



January 13, 2021

To the Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
City of Manhattan Beach, California

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Manhattan Beach, California (the City) for the year ended June 30, 2020. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards* and the Uniform Guidance, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated March 31, 2020. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

### **Significant Audit Findings**

#### ***Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices***

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the City are described in the notes to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted, and the application of existing policies was not changed during fiscal year 2019-2020. We noted no transactions entered into by the City during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimate affecting the City's financial statements was:

Management's estimates of its net pension liability and net other post-employment benefits liability based on actuarial valuation specialist assumptions. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the net pension liability and net other post-employment benefits liability in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The most sensitive disclosure(s) affecting the financial statements were the disclosure of commitments and contingencies representing litigation to be paid for reported claims and incurred but not yet reported claims. The ultimate amount of losses incurred through June 30, 2020 is dependent on future developments and the outcome is unknown at this time.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.



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### ***Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit***

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

### ***Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements***

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. No misstatements were found.

### ***Disagreements with Management***

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

### ***Management Representations***

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated January 13, 2021.

### ***Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants***

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the City's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

### ***Other Audit Findings or Issues***

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the City's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

### **Other Matters**

We applied certain limited procedures to the management's discussion and analysis, the budgetary comparison schedules for the general fund, the schedule of changes in net pension liability and related ratio, the schedule of employer contributions, the schedule of investment returns, the schedule of proportionate share of the net pension liability, the schedule of changes in net OPEB liability and related ratio and the schedule of plan contributions, which are required supplementary information (RSI) that supplements the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.



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We were engaged to report on combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements and budgetary schedules which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. With respect to this supplementary information, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

We were not engaged to report on the introductory and statistical sections, which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. 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.

#### New Accounting Standards

The following new Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements were effective for fiscal year 2019-2020 audit:

GASB Statement No. 95, *Postponement of Effective Dates of Certain Authoritative Guidance* – The following pronouncements have been postponed as a temporary relieve to governments and other stakeholders in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the new effective date are reflected in the following fiscal years.

The following Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements are effective in the following fiscal year audit and should be reviewed for proper implementation by management:

#### Fiscal year 2021

GASB Statement No. 84, *Fiduciary Activities*.

GASB Statement No. 90, *Majority Equity Interests - an Amendment of GASB Statement Nos. 14 and 61*.

#### Fiscal year 2022

GASB Statement No. 87, *Leases*.

GASB Statement No. 89, *Accounting for Interest Cost Incurred before the End of a Construction Period*.

#### Fiscal year 2023

GASB Statement No. 91, *Conduit Debt Obligations*.

GASB Statement No. 94, *Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements*.

GASB Statement No. 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements*.



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**Restriction on Use**

This information is intended solely for the use of the City Council and management of the City of Manhattan Beach and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,

*Lance, Soll & Lingham, LLP*

Brea, California