Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy

Accountability Audit Report

Port of Anacortes

For the period January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025

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Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy

May 28, 2026

Board of Commissioners
Port of Anacortes
Anacortes, Washington

Report on Accountability

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you to promote accountability, integrity and openness in government. The Office of the Washington State Auditor 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 Port operations. This information is valuable to management, the governing body and public stakeholders when assessing the government's stewardship of public resources.

Attached is our independent audit report on the Port'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 value your cooperation during the audit.

Sincerely,

Pat McCarthy, State Auditor

Olympia, WA

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AUDIT RESULTS

Results in brief

This report describes the overall results and conclusions for the areas we examined. In those selected areas, Port operations complied, in all material respects, with applicable state laws, regulations, and its own policies, and provided adequate controls over the safeguarding of public resources.

In keeping with general auditing practices, we do not examine every transaction, activity, policy, internal control, or area. As a result, no information is provided on the areas that were not examined.

About the audit

This report contains the results of our independent accountability audit of the Port of Anacortes from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

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 Washington State Auditor to examine the financial affairs of all local governments. Our audit involved obtaining evidence about the Port's use of public resources, compliance with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures, and internal controls over such matters. The procedures performed were based on our assessment of risks in the areas we examined.

Based on our risk assessment for the year ended December 31, 2025, the areas examined were those representing the highest risk of fraud, loss, abuse, or noncompliance. We examined the following areas during this audit period:

- Accounts payable – credit cards
- Treasury activities – monitoring of banking activity
- Open public meetings – compliance with minutes, meetings and executive session requirements
- Financial condition – reviewing for indications of financial distress
- Annual report submission – timeliness and completeness

RELATED REPORTS

Financial

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

INFORMATION ABOUT THE PORT

The Port of Anacortes is a municipal corporation of the State of Washington, created in 1926 to provide for the development and maintenance of harbors and terminals, promote tourism, and foster economic activity in its district. With one of eight natural deep water marine terminal facilities in Puget Sound, its nearly 1,000 slip marina, and its roughly 90 acres of commercial properties, the Port is instrumental to the success and economic development of the community.

The Port is independent from other local or state governments and has geographic boundaries consisting of Fidalgo, Guemes, Cypress, Sinclair, and other neighboring islands, and a small strip of land bordering Padilla Bay up to and including Samish Island.

The Port serves approximately 27,000 citizens and is governed by an elected, five-member Board of Commissioners. The Board appoints an Executive Director to oversee the Port's daily operations as well as approximately 70 full, part-time, and seasonal employees. The Port operated on expenses of $21 million in fiscal year 2025.

The Port also administers the Port of Anacortes Industrial Development Corporation, which was created to issue tax-exempt, non-recourse bonds to finance industrial development within Port boundaries. The corporation is governed by the Port Commissioners.

Contact information related to this report

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Information current as of report publish date.

Audit history

You can find current and past audit reports for the Port of Anacortes at https://portal.sao.wa.gov//ReportSearch.

ABOUT THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

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

We work with state agencies, local governments and the public to achieve our vision of increasing trust in government by helping governments work better and deliver higher value.

In fulfilling our mission to provide citizens with independent and transparent examinations of how state and local governments use public funds, we hold ourselves to those same standards by continually improving our audit quality and operational efficiency, and by developing highly engaged and committed employees.

As an agency, the State Auditor's Office has the independence necessary to objectively perform audits, attestation engagements and investigations. Our work is designed to comply with professional standards as well as to satisfy the requirements of federal, state and local laws. The Office also has an extensive quality control program and undergoes regular external peer review to ensure our work meets the highest possible standards of accuracy, objectivity and clarity.

Our audits look at financial information and compliance with federal, state and local laws for all local governments, including schools, and all state agencies, including institutions of higher education. In addition, we conduct performance audits and cybersecurity audits of state agencies and local governments, as well as state whistleblower, fraud and citizen hotline investigations.

The results of our work are available to everyone through the more than 2,000 reports we publish each year on our website, www.sao.wa.gov. Additionally, we share regular news and other information via an email subscription service and social media channels.

We take our role as partners in accountability seriously. The Office provides training and technical assistance to governments both directly and through partnerships with other governmental support organizations.

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