



Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy

Accountability Audit Report
Ronald Wastewater District

For the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2017

Published November 8, 2018

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

November 8, 2018

Board of Commissioners
Ronald Wastewater District
Shoreline, 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 District 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 independent audit report on the District's compliance with applicable requirements and safeguarding of public resources for the 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 RESULTS

This report describes the overall results and conclusions for the areas we examined. In most of the areas we examined, District operations complied with applicable state laws, regulations, and its own policies, and provided adequate controls over safeguarding of public resources.

As referenced above, we noted certain matters that we communicated to District management and Board of Commissioners in a letter dated October 30, 2018, related to controls over the District's controls over bank accounts. We appreciate the District's commitment to resolving those matters.

About the audit

This report contains the results of our independent accountability audit of the Ronald Wastewater District from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2017.

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.

This audit was conducted under the authority of RCW 43.09.260, which requires the Office of the State Auditor to examine the financial affairs of all local governments. Our audit involved performing procedures to obtain evidence about the District'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, based on our risk assessment for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015, the areas examined were those representing the highest risk of fraud, loss, abuse, or noncompliance. The following areas were examined during this audit period:

- Controls over bank accounts and authorized signers
- Disbursements for collection agency expenditures
- Controls over vendor accounts
- Payroll – ensure incentive pay is reasonable and properly supported

RELATED REPORTS

Financial

Our opinion on the District's financial statements is provided in a separate report, which includes the District's financial statements. That report is available on our website, <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE DISTRICT

The Ronald Wastewater District was incorporated in 1951 and was previously known as the Ronald Sewer District and Shoreline Wastewater Management District. It serves approximately 54,000 residents and businesses located in the city of Shoreline and the Point Wells portion of unincorporated Snohomish County. The District maintains approximately 190 miles of pipeline, 16 pump stations, 22 grinder pumps and approximately 16,342 side sewer connections. The District has one major facility building where the District's office is located. The District contracts with King County and the city of Edmonds for sewage treatment services.

An elected, five-member Board of Commissioners governs the day-to-day operation of the District. Total operating revenue for 2015, 2016 and 2017, was approximately \$14.7 million, \$14.9 million and \$15.6 million, respectively.

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Information current as of report publish date.

Audit history

You can find current and past audit reports for the Ronald Wastewater District 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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