

**Washington State Auditor's Office**  
**Accountability Report**

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**Economic Development Corporation of  
Pierce County**

Report Date  
**October 31, 2012**

**Report No. 1008589**

Issue Date  
**November 19, 2012**



WASHINGTON  
**BRIAN SONNTAG**  
STATE AUDITOR



**Washington State Auditor  
Brian Sonntag**

November 19, 2012

Board of Directors  
Economic Development Corporation of Pierce County  
Tacoma, Washington

***Report on Accountability***

We appreciate the opportunity to work in cooperation with your Corporation to promote accountability, integrity and openness in government. The State Auditor's Office takes seriously our role to advocate for government accountability and transparency and to promote positive change.

Please find attached our report on the Economic Development Corporation of Pierce County's internal controls and compliance. This report will also be published on our website at [www.sao.wa.gov](http://www.sao.wa.gov) as a matter of public record. Our audit was performed under the authority of state law (RCW 43.09.260) and included procedures we considered necessary under the circumstances.

Thank you for working with us to ensure the efficient and effective use of public resources.

Sincerely,

**BRIAN SONNTAG, CGFM**  
STATE AUDITOR

# **Audit Summary**

## **Economic Development Corporation of Pierce County October 31, 2012**

### ***ABOUT THE AUDIT***

This report contains the results of our independent accountability audit of the Economic Development Corporation of Pierce County from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2011.

The objective of our audit was to evaluate the adequacy of the Corporation's internal controls to safeguard public resources and the Corporation's compliance with state law and its own policies. In keeping with general auditing practices, we did not review every aspect of the Corporation's internal controls and compliance. Instead, our review focused on areas representing the highest risk of misappropriation, misuse or noncompliance.

Our report is addressed to the governing body and management of the Corporation. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

### ***RESULTS***

In the areas we examined, the Corporation's internal controls were adequate to safeguard public assets. The Corporation also complied with state laws and its own policies in the areas we examined.

# **Description of the Corporation**

## **Economic Development Corporation of Pierce County October 31, 2012**

### ***ABOUT THE CORPORATION***

The Economic Development Corporation of Pierce County was created by Pierce County to facilitate economic development and employment opportunities within the county through the issuance of tax exempt Industrial Development Revenue Bonds on behalf of private companies.

The Pierce County Council appoints the nine member Board of Directors. Directors are appointed for three-year terms and no director may serve more than two terms. The Corporation has no employees of its own and contracts for staff assistance with the Economic Development Board for Tacoma-Pierce County, a separate nonprofit corporation.

In accordance with state law, debt issued by the Corporation is structured so that, in the event of a borrower's default, neither the Corporation nor Pierce County is liable for repayment.

### ***CORPORATION CONTACT INFORMATION***

Address: Economic Development Corporation of Pierce County  
950 Pacific Avenue, Suite 410  
Tacoma, WA 98402

Phone: (253) 798-4008

Website: [www.co.pierce.wa.us/pc/abtus/ourorg/exec/ecd/home.htm](http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/pc/abtus/ourorg/exec/ecd/home.htm)



## **ABOUT THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE**

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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.

Our mission is to work with our audit clients and citizens as an advocate for government accountability. 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.

The State Auditor's Office employees are located around the state to deliver services effectively and efficiently.

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 and fraud, whistleblower and citizen hotline investigations.

The results of our work are widely distributed through a variety of reports, which are available on our Web site and through our free, electronic subscription service.

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

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