

To the Honorable K. P. George, County Judge
and Members of Commissioners Court
Fort Bend County, Texas

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely present component units, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of Fort Bend County, Texas (the "County"), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated March 20, 2025. 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 June 3, 2024, 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 County 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, as appropriate, our firm, and our network firms have complied with all relevant ethical requirements regarding independence.

Significant Risks Identified

We have identified the following significant risks:

- Management override of internal controls – we have designed our audit procedures to detect override by performing brainstorming discussions among our staff, introducing element of unpredictability in our audit approach, performing fraud inquiries and testing journal entries to the general ledger.
- Improper revenue recognition – we gain an understanding of all revenue streams of the County, and we tested all significant and material transactions during the year.

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 County is included in Note 1 to the financial statements. There have been no initial selection of accounting policies and no changes in significant accounting policies or their application during 2024. 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 uncollectible accounts is based on historical collection rates. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the uncollectible accounts related to property taxes estimate in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Management's estimate of the net pension liability, pension-related deferred outflows and inflows of resources, and pension expense is based on information provided by the Texas County and District Retirement System (TCDRS). We evaluated the County's application of the information provided by TCERS in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Management's estimate of the net Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) liability, OPEB-related deferred outflows/inflows of resources, and OPEB expense is based on information in the financial reporting valuation provided by the County's actuary, Milliman. We evaluated the County's application of the information provided by Milliman in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Financial Statement Disclosures

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

Significant Difficulties Encountered during the Audit

We encountered no significant 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. We did not propose any adjustments to management.

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. We did not identify any material misstatements as a result of our audit procedures.

Nonaudit Services

As part of our audit, we assisted with preparation of the data collection form for submission to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse. The County acknowledged their responsibility as it related to these nonaudit service, including that the County assumed all management responsibilities; oversaw the services by designating an individual within senior management, who possesses suitable skill, knowledge, and experience; evaluated the adequacy and results of the services performed; and accepted responsibility for the results of the service. The County has reviewed, approved, and accepted responsibility for the submission to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse.

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 County's financial statements or the auditor's report. No such disagreements arose during the course of the audit.

Representations Requested from Management

We have requested certain written representations from management, which are included in the management representation letter dated March 20, 2025.

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 County, 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 County's auditors.

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Supplementary Information Included in Annual Reports

With respect to the supplementary information accompanying the financial statements, 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.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Whitley Penn LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Houston, Texas
March 20, 2025