



Board Report

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**MEASURE M INDEPENDENT TAXPAYER
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
MARCH 6, 2024**

SUBJECT: MEASURE M AUDITS OF FISCAL YEAR 2023

ACTION: RECEIVE AND FILE

RECOMMENDATION

RECEIVE AND FILE the Independent Auditor’s Report on:

- A. Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures for Measure M Special Revenue Fund for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2023, completed by BCA Watson Rice, LLP (BCA);
- B. Compliance with Requirements Applicable to Measure M Ordinance and Measure M Local Return Guidelines for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2023, completed by Vasquez & Company, LLP (Vasquez); and
- C. Compliance with Requirements Applicable to Measure M Ordinance and Measure M Local Return Guidelines for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2023, completed by Simpson & Simpson, CPAs (Simpson).

ISSUE

The oversight process stipulated in the Measure M Ordinance requires that an annual audit be completed within six months after the end of the fiscal year to determine compliance with the provisions of the Ordinance, and the Measure M Guidelines developed by Metro, related to the receipt and expenditure of sales tax revenues during the fiscal year. The audit must be provided to the Oversight Committee so that the Oversight Committee can review the results of the audit performed and make findings as to whether LACMTA and local subrecipients are in compliance with the terms of the Ordinance.

BACKGROUND

On November 9, 2016, Los Angeles County voters approved Measure M which imposed a half-cent transaction and use tax for transportation, and the indefinite extension of an existing half-cent sales

tax (Measure R) also dedicated to transportation and originally set to expire in 2039. Measure M, also known as the Los Angeles County Traffic Improvement Plan Ordinance (Ordinance) establishes an Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee and an oversight process to ensure that the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) complies with the terms of the Ordinance.

DISCUSSION

The following summarizes the independent auditor's report on the Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures for the Measure M Special Revenue Fund:

Management Audit Services contracted with BCA to perform the independent audit of the LACMTA, as required by the Ordinance. BCA conducted the audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted 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. Those standards require that BCA plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Schedule of Measure M Revenues and Expenditures (Schedule) is free of material misstatement.

The auditors found that the Schedule referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the Measure M Revenues and Expenditures of LACMTA for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The auditors also found that LACMTA complied, in all material respects, with the requirements of the Ordinance for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023.

The following summarizes the independent auditor's report on Compliance with Requirements Applicable to Measure M Ordinance and Measure M Local Return Guidelines:

Management Audit Services contracted with two firms, Vasquez and Simpson, to conduct the audits of Measure M sales tax revenues used by the County of Los Angeles (County) as well as the 88 cities (Cities). The firms conducted the audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted 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. Those standards require that the independent auditors plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether noncompliance with the requirements in the Ordinance which could have a direct and material effect on the Measure M Local Return program occurred.

Vasquez concluded that the County and the 39 Cities complied in all material respects, with the requirements in the Ordinance that are applicable to the Measure M Local Return program for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. Vasquez found two (2) instances of noncompliance, which are summarized in Schedule 2 of Attachment B.

Simpson concluded that the 49 Cities complied, in all material respects, with the requirements in the Ordinance that are applicable to the Measure M Local Return program for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. Simpson found nine (9) instances of noncompliance, which are summarized in Schedule 2 of Attachment C.

NEXT STEPS

A public hearing will be scheduled to report on the results of the audits and receive public input.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- A. Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures for Measure M Special Revenue Fund (BCA)
- B. Report on Compliance with Requirements Applicable to Measure M Ordinance and Measure M Local Return Guidelines (Vasquez)
- C. Report on Compliance with Requirements Applicable to Measure M Ordinance and Measure M Local Return Guidelines (Simpson and Simpson)

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Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

**Independent Auditor's Report
On Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures
For
Measure M Special Revenue Fund**

**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
(With Comparative Totals For 2022)**



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Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Measure M Special Revenue Fund
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

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Independent Auditor's Report

Measure M Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Report on the Audit of the Schedule of Measure M Revenues and Expenditures

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying Schedule of Measure M Revenues and Expenditures (the Schedule) of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the Schedule, which collectively comprise LACMTA's basic Schedule as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the Schedule referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the Measure M Revenues and Expenditures of LACMTA for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted 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. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Schedule section of our report. We are required to be independent of the LACMTA and to meet our ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 3 to the Schedule, the accompanying Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures of the Measure M Fund is intended to present the revenues and expenditures attributable to the Measure M Fund. They do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of the LACMTA, as of June 30, 2023, and the changes in its financial position for the year then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our report is not modified with respect to this matter.

Responsibilities of Management for the Schedule of Measure M Revenues and Expenditures

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the Schedule in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the Schedule that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Schedule of Measure M Revenues and Expenditures

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Schedule as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. 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 generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. 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. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the Schedule.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the Schedule, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the Schedule.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the LACMTA's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the Schedule.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the budgetary comparison information be presented to supplement the basic Schedule. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic Schedule, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of the financial reporting for placing the basic Schedule in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic Schedule, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic Schedule. We do 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.

Other Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements as a whole. The schedule of expenditures by subfund and programs - budget to actual and the schedule of fund balances by subfund and programs for the fiscal year ended and as of June 30, 2023, on pages 10 and 11 are presented for purposes of additional analyses and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements, and accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

Prior-Year Comparative Information

We have previously audited the Schedule of Measure M Revenues and Expenditures of LACMTA, and we expressed an unmodified audit opinion in our report dated November 17, 2022. In our opinion, the summarized comparative information presented herein for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, is consistent, in all material respects, with the audited Schedule from which it has been derived.

BCA Watson Rice, LLP

Torrance, CA
November 28, 2023

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Measure M Special Revenue Fund
Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
(With Comparative Totals for 2022)
(Amounts expressed in thousands)

	2023	2022
Revenues		
Sales tax	\$ 1,106,177	\$ 1,089,933
Intergovernmental	1,581	-
Investment income	29,304	5,900
Net decline in fair value of investments	(1,647)	(15,666)
	1,135,415	1,080,167
Total revenues		
Expenditures		
Administration and other	64,634	57,292
Transportation subsidies	346,936	327,855
	411,570	385,147
Total expenditures		
Excess of revenues over expenditures	723,845	695,020
Other financing sources (uses)		
Transfers in	837	-
Transfers out	(685,159)	(256,030)
	(684,322)	(256,030)
Total other financing sources (uses)		
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures and other financing uses	\$ 39,523	\$ 438,990

The Notes to the Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures are an integral part of this Schedule.

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Measure M Special Revenue Fund
Notes to the Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

The Notes to the Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures are summaries of significant accounting policies and other disclosures considered necessary for a clear understanding of the accompanying schedule of revenues and expenditures.

Unless otherwise stated, all dollar amounts are expressed in thousands.

1. Organization

General

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) is governed by a Board of Directors composed of five members of the County Board of Supervisors, the Mayor of the City of Los Angeles, three members appointed by the Mayor, and four members who are either mayors or members of a city council and have been appointed by the Los Angeles County City Selection Committee to represent the other cities in the County and a non-voting member appointed by the Governor of the State of California.

LACMTA is unique among the nation's transportation agencies. It serves as transportation planner and coordinator, designer, builder, and operator for one of the country's largest and most populous counties. More than 10 million people, about one-third of California's residents, live, work, and play within its 1,433-square-mile service area.

Measure M

Measure M, also known as Ordinance No. 16-01, the Los Angeles County Traffic Improvement Plan, is a special revenue fund used to account for the proceeds of the voter-approved one-half percent sales tax that became effective on November 8, 2016, and the rate of the tax shall increase to one percent on July 1, 2039, immediately upon expiration of the one-half percent sales tax imposed by Traffic Relief and Rail Expansion Ordinance (Measure M).

Revenues collected are required to be allocated in the following manner: 1) 5% for Metro rail operations; 2) 20% for transit operations (Metro and Municipal Providers); 3) 2% for ADA Paratransit for the disabled and Metro discounts for seniors and students; 4) 35% for transit construction; 5) 2% for Metro State of Good Repair projects; 6) 17% for highway construction; 7) 2% for Metro active transportation program; 8) 16% for local return - base for local projects and transit services; and 9) 1% for local return for regional rail.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures for the Measure M Special Revenue Fund was prepared in conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) in the United States of America as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the recognized standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles for governments.

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Measure M Special Revenue Fund
Notes to the Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

The most significant of LACMTA's accounting policies with regard to the special revenue fund type are described below:

Fund Accounting

LACMTA utilizes fund accounting to report its financial position and the results of its operations. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain governmental functions or activities. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Funds are classified into three categories: governmental, proprietary, and fiduciary. Governmental Funds are used to account for most of LACMTA's governmental activities. The measurement focus is a determination of changes in financial position, rather than a net income determination. LACMTA uses the governmental fund type Special Revenue Fund to account for Measure M sales tax revenues and expenditures. Special Revenue Funds are used to account for proceeds of specific revenue sources that are legally restricted to expenditures for specified purposes.

Basis of Accounting

The modified accrual basis of accounting is used for the special revenue fund type. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recorded when susceptible to accrual, which means measurable (amount can be determined) and available (collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current period).

Budgetary Accounting

The established legislation and adopted policies and procedures provide that the LACMTA's Board approves an annual budget. Annual budgets are adopted on a basis consistent with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles in the United States of America for all governmental funds.

Prior to the adoption of the budget, the Board conducts public hearings for discussion of the proposed annual budget and at the conclusion of the hearings, but no later than June 30, adopts the final budget. All appropriations lapse at fiscal year-end. The budget is prepared by fund, project, expense type, and department. The legal level of control is at the fund level and the Board must approve additional appropriations.

By policy, the Board has provided procedures for management to make revisions within operational or project budgets only when there is no net dollar impact on the total appropriations at the fund level. Budget amendments are made when needed.

Annual budgets are adopted by LACMTA on the modified accrual basis of accounting for the special revenue fund types, on a basis consistent with GAAP as reflected in the Schedule.

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Measure M Special Revenue Fund
Notes to the Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Investment Income and Net Decline in Fair Value of Investments

Investment income and net decline in fair value of investments are shown on the Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures. LACMTA maintains a pooled cash and investments account that is available for use by all funds, except those restricted by State statutes. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, the Measure M fund had an investment income of \$29,304 and a net decline in the fair value of investments of \$1,647. The net decline in investments was mainly due to a decrease in the fair market value of the investment portfolios mostly invested in bonds, which are sensitive to changes in interest rates.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of the Schedule in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of revenues and expenditures during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Comparative Financial Data

The amounts shown for 2022 in the accompanying Schedule are included only to provide a basis for comparison with 2023 and are not intended to present all information necessary for a fair presentation in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

3. Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures for Measure M Special Revenue Fund

The Schedule is intended to reflect the revenues and expenditures of the Measure M fund only. Accordingly, the Schedule does not purport to, and does not, present fairly the financial position of the LACMTA and changes in the financial position thereof for the year then ended in conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles in the United States of America.

4. Intergovernmental Transactions

Any transaction conducted with a governmental agency outside the complete jurisdiction of LACMTA will be recorded in an account designated as Intergovernmental.

5. Operating Transfers

Amounts reflected as operating transfers represent permanent, legally authorized transfers from a fund receiving revenue to the fund through which the resources are to be expended. All operating transfers in/out of the Measure M Special Revenue Fund have been made in accordance with all expenditure requirements of the Measure M Ordinance.

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Measure M Special Revenue Fund
Notes to the Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

6. Excess of Revenues and Other Financing Sources Over Expenditures and Other Financing Uses

The Measure M fund at June 30, 2023 had an excess of revenues over expenditures and other financing uses of \$39,523 primarily due to higher sales tax and investment income. The foregoing factors contributed to the increase in Measure M Fund balance from \$1,111,432 to \$1,150,955 at June 30, 2023.

8. Audited Financial Statements

The audited financial statements for the Measure M Special Revenue Fund for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, are included in LACMTA's Audited Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR).

9. Contingent Liabilities

LACMTA is aware of potential claims that may be filed against them. The outcome of these matters is not presently determinable, but the resolution of these matters is not expected to have a significant impact on the financial condition of LACMTA.

10. Subsequent Events

In preparing the Schedule of Measure M Revenues and Expenditures, LACMTA has evaluated events and transactions for potential recognition or disclosure through November 28, 2023, the date the schedule was available to be issued. Based on this evaluation, it was determined that no subsequent events occurred that required recognition or additional disclosure in the Schedule.

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Measure M Special Revenue Fund
Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures – Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
(Amounts expressed in thousands)

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget
	Original	Final		
Revenues				
Sales tax	\$ 1,031,800	\$ 1,031,800	\$ 1,106,177	\$ 74,377
Intergovernmental	10,607	10,607	1,581	(9,026)
Investment income	-	-	29,304	29,304
Net decline in fair value of investments	-	-	(1,647)	(1,647)
Total revenues	<u>1,042,407</u>	<u>1,042,407</u>	<u>1,135,415</u>	<u>93,008</u>
Expenditures				
Administration and other	99,977	97,070	64,634	32,436
Transportation subsidies	407,887	405,710	346,936	58,774
Total expenditures	<u>507,864</u>	<u>502,780</u>	<u>411,570</u>	<u>91,210</u>
Excess of revenues over expenditures	<u>534,543</u>	<u>539,627</u>	<u>723,845</u>	<u>184,218</u>
Other financing sources (uses)				
Transfers in	15,456	15,456	837	(14,619)
Transfers out	(779,694)	(779,694)	(685,159)	94,535
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>(764,238)</u>	<u>(764,238)</u>	<u>(684,322)</u>	<u>79,916</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures and other financing uses	<u>\$ (229,695)</u>	<u>\$ (224,611)</u>	<u>\$ 39,523</u>	<u>\$ 264,134</u>

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Measure M Special Revenue Fund
Schedule of Expenditures by Subfund and Programs – Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
(Amounts expressed in thousands)

Subfund	Programs	Final Budget	Actual	Variance with Final Budget
	Program:			
<i>Transit Operating and Maintenance</i>	Metro rail operations	\$ -	\$ 137,102	\$ (137,102)
	Transit operations	71,999	229,937	(157,938)
	ADA Paratransit	20,326	12,440	7,886
<i>Transit/First/ Last Mile (Capital)</i>	Transit construction	591,762	330,057	261,705
	Metro State of Good Repair	31,531	11,389	20,142
<i>Highway, Active Transportation, Complete Streets (Capital)</i>	Highway construction	335,262	166,189	169,073
	Metro active transportation program	25,608	8,747	16,861
<i>Local Return/ Regional Rail</i>	Local return	162,457	185,229	(22,772)
	Regional rail	11,745	10,788	957
	Total Program	1,250,690	1,091,878	158,812
Administration	Administration	16,328	4,014	12,314
	Total	\$ 1,267,018	\$ 1,095,892	\$ 171,126

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Measure M Special Revenue Fund
Schedule of Fund Balances by Subfund and Programs
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
(Amounts expressed in thousands)

Subfund	Programs	Balance, July 1, 2023	Revenues			Expenditures/Uses of Funds				Fund Balance
			Revenue Allocations	Other Revenues	Total Revenues	Admin	Local Return / Transportation Subsidies	Transfers-out/ Capital Projects	Other Financing Sources	
<i>Transit Operating & Maintenance</i>	Program:									
	Metro Rail Operations	\$ 91,985	\$ 54,095	\$ 1,128	\$ 55,223	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (137,102)	\$ -	\$ 10,106
	Transit Operations	398,841	225,063	(670)	224,393	-	(71,940)	(157,997)	-	393,297
	ADA Paratransit	(65)	22,072	(135)	21,937	-	-	(12,440)	-	9,432
<i>Sub-total</i>		490,761	301,230	323	301,553	-	(71,940)	(307,539)	-	412,835
<i>Transit/First/ Last Mile (Capital)</i>	Transit Construction	(52,099)	387,020	(1,056)	385,964	(15,884)	(2,197)	(312,813)	837	3,808
	Metro State of Good Repair	21,751	22,625	(200)	22,425	-	-	(11,390)	-	32,786
	<i>Sub-total</i>	(30,348)	409,645	(1,256)	408,389	(15,884)	(2,197)	(324,203)	837	36,594
<i>Highway, Active Transportation, Complete Streets (Capital)</i>	Highway Construction	582,635	202,606	(2,316)	200,290	(37,795)	(85,520)	(42,873)	-	616,737
	Active Transportation Program	53,403	23,328	(323)	23,005	(6,165)	(813)	(1,769)	-	67,661
	<i>Sub-total</i>	636,038	225,934	(2,639)	223,295	(43,960)	(86,333)	(44,642)	-	684,398
<i>Local Return/ Regional Rail</i>	Local Return	-	185,229	-	185,229	-	(185,229)	-	-	-
	Regional Rail - Metrolink	9,755	11,167	(22)	11,145	(776)	(1,237)	(8,775)	-	10,112
	<i>Sub-total</i>	9,755	196,396	(22)	196,374	(776)	(186,466)	(8,775)	-	10,112
Total program		\$ 1,106,206	\$ 1,133,205	\$ (3,594)	\$ 1,129,611	\$ (60,620)	\$ (346,936)	\$ (685,159)	\$ 837	\$ 1,143,939
<i>Administration</i>	Administration	5,226	5,846	(42)	5,804	(4,014)	-	-	-	7,016
Grand Total		<u>\$ 1,111,432</u>	<u>\$ 1,139,051</u>	<u>\$ (3,636)</u>	<u>\$ 1,135,415</u>	<u>\$ (64,634)</u>	<u>\$ (346,936)</u>	<u>\$ (685,159)</u>	<u>\$ 837</u>	<u>\$ 1,150,955</u>



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**Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on
Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements
Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards***

Measure M Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to the financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures (the Schedule) for Measure M Special Revenue Fund of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the Schedule, which collectively comprised LACMTA's basic Schedule, and have issued our report thereon dated November 28, 2023.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the Schedule, we considered the LACMTA's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the Schedule, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the LACMTA's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the LACMTA's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. *A material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the LACMTA's Schedule will not be prevented or detected and corrected on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit, we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the LACMTA's Schedule is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the Schedule. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

BCA Watson Rice, LLP

Torrance, California
November 28, 2023



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**Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance with Requirements Applicable to
Measure M Revenues and Expenditures in Accordance with the
*Los Angeles County Traffic Improvement Plan Ordinance No. 16-01***

Measure M Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Report on Compliance

Opinion on Measure M Revenues and Expenditures

We have audited the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) compliance with the *Los Angeles County Traffic Improvement Plan Ordinance No. 16-01* (the Ordinance) applicable to LACMTA's Measure M revenues and expenditures for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023.

In our opinion, LACMTA complied, in all material respects, with the requirements referred to above that are applicable to the Measure M revenues and expenditures for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS); the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report.

We are required to be independent of LACMTA and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of LACMTA's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules, and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to the Measure M revenues and expenditures.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error and express an opinion on LACMTA's compliance with Measure M revenues and expenditures based on our audit. 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 material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about LACMTA's compliance with the requirements of the Measure M revenues and expenditures as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding LACMTA's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing other procedures as necessary in the circumstances.
- Obtain an understanding of LACMTA's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with Measure M revenues and expenditures, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the LACMTA's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant deficiencies, and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

Report on Internal Control over Compliance

A deficiency in internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance on a timely basis. *A material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a compliance requirement will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a compliance requirement that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the “Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance” section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance. Given these limitations, during our audit, we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance may exist that have not been identified.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the compliance requirements of the Measure M revenues and expenditures. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

BCA Watson Rice, LLP

Torrance, California
November 28, 2023

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Measure M Special Revenue Fund
Summary of Current Year Audit Findings
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

None noted.

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Measure M Special Revenue Fund
Status of Prior Year Audit Findings

None noted.



**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
ON COMPLIANCE AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE
WITH THE REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO MEASURE M ORDINANCE
AND MEASURE M LOCAL RETURN GUIDELINES**

**TO THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023



**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
ON COMPLIANCE AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE
WITH THE REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO MEASURE M ORDINANCE
AND MEASURE M LOCAL RETURN GUIDELINES**

**TO THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

**Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Measure M Local Return Fund
Consolidated Audit Report
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023**

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
ON COMPLIANCE AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE
WITH THE REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO MEASURE M ORDINANCE
AND MEASURE M LOCAL RETURN GUIDELINES**

**To the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
and Measure M Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee**

Report on Compliance

Opinion

We have audited the compliance of the County of Los Angeles (County) and the thirty-nine (39) Cities identified in the List of Package A Jurisdictions, with the types of compliance requirements described in the Measure M Ordinance enacted through a Los Angeles County voter-approved law in November 2016; Measure M Local Return Guidelines, issued by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), approved by its Board of Directors on June 22, 2017 (collectively, the Guidelines); and the respective Assurances and Understandings Regarding Receipt and Use of Measure M Local Return Funds, executed by Metro, the County and the respective Cities for the year ended June 30, 2023 (collectively, the Requirements). Compliance with the aforementioned Guidelines and Requirements by the County and the Cities are identified in the accompanying Summary of Audit Results, Schedule 1 and Schedule 2.

In our opinion, the County and the Cities complied, in all material respects, with the Guidelines and Requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on the Measure M Local Return program for the year ended June 30, 2023.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS); the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*); and the Guidelines. Our responsibilities under those standards and the Guidelines are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report.



We are required to be independent of the County and the Cities and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion on compliance with the Guidelines. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the County's and the Cities' compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

Management is responsible for the County's and the Cities' compliance with the Guidelines and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules, and provisions of contracts or agreements applicable to the County and each City's Measure M Local Return program.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on the County's and the Cities' compliance based on our audit. 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, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Guidelines will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material, if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the County's and the Cities' compliance with the requirements of the Guidelines as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Guidelines, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the County's and the Cities' compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- Obtain an understanding of the County's and the Cities' internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Guidelines, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's and the Cities' internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.



Other Matters

The results of our auditing procedures disclosed instances of noncompliance which are required to be reported in accordance with the Guidelines and which are described in the accompanying Summary of Compliance Findings (Schedule 1) and Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs (Schedule 2) as Findings #2023-001 and #2023-002. Our opinion is not modified with respect to these matters.

Government Auditing Standards require the auditor to perform limited procedures on the Cities' responses to the noncompliance findings identified in our compliance audits described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs (Schedule 2). The Cities' responses were not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of compliance and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the responses.

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance may exist that have not been identified. However, as discussed below, we did identify certain deficiency in internal control over compliance that we consider to be a material weakness.

A deficiency in internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with the Guidelines on a timely basis. *A material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with the Guidelines will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with the Guidelines that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance. We consider the deficiency in internal control over compliance described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs (Schedule 2) as Finding #2023-001 to be a material weakness.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the Cities' responses to the internal control over compliance findings identified in our audits described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs (Schedule 2). The Cities' responses were not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of compliance and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the responses.



The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Guidelines. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Vasquez & Company LLP

**Glendale, California
December 29, 2023**

**Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Measure M Local Return Fund
List of Package A Jurisdictions
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023**

1. COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
2. CITY OF AGOURA HILLS
3. CITY OF AZUSA
4. CITY OF BALDWIN PARK
5. CITY OF BELL
6. CITY OF BELL GARDENS
7. CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
8. CITY OF CALABASAS
9. CITY OF CARSON
10. CITY OF COMMERCE
11. CITY OF COMPTON
12. CITY OF CUDAHY
13. CITY OF CULVER CITY
14. CITY OF EL MONTE
15. CITY OF GARDENA
16. CITY OF HAWTHORNE
17. CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS
18. CITY OF HUNTINGTON PARK
19. CITY OF INDUSTRY
20. CITY OF INGLEWOOD
21. CITY OF IRWINDALE
22. CITY OF LA PUENTE
23. CITY OF LAWNSDALE
24. CITY OF LYNWOOD
25. CITY OF MALIBU
26. CITY OF MAYWOOD
27. CITY OF MONTEBELLO
28. CITY OF MONTEREY PARK
29. CITY OF PICO RIVERA
30. CITY OF POMONA
31. CITY OF ROSEMEAD
32. CITY OF SAN FERNANDO
33. CITY OF SANTA FE SPRINGS
34. CITY OF SANTA MONICA
35. CITY OF SOUTH EL MONTE
36. CITY OF SOUTH GATE
37. CITY OF VERNON
38. CITY OF WALNUT
39. CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
40. CITY OF WESTLAKE VILLAGE

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Measure M Local Return Fund
Compliance Area Tested
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

1. Funds were expended for transportation purposes.
2. Separate Measure M Local Return Account was established.
3. Revenues received including allocations, project generated revenues and interest income was properly credited to the Measure M Local Return Account.
4. Funds were expended with Metro's approval.
5. Funds were not substituted for property tax and are in compliance with the Maintenance of Effort.
6. Timely use of funds.
7. Administrative expenses are within the 20% cap.
8. Expenditure Plan (Form M-One or electronic equivalent) was submitted on time.
9. Expenditure Report (Form M-Two or electronic equivalent) was submitted on time.
10. Where funds expended were reimbursable by other grants or fund sources, the reimbursement was credited to the Local Return Account upon receipt of the reimbursement.
11. Where Measure M funds were given, loaned or exchanged by one jurisdiction to another, the receiving jurisdiction has credited its Local Return Account with the funds received.
12. A separate account was established for Capital reserve funds and Capital reserve was approved by Metro.
13. Funds were used to augment, not supplant existing local revenues being used for transportation purposes unless there is a fund shortfall.
14. Recreational transit form was submitted on time.
15. Fund exchanges (trades, loans, or gifts) were approved by Metro.
16. Accounting procedures, record keeping and documentation are adequate.

SUMMARY OF AUDIT RESULTS

**Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Measure M Local Return Fund
Summary of Compliance Findings
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023**

The audits of the County of Los Angeles and 39 cities have resulted in 2 findings. The table below summarizes those findings:

Finding	# of Findings	Responsible Cities/ Finding No. Reference	Questioned Costs	Resolved During the Audit
Annual Expenditure Report (Actuals Entry) or electronic equivalent was submitted on time.	1	Lynwood (See Finding #2023-002)	None	None
Accounting procedures, record keeping and documentation are adequate.	1	Huntington Park (See Finding #2023-001)	None	None
Total Findings and Questioned Costs	2		None	None

Details of the above findings are in Schedule 2.

**Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
 Measure M Local Return Fund
 Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
 Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023**

Finding #2023-001	City of Huntington Park
Compliance Reference	Measure M Local Return Guidelines Section XXV states that, "It is the jurisdictions' responsibility to maintain proper accounting records and documentation to facilitate the performance of the audit as prescribed in these Guidelines".
Condition	<p>As of the date of audit fieldwork, the City's year-end closing process is still ongoing. We noted the following observations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconciliation of major balance sheet accounts including bank accounts was not yet completed. • Cut-off procedures relating to year-end accruals were inadequate to ensure the recording of transactions in the proper period. This resulted in the City's adjustments which affected the prior period's account balances. • Beginning fund balances were not reconciled with the prior year's audited reports. <p>Accordingly, the audits of the City's financial statements for fiscal years 2022 and 2023 have not yet started because of the clean-up and closing process currently being done.</p>
Cause	During the fiscal years 2021 through 2023, the City lost several key employees, particularly in the Finance and Accounting Department. As such, there were delays in the closing of the City's books for the fiscal year 2023 and prior years. Currently, the accounting personnel and support staff are working towards closing the books and providing the closing entries, trial balances, schedules, reconciliations, account analysis, and other financial reports needed by management and the auditors.
Effect	The City was not in compliance with the audit requirements of the Local Return Guidelines.

**Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
 Measure M Local Return Fund
 Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
 Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
 (Continued)**

Finding #2023-001 (Continued)	City of Huntington Park
Recommendation	<p>We recommend the City implement a monthly and year-end closing process in a timely manner. We also recommend that the City establish and document proper closing and reconciliation procedures and assign responsibility for completing the procedures to specific City personnel. The closing procedures should be documented in a checklist that indicates who will perform each procedure and when completion of each procedure is due and is accomplished. The timing of specific procedures could be coordinated with the timing of management's or the auditor's need for the information. These reconciliations will provide assurance that financial statements are complete and accurate.</p>
Management's Response	<p>The City is in the process of catching up on all accounting processes that have not been completed due to staff turnover and various other reasons. The new management team in the Finance and Accounting Department is putting procedures in place to ensure monthly and annual year-end closing processes are well documented and occur on time.</p>

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Measure M Local Return Fund
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
(Continued)

Finding #2023-002	City of Lynwood
Compliance Reference	Section XXV Administrative, Reporting Requirements Annual Expenditure Report (Actuals Entry) of Measure M Local Return Guidelines states that "Jurisdiction shall submit on or before October 15 th of each fiscal year an Annual Expenditure Report (Actuals Entry) to provide an update on previous year LR fund receipts and expenditures."
Condition	The City submitted its Annual Expenditure Report (Actuals Entry) on October 23, 2023, 8 days after the due date of October 15, 2023.
Cause	The City inadvertently missed the filing deadline.
Effect	The City was not in compliance with the reporting requirements of the Local Return Guidelines.
Recommendation	We recommend the City establish procedures and internal controls to ensure that the Annual Expenditure Report (Actuals Entry) is submitted by October 15 th as required by the Guidelines.
Management's Response	The City will ensure the Measure M Actuals Entry is submitted in a timely manner by October 15 th of each fiscal year.
Finding Corrected During the Audit	The City subsequently submitted the Annual Expenditure Report (Actuals Entry). No follow-up is required.



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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
ON COMPLIANCE AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE
WITH THE REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO MEASURE M ORDINANCE
AND MEASURE M LOCAL RETURN GUIDELINES**

**TO THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023



Simpson & Simpson, LLP
Certified Public Accountants

**Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Measure M Local Return Fund
Consolidated Audit Report
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023**

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SIMPSON & SIMPSON
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
FOUNDING PARTNERS
BRAINARD C. SIMPSON, CPA
MELBA W. SIMPSON, CPA

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT
ON COMPLIANCE AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE
WITH THE REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO MEASURE M ORDINANCE
AND MEASURE M LOCAL RETURN GUIDELINES**

To: Board of Directors of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
and Measure M Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee

Report on Compliance

Opinion

We have audited the compliance of the forty-nine (49) Cities (the Cities) identified in the List of Package B Jurisdictions, with the types of compliance requirements described in the Measure M Ordinance enacted through a Los Angeles County voter-approved law in November 2016; Measure M Local Return Guidelines, issued by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), approved by its Board of Directors on June 22, 2017 (collectively, the Guidelines); and the respective Assurances and Understandings Regarding Receipt and Use of Measure M Local Return Funds, executed by Metro, the respective Cities for the year ended June 30, 2023 (collectively, the Requirements). Compliance with the above noted Guidelines and Requirements by the Cities are identified in the accompanying Summary of Audit Results, Schedule 1 and Schedule 2.

In our opinion, the Cities complied, in all material respects, with the Guidelines and the Requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on the Measure M Local Return program for the year ended June 30, 2023.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS); the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*); and the Guidelines. Our responsibilities under those standards and the Guidelines are further described in the Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report.

We are required to be independent of the Cities and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion on compliance with the Guidelines. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the Cities’ compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.





Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

Management is responsible for the Cities' compliance with the Guidelines and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules, and provisions of contracts or agreements applicable to each City's Measure M Local Return program.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on the Cities' compliance based on our audit. 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, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Guidelines will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material, if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the Cities' compliance with the requirements of the Guidelines as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Guidelines, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the Cities' compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- Obtain an understanding of the Cities' internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Guidelines, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Cities' internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.



Other Matters

The results of our auditing procedures disclosed instances of noncompliance, which are required to be reported in accordance with the Guidelines and the Requirements and which are described in the accompanying Summary of Compliance Findings (Schedule 1) and Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs (Schedule 2) as Findings #2023-001 through #2023-009. Our opinion is not modified with respect to these matters.

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the Cities' responses to the noncompliance findings identified in our compliance audits described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs (Schedule 2). The Cities' responses were not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of compliance and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the responses.

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that have not been identified. However, as discussed below, we did identify certain deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be a material weakness and significant deficiencies.

A deficiency in internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with the Guidelines on a timely basis. *A material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with the Guidelines will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. We consider the deficiency in internal control over compliance described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs (Schedule 2) as Finding #2023-004, that we consider to be a material weakness.

A significant deficiency in internal control over compliance is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with the Guidelines that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance. We consider the deficiencies in internal control over compliance described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs (Schedule 2) as Findings #2023-002 and #2023-006, that we consider to be significant deficiencies.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.



Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the Cities' responses to the internal control over compliance findings identified in our audits described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs (Schedule 2). The Cities' responses were not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of compliance and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the responses.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Guidelines. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simpson & Simpson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Los Angeles, California
December 29, 2023

**Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Measure M Local Return Fund
List of Package B Jurisdictions
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023**

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. CITY OF ALHAMBRA | 31. CITY OF PALMDALE |
| 2. CITY OF ARCADIA | 32. CITY OF PALOS VERDES ESTATES |
| 3. CITY OF ARTESIA | 33. CITY OF PARAMOUNT |
| 4. CITY OF AVALON | 34. CITY OF PASADENA |
| 5. CITY OF BELLFLOWER | 35. CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES |
| 6. CITY OF BRADBURY | 36. CITY OF REDONDO BEACH |
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| 18. CITY OF HERMOSA BEACH | 48. CITY OF WEST COVINA |
| 19. CITY OF LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE | 49. CITY OF WHITTIER |
| 20. CITY OF LA HABRA HEIGHTS | |
| 21. CITY OF LA MIRADA | |
| 22. CITY OF LA VERNE | |
| 23. CITY OF LAKEWOOD | |
| 24. CITY OF LANCASTER | |
| 25. CITY OF LOMITA | |
| 26. CITY OF LONG BEACH | |
| 27. CITY OF LOS ANGELES | |
| 28. CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH | |
| 29. CITY OF MONROVIA | |
| 30. CITY OF NORWALK | |

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Measure M Local Return Fund
Compliance Area Tested
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

1. Funds were expended for transportation purposes.
2. Separate Measure M Local Return Account was established.
3. Revenues received including allocations, project generated revenues and interest income was properly credited to the Measure M Local Return Account.
4. Funds were expended with Metro's approval.
5. Funds were not substituted for property tax and are in compliance with the Maintenance of Effort.
6. Timely use of funds.
7. Administrative expenses are within the 20% cap.
8. Expenditure Plan (Form M-One or electronic equivalent) was submitted on time.
9. Expenditure Report (Form M-Two or electronic equivalent) was submitted on time.
10. Where funds expended were reimbursable by other grants or fund sources, the reimbursement was credited to the Local Return Account upon receipt of the reimbursement.
11. Where Measure M funds were given, loaned or exchanged by one jurisdiction to another, the receiving jurisdiction has credited its Local Return Account with the funds received.
12. A separate account was established for Capital reserve funds and Capital reserve was approved by Metro.
13. Funds were used to augment, not supplant existing local revenues being used for transportation purposes unless there is a fund shortfall.
14. Recreational transit form was submitted on time.
15. Fund exchanges (trades, loans, or gifts) were approved by Metro.
16. Accounting procedures, record keeping and documentation are adequate.

SUMMARY OF AUDIT RESULTS

**Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Measure M Local Return Fund
Summary of Compliance Findings
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023**

The audit of the 49 cities identified in the List of Package B Jurisdictions have resulted in 9 findings. The table below summarize those findings:

Finding	# of Findings	Responsible Cities/ Finding Reference	Questioned Costs	Resolved During the Audit
Funds were expended with Metro's approval.	2	Arcadia (#2023-001) South Pasadena (#2023-009)	\$ 1,961 15,187	\$ 1,961 15,187
Expenditure Plan (Form M-One or electronic equivalent) was submitted on time.	1	Bradbury (#2023-003)	None	None
Expenditure Report (Form M-Two or electronic equivalent) was submitted on time.	5	Artesia (#2023-002) Bradbury (#2023-004) La Habra Heights (#2023-006) Palos Verdes Estates (#2023-007) Rolling Hills (#2023-008)	None None None None None	None None None None None
Accounting procedures, record keeping and documentation are adequate.	1	Glendora (#2023-005)	None	None
Total Findings and Questioned Costs	9		\$ 17,148	\$ 17,148

Details of the findings are in Schedule 2

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Measure M Local Return Fund
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Finding #2023-001	City of Arcadia
Compliance Reference	According to Measure M Local Return Guidelines, Section XXV Administrative, Form Submission Timeline, “New, amended, ongoing and carryover projects must file an Expenditure Plan Form M-One by August 1st. In addition, the Audit Requirements, Financial and Compliance Provisions of the section states, “The Measure M LR Audits shall include, but not limited to, verification of adherence to the following financial and compliance provisions of this guidelines:... Verification that funds were expended with Metro’s approval.”
Condition	The expenditures for MMLRF's Project Code 820, Baldwin Avenue Streetscape Improvement Street, in the amount of \$1,961 were incurred prior to Metro’s approval. However, the City subsequently received an approved budget amount of \$500,000 from Metro for the said MMLRF project on November 30, 2023.
Cause	The finding was due to staff turnover among those responsible for submitting the budgets to Metro.
Effect	The City did not comply with the Measure M Local Return Guidelines as expenditures for the MMLRF project were incurred prior to Metro’s approval.
Recommendation	We recommend that the City establish procedures to ensure that it obtains approval from Metro prior to implementing any Measure M Local Return projects, properly enters the budgeted amount for each project into the LRMS and submits it before the requested due date so that the City’s expenditures of Measure M Local Return Funds are in accordance with Metro’s approval and the Measure M Local Return Guidelines.
Management’s Response	The finding was due to staff turnover among those responsible for submitting the budgets. Staff have since then addressed this matter with Metro. Metro has retroactively accepted this project.
Corrected During the Audit	Metro granted retroactive budget approval for the project on November 30, 2023. No follow-up is required.

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Measure M Local Return Fund
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
(Continued)

Finding #2023-002	City of Artesia
Compliance Reference	According to Measure M Local Return Guidelines, Section XXV, Administrative, "The submittal of an Expenditure Report (Form M-Two) is also required to maintain legal eligibility and meet Measure M LR program compliance requirements. Jurisdictions shall submit a Form M-Two, to Metro annually, by October 15th (following the conclusion of the fiscal year)."
Condition	The City did not meet the October 15, 2023 deadline for submitting Form M-Two in the LRMS. Instead, the City submitted the information in the LRMS on December 18, 2023. This is a repeat finding from fiscal year 2022.
Cause	This was an oversight on the part of the City due to understaffed.
Effect	The City did not comply with the Measure M Local Return Guidelines.
Recommendation	We recommend that the City take the necessary steps to ensure that new administrative staff and management are fully aware of compliance requirements. This includes ensuring that Form M-Two is entered in the LRMS before the due date so that the City is in compliance with Measure M Local Return Guidelines.
Management's Response	The City is understaffed due to employee turnover. In the future, management will ensure that Form M-Two is submitted before the deadline.
Corrected During the Audit	The City subsequently entered the required information in the LRMS on December 18, 2023. No follow-up is required.

**Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Measure M Local Return Fund
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
(Continued)**

Finding #2023-003	City of Bradbury
Compliance Reference	According to Measure M Local Return Guidelines, Section XXV, Administrative, "To maintain legal eligibility and meet Measure M LR Program compliance requirements, Jurisdictions shall submit to Metro an Expenditure Plan (Form M-One), annually by August 1st of each year."
Condition	The City did not meet the August 1, 2022 deadline for submitting Form M-One in the LRMS. Instead, the City submitted the information in the LRMS on November 14, 2023.
Cause	It was due to the change in personnel in the City's finance department.
Effect	The City did not comply with the Measure M Local Return Guidelines.
Recommendation	We recommend that the City establish procedures to ensure that Form M-One is submitted in the LRMS before the due date so that the City is in compliance with Measure M Local Return Guidelines including procedures to ensure that new personnel are properly trained in the Measure M Local Return Guidelines.
Management's Response	The City accepts the finding and has established calendar notifications to remind the finance department to submit Form M-One before the due date.
Corrected During the Audit	The City subsequently submitted the required information in the LRMS on November 14, 2023. No follow-up is required.

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Measure M Local Return Fund
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
(Continued)

Finding #2023-004	City of Bradbury
Compliance Reference	According to Measure M Local Return Guidelines, Section XXV, Administrative, "The submittal of an Expenditure Report (Form M-Two) is also required to maintain legal eligibility and meet Measure M LR program compliance requirements. Jurisdictions shall submit a Form M-Two, to Metro annually, by October 15th (following the conclusion of the fiscal year)."
Condition	<p>The City did not meet the October 15, 2023 deadline for submitting Form M-Two in the LRMS. Instead, the City submitted the information in the LRMS on November 14, 2023.</p> <p>This is a repeat finding from fiscal years 2021 and 2022.</p>
Cause	It was due to the change in personnel in the City's finance department.
Effect	The City did not comply with the Measure M Local Return Guidelines.
Recommendation	We recommend that the City establish procedures to ensure that Form M-Two is submitted in the LRMS before the due date so that the City is in compliance with Measure M Local Return Guidelines including procedures to ensure that new personnel are properly trained in the Measure M Local Return Guidelines.
Management's Response	The City accepts the finding and has established calendar notifications to remind the finance department to submit Form M-Two before the due date.
Corrected During the Audit	The City subsequently submitted the required information in the LRMS on November 14, 2023. No follow-up is required.

**Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Measure M Local Return Fund
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
(Continued)**

Finding #2023-005	City of Glendora
Compliance Reference	The Measure M Local Return Guidelines, Section XXV: Program Objective, states, “The Measure M Ordinance specifies that LR funds are to be used for transportation purposes. No net revenues distributed to cities and County of Los Angeles (Jurisdictions) may be used for purposes other than transportation purposes.” and Audit Requirements, “It is each Jurisdiction’s responsibility to maintain proper accounting records and documentation...”
Condition	<p>During our payroll testing, the City provided both the timesheets and the Special Funding Time Certification (Certification), a supplemental form for the timesheet. The pay periods tested were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) September 4, 2022 b) January 22, 2023 c) May 28, 2023 <p>We noted salary discrepancies amounting to \$299 in three (3) payroll transactions tested. These differences were noted between the amounts recorded on the general ledger and those calculated from the hours shown in the Certification, when multiplied by the employees’ hourly rates. However, since the net effect of the payroll discrepancies resulted in an under allocation to the local return funds, these discrepancies will not be questioned.</p>
Cause	In reviewing the Certification and timecards, it was discovered that the employees did not fill out their timecards properly by breaking out the number of hours reported on the Certification and the rest of the working hours to the General Fund. In this discovery, it was determined that the General Fund paid for hours that should have been charged to MMLRF, resulting in an under allocation of salaries to the local return funds.
Effect	Payroll discrepancies resulting from improper timecard management and limited HR data access can lead to misallocation of the local return funds.
Recommendation	We recommend that the City strengthen its controls to ensure accuracy of hours allocated to the local return fund’s projects. This includes verifying that all supporting documentation, such as the timesheets and Certifications, consistently reflects the hours worked.

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Measure M Local Return Fund
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
(Continued)

Finding #2023-005 (Continued)	City of Glendora
Management's Response	<p>The City is implementing a new finance system that will require electronic entry, thereby eliminating manual entry, in which the proper funds will be charged for the time worked on projects and will be better managed by the City. However, in order to resolve this issue at the present time, the employees will now be required to attach and submit the Certification with the timecard to the supervisor for validation that the hours are listed accurately and broken down according to the appropriate funds to be charged.</p> <p>Furthermore, the City plans to have a discussion meeting on providing access to HR files to the Finance department employees for any payroll-related documents that is requested so they can be provided to the Metro auditor during the audit.</p>

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Measure M Local Return Fund
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
(Continued)

Finding #2023-006	City of La Habra Heights
Compliance Reference	According to Measure M Local Return Guidelines, Section XXV, Administrative, "The submittal of an Expenditure Report (Form M-Two) is also required to maintain legal eligibility and meet Measure M LR program compliance requirements. Jurisdictions shall submit a Form M-Two, to Metro annually, by October 15th (following the conclusion of the fiscal year)."
Condition	The City did not meet the October 15, 2023 deadline for submitting the Annual Expenditure Report in the LRMS. Instead, the City submitted the information in the LRMS on November 20, 2023. This is a repeat finding from fiscal year 2022.
Cause	This was an oversight by the City due to recent turnover among administrative staff and management.
Effect	The City did not comply with the Measure M Local Return Guidelines.
Recommendation	We recommend that the City take the necessary steps to ensure that new administrative staff and management are fully aware of compliance requirements. This includes ensuring the annual actual expenditures are entered in the LRMS before the due date so that the City is in compliance with the Measure M Local Return Guidelines.
Management's Response	In the future, management will ensure the Annual Expenditure Report is submitted before the deadline.
Corrected During the Audit	The City subsequently entered the required information in the LRMS on November 20, 2023. No follow-up is required.

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Measure M Local Return Fund
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
(Continued)

Finding #2023-007	City of Palos Verdes Estates
Compliance Reference	According to Measure M Local Return Guidelines, Section XXV, Administrative, "The submittal of an Expenditure Report (Form M-Two) is also required to maintain legal eligibility and meet Measure M LR program compliance requirements. Jurisdictions shall submit a Form M-Two, to Metro annually, by October 15th (following the conclusion of the fiscal year)."
Condition	The City did not meet the October 15, 2023 deadline for submitting Form M-Two in the LRMS. Instead, the City submitted the information in the LRMS on December 1, 2023.
Cause	This was an oversight by the City due to administrative staff and management turnover for not submitting the Form M-Two Report by the due date.
Effect	The City did not comply with the Measure M Local Return Guidelines.
Recommendation	We recommend that the City take the necessary steps to ensure that new administrative staff and management are fully aware of compliance requirements. This includes ensuring that Form M-Two is entered in the LRMS before the due date so that the City is in compliance with Measure M Local Return Guidelines.
Management's Response	The City is understaffed due to employee turnover. In the future, management will ensure Form M-Two is submitted before the deadline.
Corrected During the Audit	The City subsequently entered Form M-Two in the LRMS on December 1, 2023. No follow-up is required.

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Measure M Local Return Fund
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
(Continued)

Finding #2023-008	City of Rolling Hills
Compliance Reference	According to Measure M Local Return Guidelines, Section XXV, Administrative, "The submittal of an Expenditure Report (Form M-Two) is also required to maintain legal eligibility and meet Measure M LR program compliance requirements. Jurisdictions shall submit a Form M-Two, to Metro annually by October 15th (following the conclusion of the fiscal year)."
Condition	The City did not meet the October 15, 2023 deadline for submitting Form M-Two in the LRMS. Instead, the City submitted the information in the LRMS on October 31, 2023.
Cause	This was due to an oversight on the part of the City.
Effect	The City did not comply with the Measure M Local Return Guidelines.
Recommendation	We recommend that the City establish procedures to ensure that Form M-Two is entered in the LRMS before the due date so that the City is in compliance with the Measure M Local Return Guidelines.
Management's Response	The City acknowledges the oversight and will ensure to submit the Form M-Two on or before October 15th.
Corrected During the Audit	The City subsequently entered the required information in the LRMS on October 31, 2023. No follow-up is required.

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Measure M Local Return Fund
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
(Continued)

Finding #2023-009	City of South Pasadena
Compliance Reference	According to Measure M Local Return Guidelines, Section XXV Administrative, Form Submission Timeline, “New, amended, ongoing and carryover projects must file an Expenditure Plan Form M-One by August 1st. In addition, the Audit Requirements, Financial and Compliance Provisions of the section states, “The Measure M LR Audits shall include, but not limited to, verification of adherence to the following financial and compliance provisions of this guidelines:... Verification that funds were expended with Metro’s approval.”
Condition	<p>The expenditures for the following MMLRF projects were incurred prior to Metro’s approval:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Planning, Engineering for Transit Services Project Code 180, in the amount of \$380. b. Planning, Engineering for Traffic Control Project Code 380, in the amount of \$7,593. c. Planning, Engineering for Transportation Marketing Project Code 580 in the amount of \$569. d. Planning, Engineering for Streets and Roads Project Code 780 in the amount of \$2,848. e. Planning, Engineering for Active Transportation Project Code 880 in the amount of \$3,797. <p>However, the City subsequently received approved budgets in the total amount of \$15,187 from Metro on December 4, 2023 for the same amounts of the expenditures incurred on all of the projects listed above.</p>
Cause	This finding occurred due to a misunderstanding of the coding system. The team was under the impression that the newly hired staff’s time can only be used as administrative expenditures, leading to the misallocation of the expenses.
Effect	The City did not comply with the Guidelines as expenditures for the MMLRF projects were incurred prior to Metro’s approval.
Recommendation	We recommend that the City establish procedures to ensure that it obtains approval from Metro prior to implementing any Measure M Local Return projects, properly enters the budgeted amount for each project into the Local Return Management System (LRMS) and submits it before the requested due date so that the City’s expenditures of Measure M Local Return Funds are in accordance with Metro’s approval and the Guidelines.

**Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
 Measure M Local Return Fund
 Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
 Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
 (Continued)**

Finding #2023-009 (Continued)	City of South Pasadena
Management's Response	The City is taking immediate steps to rectify the situation, including re-training the City staff on the coding system and reviewing all recent transactions to ensure that they are properly coded. The City also is implementing additional checks and balances to prevent similar issues in the future.
Corrected During the Audit	Metro Program Manager granted retroactive budget approval of the said projects on December 4, 2023. No follow-up is required.

**FISCAL YEAR 2023
MEASURE M
REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES AUDIT
WITH
INTERNAL CONTROLS AND COMPLIANCE REPORT**

P R E S E N T A T I O N T O

MEASURE M INDEPENDENT TAXPAYER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

MARCH 6, 2024



*2355 Crenshaw Blvd., Suite 150
Torrance, CA 90501
PH 310.792.4640*

Contents

- Auditor and LACMTA Management Responsibilities
- Summary of Audit Results
- Financial Highlights
- Required Communications
- Management Letter Comments

Responsibilities

☐ LACMTA Management Responsibilities

- Preparation of the Schedule of Measure M Revenues and Expenditures.
- Design, implementation and maintenance of internal control – free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

☐ Auditor's Responsibilities

- To express an opinion on the fair presentation on the Schedule of Measure M Revenues and Expenditures based on our audit.
- To express an opinion on compliance with the *Los Angeles County Traffic Improvement Plan* (Measure M Ordinance).

Summary of Audit Results

- Schedule of Measure M Revenues and Expenditures Audit
 - Unmodified opinion or clean opinion.
- No internal control material weaknesses over financial reporting identified.
- No significant internal control deficiencies over compliance identified.
- LACMTA complied with the *Los Angeles County Traffic Improvement Plan (Measure M Ordinance)*

Financial Highlights

- Sales tax revenue increased by \$16.2 million compared to prior year (1.5% change from prior year).
- Actual expenditures increased by \$26.4 million compared to prior year (6.9% change from prior year) due primarily to an increase in administration expenditures and bus transportation subsidies.
- Total other financing uses increased by \$428.3 million compared to prior year (167.3% change from prior year). Increase was mainly attributed to higher operating subsidy transfers to Enterprise Fund for bus and rail operations and increase in expenditures related to transit and highway constructions projects. Additionally, in fiscal year 2023 the operating subsidy for bus and rail operations was no longer offset by Covid-related grants.
- Actual sales tax revenue was more than budgeted by \$74.4 million.
- Actual expenditures was less than budgeted by \$91.2 mainly due to administration and transportation subsidies coming in less than budgeted amounts.
- Actual transfers out was less than budgeted by \$94.5 million mainly due to capital project costs coming in less than budgeted amounts.
- During fiscal year 2022-2023, the Measure M fund reported a surplus, with revenues exceeding expenditures and other financial uses by \$39.5 million. This resulted in an increase in the Measure M fund balance, growing from \$1.11 billion to \$1.15 billion as of June 30, 2023.

Required Communications

Items to be Communicated

Auditor's Responsibilities Under Generally Accepted Auditing Standards

- To express an opinion on the Schedule of Measure M Revenues and Expenditures.
- To provide reasonable, not absolute, assurance of detecting material misstatements.
- To gain a basic understanding of the internal control policies and procedures to design an effective and efficient audit approach.
- To inform LACMTA of any illegal acts that we become aware of.
 - None

Required Communications (Continued)

- Adoption/Change in accounting
 - None
- Significant or unusual transactions
 - None
- Alternative treatments discussed with management
 - None
- Significant issues discussed with management
 - None
- Difficulties encountered in performing the audit
 - We encountered no difficulties in dealing with management in performing or conducting the audit.

Required Communications (Continued)

- Consultations with other accountants
 - To our knowledge, no such consultation has occurred.
- Discussions held prior to retention
 - No major issues were discussed as a condition to our retention.
- Disagreements with management
 - Professional standards define a disagreement with management as a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the Schedule of Measure M Revenues and Expenditures or the auditor's report.
 - No such disagreements occurred.
- Management representation
 - We requested certain representations from management which are included in the management representation letter.

2023 Management Letter Comments

- There are no management letter comments.

Audited Financial Statements for Measure M Special Revenue Fund

- Included in LACMTA's June 30, 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR)

BCA Watson Rice LLP

Audit Engagement Team

- Rustico Cabilin, Engagement Partner (rcabilin@bcawr.com)
- Helen Chu, Quality Control Partner (hcu@bcawr.com)
- Lisa Reason, Senior Auditor (lreason@bcawr.com)
- Kristen Reyes, Staff Auditor (kreyes@bcawr.com)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Measure M Local Return Fund Audit Results
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
(Package B)**

Simpson & Simpson, LLP



Measure M Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee Meeting
Date: March 6, 2024

Agenda

- ❖ Presenters: Etta Hur, CPA, Partner
Austine Cho, Senior Audit Manager
 - Background
 - Summary of Findings
 - Analysis of Measure M Audit Results
 - S&S Contact Information
 - Questions



Background



Simpson and Simpson, LLP

- We have audited the compliance of the 49 cities (49 Jurisdictions under Package B).

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. CITY OF ALHAMBRA | 31. CITY OF PALMDALE |
| 2. CITY OF ARCADIA | 32. CITY OF PALOS VERDES ESTATES |
| 3. CITY OF ARTESIA | 33. CITY OF PARAMOUNT |
| 4. CITY OF AVALON | 34. CITY OF PASADENA |
| 5. CITY OF BELLFLOWER | 35. CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES |
| 6. CITY OF BRADBURY | 36. CITY OF REDONDO BEACH |
| 7. CITY OF BURBANK | 37. CITY OF ROLLING HILLS |
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| 20. CITY OF LA HABRA HEIGHTS | |
| 21. CITY OF LA MIRADA | |
| 22. CITY OF LA VERNE | |
| 23. CITY OF LAKEWOOD | |
| 24. CITY OF LANCASTER | |
| 25. CITY OF LOMITA | |
| 26. CITY OF LONG BEACH | |
| 27. CITY OF LOS ANGELES | |
| 28. CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH | |
| 29. CITY OF MONROVIA | |
| 30. CITY OF NORWALK | |



Simpson and Simpson, LLP

- We conducted our audits of compliance in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in government auditing standards, and the compliance requirements described in the Measure M Ordinance, the Measure M Local Return Guidelines and the respective Assurances and Understandings Regarding Receipt and Use of Measure M Local Return Funds.



Summary of Findings



Summary of Findings

- ❖ Audits were performed in all 49 jurisdictions.
 - Total dollar amounts associated with the findings decreased significantly from \$889,466 in FY2022 to \$17,148 in the FY2023 compliance audit.
 - Total questioned costs of \$17,148 is about 0.01% of the FY2023 Measure M allocations, which amounted to \$131,857,855 for jurisdictions under Package B.
 - Of the \$17,148 in questioned cost, it was identified that this amount related to funds expended on Measure M eligible projects without prior approval from Metro but was resolved during the audit.
 - There were a total of 9 non-compliance findings, including:
 - 1 material weakness (City of Bradbury)
 - 2 significant deficiencies (City of Artesia and City of La Habra Heights)

Further details about the specific conditions for the material weakness and the significant deficiencies in internal control over Compliance will be explained as each finding is presented.



Summary of Findings (Cont.)

Finding	# of Findings	Responsible Cities/ Finding Reference	Questioned Costs	Resolved During the Audit
Funds were expended with Metro's approval.	2	Arcadia (#2023-001) South Pasadena (#2023-009)	\$ 1,961 15,187	\$ 1,961 15,187
Expenditure Plan (Form M-One or electronic equivalent) was submitted on time.	1	Bradbury (#2023-003)	None	None



Summary of Findings (Cont.)

Finding	# of Findings	Responsible Cities/ Finding Reference	Questioned Costs	Resolved During the Audit
Expenditure Report (Form M-Two or electronic equivalent) was submitted on time.	5	Artesia (#2023-002) Bradbury (#2023-004) La Habra Heights (#2023-006) Palos Verdes Estates (#2023-007) Rolling Hills (#2023-008)	None None None None None	None None None None None
Accounting procedures, record keeping and documentation are adequate.	1	Glendora (#2023-005)	None	None
Total Findings and Questioned Cost	9		\$ 17,148	\$ 17,148



Analysis of Measure M Audit Results



Material Weakness and Significant Deficiency In Internal Controls over Compliance

➤ **One (1) material weakness:**

City of Bradbury (Finding #2023-004):

- The City did not meet the October 15, 2023 deadline for submitting the Annual Expenditure Report in the Local Return Management System (LRMS).
- The finding was due to personnel change in the City's finance department.
- The finding is a repeat occurrence, as it had also occurred in fiscal years 2021 and 2022.
- To address this issues, the City plans to establish calendar notifications to remind the finance department to submit the Expenditure Report before the due date.
- Resolved during the audit: the City subsequently entered the required information in the LRMS on November 14, 2023.



Material Weakness and Significant Deficiency In Internal Controls over Compliance

➤ **Two (2) significant deficiencies:**

City of Artesia (Finding #2023-002):

- The City did not meet the October 15, 2023 deadline for submitting the Annual Expenditure Report in the Local Return Management System (LRMS).
- The City was understaffed due to employee turnover.
- The finding is a repeat occurrence, as it had also occurred in fiscal year 2022.
- Resolved during the audit: the City subsequently entered the required information in the LRMS on December 18, 2023.



Material Weakness and Significant Deficiency In Internal Controls over Compliance

➤ **Two (2) significant deficiencies (continued):**

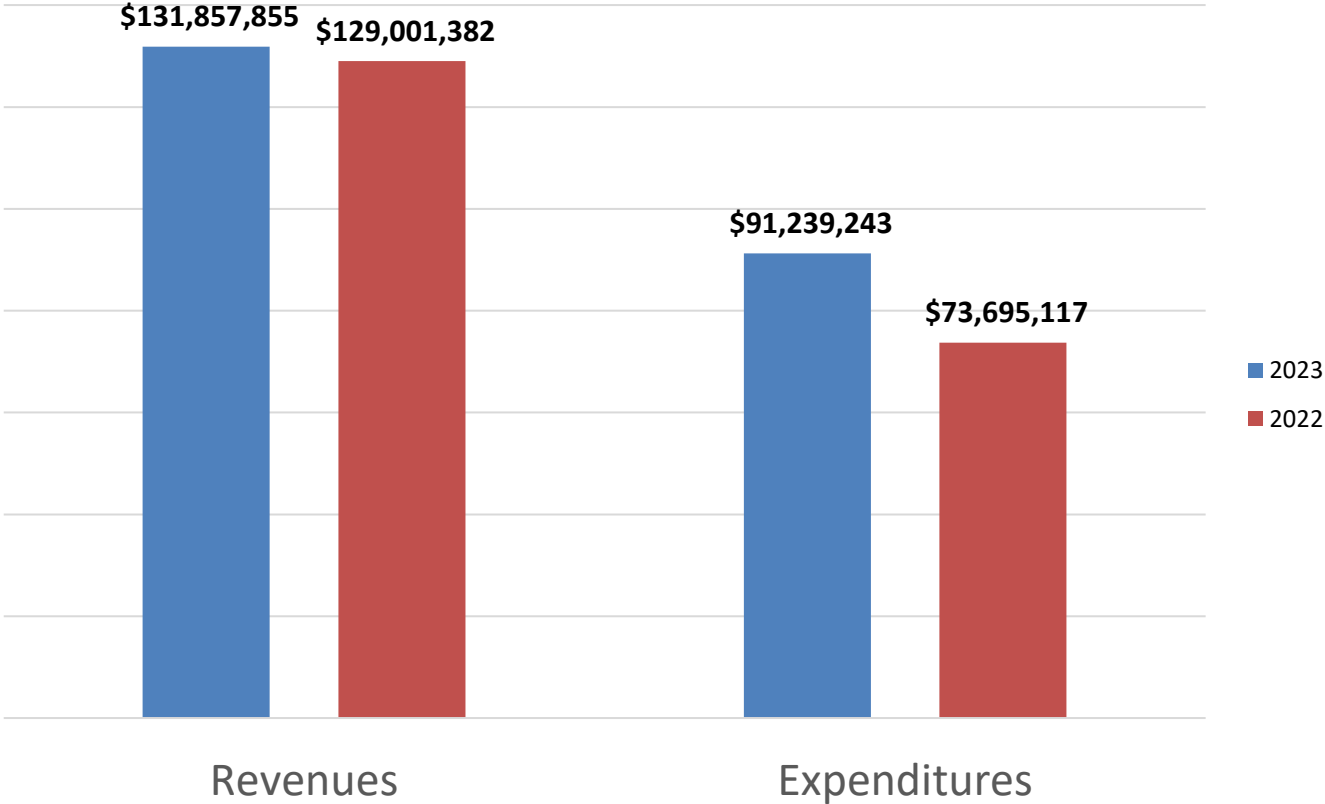
City of La Habra Heights (#2023-006):

- The City did not meet the October 15, 2023 deadline for submitting the Annual Expenditure Report in the Local Return Management System (LRMS).
- The City experienced turnover among administrative staff and management.
- The finding is a repeat occurrence, as it had also occurred in fiscal year 2022.
- Resolved during the audit: the City subsequently entered the required information in the LRMS on November 20, 2023.



Revenue and Expenditures of 49 Jurisdictions

FY 2023 & FY 2022 Revenues and Expenditures



Simpson & Simpson CPAs

Contact information

Team member	Contact information
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Questions





Metro[®]

**PRESENTATION TO THE MEASURE M
INDEPENDENT TAXPAYER
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
MEASURE M LOCAL RETURN FUNDS
(Package A)**

March 6, 2024

/ AGENDA

- ❑ Scope of the Audits
- ❑ Levels of Assurance, Compliance Criteria and Auditing Standards Utilized
- ❑ Revenue and Expenditures of the County of Los Angeles and 39 Cities
- ❑ Overview of the Audit Results
- ❑ Details of Audit Results
- ❑ Material Weakness in Internal Control over Compliance
- ❑ Required Communications to the Measure M Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee
- ❑ Q&A
- ❑ Contact Information

SCOPE OF THE AUDITS

/ SCOPE OF THE AUDITS

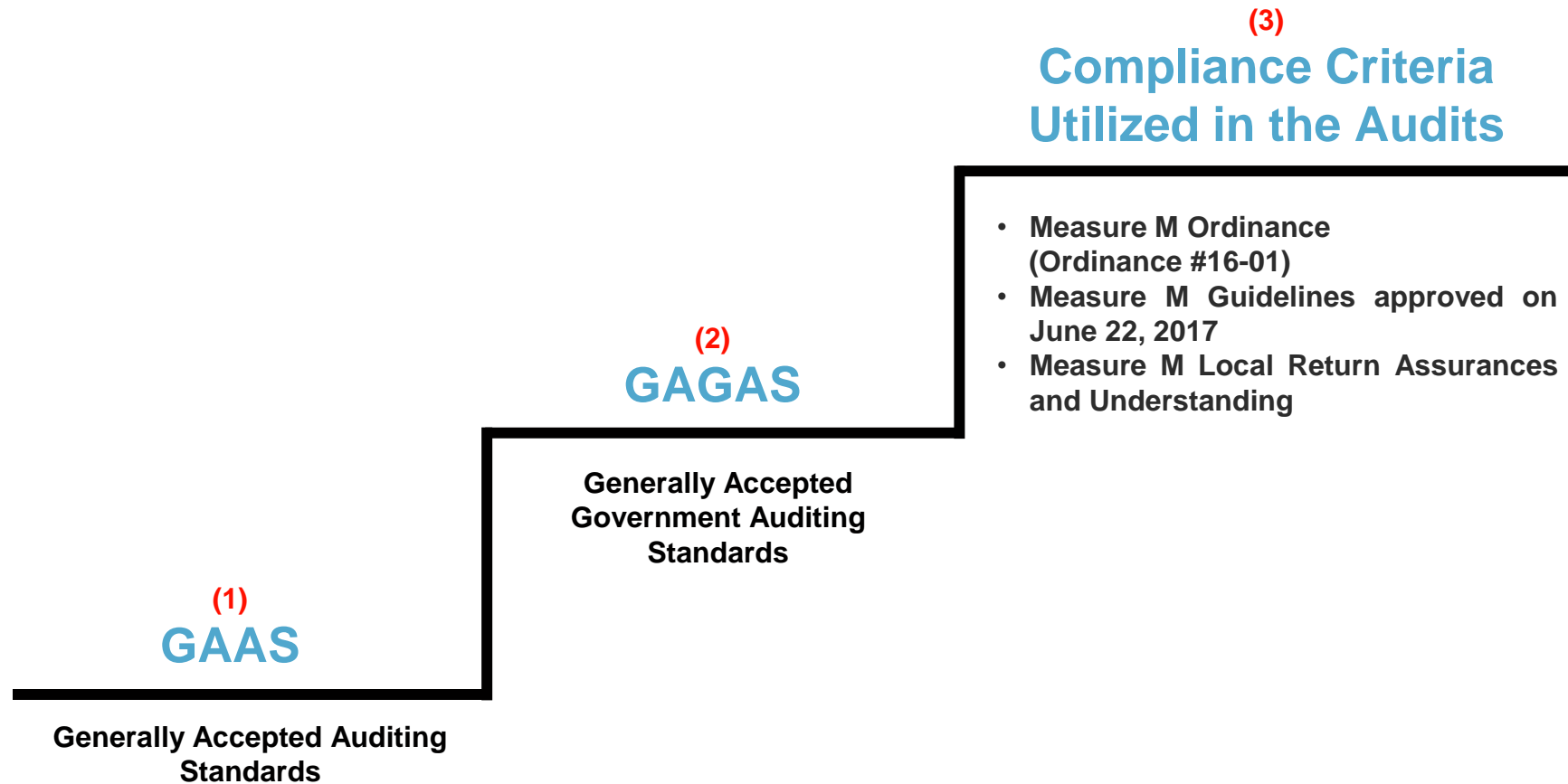
Financial and Compliance Audits of Measure M Local Return Funds held by the County of Los Angeles and 39 Cities under Package A

1. County of Los Angeles
2. Agoura Hills
3. Azusa
4. Baldwin Park
5. Bell
6. Bell Gardens
7. Beverly Hills
8. Calabasas
9. Carson
10. Commerce
11. Compton
12. Cudahy
13. Culver City
14. El Monte
15. Gardena
16. Hawthorne
17. Hidden Hills
18. Huntington Park
19. Industry
20. Inglewood
21. Irwindale
22. La Puente
23. Lawndale
24. Lynwood
25. Malibu
26. Maywood
27. Montebello
28. Monterey Park
29. Pico Rivera
30. Pomona
31. Rosemead
32. San Fernando
33. Santa Fe Springs
34. Santa Monica
35. South El Monte
36. South Gate
37. Vernon
38. Walnut
39. West Hollywood
40. Westlake Village



LEVELS OF ASSURANCE, COMPLIANCE CRITERIA AND AUDITING STANDARDS UTILIZED

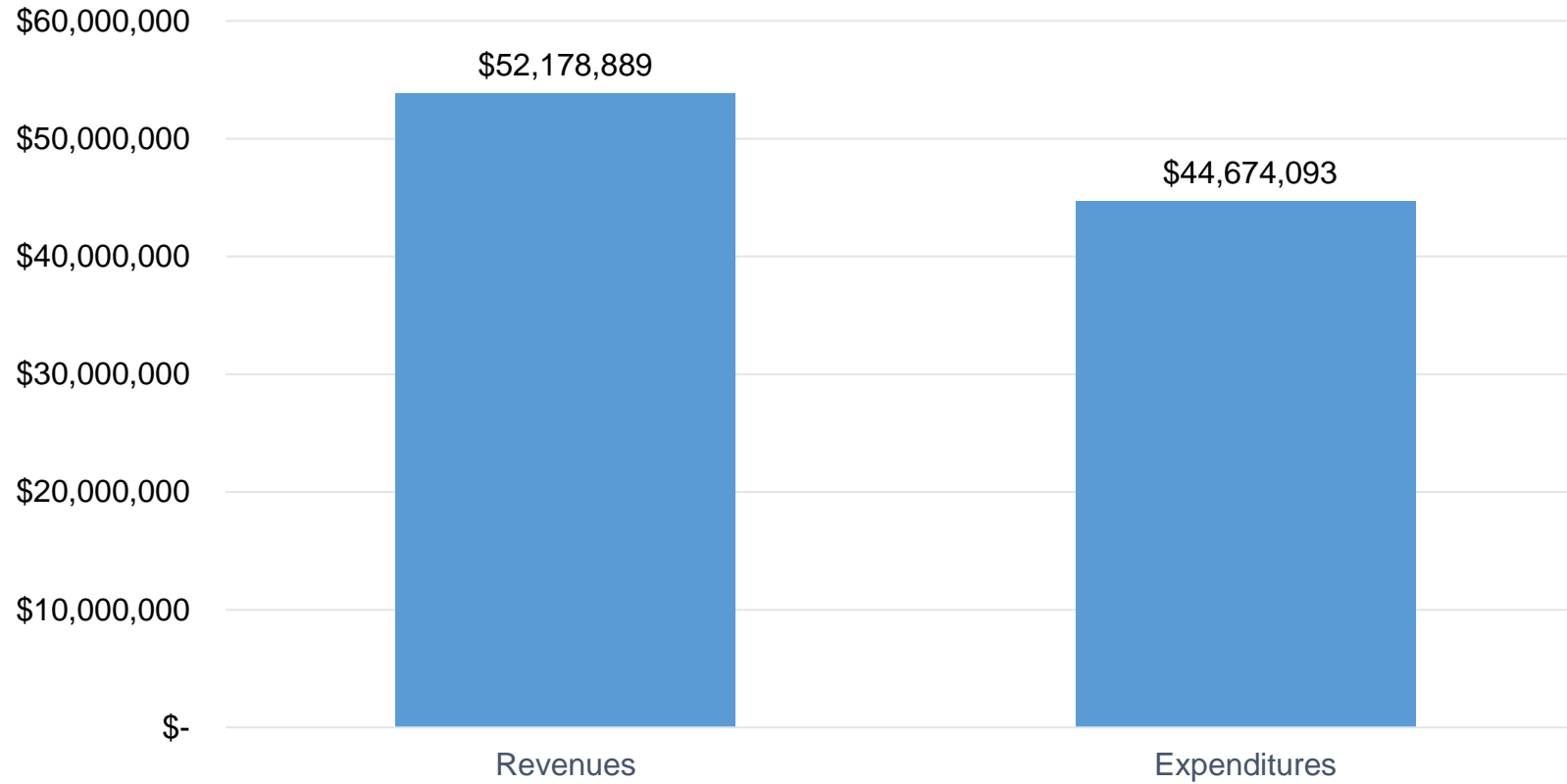
/ LEVELS OF ASSURANCE, COMPLIANCE CRITERIA AND AUDITING STANDARDS UTILIZED



REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES AND 39 CITIES

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES AND 39 CITIES

FY 2023 Revenues and Expenditures



OVERVIEW OF THE AUDIT RESULTS

/ OVERVIEW OF THE AUDIT RESULTS

FY 2023 Summary of Audit Results

- Dollars associated with the findings have decreased from \$938,374 in FY2022 to \$0 in FY2023 audit.

Questioned Costs

- There were no questioned costs during FY2023.

DETAILS OF AUDIT RESULTS

/ DETAILS OF AUDIT RESULTS

Our findings are as follows:

A. Annual Expenditure Report (Actuals Entry) was not submitted timely.

- Compliance Reference: Section XXV, Administrative, Reporting Requirements Annual Expenditure Report (Actuals Entry) of Measure M Local Return Guidelines states that “Jurisdiction shall submit on or before October 15th of each fiscal year an Annual Expenditure Report (Actuals Entry) to provide an update on previous year LR fund receipts and expenditures.”
- Number of cities involved: 1 of 39 cities
 - **City of Lynwood (Finding #2023-002, Page 10 of the report)**
- Questioned costs for 2023: **None**

/ DETAILS OF AUDIT RESULTS, CONTINUED

B. Accounting procedures, record keeping and documentation are adequate.

- Compliance Reference: Section XXV of the Measure M Local Return Guidelines states that, “It is the jurisdictions’ responsibility to maintain proper accounting records and documentation to facilitate the performance of the audit as prescribed in these Guidelines”.
- Number of cities involved: 1 of 39 cities
 - **City of Huntington Park (Finding #2023-001, Page 8)**
- Questioned costs for 2023: **None**

MATERIAL WEAKNESS IN INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE

/ MATERIAL WEAKNESS IN INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE

City of Huntington Park

Finding #2023-001

- During the fiscal years 2021 through 2023, the City lost several key employees, particularly in the Finance and Accounting Department. As such, there were delays in the closing of the City's books for the fiscal year 2023 and prior years. Currently, the accounting personnel and support staff are working towards closing the books and providing the closing entries, trial balances, schedules, reconciliations, account analysis, and other financial reports needed by management and the auditors.
- A disclaimer of opinion was issued on the City's MMLRF financial statements as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023.

REQUIRED COMMUNICATIONS TO THE MEASURE M INDEPENDENT TAXPAYER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

/ REQUIRED COMMUNICATIONS TO THE MEASURE M INDEPENDENT TAXPAYER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Professional standards require independent accountants to discuss with those in charge of governance matters of importance which arise during the course of their audit as well as significant matters concerning the audited jurisdictions' internal controls and the preparation and composition of the financial statements. We therefore present the following information required to be communicated to the Measure M Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee based upon the results of our audit of the Measure M Local Return Funds of the County of Los Angeles and the 39 cities.

REQUIRED COMMUNICATIONS TO THE MEASURE M INDEPENDENT TAXPAYER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE, CONTINUED

Management's Responsibility

Management of the jurisdictions has primary responsibility for the accounting principles used, their consistency, application and clarity.

Consultations with Other Accountants

We are not aware of any consultations by management of the jurisdictions with other accountants about accounting or auditing matters.

Difficulties with Management

We did not encounter any difficulties with management of the jurisdictions while performing our audit procedures.

REQUIRED COMMUNICATIONS TO THE MEASURE M INDEPENDENT TAXPAYER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE, CONTINUED

Disagreements with Management

We encountered no disagreements with management of the jurisdictions on financial accounting and reporting matters.

Significant Accounting Policies

The jurisdictions' significant accounting policies are appropriate and were consistently applied.

Controversial Issues

No significant or unusual transactions or accounting policies in controversial or emerging areas for which there is lack of authoritative guidance or consensus were identified.

/ REQUIRED COMMUNICATIONS TO THE MEASURE M INDEPENDENT TAXPAYER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE, CONTINUED

Irregularities, Fraud or Illegal Acts

No irregularities, fraud or illegal acts came to our attention as a result of our audit procedures.

Management Representations

The jurisdictions provided us with signed copies of the management representation letters prior to issuance of our auditor's opinions.

QUESTIONS

/ CONTACT INFORMATION

Vasquez + Company LLP has over 50 years of experience in performing audit, accounting, and consulting services for all types of private companies, nonprofit organizations, governmental entities, and publicly traded companies. Vasquez is a member of the RSM US Alliance.

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Thank you for your time and attention.