



October 4, 2022

Finance/Administrative Committee and Board of Directors  
Edwards Aquifer Authority  
San Antonio, Texas

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Attention: Ms. Luana Buckner, Chairman of the Board

This letter is intended to communicate certain matters related to the planned scope and timing of our audit of Edwards Aquifer Authority's financial statements as of and for the year ending December 31, 2022.

## Communication

Effective two-way communication between our firm and the Finance/Administrative- Committee and Board of Directors is important to understanding matters related to the audit and developing a constructive working relationship.

Your insights may assist us in understanding Edwards Aquifer Authority and its environment, identifying appropriate sources of audit evidence and providing information about specific transactions or events. We will discuss with you your oversight of the effectiveness of internal control and any areas where you request additional procedures to be undertaken. We expect that you will timely communicate to us any matters you consider relevant to the audit. Such matters might include strategic decisions that may significantly affect the nature, timing and extent of audit procedures, your suspicion or detection of fraud, or any concerns you may have about the integrity or competence of senior management.

We will timely communicate to you any fraud involving senior management and other fraud that causes a material misstatement of the financial statements, instances of noncompliance with laws and regulations that come to our attention (unless they are clearly inconsequential), and disagreements with management and other serious difficulties encountered in performing the audit. We also will communicate to you and to management any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control that become known to us during the course of the audit. Additionally, we will communicate significant unusual transactions, matters that are difficult or contentious for which we consulted outside the engagement team, and circumstances that affect the form and content of the auditor's report. Other matters arising from the audit that are, in our professional judgment, significant and relevant to you in your oversight of the financial reporting process will be communicated to you in writing.

## Independence

Our independence policies and procedures are designed to provide reasonable assurance that our firm and its personnel comply with applicable professional independence standards. Our policies address financial interests, business and family relationships, and non-audit services that may be thought to bear on independence. For example, our partners and professional employees are restricted in their ability to own a direct financial interest or a material indirect financial interest in a client or any affiliate of a client.

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Also, if an immediate family member or close relative of a partner or professional employee is employed by a client in a key position, the incident must be reported and resolved in accordance with firm policy. In addition, our policies prohibit us from providing certain non-attest services and require audit clients to accept certain responsibilities in connection with the provision of permitted non-attest services.

## **The Audit Planning Process**

Our audit approach places a strong emphasis on obtaining an understanding of how your business functions. This enables us to identify key audit components and tailor our procedures to the unique aspects of your business. The development of a specific audit plan will begin by meeting with you and with management to obtain an understanding of your business objectives, strategies, risks and performance.

As part of obtaining an understanding of your business and its environment, we will obtain an understanding of your system of internal control. We will use this understanding to identify risks of material misstatement, which will provide us with a basis for designing and implementing responses to the assessed risks of material misstatement. We will also obtain an understanding of the users of the financial statements in order to establish an overall materiality level for audit purposes. We will conduct formal discussions among engagement team members to consider how and where your financial statements might be susceptible to material misstatement due to fraud or error.

## **The Concept of Materiality in Planning and Executing the Audit**

We apply the concept of materiality in both planning and performing the audit; evaluating the effect of identified misstatements on the audit and the effect of uncorrected misstatements, if any, on the financial statements; and forming the opinion in our report. Our determination of materiality is a matter of professional judgment and is affected by our perception of the financial information needs of users of the financial statements. We establish performance materiality at an amount less than materiality for the financial statements as a whole to allow for the risk of misstatements that may not be detected by the audit. We use performance materiality for purposes of assessing the risks of material misstatement and determining the nature, timing and extent of further audit procedures. Our assessment of materiality throughout the audit will be based on both quantitative and qualitative considerations. Because of the interaction of quantitative and qualitative considerations, misstatements of a relatively small amount could have a material effect on the current financial statements, as well as financial statements of future periods. We will accumulate misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial. At the end of the audit, we will inform you of all individual uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us in connection with our evaluation of our audit test results.

## **Significant Risks of Material Misstatement**

Our audit of the financial statements includes the performance of risk assessment procedures in order to identify risks of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. As part of these risk assessment procedures, we determine whether any risks identified are a significant risk. A significant risk is an identified risk of material misstatement for which the assessment of inherent risk is close to the upper end of the spectrum of inherent risk due to the degree to which inherent risk factors affect the combination of the likelihood of a misstatement occurring and the magnitude of the potential misstatement should that misstatement occur, or that is to be treated as a significant risk in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. As part of our initial risk assessment procedures, we identified the following risks as significant risks. Additional significant risks may be identified as we perform additional audit procedures.

Risk Name	Risk Description
<b>Management Override of Controls</b>	Management is in a unique position to perpetuate fraud because of management's ability to intentionally manipulate accounting records and prepare fraudulent financial statements by overriding controls.
<b>Fraudulent Revenue Recognition</b>	The risk that revenue is overstated to mislead the financial statement users.

## Our Approach to Understanding Your System of Internal Control

Our audit of the financial statements will include obtaining an understanding of internal control sufficient to plan the audit and determine the nature, timing and extent of audit procedures to be performed. A financial statement audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or identify significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. Our review and understanding of Edwards Aquifer Authority's internal control is not undertaken for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control.

## Timing of the Audit

Preliminary audit work is scheduled to take place November 28, 2022, and we have scheduled fieldwork for the week of February 13, 2023. Management's adherence to its closing schedule and timely completion of information used by us in performance of the audit is essential to timely completion of the audit.

## Closing

We will be pleased to respond to any questions you have about the foregoing. We appreciate the opportunity to continue to be of service to Edwards Aquifer Authority.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of the Finance/Administrative Committee and Board of Directors and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than this specified party.

*RSM VS LLP*