and void and grounds for the other party to terminate the Agreement.

**12.5 No Waiver of Rights.** Any waiver at any time by either party of its rights as to a breach or default of this Agreement shall not be deemed to be a waiver as to any other breach or default. No payment by District to Contractor shall be considered or construed to be an approval or acceptance of any Work or a waiver of any breach or default.

**12.6 Severability.** If any part of this Agreement is held to be void, invalid, illegal or unenforceable, then the remaining parts will continue in full force and effect and be fully binding, provided that each party still receives the benefits of this Agreement.

**12.7 Governing Law and Venue.** This Agreement will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California. The county and federal district court where District's office is located shall be venue for any state and federal court litigation concerning the enforcement or construction of this Agreement.

**12.8 Notice.** Any notice, demand, invoice or other communication required or permitted to be given under this Agreement must be in writing and delivered either (a) in person, (b) by prepaid, first class U.S. mail, (c) by a nationally-recognized commercial overnight courier service that guarantees next day delivery and provides a receipt, or (d) by email with confirmed receipt. Such notices, etc. shall be addressed as follows:

District:

Sacramento Suburban Water District  
 Attn: Jeff Ott, Director of Finance and Administration  
 Sacramento Suburban Water District, 3701 Marconi Avenue #100, Sacramento, CA  
 95821

E-mail: jott@sswd.org

Contractor:  
Maze & Associates  
Attn: David Alvey  
3478 Buskirk Ave, Suite 215  
Pleasant Hill, CA, 94523  
E-mail: david@mazeassociates.com

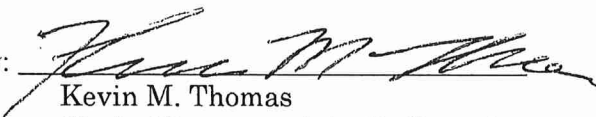
Notice given as above will be deemed given (a) when delivered in person, (b) three days after deposited in prepaid, first class U.S. mail, (c) on the date of delivery as shown on the overnight courier service receipt, or (d) upon the sender's receipt of an email from the other party confirming the delivery of the notice, etc. Any party may change its contact information by notifying the other party of the change in the manner provided above.

**12.9 Signature Authority.** Each party warrants that the person signing this Agreement is authorized to act on behalf of the party for whom that person signs. The Parties may execute and deliver this Agreement and documents necessary to perform it, including task orders and amendments, in any number of original or facsimile counterparts. When each Party has signed and delivered at least one counterpart to the other Party, each counterpart shall be deemed an original and, taken together, the counterparts shall constitute one and the same document, which shall be binding and effective.

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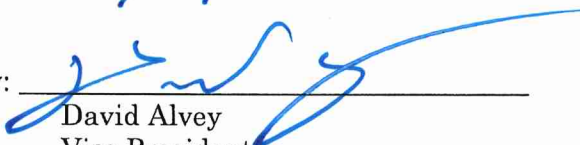
Sacramento Suburban Water District:

Dated: 10/21/2021

By:   
Kevin M. Thomas  
Chair, Finance and Audit Committee

Maze and Associates:

Dated: 10/26/21

By:   
David Alvey  
Vice President