



Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

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September 6, 2016

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This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council, which comprise the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information as of December 31, 2015, and the respective changes in financial position and, and the related notes to the financial statements, for the purpose of expressing opinions as to whether the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted 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 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. An omission or misstatement that is monetarily small in amount could be considered material as a result of qualitative factors.

We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, as of September 6, 2016, the following representations made to you during your audit.

Financial Statements

- 1) We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of the audit engagement letter dated March 11, 2016, including our responsibility for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP and for preparation of the supplementary information in accordance with the applicable criteria.
- 2) The financial statements referred to above are fairly presented in conformity with U.S. GAAP and include all properly classified funds and other financial information of the primary government and all component units required by generally accepted accounting principles to be included in the financial reporting entity.
- 3) 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.
- 4) We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.
- 5) Significant assumptions we used in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.
- 6) Related party relationships and transactions, including revenues, expenditures/expenses, loans, transfers, leasing arrangements, and guarantees, and amounts receivable from or payable to related parties have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with U.S. GAAP, which there were not any.

- 22) We have identified and disclosed to you all instances that have occurred or are likely to have occurred, of fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws and regulations that we believe have a material effect on the financial statements or other financial data significant to the audit objectives, and any other instances that warrant the attention of those charged with governance.
- 23) We have identified and disclosed to you all instances, which have occurred or are likely to have occurred, of noncompliance with provisions of contracts and grant agreements that we believe have a material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts or other financial data significant to the audit objectives.
- 24) We have identified and disclosed to you all instances that have occurred or are likely to have occurred, of abuse that could be quantitatively or qualitatively material to the financial statements or other financial data significant to the audit objectives.
- 25) There are no violations or possible violations of budget ordinances, laws and regulations (including those pertaining to adopting, approving, and amending budgets), provisions of contracts and grant agreements, tax or debt limits, and any related debt covenants whose effects should be considered for disclosure in the financial statements, or as a basis for recording a loss contingency, or for reporting on noncompliance.
- 26) As part of your audit, you assisted with the review of the financial statements and related notes and the preparation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards. We acknowledge our responsibility as it relates to those nonaudit services, including that we assume all management responsibilities; oversee the services by designating an individual, preferably within senior management, who possesses suitable skill, knowledge, or experience; evaluate the adequacy and results of the services performed; and accept responsibility for the results of the services. We have reviewed, approved, and accepted responsibility for those financial statements and related notes and schedule of expenditures of federal awards.
- 27) The council has satisfactory title to all owned assets, and there are no liens or encumbrances on such assets nor has any asset been pledged as collateral.
- 28) The council has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of noncompliance.
- 29) The financial statements properly classify all funds and activities in accordance with GASB Statement No. 34 .
- 30) All funds that meet the quantitative criteria in GASBS Nos. 34 and 37 for presentation as major are identified and presented as such and all other funds that are presented as major are particularly important to financial statement users.
- 31) Components of net position (net investment in capital assets; restricted; and unrestricted) and classifications of fund balance (nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned) are properly classified and, if applicable, approved.
- 32) Investments, derivative instruments, and land and other real estate held by endowments are properly valued.
- 33) Provisions for uncollectible receivables have been properly identified and recorded.
- 34) Expenses have been appropriately classified in or allocated to functions and programs in the statement of activities, and allocations have been made on a reasonable basis.
- 35) Revenues are appropriately classified in the statement of activities within program revenues, general revenues, contributions to term or permanent endowments, or contributions to permanent fund principal.
- 36) Interfund, internal, and intra-entity activity and balances have been appropriately classified and reported.
- 37) Deposits and investment securities and derivative instruments are properly classified as to risk and are properly disclosed.
- 38) Capital assets, including infrastructure and intangible assets, are properly capitalized, reported, and, if applicable, depreciated.
- 39) We have appropriately disclosed the council's 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 is available and have determined that net position is properly recognized under the policy.

- 40) We are following our established accounting policy regarding which resources (that is, restricted, committed, assigned, or unassigned) are considered to be spent first for expenditures for which more than one resource classification is available. That policy determines the fund balance classifications for financial reporting purposes.
- 41) We acknowledge our responsibility for the required supplementary information (RSI). The RSI is measured and presented within prescribed guidelines and the methods of measurement and presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period. We have disclosed to you any significant assumptions and interpretations underlying the measurement and presentation of the RSI.
- 42) With respect to the capital assets used in the operations of governmental funds; comparative schedules by source, schedule by function, schedule of change by function, schedule of revenues and expenditures – budget and actual general fund grant programs, schedule of indirect costs and rate and schedule of employee benefits and basis of allocation:
- a) We acknowledge our responsibility for presenting the capital assets used in the operations of governmental funds; comparative schedules by source, schedule by function, schedule of change by function, schedule of revenues and expenditures – budget and actual general fund grant programs, schedule of indirect costs and rate and schedule of employee benefits and basis of allocation in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and we believe the capital assets used in the operations of governmental funds; comparative schedules by source, schedule by function, schedule of change by function, schedule of revenues and expenditures – budget and actual general fund grant programs, schedule of indirect costs and rate and schedule of employee benefits and basis of allocation, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The methods of measurement and presentation of the capital assets used in the operations of governmental funds; comparative schedules by source, schedule by function, schedule of change by function, schedule of revenues and expenditures – budget and actual general fund grant programs, schedule of indirect costs and rate and schedule of employee benefits and basis of allocation have not changed from those used in the prior period, and we have disclosed to you any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement and presentation of the supplementary information.
 - b) If the capital assets used in the operations of governmental funds; comparative schedules by source, schedule by function, schedule of change by function, schedule of revenues and expenditures – budget and actual general fund grant programs, schedule of indirect costs and rate and schedule of employee benefits and basis of allocation is not presented with the audited financial statements, we will make the audited financial statements readily available to the intended users of the supplementary information no later than the date we issue the supplementary information and the auditor's report thereon.
- 43) With respect to federal award programs:
- a) We are responsible for understanding and complying with and have complied with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance), including requirements relating to preparation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards.
 - b) We acknowledge our responsibility for presenting the schedule of expenditures of federal awards (SEFA) and related notes 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.
 - c) 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.
 - d) We have identified and disclosed to you all of our government programs and related activities subject to the Uniform Guidance compliance audit, and have included in the SEFA, expenditures made during the audit period for all awards provided by federal agencies in the form of federal awards, 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.

- e) We are responsible for understanding and complying with, and have complied with, the requirements of federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards related to each of our federal programs and have identified and disclosed to you the requirements of federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards that are considered to have a direct and material effect on each major program.
- f) We are responsible for establishing and maintaining, and have established and maintained, effective internal control over compliance for federal programs that provides reasonable assurance that we are managing our federal awards in compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards that could have a material effect on our federal programs. We believe the internal control system is adequate and is functioning as intended.
- g) We have made available to you all federal awards (including amendments, if any) and any other correspondence with federal agencies or pass-through entities relevant to federal programs and related activities.
- h) We have received no requests from a federal agency to audit one or more specific programs as a major program.
- i) 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 confirm that there were no amounts questioned and no known noncompliance with the direct and material compliance requirements of federal awards.
- j) We have disclosed any communications from federal awarding agencies 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.
- k) 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.
- l) Amounts claimed or used for matching were determined in accordance with relevant guidelines in OMB's Uniform Guidance (2 CFR part 200, subpart E).
- m) We have disclosed to you our interpretation of compliance requirements that may have varying interpretations.
- n) We have made available to you all documentation related to compliance with the direct and material compliance requirements, including information related to federal program financial reports and claims for advances and reimbursements.
- o) 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.
- p) 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.
- q) 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 or material weaknesses in internal control over compliance, subsequent to the period covered by the auditor's report.
- r) 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.
- s) 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.
- t) We have monitored subrecipients, as necessary, to determine that they have expended subawards in compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the subaward and have met the other pass-through entity requirements of the Uniform Guidance.
- u) We have issued management decisions for audit findings that relate to federal awards made to subrecipients and such management decisions have been issued within six months of acceptance of the audit report by the Federal Audit Clearinghouse. Additionally, we have followed-up ensuring that the subrecipient has taken timely and appropriate action on all deficiencies detected through audits, on-site reviews, and other means that pertain to the federal award provided to the subrecipient.

- v) We have considered the results of subrecipient audits and have made any necessary adjustments to our books and records.
- w) We have charged costs to federal awards in accordance with applicable cost principles.
- x) 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.
- y) We are responsible for and have ensured the reporting package does not contain protected personally identifiable information.
- z) We are responsible for and have accurately prepared the auditee section of the Data Collection Form as required by the Uniform Guidance.
- aa) We are responsible for taking corrective action on each audit finding of the compliance audit and have developed a corrective action plan that meets the requirements of the Uniform Guidance.

Signature: _____

Signature: _____

Title: Board President

Title: Executive Director