

**PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD - EL PASO WATER UTILITIES
A COMPONENT UNIT OF THE CITY OF EL PASO**

COMPLIANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROL REPORTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2023

PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD - EL PASO WATER UTILITIES
A COMPONENT UNIT OF THE CITY OF EL PASO

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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*

Public Service Board - El Paso Water Utilities,
a component unit of the City of El Paso

We have audited, in accordance with the 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, the financial statements of the business-type activities and each major fund of the Public Service Board - El Paso Water Utilities, a component unit of the City of El Paso, as of and for the year ended February 28, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Public Service Board - El Paso Water Utilities' basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated August 3, 2023.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Public Service Board - El Paso Water Utilities' 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 financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Public Service Board - El Paso Water Utilities' internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Public Service Board - El Paso Water Utilities' 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 a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements 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 or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Public Service Board - El Paso Water Utilities' financial statements are free from 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 financial statements. 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.

GIBSON RUDDOCK PATTERSON, LLC

El Paso, Texas
August 3, 2023

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR EACH MAJOR
PROGRAM, ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE, AND ON
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF STATE AWARDS REQUIRED BY
THE STATE OF TEXAS UNIFORM GRANT MANAGEMENT STANDARDS

Public Service Board - El Paso Water Utilities,
a component unit of the City of El Paso

Report on Compliance for Each Major State Program

Opinion on Each Major State Program

We have audited the Public Service Board - El Paso Water Utilities', a component unit of the City of El Paso, compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified in the State of Texas Uniform Grant Management Standards that could have a direct and material effect on the Public Service Board - El Paso Water Utilities' major state program for the year ended February 28, 2023. The Public Service Board - El Paso Water Utilities' major state program is identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

In our opinion, the Public Service Board - El Paso Water Utilities, complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on its major state program for the year ended February 28, 2023.

Basis for Opinion on Each Major State Program

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the audit requirements of the State of Texas Uniform Grant Management Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards and the State of Texas Uniform Grant Management 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 the Public Service Board - El Paso Water Utilities 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 for each major state program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the Public Service Board - El Paso Water Utilities' 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 Public Service Board - El Paso Water Utilities' state programs.

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 Public Service Board - El Paso Water Utilities' 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 generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the State of Texas Uniform Grant Management Standards 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 Public Service Board - El Paso Water Utilities' compliance with the requirements of each major state program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the State of Texas Uniform Grant Management 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 the Public Service Board - El Paso Water Utilities' 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 Public Service Board - El Paso Water Utilities' 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 State of Texas Uniform Grant Management Standards, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Public Service Board - El Paso Water Utilities' 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.

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 with a type of compliance requirement of a state program 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 type of compliance requirement of a state program 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 type of compliance requirement of a state program 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 were not 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.

Report on Schedule of Expenditures of State Awards Required by the State of Texas Uniform Grant Management Standards

We have audited the financial statements of the business-type activities and each major fund of the Public Service Board - El Paso Water Utilities, a component unit of the City of El Paso, as of and for the year ended February 28, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Public Service Board - El Paso Water Utilities' basic financial statements. We issued our report thereon dated August 3, 2023, which contained unmodified opinions on those financial statements. Our audit was performed for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the basic financial statements. The accompanying schedule of expenditures of state awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by the State of Texas Uniform Grant Management Standards and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the schedule of expenditures of state awards is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

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 State of Texas Uniform Grant Management Standards. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

GIBSON RUDDOCK PATTERSON, LLC

El Paso, Texas

August 3, 2023

**PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD - EL PASO WATER UTILITIES
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SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2023

SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS

Financial Statements

Type of Auditor's Report issued on whether the financial statements audited were prepared in accordance with GAAP: Unmodified

Internal control over financial reporting:

Were material weaknesses in internal control identified? No

Were significant deficiencies in internal control identified? None reported

Was any noncompliance noted that is material to the financial statements of the auditee, which would be required to be reported in accordance with Government Auditing Standards? No

State Awards

Internal control over major state award programs:

Were material weaknesses in internal control over major programs identified? No

Were significant deficiencies in internal control over major programs identified? None reported

Type of auditor's report issued on compliance for the major state program: Unmodified

Were there any audit findings disclosed that the auditor is required to report under the State of Texas UGMS? No

Major State Program: DEAAG Aquifer Storage and Recovery Enhanced Arroyo Project
2020-02-09

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between type A and type B programs: \$300,000

Did auditee qualify as low-risk auditee under the State of Texas UGMS? No

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SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2023

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS

There are no current year findings.

STATE AWARD FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

There are no current year findings.

**PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD - EL PASO WATER UTILITIES
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SCHEDULE OF STATUS OF PRIOR FINDINGS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2023

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS

There were no prior year findings.

FEDERAL AWARD FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

There were no prior year findings.

STATE AWARD FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

There were no prior year findings.

PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD - EL PASO WATER UTILITIES
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SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF STATE AWARDS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2023

State Grantor/Program Title and Number	Pass-through Grantor's Number	State Expenditures
Office of the Governor - Passed through the City of El Paso		
DEAAG Aquifer Storage and Recovery - Enhanced Arroyo Project 2020-02-09	GS21DEAGAS	<u>\$ 861,835</u>
Total Office of the Governor - Passed through the City of El Paso		<u>861,835</u>
Total State Expenditures		<u><u>\$ 861,835</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD - EL PASO WATER UTILITIES
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NOTES TO SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF STATE AWARDS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2023

1. BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying schedule of expenditures of state awards includes the state award activity of the Public Service Board - El Paso Water Utilities (EPWater), a component unit of the City of El Paso, under programs of the state governments for the year ended February 28, 2023. The information in this schedule is presented in accordance with the requirements of the State of Texas Uniform Grant Management Standards. Because the schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of the EPWater, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, changes in net position, or cash flows of EPWater.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Expenditures reported on the schedule are reported on the accrual basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in the State of Texas Uniform Grant Management Standards wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowable or are limited as to reimbursement.

3. INDIRECT COST RATE

EPWater has elected to not charge indirect costs to the grant.