



Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy

Accountability Audit Report
Benton Clean Air Agency
Benton County

For the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2016

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February 21, 2017

Board of Directors
Benton Clean Air Agency
Kennewick, Washington

Report on Accountability

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you to promote accountability, integrity and openness in government. The State Auditor's Office takes seriously our role of providing state and local governments with assurance and accountability as the independent auditor of public accounts. In this way, we strive to help government work better, cost less, deliver higher value and earn greater public trust.

Independent audits provide essential accountability and transparency for Agency operations. This information is valuable to management, the governing body and public stakeholders when assessing the government's stewardship of public resources.

The attached comprises our report on the Agency's compliance and safeguarding of public resources. Our independent audit report describes the overall results and conclusions for areas we examined. We appreciate the opportunity to work with your staff and we value your cooperation during the audit.

Sincerely,

Pat McCarthy
State Auditor
Olympia, WA

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AUDIT SUMMARY

Results in brief

In most areas we audited, Agency operations complied with applicable requirements and provided adequate safeguarding of public resources. The Agency also complied with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures in the areas we examined.

However, we noted certain matters that we communicated to Agency management in a letter dated February 14, 2017, related to Air Operating Permit fees and billing. We appreciate the Agency's commitment to resolving those matters.

About the audit

This report contains the results of our independent accountability audit of the Benton Clean Air Agency from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2016.

Management is responsible for ensuring compliance and adequate safeguarding of public resources from fraud, loss or abuse. This includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal controls relevant to these objectives.

Our audit involved performing procedures to obtain evidence about the Agency's uses of public resources, compliance with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures, and internal controls over such matters.

In keeping with general auditing practices, we do not examine every transaction, activity or area. Instead, the areas examined were those representing the highest risk of fraud, loss, abuse, or noncompliance. The following areas were examined during this audit period:

- Benefits policy
- Credit cards
- Point & Pay system
- General disbursements
- Financial condition

INFORMATION ABOUT THE AGENCY

The Benton Clean Air Agency was originally established in 1970 as the Benton-Franklin-Walla Walla Counties Air Pollution Control Authority. Walla Walla withdrew from the Authority in 1993 and the Authority's name was changed to the Benton Franklin County Clean Air Authority. Franklin County withdrew from the Authority in 1995 and the Authority's name was changed to the Benton County Clean Air Authority. In 1998, the Authority's name was changed to the Benton Clean Air Authority. Finally, the Authority changed its name to the Benton Clean Air Agency in 2007. The mission of the Authority is to preserve, protect and enhance air quality for the benefit of the public, human health, safety and enjoyment of life, property and natural attractions, in balance with economic and social wellbeing.

An appointed five-member Board of Directors governs the Agency. Two Board Members are appointed by Benton County Commissioners, two Board Members are appointed by the City Selection Committee, and one additional Member is designated by the above four appointees. The Agency currently has five full-time employees and had operating expense of \$571,021 and \$557,185 in fiscal years 2015 and 2016, respectively.

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Information current as of report publish date.

Audit history

During the current audit period, the State Auditor's Office issued a report on agreed-upon procedures performed at the Agency. You can find current and past audit reports for the Benton Clean Air Agency at <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

ABOUT THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

The State Auditor's Office is established in the state's Constitution and is part of the executive branch of state government. The State Auditor is elected by the citizens of Washington and serves four-year terms.

We work with our audit clients and citizens to achieve our vision of government that works for citizens, by helping governments work better, cost less, deliver higher value, and earn greater public trust.

In fulfilling our mission to hold state and local governments accountable for the use of public resources, we also hold ourselves accountable by continually improving our audit quality and operational efficiency and developing highly engaged and committed employees.

As an elected agency, the State Auditor's Office has the independence necessary to objectively perform audits and investigations. Our audits are designed to comply with professional standards as well as to satisfy the requirements of federal, state, and local laws.

Our audits look at financial information and compliance with state, federal and local laws on the part of all local governments, including schools, and all state agencies, including institutions of higher education. In addition, we conduct performance audits of state agencies and local governments as well as [fraud](#), state [whistleblower](#) and [citizen hotline](#) investigations.

The results of our work are widely distributed through a variety of reports, which are available on our [website](#) and through our free, electronic [subscription](#) service.

We take our role as partners in accountability seriously, and provide training and technical assistance to governments, and have an extensive quality assurance program.

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