

March 31, 2022

To the Board of County Commissioners
Guilford County
201 South Greene Street
Greensboro, North Carolina 27402

Dear Board of County Commissioners:

This engagement letter between Guilford County (hereafter referred to as the “County” or “you” or “your” or “management”) and Cherry Bekaert LLP (the “Firm” or “Cherry Bekaert” or “we” or “us” or “our”) sets forth the nature and scope of the services we will provide, the County’s required involvement and assistance in support of our services, the related fee arrangements, and other Terms and Conditions, which are attached hereto and incorporated by reference, designed to facilitate the performance of our professional services and to achieve the mutually agreed-upon objectives of the County.

Summary of services

We will provide the following services to the County as of and for the year ended June 30, 2022:

Audit and attestation services

1. We will audit the basic financial statements of the County as of and for the year ended June 30, 2022 including the governmental activities, the discretely presented component units, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information, including the disclosures.
2. We will audit the schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards. As part of our engagement we will apply certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America.
3. We will audit the combining and individual fund financial statements and schedules and additional financial data as listed in the table of contents. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America.
4. We will apply limited procedures to the required supplementary information (RSI) as listed in the table of contents (e.g., pension plan information or County’s management’s discussion and analysis (MD&A)), which will consist of inquiries of County’s 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 financial statements.

5. The introductory and statistical information accompanying the financial statements will not be subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements and our auditor's report will not provide an opinion or any assurance on that information.

Nonattest accounting and other services

We will provide the following additional services:

1. Complete the appropriate sections of and sign the Data Collection Form.

Your expectations

As part of our planning process, we have discussed with you your expectations of Cherry Bekaert, changes that occurred during the year, your views on risks facing you, any relationship issues with Cherry Bekaert, and specific engagement arrangements and timing. Our services plan, which includes our audit plan, is designed to provide a foundation for an effective, efficient, and quality-focused approach to accomplish the engagement objectives and meet or exceed the County's expectations. Our services plan will be reviewed with you periodically and will serve as a benchmark against which you will be able to measure our performance. Any additional services that you may request, and that we agree to provide, will be the subject of separate written arrangements.

The County recognizes that our professional standards require that we be independent from the County in our audit of the County's financial statements and our accompanying report in order to ensure that our objectivity and professional skepticism have not been compromised. As a result, we cannot enter into a fiduciary relationship with the County and the County should not expect that we will act only with due regard to the County's interest in the performance of this audit, and the County should not impose on us special confidence that we will conduct this audit with only the County's interest in mind. Because of our obligation to be independent of the County, no fiduciary relationship will be created by this engagement or audit of the County's financial statements.

The engagement will be led by April Adams, who will be responsible for assuring the overall quality, value, and timeliness of the services provided to you.

Audit and attestation services

Our audit will be conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the provisions of Uniform Guidance; the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996; State Single Audit Implementation Act and OMB *Guidance for Grants and Agreements* (2 CFR 200) and the State Single Audit Implementation Act. The objective of our audit is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the County's basic financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion(s) about whether the County's basic financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and to report on the fairness of the additional information referred to in the Summary of Services section when considered in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole. 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 GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when

it exists. Misstatements, including omissions, can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment of a reasonable user made based on the financial statements in conformity with the basis of accounting noted above. The objective also includes reporting on:

- Internal control over financial reporting and compliance with the provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*
- Internal control over compliance related to major programs and an opinion (or disclaimer of opinion) on compliance with laws, regulations and the provisions of contracts or grant agreements that could have a direct and material effect on each major program in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and *Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* ("Uniform Guidance") and the State Single Audit Implementation Act

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We will conduct our audit in accordance with GAAS and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and will include tests of accounting records, a determination of major programs in accordance with Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Act, and other procedures as deemed necessary to enable us to express such opinions about whether the financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP"). We will also:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Obtain an understanding of the County and its environment, including internal control relevant to the audit, sufficient to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and to design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risk, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion(s). The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentation, or the override of internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management. We will also evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control. However, we will communicate to you in writing concerning any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control relevant to the audit of the financial statements that we have identified during the audit.
- Conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the County's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Nonattest accounting and other services

In connection with any of the audit, accounting, or other services noted below, we will provide a copy of all schedules or other support for you to maintain as part of your books and records supporting your basic financial statements. You agree to take responsibility for all documents provided by Cherry Bekaert and will retain copies based on your needs and document retention policies. By providing these documents to you, you confirm that Cherry Bekaert is not responsible for hosting your records or maintaining custody of your records or data and that Cherry Bekaert is not providing business continuity or disaster recovery services. You confirm you are responsible for maintaining internal controls over your books and records including business continuity and disaster recovery alternatives. In addition, any documents provided to Cherry Bekaert by the County in connection with these services will be considered to be copies and will not be retained by Cherry Bekaert after completion of the accounting and other services. You are expected to retain anything you upload to a Cherry Bekaert portal and are responsible for downloading and retaining anything we upload in a timely manner. Portals are only meant as a method of transferring data, are not intended for the storage of client information, and may be deleted at any time. You are expected to maintain control over your accounting systems to include the licensing of applications and the hosting of said applications and data. We do not provide electronic security or back-up services for any of your data or records. Giving us access to your accounting system does not make us hosts of information contained within.

The accounting and other services described in this section are nonaudit services, which do not constitute audit services under *Government Auditing Standards*, and such services will not be conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. We will perform the services in accordance with applicable professional standards. We, in our sole professional judgment, reserve the right to refuse to perform any procedure or take any action that could be construed as assuming County's management responsibilities.

In conjunction with providing these accounting and other services, we may use third party software or templates created by Cherry Bekaert for use on third party software. Management expressly agrees that the County has obtained no rights to use such software or templates and that Cherry Bekaert's use of the County's data in those applications is not deemed to be hosting, maintaining custody, providing business continuity, or disaster recovery services.

Data collection form

We will complete the appropriate sections of and sign the Data Collection Form that summarizes our audit findings. We will provide copies of our reports to the County; however, it is the County's management's responsibility to submit the reporting package (including financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards, summary

schedule of prior audit findings, auditors' reports, and corrective action plan) along with the Data Collection Form to the designated federal audit clearinghouse and, if appropriate, to pass-through entities. The Data Collection Form and the reporting package must be submitted within the earlier of 30 days after receipt of the auditors' reports or nine months after the end of the audit period.

County's management responsibilities related to accounting and other services

For all nonattest services we perform in connection with the engagement, you are responsible for designating a competent employee to oversee the services, make any management decisions, perform any management functions related to the services, evaluate the adequacy of the services, retain relevant copies supporting your books and records, and accept overall responsibility for the results of the services.

Prior to the release of the report, the County's management will need to sign a representation letter acknowledging its responsibility for the results of these services, and acknowledging receipt of all appropriate copies.

Use of the internal audit function

As part of our engagement, we plan to use the work of the internal audit function to provide direct assistance. The successful use of the internal audit function was considered in developing our fee proposal. The successful use of the internal audit function is dependent upon our assessment of the objectivity and competence of the internal audit function and its personnel. The successful use of the internal audit function to provide direct assistance is dependent upon our ability to confirm that those individuals employed or contracted by you and performing work on our behalf are allowed to follow our instructions without undue restrictions from the County's management. We currently plan to use the internal audit function to provide direct assistance during our audit as follows:

- Testing of compliance requirements for major federal and state programs identified by Cherry Bekaert.

If any disagreements over our procedures or the use of the internal audit function do arise, the County will work with us on a best efforts basis to satisfactorily resolve any issues.

As part of our consideration of the use of the internal audit function, we will make certain inquiries and request supporting documentation when applicable. In addition, to facilitate a constructive and complementary relationship we will ask that those responsible for the internal audit function timely provide us responses to questionnaires and participate in the planning of our audit when requested.

If we are unable to successfully use the work of the internal function, whether due to lack of objectivity, competence, application of a systematic and disciplined approach, application of a quality control system, or undue restrictions placed by the County's management, then we will estimate the impact on the nature, timing, and extent of our planned audit procedures and will communicate with the County concerning the scope of the additional procedures and the additional estimated fees.

County's management responsibilities related to the audit

The County's management is responsible for (1) designing, implementing, and maintaining internal controls, including internal controls over federal awards, and for evaluating and monitoring ongoing activities, relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to help ensure that appropriate goals and objectives are met; (2) following laws and regulations; (3) ensuring that there is reasonable assurance that government programs are administered in compliance with compliance requirements; and (4) ensuring that the County's management and financial information is reliable and properly reported. The County's management is also responsible for implementing systems designed to achieve compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements. You are also responsible for the selection and application of accounting principles; for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards and all accompanying information in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles; and for compliance with applicable laws and regulations (including federal statutes) and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements (including award agreements). Your responsibilities also include identifying significant contractor relationship in which the contractor has responsibility for program compliance and for the accuracy and completeness of that information.

The County's management is responsible for making all financial records and related information available to us, including additional information that is requested for purposes of the audit (including information from outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers), and for the accuracy and completeness of that information. You are also responsible for providing us with (1) access to all information of which it is aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, such as records, documentation, identification of all related parties and all related-party relationships and transactions, and other matters, (2) access to personnel, accounts, books, records, supporting documentation, and other information as needed to perform an audit under the Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Act, (3) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit and (4) unrestricted access to persons within the County from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

Your responsibilities include adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and for confirming to us in the written representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

You are responsible for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud, and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud affecting the County involving (1) the County's management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. Your responsibilities include informing us of your knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the County received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or other. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the County complies with applicable laws, regulations contracts, agreements, and grants and for taking timely and appropriate steps to remedy fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, or grant agreements that we report. Additionally, as required by the Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Act, it is the County's management's responsibility to evaluate and monitor noncompliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal

awards; take prompt action when instances of noncompliance are identified including noncompliance identified in audit findings; promptly follow up and take corrective action on reported audit findings; and prepare a summary schedule of prior audit findings and a separate corrective action plan.

The County's management is responsible for identifying all federal awards received and understanding and complying with the compliance requirements and for the preparation of the schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards (including notes and noncash assistance received, and COVID-19 related concepts, such as lost revenues, if applicable) in conformity with the Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Act. You agree to include our report on the schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards in any document that contains and indicates that we have reported on the schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards. You also agree to make the audited financial statements readily available to intended users of the schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards no later than the date the schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards is issued with our report thereon. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the written representation letter that (1) you are responsible for presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards in accordance with the Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Act, (2) you believe the schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards, including its form and content, is stated fairly in accordance with the Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Act, (3) the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes), and (4) the County has disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards.

You are responsible for the preparation of the supplementary information, which we have been engaged to report on, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. You agree to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains and indicates that we have reported on the supplementary information. You also agree to make the audited financial statements readily available to users of the supplementary information no later than the date the supplementary information is issued with our report thereon. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the written representation letter that (1) you are responsible for presentation of the supplementary information in accordance with GAAP, (2) you believe the supplementary information, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with GAAP, (3) the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes), and (4) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the supplementary information.

The County's management is responsible for establishing and maintaining a process for tracking the status of audit findings and recommendations. The County's management is also responsible for identifying and providing report copies of previous financial audits, attestation engagements, performance audits or other studies related to the objectives discussed in the *Audit and attestation services* section of this letter. This responsibility includes relaying to us corrective actions taken to address significant findings and recommendations resulting from those audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or other studies. You are also responsible for providing County's management views on our current findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as your planned corrective actions, for the report, and for the timing and format for providing that information.

The County's management agrees to assume all management responsibilities relating to the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards and disclosures, and any other nonaudit services we provide. You will be required to acknowledge in the management representation letter our assistance with preparation of the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards, and disclosures, and that you have reviewed and approved the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards, and disclosures prior to their issuance and have accepted responsibility for them. Further, you agree to oversee the nonaudit services by designating an individual, preferably from senior management, with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience; evaluate the adequacy and results of those services; and accept responsibility for them.

The County's management is responsible for disclosing to us all documents that comprise the annual report and preparation of the annual report. You agree you will provide us with the final version of all documents comprising the annual report prior to the date of the auditor's report so that required audit procedures can be completed prior to the issuance of the auditor's report. If obtaining the final version of these documents is not possible prior to the date of the auditor's report, then the documents will be provided as soon as practicable, and the County will not issue the annual report prior to providing them to the us and allowing sufficient time to apply required audit procedures. If the documents comprising the annual report are provided after the date of the auditor's report and we concluded that there is a material inconsistency or misstatement then we will take appropriate actions which may include communicating the matter to those charged with governance or obtaining legal advice.

Reporting

Our report will be addressed to the Commissioners of the County. Circumstances may arise in which our report may differ from its expected form and content based on the result of our audit. Depending on the nature of these circumstances, it may be necessary for us to modify our opinion or add emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraphs to our auditor's report, or if necessary, withdraw from this engagement. If our opinion is other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed an opinion, we may decline to express opinions or issue reports, or may withdraw from this engagement.

We will also issue written reports upon completion of our Single Audit. The *Government Auditing Standards* report on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance and other matters will include a paragraph that states that (1) the purpose of the report is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control and compliance and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control or on compliance, and (2) the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. The Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Act report on internal control over compliance will include a paragraph that states that the purpose of the report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Act. Both reports will state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Management representations

The Firm will rely on the County's management providing the above noted representations to us, both in the planning and performance of the audit, and in considering the fees that we will charge to perform the audit.

Fees

The fees contemplate only the services described in the Summary of Services section of this letter. You may request that we perform additional services not addressed in this engagement letter. If this occurs, we will communicate with you concerning the scope of the additional services and the estimated fees. We also may issue a separate engagement letter covering the additional services. In the absence of any other written communication from us documenting such additional services, our services will continue to be governed by the terms of this engagement letter. If the County's management requests additional services not listed above, we will provide an estimate of those fees prior to commencing additional work.

The following summarizes the fees for the services described above:

Description of services	Estimated fee
Audit services	
Audit of the financial statements	\$ 107,550
Accounting services	
Preparation of Data Collection Form	Included in fee

The fee noted above is contingent on Guilford County's internal audit department doing the major program testing. If Guilford County's internal audit department does not do the major program testing the fee for each major program that is required to be tested will be an additional \$4,000-\$5,000 per major program.

The fees will be billed periodically. Invoices are due on presentation.

If the foregoing is in accordance with your understanding, please sign a copy of this letter in the space provided and return it to us. No change, modification, addition, or amendment to this letter shall be valid unless in writing and signed by all parties. The parties agree that this letter may be electronically signed and that the electronic signatures will be deemed to have the same force and effect as handwritten signatures.

If you have any questions, please call April Adams at 919-742-1040.

Sincerely,

CHERRY BEKAERT LLP



ATTACHMENT – Engagement Letter Terms and Conditions

GUILFORD COUNTY

ACCEPTED BY: _____

TITLE: _____ DATE: _____

Cherry Bekaert LLP

Engagement Letter Terms and Conditions

The following terms and conditions are an integral part of the attached engagement letter and should be read in their entirety in conjunction with your review of the letter.

Limitations of the audit report

Should the County wish to include or incorporate by reference these financial statements and our report thereon into *any* other document at some future date, we will consider granting permission to include our report into another such document at the time of the request. However, we may be required by generally accepted auditing standards ("GAAS") to perform certain procedures before we can give our permission to include our report in another document such as an annual report, private placement, regulator filing, official statement, offering of debt securities, etc. You agree that the County will not include or incorporate by reference these financial statements and our report thereon, or our report into any other document without our prior written permission. In addition, to avoid unnecessary delay or misunderstandings, it is important to provide us with timely notice of your intention to issue any such document.

Limitations of the audit process

In conducting the audit, we will perform tests of the accounting records and such other procedures as we consider necessary in the circumstances to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion on the financial statements. We also will assess the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by the County's management, as well as evaluate the overall financial statement presentation.

Our audit will include procedures designed to obtain reasonable assurance of detecting misstatements due to errors or fraud that are material to the financial statements. Absolute assurance is not attainable because of the nature of audit evidence and the characteristics of fraud. For example, audits performed in accordance with GAAS are based on the concept of selective testing of the data being examined and are, therefore, subject to the limitation that material misstatements due to errors or fraud, if they exist, may not be detected. Also, an audit is not designed to detect matters that are immaterial to the financial statements. In addition, an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS does not include procedures specifically designed to detect illegal acts having an indirect effect (e.g., violations of fraud and abuse statutes that result in fines or penalties being imposed on the County) on the financial statements.

Similarly, in performing our audit we will be aware of the possibility that illegal acts may have occurred. However, it should be recognized that our audit provides no assurance that illegal acts generally will be detected, and only reasonable assurance that illegal acts having a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts will be detected. We will inform you with respect to errors and fraud, or illegal acts that come to our attention during the course of our audit unless clearly inconsequential. In the event that we have to consult with the County's counsel or counsel of our choosing regarding any illegal acts we identify, additional fees incurred may be billed to the County. You agree that the County will cooperate fully with any procedures we deem necessary to perform with respect to these matters.

We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of the County's financial statements. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit, or are unable to form, or have not formed an opinion on the financial statements, we may decline to express an opinion or decline to issue a report as a result of the engagement. We will notify the appropriate party within your organization of our decision and discuss the reasons supporting our position.

Audit procedures – general

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; therefore, our audit will involve professional judgment about the number of transactions to be examined and the areas to be tested. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the County's management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable rather than absolute assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the County or to acts by the County's management or employees acting on behalf of the County. Because the determination of waste and abuse is subjective, *Government Auditing Standards* do not expect auditors to perform specific procedures to detect waste or abuse in financial audits, nor do they expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting waste and abuse.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, combined with the inherent limitations of internal control there is an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements may not be detected by us, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*. In addition, an audit is not designed to detect immaterial misstatements or violations of laws or governmental regulations that do not have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, we will inform the appropriate level of the County's management of any material errors, fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets that come to our attention. We will also inform the appropriate level of management of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential. Our responsibility as auditor is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

Our procedures will include tests of documentary evidence supporting the transactions recorded in the accounts, and may include tests of the physical existence of inventories, and direct confirmation of receivables and certain assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected customers, funding sources, creditors and financial institutions. We will request written representations from your attorneys as part of the engagement, and they may bill you for responding to this inquiry. At the conclusion of our audit, we will require certain written representations from you about your responsibilities for the financial statements; schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards; federal award programs; compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements; and other responsibilities required by generally accepted auditing standards.

Audit procedures – internal controls

Our audit will include obtaining an understanding of the County and its environment, including internal controls relevant to the audit, sufficient to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and to design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks and obtain evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion(s). The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentation, or the override of internal control. Tests of controls may be performed to test the effectiveness of certain controls that we consider relevant to preventing and detecting errors and fraud that are material to the financial statements and to preventing and detecting misstatements resulting from illegal acts and other noncompliance matters that have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. Our tests, if performed, will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on internal control, including cybersecurity, and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

As required by the Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Act, we will perform tests of controls over compliance to evaluate the effectiveness of the design and operation of controls that we consider relevant to preventing or detecting material noncompliance with compliance requirements applicable to each major federal and state award program. However, our tests will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on those controls and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Act.

An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. However, during the audit, we will communicate to the County's management and those charged with governance internal control related matters that are required to be communicated under American Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("AICPA") professional standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Act.

Audit procedures - compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the basic financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of the County's compliance with provisions of applicable laws and regulations, contracts and agreements, including grant agreements. However, the objective of those procedures will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion in our report on compliance issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

The Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Act requires that we also plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the auditee has complied with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards applicable to major programs. Our procedures will consist of tests of transactions and other applicable procedures described in the *OMB Compliance Supplement* for the types of compliance requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each of the County's major programs. For federal programs that are included in the Compliance Supplement, our compliance and internal control procedures will relate to the compliance requirements that

the Compliance Supplement identifies as being subject to audit. The purpose of these procedures will be to express an opinion on the County's compliance with requirements applicable to each of its major programs in our report on compliance issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Act.

Nonattest services (if applicable)

All nonattest services to be provided in the attached engagement letter (if applicable) shall be provided pursuant to the AICPA Code of Professional Conduct. The AICPA Code of Professional Conduct requires that we establish objectives of the engagement and the services to be performed, which are described under nonattest services in the attached letter.

You agree that the County's designated individual will assume all the County's management responsibilities for the nonattest services we provide; oversee the services by designating an individual, with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience; evaluate the adequacy and results of the services; and accept responsibility for them. In order to ensure we provide such services in compliance with all professional standards, the designated individual is responsible for:

- Making all financial records and related information available to us
- Ensuring that all material information is disclosed to us
- Granting unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence
- Identifying and ensuring that such nonattest complies with the laws and regulations

The accuracy and appropriateness of such nonattest services shall be limited by the accuracy and sufficiency of the information provided by the County's designated individual. In the course of providing such nonattest services, we may provide professional advice and guidance based on knowledge of accounting, tax and other compliance, and of the facts and circumstances as provided by the County's designated individual. Such advice and guidance shall be limited as permitted under the AICPA Code of Professional Conduct.

Communications

At the conclusion of the audit engagement, we may provide the County's management and those charged with governance a letter stating any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses which may have been identified by us during the audit and our recommendations designed to help the County make improvements in its internal control structure and operations related to the identified matters discovered in the financial statement audit. As part of this engagement, we will ensure that certain additional matters are communicated to the appropriate members of the County. Such matters include (1) our responsibilities under GAAS, (2) the initial selection of and changes in significant accounting policies and their application, (3) our independence with respect to the County, (4) the process used by County's management in formulating particularly sensitive accounting estimates and the basis for our conclusion regarding the reasonableness of those estimates, (5) audit adjustments, if any, that could, in our judgment, either individually or in the aggregate be significant to the financial statements or our report, (6) any disagreements with the County's management concerning a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter that could be significant to the financial statements, (7) our views about matters that were the subject of the County's management's consultation with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, (8) major issues that were discussed with the County's management in connection with the retention of our services, including, among other matters, any discussions regarding the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, and (9) serious difficulties that we encountered in dealing with the County's management related to the performance of the audit.

We have attached, a copy of the report on our most recent peer review.

Other matters

Access to working papers

The working papers and related documentation for the engagement are the property of the Firm and constitute confidential information. We have a responsibility to retain the documentation for a period of time to satisfy legal or regulatory requirements for records retention. It is our policy to retain all workpapers and client information for seven years from the date of issuance of the report. It is our policy to retain emails and attachments to emails for a period of 12 months, except as required by any governmental regulation. Except as discussed below, any requests for access to our working papers will be discussed with you prior to making them available to requesting parties. Any parties seeking voluntary access to our working papers must agree to sign our standard access letter.

We may be requested to make certain documentation available to regulators, governmental agencies (e.g., SEC, PCAOB, HUD, DOL, etc.), or their representatives ("Regulators") pursuant to law or regulations. If requested, access to the documentation will be provided to the Regulators. The Regulators may intend to distribute to others, including other governmental agencies, our working papers and related documentation without our knowledge or express permission. You hereby acknowledge and authorize us to allow Regulators access to and copies of documentation as requested. In addition, our Firm, as well as all other major accounting firms, participates in a "peer review" program covering our audit and accounting practices as required by the AICPA. This program requires that once every three years we subject our quality assurance practices to an examination by another accounting firm. As part of the process, the other firm will review a sample of our work. It is possible that the work we perform for the County may be selected by the other firm for their review. If it is, they are bound by professional standards to keep all information confidential. If you object to having the work we do for you reviewed by our peer reviewer, please notify us in writing.

Electronic transmittals

During the course of our engagement, we may need to electronically transmit confidential information to each other, within the Firm, and to other entities engaged by either party. Although email is an efficient way to communicate, it is not always a secure means of communication and thus, confidentiality may be compromised. As an alternative, we recommend using our Client Portal ("Portal") to transmit documents. Portal allows the County, us, and other involved entities to upload and download documents in a secure location. You agree to the use of email, Portal, and other electronic methods to transmit and receive information, including confidential information, between the Firm, the County, and other third party providers utilized by either party in connection with the engagement.

Use of third party providers

In the normal course of business, we may on occasion use the services of an independent contractor or a temporary or loaned employee, all of whom may be considered a third party service provider. On these occasions, we remain responsible for the adequate oversight of all services performed by the third party service provider and for ensuring that all services are performed with professional competence and due professional care. We will adequately plan and supervise the services provided by the third party service provider; obtain sufficient relevant data to support the work product; and review compliance with technical standards

applicable to the professional services rendered. We will enter into a contractual agreement with the third party service provider to maintain the confidentiality of information and be reasonably assured that the third party service provider has appropriate procedures in place to prevent the unauthorized release of confidential information to others.

Subpoenas

In the event we are requested or authorized by the County, or required by government regulation, subpoena, or other legal process to produce our working papers or our personnel as witnesses with respect to our engagement for the County, the County will, so long as we are not a party to the proceeding in which the information is sought, reimburse us for our professional time and expense, as well as the fees and expenses of our counsel, incurred in responding to such a request at standard billing rates.

Dispute resolution provision

This Dispute Resolution Provision sets forth the dispute resolution process and procedures applicable to any dispute or claim arising out of or relating to this engagement letter or the services provided hereunder, or any other audit or attest services provided by or on behalf of the Firm or any of its subcontractors or agents to the County or at its request ("Disputes"), and shall apply to the fullest extent of the law, whether in contract, statute, tort (such as negligence), or otherwise.

Mediation

All Disputes shall be first submitted to nonbinding confidential mediation by written notice to the parties, and shall be treated as compromise and settlement negotiations under the standards set forth in the Federal Rules of Evidence and all applicable state counterparts, together with any applicable statutes protecting the confidentiality of mediations or settlement discussions. If the parties cannot agree on a mediator, the International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution ("CPR"), at the written request of a party, shall designate a mediator.

Costs

Each party shall bear its own costs in the mediation; however, the parties shall share the fees and expenses of the mediators equally.

Independent contractor

Each party is an independent contractor with respect to the other and shall not be construed as having a trustee, joint venture, agency, or fiduciary relationship.

No third party beneficiaries

The parties do not intend to benefit any third party by entering into this agreement, and nothing contained in this agreement confers any right or benefit upon any person or entity who or which is not a signatory of this agreement.

Terms and conditions supporting fees

The estimated fees set forth in the attached engagement letter are based on anticipated full cooperation from the County's personnel, timely delivery of requested audit schedules and supporting information, timely communication of all significant accounting and financial reporting matters, the assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered

during the audit, as well as working space and clerical assistance as mutually agreed-upon and as is normal and reasonable in the circumstances. We strive to ensure that we have the right professionals scheduled on each engagement. As a result, sudden County requested scheduling changes or scheduling changes necessitated by the agreed information not being ready on the agreed-upon dates can result in expensive downtime for our professionals. Any last minute schedule changes that result in downtime for our professionals could result in additional fees. Our estimated fees do not include assistance in bookkeeping or other accounting services not previously described. If, for any reason, the County is unable to provide such schedules, information, and assistance, the Firm and the County will mutually revise the fee to reflect additional services, if any, required of us to achieve these objectives.

The estimated fees contemplate that the County will provide adequate documentation of its systems and controls related to significant transaction cycles and audit areas.

In providing our services, we will consult with the County with respect to matters of accounting, financial reporting, or other significant business issues as permitted by professional standards. Accordingly, time necessary to affect a reasonable amount of such consultation is reflected in our fees. However, should a matter require research, consultation, or audit work beyond that amount, the Firm and the County will agree to an appropriate revision in our fee.

The estimated fees are based on auditing and accounting standards effective as of the date of this engagement letter and known to apply to the County at this time, but do not include any time related to the application of new auditing or accounting standards that impact the County for the first time. If new auditing or accounting standards are issued subsequent to the date of this letter and are effective for the period under audit, we will estimate the impact of any such standard on the nature, timing, and extent of our planned audit procedures and will communicate with the County concerning the scope of the additional procedures and the estimated fees.

The County agrees to pay all costs of collection (including reasonable attorneys' fees) that the Firm may incur in connection with the collection of unpaid invoices. In the event of nonpayment of any invoice rendered by us, we retain the right to (a) suspend the performance of our services, (b) change the payment conditions under this engagement letter, or (c) terminate our services. If we elect to suspend our services, such services will not be resumed until your account is paid. If we elect to terminate our services for nonpayment, the County will be obligated to compensate us for all time expended and reimburse us for all expenses through the date of termination.

This engagement letter sets forth the entire understanding between the County and the Firm regarding the services described herein and supersedes any previous proposals, correspondence, and understandings whether written or oral. Any subsequent changes to the terms of this letter, other than additional billings, will be rendered in writing and shall be executed by both parties. Should any portion of this engagement letter be ruled invalid, it is agreed that such invalidity will not affect any of the remaining portions.