



Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy

Financial Statements Audit Report

Washington State Major League Baseball Stadium Public Facilities District

For the period January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017

Published October 18, 2018

Report No. 1022383





**Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy**

October 18, 2018

Board of Directors

Washington State Major League Baseball Stadium Public Facilities District
Seattle, Washington

Report on Financial Statements

Please find attached our report on the Washington State Major League Baseball Stadium Public Facilities District's financial statements.

We are issuing this report in order to provide information on the District's financial condition.

Sincerely,

Pat McCarthy

State Auditor

Olympia, WA

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

Washington State Major League Baseball Stadium Public Facilities District January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017

Board of Directors

Washington State Major League Baseball Stadium Public Facilities District
Seattle, Washington

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the Washington State Major League Baseball Stadium Public Facilities District, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2017, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated October 10, 2018.

INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. *A material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the District's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the District's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of the District's compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the District's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited. It also serves to disseminate information to the public as a reporting tool to help citizens assess government operations.



Pat McCarthy

State Auditor

Olympia, WA

October 10, 2018

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Washington State Major League Baseball Stadium Public Facilities District January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017

Board of Directors

Washington State Major League Baseball Stadium Public Facilities District
Seattle, Washington

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Washington State Major League Baseball Stadium Public Facilities District, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2017, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed on page 9.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes 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.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control

relevant to the District's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Washington State Major League Baseball Stadium Public Facilities District, as of December 31, 2017, and the changes in financial position and cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic or historical context. 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. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

OTHER REPORTING REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated October 10, 2018 on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat McCarthy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pat McCarthy
State Auditor
Olympia, WA

October 10, 2018

FINANCIAL SECTION

Washington State Major League Baseball Stadium Public Facilities District January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Management's Discussion and Analysis – 2017

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Balance Sheet – 2017

Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position – 2017

Statement of Cash Flows – 2017

Notes to Financial Statements – 2017

**WASHINGTON STATE MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL STADIUM
PUBLIC FACILITIES DISTRICT**

**Management's Discussion and Analysis
December 31, 2017**

Financial Highlights

- The District's net position decreased by \$7,725,228 as a result of current year operations. This is primarily due to an increase of \$362,629 in general and administrative expenses when compared to prior year and annual depreciation expense of \$12,985,012, partially offset by \$6,076,766 in operating revenues.
- The District's total capital assets decreased by \$12,483,158, primarily due to annual depreciation expense totaling \$12,985,012 offset by additions of \$501,854.

Financial Analysis

Overall Analysis - The District's overall financial position did not change significantly from the previous year.

Balance Sheets as of December 31,	2017	2016
Current assets	\$ 17,053,781	\$ 12,251,753
Net capital assets	322,582,809	335,065,967
Total Assets	<u>\$ 339,636,590</u>	<u>\$ 347,317,720</u>
Current liabilities	\$ 76,384	\$ 32,286
Total Liabilities	76,384	32,286
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	322,582,809	335,065,967
Unrestricted	16,977,397	12,219,467
Total Net Position	<u>339,560,206</u>	<u>347,285,434</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Position	<u>\$ 339,636,590</u>	<u>\$ 347,317,720</u>

Total Assets - Total assets decreased by \$7,681,130 during 2017. The most significant component of this decrease was depreciation of the capital assets.

Total Liabilities - Total liabilities increased by \$44,098 during 2017 and was related to outstanding accounts payable balance at year end. There was no new debt obligation.

**WASHINGTON STATE MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL STADIUM
PUBLIC FACILITIES DISTRICT**

**Management's Discussion and Analysis
December 31, 2017**

Financial Analysis (Continued)

Net Position - Increases and decreases in net position categories are as follows:

Invested in Capital Assets - Balance decreased by \$12,483,158 during 2017. The decrease is primarily due to depreciation of capital assets totaling \$12,985,012, which was partially offset by additions to capital assets totaling \$501,854.

Unrestricted - Unrestricted net position increased by \$4,757,930 from \$12,219,467 at December 31, 2016, to \$16,977,397 at December 31, 2017.

**Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Change in Net Position
For the Years Ended December 31,**

	2017	2016
Operating revenues	\$ 6,076,766	\$ 5,814,687
Operating expenses	(13,913,332)	(13,520,256)
Total Operating Loss	(7,836,566)	(7,705,569)
Nonoperating revenues (expenses)	111,338	(132,066)
Total Change in Net Position	(7,725,228)	(7,837,635)
Net position, beginning of year	347,285,434	355,123,069
Net Position, End of Year	<u>\$ 339,560,206</u>	<u>\$ 347,285,434</u>

Operating Revenues - During 2017, operating revenues increased \$262,079 primarily due to an increase of \$179,165 in admission tax revenue. The other revenue streams remain consistent from the previous year.

Operating Expenses - Operating expenses of the District consisted of the following for the years ended December 31:

	2017	2016
Insurance	\$ 124,867	\$ 126,258
Professional fees	769,914	413,871
Personnel	6,200	3,000
Other	27,339	22,562
Depreciation	12,985,012	12,954,565
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$ 13,913,332</u>	<u>\$ 13,520,256</u>

Nonoperating revenues - Nonoperating revenues reflected an increase of \$243,404 from prior year due to \$266,692 in interest paid during 2016 on the obligation under excess revenue fund of which the debt was also paid off in 2016.

Capital Contribution - During the year ended December 31, 2017, there was no capital contribution or withdrawal.

**WASHINGTON STATE MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL STADIUM
PUBLIC FACILITIES DISTRICT**

**Management's Discussion and Analysis
December 31, 2017**

Budget

The District's operating results are consistent with its operating budgets.

Capital Assets and Long-Term Debt Activity

The District's capital assets include the baseball stadium, parking garage, related land, and furniture, fixtures and equipment. The baseball stadium and parking garage are under a long-term lease with the Mariners. In 2017, the District's total capital assets balance decreased by \$12,483,158 from the prior year primarily due to depreciation.

In 2016, the District made a payment of \$9,760,950 to pay off the obligation under excess revenue fund. See Note 8 of the financial statements for further discussion of the obligation under excess revenue fund. There was no new debt obligation in 2017.

Contacting the District's Financial Management

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the District's finances and to show the District's accountability for the funds it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact the District, at P.O. Box 94445, Seattle, WA 98124.

WASHINGTON STATE MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL STADIUM
PUBLIC FACILITIES DISTRICT

Balance Sheet
December 31, 2017

Assets

Current Assets:

Cash and cash equivalents (Note 5)	\$ 16,994,875
Receivables	36,603
Prepaid expenses	22,303

Total Current Assets **17,053,781**

Capital Assets - Noncurrent (Note 2):

Baseball stadium	494,760,577
Parking garage	24,873,877
Land	38,424,405
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	82,967
Accumulated depreciation	(235,559,017)

Total Capital Assets, Net - Noncurrent **322,582,809**

Total Assets **\$ 339,636,590**

Liabilities and Net Position

Current Liabilities:

Accounts payable	\$ 76,384
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Total Current Liabilities **76,384**

Net Position:

Invested in capital assets	322,582,809
Unrestricted	16,977,397

Total Net Position **339,560,206**

Total Liabilities and Net Position **\$ 339,636,590**

**WASHINGTON STATE MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL STADIUM
PUBLIC FACILITIES DISTRICT**

**Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Change in Net Position
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017**

Operating Revenues:

Restaurant tax revenue	\$ 70,724
Admission tax revenue (Note 7)	4,482,570
Ballpark rent (Note 6)	1,026,266
Parking tax revenue (Note 7)	497,206
	<hr/>

Total Operating Revenues **6,076,766**

Operating Expenses:

General and administrative	928,320
Depreciation	12,985,012
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Total Operating Expenses **13,913,332**

Total Operating Loss **(7,836,566)**

Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses):

Interest earnings	157,007
Unrealized investment loss	(45,669)
	<hr/>

Total Nonoperating Revenues **111,338**

Change in Net Position **(7,725,228)**

Net position, January 1, 2017

347,285,434

Net Position, December 31, 2017 **\$ 339,560,206**

**WASHINGTON STATE MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL STADIUM
PUBLIC FACILITIES DISTRICT**

**Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017**

Cash Flows From Operating Activities:

Cash paid for operating expenses	\$ (931,136)
Cash receipts from restaurant taxes	70,724
Cash receipts from admission taxes	4,482,570
Cash receipts from parking taxes	532,468
Cash receipts from rental income	1,026,266

Total Cash Provided by Operating Activities **5,180,892**

Cash Flows From Investing Activities:

Interest earnings	148,531
Insurance proceeds, net of capital costs	
Payment for capital assets	(501,854)
Interest paid for obligation under excess revenue fund	

Total Cash Used in Investing Activities **(353,324)**

Net Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents **4,827,568**

Cash and cash equivalents, January 1, 2017 12,167,307

Cash and Cash Equivalents, December 31, 2017 **\$ 16,994,875**

Reconciliation to Operating Loss:

Operating loss	\$ (7,836,566)
Adjustment to reconcile net cash provided by operating activities-	
Depreciation	12,985,012
Unrealized investment loss	(45,669)
Changes in assets/liabilities-	
Accounts receivables	35,262
Accounts payable	44,098
Prepaid expenses	(1,245)

Cash Provided by Operating Activities **\$ 5,180,892**

**WASHINGTON STATE MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL STADIUM
PUBLIC FACILITIES DISTRICT**

**Notes to Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017**

Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The accounting policies of Washington State Major League Baseball Stadium Public Facilities District (the District) conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP) as applicable to special purpose governments. The following is a summary of the most significant policies.

The Reporting Entity - The District was created through the passage of EHB 2115 and King County Ordinance 12000, which was approved by the Metropolitan King County Council on October 24, 1995. The Washington State Governor and King County Executive appoint the District board members. The Governor and King County Council may remove District board members whom they have appointed or ratified. The District operates as a municipal corporation of the State of Washington and was formed to site, design, build and operate a major league baseball park.

Basis of Accounting - The District uses the accrual basis of accounting. Expenses are recorded at the time liabilities are incurred and revenues are recorded when earned.

Operating and Nonoperating Activity - Operating activities represent revenues and expenses related to the lease, including restaurant tax, admission tax and parking tax revenues. Nonoperating activities are the revenues and expenses related to investments and debt.

Cash and Cash Equivalents - For the purpose of reporting cash flows, the District considers all highly liquid instruments purchased with an original maturity of three months or less and investments in the King County Treasury Division's Investment Pool to be cash equivalents. The King County Treasury Division Manager pools and invests all short-term cash surpluses not otherwise invested by individual funds of the County. Earnings from these pooled investments are allocated to the District based upon the District's proportionate share in the pooled investments.

Receivables - Receivables are stated at the amount management expects to collect from outstanding balances. Management provides for probable uncollectable amounts through a charge to earnings and a credit to a valuation allowance based on its assessment of the current status of individual accounts. Balances which are still outstanding after management has used reasonable collection efforts are written off through a charge to the valuation allowance and a credit to receivables. Based on prior experience, management has determined that expected losses on balances outstanding are immaterial at December 31, 2017. Accordingly, no allowance for doubtful accounts has been recorded.

Capital Assets - Capital assets include land, the baseball stadium and furniture, fixtures and equipment. The Baseball Stadium includes all costs associated with the development and construction of the ballpark project. Furniture, fixtures and equipment include items with a cost greater than or equal to \$500 and an estimated useful life greater than one year.

Capital assets are valued at historical costs, and depreciated on a straight-line basis based over their estimated useful lives. Furniture, fixtures and equipment are depreciated over three or five years. The baseball stadium is depreciated over 40 years from the date it was placed in service.

Risk Management - The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts, theft of, damage to, or destruction of assets, errors and omissions, injuries to employees, and natural disasters. The District carries commercial insurance for risk of loss. The District did not settle any claims in excess of its commercial insurance coverage during the year ended December 31, 2017.

**WASHINGTON STATE MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL STADIUM
PUBLIC FACILITIES DISTRICT**

**Notes to Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017**

Note 1 - Continued

Compensated Absences Payable - District employees earn 12 days of sick leave and 10 to 15 days of vacation per year, depending on the employee's length of service. An unlimited amount of sick leave and two times the annual vacation allotment may be accrued. An employee leaving the employment of the District is entitled to be paid for all unused vacation. Unused sick leave is forfeited upon termination of employment. There was no accrual for unused vacation in the accompanying statement of net position as no employees were employed by the District at December 31, 2017.

Reclassifications - Certain reclassifications have been made to the 2016 amounts to conform to the 2017 presentation. The reclassifications have no effect on the previously reported total assets, liabilities, net assets, or change in net position for 2016.

Subsequent Events - The District has evaluated subsequent events through March 27, 2018, the date on which the financial statements were available to be issued.

Note 2 - Capital Assets

The following is a summary of changes in capital assets:

	Balance December 31, 2016	Increases	Decreases	Balance December 31, 2017
Capital Assets Not Being Depreciated:				
Land	\$ 38,424,405	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 38,424,405
Total Capital Assets Not Being Depreciated	38,424,405			38,424,405
Capital Assets Being Depreciated:				
Capital assets cost-				
Baseball stadium	494,258,723	501,854		494,760,577
Parking garage	24,873,877			24,873,877
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	82,967			82,967
	519,215,567	501,854		519,717,421
Accumulated depreciation-				
Baseball stadium	211,919,905	12,362,899		224,282,804
Parking garage	10,571,399	621,847		11,193,246
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	82,701	266		82,967
	222,574,005	12,985,012		235,559,017
Total Capital Assets Being Depreciated, Net	296,641,562	(12,483,158)		284,158,404
Total Capital Assets, Net	\$ 335,065,967	\$ (12,483,158)	\$ -	\$ 322,582,809

**WASHINGTON STATE MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL STADIUM
PUBLIC FACILITIES DISTRICT**

**Notes to Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017**

Note 3 - Employee Benefit Plans

All employees of the District can participate in either the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) or the Stadium Public Facilities District (PFD) Retirement Plan (the Plan). Employer contributions are paid by the District in accordance with rates specified by the individual plans.

Public Employees' Retirement System - The State Legislature established PERS in 1947 under RCW chapter 41.40. PERS is a cost-sharing multiple-employer system. The District's Board of Directors adopted participation in the PERS Plan in 1996. No District employees participated in PERS during 2017.

Stadium PFD Retirement Plan - Employees are able to select the Plan as an alternative benefit plan to PERS. The Plan is designated as a profit sharing plan in accordance with section 401(a)(27)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code. The District makes all contributions to the Plan. No contributions by participants are required or permitted other than rollover contributions authorized by the Plan. The contributions are discretionary but shall be no less than the greater of seven and one-half percent of employee wages or the amount that would be required by PERS. All contributions to the Plan vest immediately. No District employee participated in the Plan during 2016.

Note 4 - Contributed Capital

Under King County Ordinance 12000, the County issued five series of general obligation bonds for the purpose of funding the construction of the baseball park and related parking facilities. Total par value of \$336,000,000 less any costs related to bond issuance were contributed to the District. Additionally, the Baseball Club of Seattle, LP (the Mariners) contributed \$137,598,950 for the construction in prior years. During the year ended December 31, 2017, there was no withdrawal. The contributed capital is included in the net position invested in capital assets.

Note 5 - Deposits With Financial Institutions and Investments

The King County Treasurer is the ex-officio treasurer for the District. In this capacity, the County Treasurer receives deposits and transacts investments on the District's behalf. The District's deposits are covered entirely by federal depository insurance or uninsured but collateralized under the Public Deposit Protection Commission of the State of Washington (PDPC) collateral pool. The PDPC's agent in the name of the pool holds pledged securities under the PDPC pool.

Statutes authorize the District to: 1) deposit in any state bank or trust company, national banking association, stock savings bank, mutual savings bank, savings and loan association, and any branch bank engaged in banking in this state, if the institution has been approved by the PDPC to hold public deposits; and 2) invest in obligations of the United States Treasury and instrumentalities, banker's acceptances issued in the secondary market, commercial paper, primary certificates of deposits issued by PDPC qualified public depositories, and the State Treasurer's Investment Pool. The District is also authorized to enter into repurchase and reverse repurchase agreements.

All of the District's investments during the year and at year end were insured or registered, or were held by the District or its agent in the District's name. The District does not have a custodial credit risk policy.

**WASHINGTON STATE MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL STADIUM
PUBLIC FACILITIES DISTRICT**

**Notes to Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017**

Note 6 - Ballpark Rent

The lease between the District and the Mariners runs through 2018, and calls for base rent of \$700,000 per year, with an annual CPI index adjustment. Total future minimum lease payments to be received under the lease are \$1,400,000, with an annual CPI index adjustment. Rent income for the 2017 season was \$1,026,266. The lease has two five-year extension options.

Note 7 - Obligation Under Excess Revenue Fund

Under the lease, the Excess Revenue Fund (the Fund) may be used to fund certain unanticipated Major Maintenance and Capital Improvement Expenses (collectively, "Unanticipated Capital Costs"). The Mariners have the right to obtain reimbursement from the Fund for costs of repairs or maintenance that fall under the definition of "Unanticipated Capital Costs," prior to funds being available. Obligations under the Fund require mutual approval of the District and the Mariners, and are limited to amounts available in the Fund and Fund revenues. The source of funding for the Fund is a 5% admission tax and 10% parking tax. The obligation to be paid under the Excess Revenue Fund is limited to amounts available in the Fund and cannot exceed the Fund revenues. The obligation was paid off in 2016.

Note 8 - Stewardship, Compliance and Accountability

There have been no material violations of finance-related, legal or contractual provisions.

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.

Contact information for the State Auditor's Office	
Public Records requests	PublicRecords@sao.wa.gov
Main telephone	(360) 902-0370
Toll-free Citizen Hotline	(866) 902-3900
Website	www.sao.wa.gov