

March 11, 2020

To the Audit Committee and
City Council of City of Garland, Texas

We have audited the financial statements of City of Garland, Texas (the City) as of and for the year ended September 30, 2019, and have issued our report thereon dated March 11, 2020. Professional standards require that we advise you of the following matters relating to our audit.

Our Responsibility in Relation to the Financial Statement Audit

As communicated in our engagement letter dated August 15, 2019, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to form and express an opinion about whether the financial statements that have been prepared by management with your oversight are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of your respective responsibilities.

Our responsibility, as prescribed by professional standards, is to plan and perform our audit to obtain reasonable, rather than absolute, assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit of financial statements includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, as part of our audit, we considered the internal control of the City solely for the purpose of determining our audit procedures and not to provide any assurance concerning such internal control.

We are also responsible for communicating significant matters related to the audit that are, in our professional judgment, relevant to your responsibilities in overseeing the financial reporting process. However, we are not required to design procedures for the purpose of identifying other matters to communicate to you.

Planned Scope and Timing of the Audit

We conducted our audit consistent with the planned scope and timing we previously communicated to you.

Compliance with All Ethics Requirements Regarding Independence

The engagement team, others in our firm, and our firm, as appropriate, have complied with all relevant ethical requirements regarding independence.

Qualitative Aspects of the Entity's Significant Accounting Practices

Significant Accounting Policies

Management has the responsibility to select and use appropriate accounting policies. A summary of the significant accounting policies adopted by the City is included in Note I to the financial statements. As described in Note I.D.11 to the financial statements, during the year, the City implemented Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 83, *Certain Asset Retirement Obligations*. Accordingly, the cumulative effect of the accounting change as of the beginning of the year has been reported in the Statement of Activities. The other pronouncement implemented in 2019 was GASB Statement No. 88, *Certain Disclosures Related to Debt, including Direct Borrowings and Direct Placements*. The implementation of this pronouncement had no significant effect on the financial statements. No matters have come to our attention that would require us, under professional standards, to inform you about (1) the methods used to account for significant unusual transactions and (2) the effect of significant accounting policies in controversial or emerging areas for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus.

Significant Accounting Estimates

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's current judgments. Those judgments are normally based on 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 markedly from management's current judgments.

The most sensitive accounting estimates affecting the financial statements are management's estimate of the allowances for doubtful accounts, useful lives of depreciable assets, fair value of the derivative instrument, net pension liability, post closure landfill liability, other post-employment benefits (OPEB) liability, asset retirement obligation, valuation of derivatives, decommissioning regulatory asset and liability, and incurred but not reported (IBNR) liabilities for self-insured health insurance claims, long-term disability claims, general and auto claims, and workers compensation claims.

The fair value of derivative instruments is provided by a third party derivative consultant. The net pension liability estimate is based on actuarial calculations provided by TMRS.

The estimates for the post closure landfill, OPEB, asset retirement obligation, decommissioning regulatory asset and liability, and IBNR liabilities are based on calculations performed by independent third parties. Allowances for doubtful accounts are calculated based on historical collection rates. Useful lives of depreciable assets are determined by management and compared to other comparable assets held by the City and other similar entities. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop these estimates in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Significant Difficulties Encountered during the Audit

We encountered no difficulties in dealing with management relating to the performance of the audit.

Uncorrected and Corrected Misstatements

For purposes of this communication, professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that we believe are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Further, professional standards require us to also communicate the effect of uncorrected misstatements related to prior periods on the relevant classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures, and the financial statements as a whole and each applicable opinion unit. Management has corrected all identified misstatements.

In addition, professional standards require us to communicate to you all material, corrected misstatements that were brought to the attention of management as a result of our audit procedures. None of the misstatements identified by us as a result of our audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole or applicable opinion units.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, concerning a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, which could be significant to the City's financial statements or the auditor's report. No such disagreements arose during the course of the audit.

Representations Requested from Management

We requested certain written representations from management, which are included in the attached letter dated March 11, 2020.

Management's Consultations with Other Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters. Management informed us that, and to our knowledge, there were no consultations with other accountants regarding auditing and accounting matters.

Other Significant Matters, Findings, or Issues

In the normal course of our professional association with the City, we generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, operating and regulatory conditions affecting the entity, and operational plans and strategies that may affect the risks of material misstatement. None of the matters discussed resulted in a condition to our retention as the City's auditors.

Other Information in Documents Containing Audited Financial Statements

Pursuant to professional standards, our responsibility as auditors for other information in documents containing the City's audited financial statements does not extend beyond the financial information identified in the audit report, and we are not required to perform any procedures to corroborate such other information. However, in accordance with such standards:

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 financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements.

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We have applied certain audit procedures to the combining individual and nonmajor fund financial statements in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America which consisted of auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic 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.

Our responsibility also includes communicating to you any information which we believe is a material misstatement of fact. Nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that such information, or its manner of presentation, is materially inconsistent with the information, or manner of its presentation, appearing in the financial statements.

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

Weaver and Tidwell, L.L.P.

WEAVER AND TIDWELL, L.L.P.



GARLAND

TEXAS MADE HERE

March 11, 2020

Weaver and Tidwell, L.L.P.
2300 N. Field Street, Suite 1000
Dallas, TX 75201

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of the City of Garland (the City), which comprise the respective financial position of the governmental activities, business-type activities, discretely presented component unit, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information as of September 30, 2019 and for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements, for the purpose of expressing opinions on whether the basic financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted for governments in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP).

Certain representations in this letter are described as being limited to matters that are material. Items are considered material, regardless of size, if they involve an omission or misstatement of accounting information that, in the light of surrounding circumstances, makes it probable that the judgment of a reasonable person relying on the information would be changed or influenced by the omission or misstatement.

We confirm that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, having made such inquiries as we considered necessary for the purpose of appropriately informing ourselves as of March 11, 2020:

Financial Statements

- We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of the audit engagement letter dated August 15, 2019, for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements of the various opinion units referred to above in accordance with U.S. GAAP.
- We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
- We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.
- We acknowledge our responsibility for compliance with the laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements.
- We have reviewed, approved, and taken responsibility for the financial statements and related notes.
- We have a process to track the status of audit findings and recommendations.
- We have identified and communicated to you all previous audits, attestation engagements, and other studies related to the audit objectives and whether related recommendations have been implemented.
- Significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.
- Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of U.S. GAAP.
- All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which U.S. GAAP requires adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.
- The effects of all known actual or possible litigation and claims have been accounted for and disclosed in accordance with U.S. GAAP.
- All component units, as well as joint ventures with an equity interest, are included and other joint ventures and related organizations are properly disclosed.
- All funds and activities are properly classified.
- All funds that meet the quantitative criteria in GASB Statement No. 34, *Basic Financial Statements—and Management's Discussion and Analysis—for State and Local Governments*, GASB Statement No. 37, *Basic Financial Statements—and Management's Discussion and Analysis—for State and Local Governments*:

Omnibus as amended, and GASB Statement No. 65, *Items Previously Reported as Assets and Liabilities*, for presentation as major are identified and presented as such and all other funds that are presented as major are considered important to financial statement users.

- All components of net position, nonspendable fund balance, and restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned fund balance are properly classified and, if applicable, approved.
- Our policy regarding whether to first apply restricted or unrestricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position/fund balance are available is appropriately disclosed and net position/fund balance is properly recognized under the policy.
- All revenues within the statement of activities have been properly classified as program revenues, general revenues, contributions to term or permanent endowments, or contributions to permanent fund principal.
- All expenses have been properly classified in or allocated to functions and programs in the statement of activities, and allocations, if any, have been made on a reasonable basis.
- All interfund and intra-entity transactions and balances have been properly classified and reported.
- Special items and extraordinary items have been properly classified and reported.
- Deposit and investment risks have been properly and fully disclosed.
- Capital assets, including infrastructure assets, are properly capitalized, reported, and if applicable, depreciated.
- All required supplementary information is measured and presented within the prescribed guidelines.
- With regard to investments and other instruments reported at fair value:
 - The underlying assumptions are reasonable and they appropriately reflect management’s intent and ability to carry out its stated courses of action.
 - The measurement methods and related assumptions used in determining fair value are appropriate in the circumstances and have been consistently applied.
 - The disclosures related to fair values are complete, adequate, and in accordance with U.S. GAAP.
 - There are no subsequent events that require adjustments to the fair value measurements and disclosures included in the financial statements.
- With respect to nonattest service(s) provided (preparation of the data collection form), we have performed the following:
 - Made all management decisions and performed all management functions;
 - Assigned a competent individual to oversee the services;
 - Evaluated the adequacy of the services performed;
 - Evaluated and accepted responsibility for the result of the service performed; and
 - Established and maintained internal controls, including monitoring ongoing activities.

Information Provided

- We have provided you with:
 - Access to all information, of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements of the various opinion units referred to above, such as records, documentation, meeting minutes,⁷ and other matters;
 - Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and
 - Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
- All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
- We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
- We have provided to you our analysis of the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern, including significant conditions and events present, and if necessary, our analysis of management’s plans, and our ability to achieve those plans.
- We have no knowledge of any fraud or suspected fraud that affects the entity and involves:
 - Management;
 - Employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
 - Others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.

- We have no knowledge of any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the entity's financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, vendors, regulators, or others.
- We have disclosed to you all known actual or possible litigation, claims, and assessments whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.
- We have disclosed to you the identity of the entity's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.
- There have been no communications from regulatory agencies concerning noncompliance with or deficiencies in accounting, internal control, or financial reporting practices.
- The City has no plans or intentions that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities.
- We have disclosed to you all guarantees, whether written or oral, under which the City is contingently liable.
- We have disclosed to you all nonexchange financial guarantees, under which we are obligated and have declared liabilities and disclosed properly in accordance with GASB Statement No. 70, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Nonexchange Financial Guarantees*, for those guarantees where it is more likely than not that the entity will make a payment on any guarantee.
- For nonexchange financial guarantees where we have declared liabilities, the amount of the liability recognized is the discounted present value of the best estimate of the future outflows expected to be incurred as a result of the guarantee. Where there was no best estimate but a range of estimated future outflows has been established, we have recognized the minimum amount within the range.
- We have disclosed to you all significant estimates and material concentrations known to management that are required to be disclosed in accordance with GASB Statement No. 62 (GASB-62), *Codification of Accounting and Financial Reporting Guidance Contained in Pre-November 30, 1989 FASB and AICPA Pronouncements*. Significant estimates are estimates at the balance sheet date that could change materially within the next year. Concentrations refer to volumes of business, revenues, available sources of supply, or markets or geographic areas for which events could occur that would significantly disrupt normal finances within the next year.
- We have identified and disclosed to you the laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements that could have a direct and material effect on financial statement amounts, including legal and contractual provisions for reporting specific activities in separate funds.
- There are no:
 - Violations or possible violations of laws or regulations, or provisions of contracts or grant agreements whose effects should be considered for disclosure in the financial statements or as a basis for recording a loss contingency, including applicable budget laws and regulations.
 - Unasserted claims or assessments that our lawyer has advised are probable of assertion and must be disclosed in accordance with GASB-62.
 - Other liabilities or gain or loss contingencies that are required to be accrued or disclosed by GASB-62
 - Continuing disclosure consent decree agreements or filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission and we have filed updates on a timely basis in accordance with the agreements (Rule 240, 15c2-12).
- The City has satisfactory title to all owned assets, and there are no liens or encumbrances on such assets nor has any asset or future revenue been pledged as collateral, except as disclosed to you.
- We have complied with all aspects of grant agreements and other contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of noncompliance.

Required Supplementary Information

With respect to the required supplementary information accompanying the financial statements:

- We acknowledge our responsibility for the presentation of the required supplementary information in accordance with U.S. GAAP and GASB-68, GASB-75.
- We believe the required supplementary information, including its form and content, is measured and fairly presented in accordance with U.S. GAAP and GASB-68, GASB-75.
- The methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period.

Federal Award Programs

With respect to federal award programs:

- We are responsible for understanding and complying with and have complied with the requirements of Title 2 CFR Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements of Federal Awards (the Uniform Guidance), including requirements relating to preparation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, or we acknowledge our responsibility for presenting the schedule of expenditures of federal awards (SEFA) in accordance with the requirements of the Uniform Guidance and we believe the SEFA, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with the Uniform Guidance. The methods of measurement or presentation of the SEFA have not changed from those used in the prior period and we have disclosed to you any significant assumptions and interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the SEFA.
- If the SEFA is not presented with the audited financial statements, we will make the audited financial statements readily available to the intended users of the SEFA no later than the date we issue the SEFA and the auditor's report thereon.
- We have identified and disclosed to you all of our government programs and related activities subject to the Uniform Guidance and included in the SEFA made during the audit period for all awards provided by federal agencies in the form of grants, federal cost-reimbursement contracts, loans, loan guarantees, property (including donated surplus property), cooperative agreements, interest subsidies, insurance, food commodities, direct appropriations, and other direct assistance.
- We are responsible for understanding and complying with, and have complied with, the requirements of laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements related to each of our federal programs and have identified and disclosed to you the requirements of laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements that are considered to have a direct and material effect on each major program.
- We are responsible for establishing and maintaining, and have established and maintained, effective internal control over compliance requirements applicable to federal programs that provides reasonable assurance that we are managing our federal awards in compliance with laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements that could have a material effect on our federal programs. We believe the internal control system is adequate and is functioning as intended.
- We have made available to you all contracts and grant agreements (including amendments, if any) and any other correspondence with federal agencies or pass-through entities relevant to federal programs and related activities.
- We have received no requests from a federal agency to audit one or more specific programs as a major program.
- We have complied with the direct and material compliance requirements (except for noncompliance disclosed to you), including when applicable, those set forth in the OMB Compliance Supplement, relating to federal awards and have identified and disclosed to you all amounts questioned and all known noncompliance with the requirements of federal awards.
- We have disclosed any communications from grantors and pass-through entities concerning possible noncompliance with the direct and material compliance requirements, including communications received from the end of the period covered by the compliance audit to the date of the auditor's report.
- We have disclosed to you the findings received and related corrective actions taken for previous audits, attestation engagements, and internal or external monitoring that directly relate to the objectives of the compliance audit, including findings received and corrective actions taken from the end of the period covered by the compliance audit to the date of the auditor's report.
- Amounts claimed or used for matching were determined in accordance with relevant guidelines in the Uniform Guidance.
- We have disclosed to you our interpretation of compliance requirements that may have varying interpretations.
- We have made available to you all documentation related to compliance with the direct material compliance requirements, including information related to federal program financial reports and claims for advances and reimbursements.

- We have disclosed to you the nature of any subsequent events that provide additional evidence about conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period affecting noncompliance during the reporting period.
- There are no such known instances of noncompliance with direct and material compliance requirements that occurred subsequent to the period covered by the auditor's report.
- No changes have been made in internal control over compliance or other factors that might significantly affect internal control, including any corrective action we have taken regarding significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance (including material weaknesses in internal control over compliance), subsequent to the date as of which compliance was audited.
- Federal program financial reports and claims for advances and reimbursements are supported by the books and records from which the financial statements have been prepared.
- The copies of federal program financial reports provided you are true copies of the reports submitted, or electronically transmitted, to the respective federal agency or pass-through entity, as applicable.
- We have monitored subrecipients to determine that they have expended pass-through assistance in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and have met the requirements of the Uniform Guidance.
- We have taken appropriate action, including issuing management decisions, on a timely basis after receipt of subrecipients' auditor's reports that identified noncompliance with laws, regulations, or the provisions of contracts or grant agreements and have ensured that subrecipients have taken the appropriate and timely corrective action on findings.
- We have considered the results of subrecipient audits and have made any necessary adjustments to our books and records.
- We have charged costs to federal awards in accordance with applicable cost principles.
- We are responsible for and have accurately prepared the summary schedule of prior audit findings to include all findings required to be included by the Uniform Guidance and we have provided you with all information on the status of the follow-up on prior audit findings by federal awarding agencies and pass-through entities, including all management decisions.
- We are responsible for and have accurately prepared the auditee section of the Data Collection Form as required by the Uniform Guidance.
- We are responsible for preparing and implementing a corrective action plan for each audit finding.
- We have disclosed to you all contracts or other agreements with service organizations, and we have disclosed to you all communications from the service organizations relating to noncompliance at the service organizations.



Matt Watson, Director of Finance