



Item No. 5 Town of Atherton

FINANCE COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT

TO: FINANCE COMMITTEE

FROM: ROBERT BARRON III, FINANCE DIRECTOR

DATE: SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2021/22 PRELIMINARY AUDIT & SCOPE

RECOMMENDATION

Discuss the Fiscal Year 2021/22 Audit with independent auditor regarding the preliminary audit work and scope.

BACKGROUND

Maze and Associates is the Town's independent auditor and is tasked with the audit of the basic financial statements. The field work for the interim audit phase for FY 2021/22 began the week of June 20 – 24. As we continue to navigate COVID-19 pandemic the interim audit was performed remotely. It is anticipated that the final audit will be a hybrid audit, primarily remote with possibly scheduled on-site days. As we begin the audit engagement for FY 2021/22, there is the required audit process SAS 114 communication with the committee. This includes the communication of the auditor's responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards, concept of materiality, the planned scope, timing, independence, management representations, and process of the audit. Discussion to also include any new GASB standards implementations. Audit engagement partner Grace Zhang is here to communicate the auditor's responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) Auditing Standard Boards updated format standards, and process of the audit.

FINDINGS | ANALYSIS

This is a communication of the FY 2021/22 interim audit phase. The final audit field work is scheduled for the week of October 3, 2022. The Auditor will give an update on the required audit planning communications (SAS 114) for the independent audit of the Town.

ATTACHMENT

Audit Planning Communication-Year End June 30, 2022

September 13, 2022

Mayor, and Finance Committee members
Town of Atherton
91 Ashfield
Atherton, CA 94027

Dear Mayor, and Finance Committee members,

We are engaged to audit of the Town's basic financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2022, including its blended component units. 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. If you like, we could also 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, Government Auditing Standards and the Uniform Guidance

As stated in our engagement letter provided to the Town's Finance Director dated June 20, 2022, 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.

As part of our audit, we will consider the internal control of the Town. Such considerations are solely for the purpose of determining our audit procedures and not to provide any assurance concerning such internal control.

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will also perform tests of the Town's 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.

In planning and performing our audit, we will consider the Town'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 if Single Audit is required for Town in the current fiscal year.

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Town'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 Town'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 Town'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 Town'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 RSI, such as management's discussion and analysis, pension and OPEB schedules, 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 been engaged to report on the supplementary information, such as the combining statements, individual fund statements, which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. Our responsibility for this supplementary information, as described by professional standards, is to evaluate the presentation of the supplementary information in relation to the financial statements as a whole and to report on whether the supplementary information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

We have not been engaged to report on the other information accompanying the financial statements, such as introductory section 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 Audit Scope

The audit scope is included in the engagement letter provided to the Finance Director dated June 20, 2022 (copy enclosed). It defines what an audit of the Town'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 Town pursuant to the Council'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 Town staff and agreed to the following schedule:

- The interim phase of the audit (internal control review and tests) is scheduled for the week of June 20.
- The final phase of the audit (substantive tests and financial report preparation) is scheduled for the week of October 3.
- Our current plan is to finalize the reports before the end of December.

Communicating the Audit Process

We discussed the above topics with staff and wish to provide you an opportunity to participate in the audit process prior to its completion. If you could please respond to the following questions related to the Town 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 Town or its component units and elected or appointed officials)

Please return your responses to the above questions via email to gracez@mazeassociates.com. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. We can arrange a separate meeting if needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maze & Associates".

Maze & Associates



June 20, 2022

Robert Barron
Finance Director
Town of Atherton
91 Ashfield
Atherton, CA 94027

Dear Robert:

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the services we are to provide for the Town of Atherton as of and for the year ended June 30, 2022.

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, and preparation of our Memorandum on Internal Control.
- 2) Testing of compliance with the Agreement for Distribution of Measure A Funds.
- 3) Perform procedures and issue agreed upon procedures report to comply with Proposition 111 Appropriation Limit increment requirements.
- 4) Preparation of the Town and Special District's Annual Report of Financial Transactions (Controller's Report) and issuance of compilation reports. (See Compilation Attachment for Our Responsibilities and Your Responsibilities related to the compilation report)
- 5) If applicable, testing of one major program for compliance with the Single Audit Act and applicable laws and regulations and issuance of our reports thereon.
- 6) Audit of Transportation Development Act Projects.
- 7) Testing of compliance with the Agreement for Distribution of Measure W Funds.

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 City'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 City'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 City'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*.
- If applicable, internal control over compliance related to major programs for Single Audit, 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, and will include tests of the accounting records 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 City or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the City. 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 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. 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. 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, creditors and financial institutions. We will also request written representations from your attorneys as part of the engagement, and they may bill the City 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 City 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 Council 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 City's compliance with provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements and grants. However, the objective of our audit 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*.

If applicable, for Single Audit, the Uniform Guidance requires that we also plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the City 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 City's compliance with requirements applicable to each of its major programs in our report on compliance issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance.

Agreed-Upon Procedures

The City agrees to the procedures related to the Appropriations Limit Worksheet (Worksheet) for the year ended June 30, 2022, as suggested by the League of California Cities and presented in their Article XIII B Appropriations Limitation Uniform Guidelines, and will acknowledge that the procedures to be performed are appropriate for the intended purpose of the engagement, which is to assist you in meeting the requirements of Section 1.5 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution. Our engagement to apply agreed-upon procedures to the Worksheet will be conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require that we obtain your written agreement to the procedures to be applied and your acknowledgement that those procedures are appropriate for the intended purpose of the engagement. The agreement and acknowledgement are contained within this letter. A refusal to provide such agreement and acknowledgement will result in our withdrawal from the engagement. We make no representation that the procedures we will perform are appropriate for the intended purpose of the engagement or for any other purpose.

Because the procedures requested do not constitute an examination or review, we will not express an opinion or conclusion on the Worksheet. In addition, we have no obligation to perform any procedures beyond those to which you agree.

We will issue a written report upon completion of our engagement that lists the procedures performed and our findings. Our report will be addressed to the City. If we encounter restrictions in performing our procedures, we will discuss the matter with you. If we determine the restrictions are appropriate, we will disclose the restrictions in our report. Our report will contain a paragraph indicating that had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

There may exist circumstances that, in our professional judgement, will require we withdraw from the engagement. Such circumstances include the following:

- You refuse to provide written agreement to the procedures and acknowledge that they are appropriate for the intended purpose of the engagement.
- You fail to provide requested written representations, or we conclude that there is sufficient doubt about the competence, integrity, ethical values or diligence of those providing the written representations, or we conclude that the written representations provided are otherwise not reliable.
- We determine that the description of the procedures performed or the corresponding findings are misleading in the circumstances of the engagement.
- We determine that restrictions on the performance of procedures are not appropriate.

An agreed-upon procedures engagement is not designed to detect instances of fraud or noncompliance with laws or regulations; however, should any such matters come to our attention, we will communicate them in accordance with professional standards and applicable law. In addition, if, in connection with this engagement, matters come to our attention that contradict that the Worksheet is in accordance with Article XIII B of the California Constitution, we will communicate such matters to you.

You agree to the procedures to be performed and acknowledge that they are appropriate for the intended purpose of the engagement.

You are responsible for the Worksheet and that it is in accordance with Article XIII B of the California Constitution. In addition, you are responsible for providing us with (1) access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the performance of the agreed-upon procedures on the subject matter, (2) additional information that we may request for the purpose of performing the agreed-upon procedures, and (3) unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom we determine it necessary to obtain evidence relating to performing those procedures.

At the conclusion of our engagement, we will require certain written representations in the form of a representation letter from management that, among other things, will confirm management's responsibility for the presentation of the Worksheet in accordance with Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

Other Services

We will also assist in preparing the financial statements and related notes in conformity with GAAP 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 statement services previously defined. We, in our sole professional judgment, reserve the right to refuse to perform any procedures or take any action that could be construed as assuming management responsibilities.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that you acknowledge and understand your responsibility for designing, implementing, 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, and for evaluating and monitoring ongoing activities to help ensure that appropriate goals and objectives are met; following laws and regulations and 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 and all accompanying information in conformity with GAAP, and for compliance and applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements.

Management is responsible for making drafts of financial statements, 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). We understand that the City will provide us with the Closing Checklist information required for our audit and that the City is responsible for the accuracy and completeness of that information. Management is also responsible for providing us with (1) access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, such as records, documentation, identification of all related parties and all related-party relationships and transactions, and other matters, (2) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit; and (3) unrestricted access to persons within the government from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence. We understand that the City will provide us with the Closing Checklist information required for our audit and that the City 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; compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements; and other responsibilities required by GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*.

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 taken 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 City 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 City received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, management is responsible for identifying and ensuring that the City complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements and grants and for taking timely and appropriate steps to remedy fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, or contracts or grant agreements that we report.

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 responsible for the preparation of the 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 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) that 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.

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.

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.

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, as applicable. 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.

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.

Engagement Administration, Fees, and Other

We will provide copies of our reports to the City; 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.

We expect to begin our audit in June 2022 and to issue our reports no later than December 31, 2022, provided all requested essential audit items have been received timely. Grace Zhang 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 City. 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 City's account becomes thirty days or more overdue and may not be resumed until the City'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 City personnel, the completion of schedules and data requested on our Checklists by City personnel, preparation of audit confirmations we request by City 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 City 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

We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of the City's financial statements, which, if the financial statements include information other than RSI and supplemental information, will also address other information in accordance with AU-C 720, *The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information Included in Annual Reports*. Our reports will be addressed to the City Council. Circumstances may arise in which our report may differ from its expected form and content based on the results of our audit. Depending on the nature of these circumstances, it may be necessary for us to modify our opinions, add a separate section, or add an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph to our auditor's report, or if necessary, withdraw from this engagement. If our opinions are other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with City management in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed opinions, we may decline to express opinions or may withdraw from this engagement.

We will also provide a report (that does not include an opinion) on internal control related to the financial statements and compliance with the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements as required by *Government Auditing Standards*. The report on internal control and on compliance and other matters will include a paragraph that states (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 on compliance, and (2) that the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering internal control and compliance. The paragraph will also state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose. If during our audit we become aware that the City is subject to an audit requirement that is not encompassed in the terms of this engagement, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance that an audit in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* may not satisfy the relevant legal, regulatory, or contractual requirements.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to the City 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 the enclosed copy and return the entire copy to us.

Maze & Associates

Maze & Associates

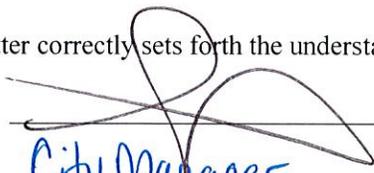
RESPONSE:

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of the City.

By: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____



City Manager

8/25/22

**Town of Atherton
Engagement Letter
Fees Attachment
June 30, 2022**

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.

Item	Fees
Basic Financial Statements Report and Memorandum on Internal Control	\$51,490
Measure A Report	1,820
Appropriations Limit	1,060
State Controllers Report – Town	5,815
State Controllers Report – Special District	2,475
Single Audit, one program	5,425
TDA	3,275
Measure W Report	<u>2,000</u>
Total	<u>\$73,360</u>

2022 Fees – Our recurring fees have been based on our extension letter with the City dated April 9, 2021.

Implementation of GASB 87– Please note there will be an audit scope increase required for GASB #87, *Leases*, which will include the cost of expanded audit scope and testing related to implementation and related footnote disclosures. Once the City’s staff provides us with a complete inventory of its leases, we will provide the quote of additional fees for this implementation.

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 City 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.

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 City 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.

**Town of Atherton
Engagement Letter
Compilation Attachment
June 30, 2022**

The services we have been engaged to provide are outlined below.

- Prepare and Electronically File the following Reports for the City:
 - Annual Report of Financial Transactions for the Town
 - Annual Report of Financial Transactions for the Special District

We will prepare and electronically file the Annual Financial Transactions Report(s) for the year ended June 30, 2022 in accordance with the requirements of Government Code Section 53891 and the California State Controller's Office's Cities and Special Districts, as applicable, Financial Transactions Report Instructions dated 10/2021 and perform a compilation engagement with respect to the Financial Transactions Report. City staff will provide us with a detailed trial balance and any supporting general ledger reports or schedules required to prepare the Report(s).

The supplementary information accompanying the Report(s), including the U.S. Bureau of the Census Survey and any others required by the California State Controller's Office, will be presented for purposes of additional analysis. Such supplementary information is the responsibility of management and will not be subject to our compilation engagement.

Our Responsibilities

The objective of our engagement is to-

1. prepare the Report(s) in accordance with the format prescribed by the California State Controller's Office based on information provided by you and is not intended to be a presentation in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and
2. apply accounting and financial reporting expertise to assist you in the presentation of the Report(s) without undertaking to obtain or provide any assurance that there are no material modifications that should be made to the Report(s) in order for them to be in accordance with the format prescribed by the California State Controller's Office.

We will conduct our compilation engagement in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services (SSARS) promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the AICPA and comply with applicable professional standards, including the AICPA's *Code of Professional Conduct*, and its ethical principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence, and due care, when performing the preparation and electronic filing of the Report(s), and performing the compilation engagement.

We are not required to, and will not, verify the accuracy or completeness of the information you will provide to us for the engagement or otherwise gather evidence for the purpose of expressing an opinion or a conclusion. Accordingly, we will not express an opinion, a conclusion, nor provide any assurance on the Report(s).

Our engagement cannot be relied upon to identify or disclose any Report misstatements, including those caused by fraud or error, or to identify or disclose any wrongdoing within the entity or noncompliance with laws and regulations.

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 responsibilities since taking such action would impair our independence.

Your Responsibilities

The engagement to be performed is conducted on the basis that you acknowledge and understand that our role is to prepare the Report(s) in accordance with the format prescribed by the California State Controller's Office and assist you in the presentation of the Report(s) in accordance with the format prescribed by the California State Controller's Office. You have the following overall responsibilities that are fundamental to our undertaking the engagement in accordance with SSARS:

1. The selection of the format prescribed by the California State Controller's Office as the financial reporting framework to be applied in the preparation of the Report(s).
2. The preparation and fair presentation of the Report(s) in accordance with the format prescribed by the California State Controller's Office.
3. The design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the Report(s) that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
4. The prevention and detection of fraud.
5. To ensure that the City complies with the laws and regulations applicable to its activities.
6. The accuracy and completeness of the records, documents, explanations, and other information, including significant judgments, you provide to us for the engagement.
7. To provide us with-
 - a. access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the fair presentation of the Report(s), such as records, documentation, and other matters.
 - b. additional information that we may request from you for the purpose of the compilation engagement.
 - c. unrestricted access to persons within the entity of whom we determine it necessary to make inquiries.

You are also responsible for all management decisions and responsibilities and for designating an individual with suitable skills, knowledge, and experience to oversee our preparation and electronic filing of your Report(s). You are responsible for evaluating the adequacy and results of the services performed and accepting responsibility for such services.

Our Report

As part of our engagement, we will issue a report that will state that we did not audit or review the Report(s) and that, accordingly, we do not express an opinion, a conclusion, or provide any assurance on it(them). There may be circumstances in which the Report(s) differ from the expected form and content. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the compilation of your Report(s), we will not issue a report on such Report(s) as a result of this engagement.

Our report will disclose that the Report(s) are presented in a prescribed form in accordance with the requirements of the California State Controller's Office and are not intended to be a presentation in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

You agree to include our accountant's compilation report in any document containing the Report(s) that indicates we have performed a compilation engagement on such Report(s) and, prior to inclusion of the report, to obtain our permission to do so.

Grace Zhang is the engagement partner and is responsible for supervising the compilation portion of the engagement and signing the report or authorizing another individual to sign it.



www.CoughlanNapaCPACo.com
Company@CoughlanNapaCPACo.com

Report on the Firm's System of Quality Control

February 9, 2021

To 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, 2020. 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. The summary also includes an explanation of how engagements identified as not performed or reported 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 a system of quality control and complying with it to provide the firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with 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 in conformity with 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 the system of quality control and the firm's compliance therewith based on our review.

190 Camino Oruga, Suite 1 • Napa, CA 94558 • telephone: 707.255.0677 • fax: 707.255.0687
Member: American Institute of CPAs • California, Hawaii, & Oregon Societies of CPAs

Required Selections and Considerations

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

As a 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.

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, 2020, 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*.

Coughlan Napa CPA Company, Inc.

Coughlan Napa CPA Company, Inc.