ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

Basic Financial Statements and Required Supplementary Information for the Years Ended December 31, 2016 and 2015 and Independent Auditors' Report

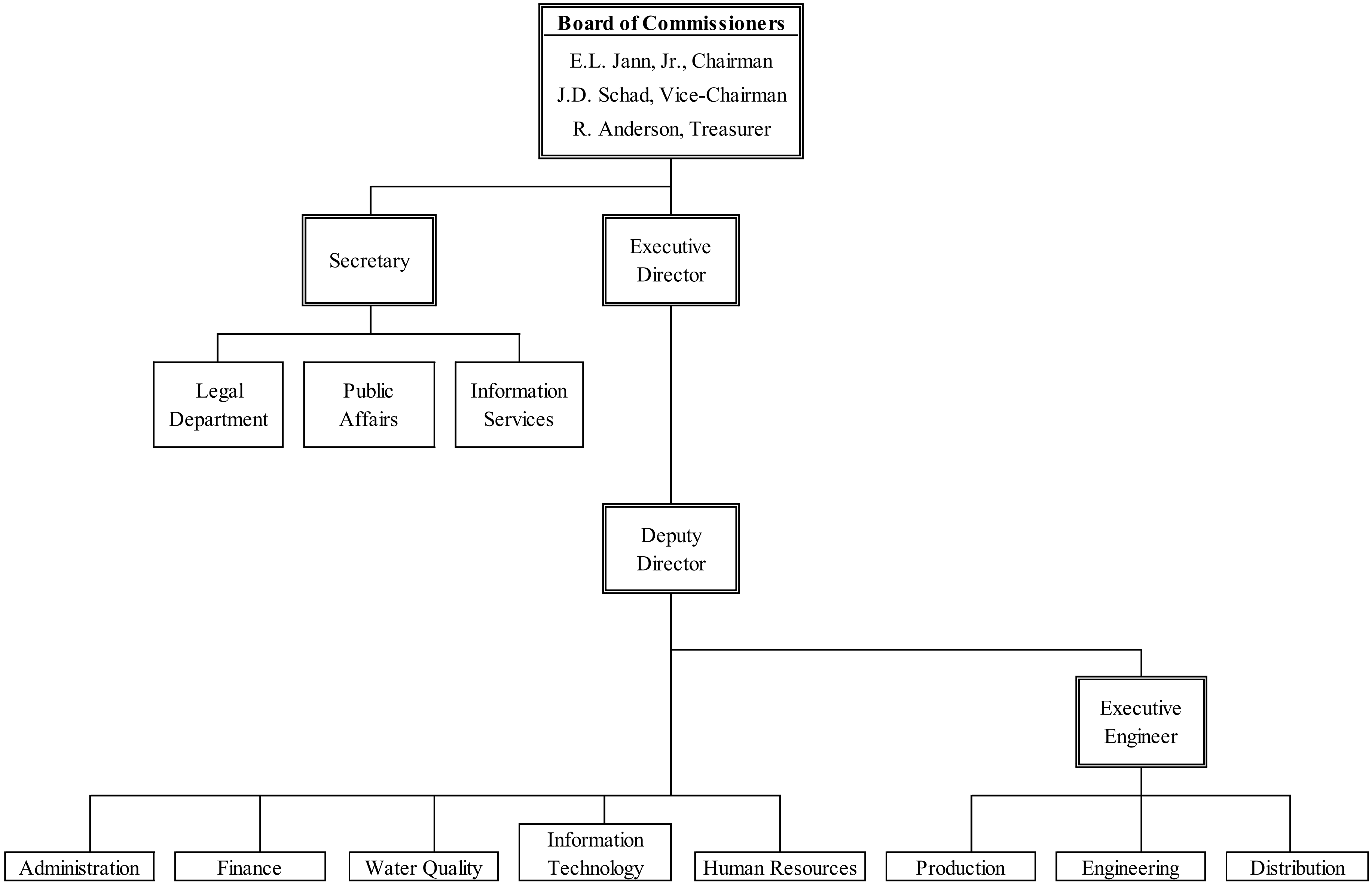
ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
Table of Contents
For the Years Ended December 31, 2016 and 2015

ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
Members of the Board of Commissioners

Members of the Board of the Erie County Water Authority are appointed by the Chairman of the Erie County Legislature upon receiving nominations from the majority of the Majority Caucus or the Minority Caucus, subject to confirmation by a majority of the Legislature. Each Member is appointed to a three year term; and, not more than two members of the Authority's Board of Commissioners, at any time, shall belong to the same political party.

Board Members on 12/31/2016	**Most Recent Appointment Date**
Earl L. Jann, Chairman	2014
Jerome D. Schad, Vice Chairman	2016
Robert Anderson, Treasurer	2015

Erie County Water Authority
Organizational Chart



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Certified Public Accountants

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

The Board of Commissioners
Erie County Water Authority

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the business-type activities of the Erie County Water Authority (the "Authority"), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Authority's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Authority's 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 audits. We conducted our audits 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 audits 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 entity'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 entity'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 opinions.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the business-type activities of the Authority, as of December 31, 2016 and 2015, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the years 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 and other Required Supplementary Information, as listed in the table of contents, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not 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 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 *Governmental Auditing Standards,* we have also issued our report dated March 23, 2017, on our consideration of the Authority'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 the 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 Authority's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

We have also issued our report dated March 23, 2017 on our consideration of the Authority's compliance with Section 2925(3)(f) of the New York State Public Authorities Law ("Law"). The purpose of that report is to describe the scope and results of our tests of compliance with the Law.

Drescher & Malecki LLP

March 23, 2017

ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Years Ended December 31, 2016 and 2015

Management provides the following discussion and analysis ("MD&A") of the Erie County Water Authority's (the "Authority") financial activities and statements for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015. The information contained in this analysis should be used by the reader in conjunction with the information contained in the audited financial statements and the notes to those financial statements, all of which follow this narrative on the subsequent pages. The Authority is not required to legally adopt a budget; therefore, comparative budgetary information is not included in this report.

Financial Highlights

- The Authority's net position increased $21,040,163 as a result of activity for the year ended December 31, 2016. For 2016, $19,396,076 is net income. The remaining increase of $1,644,087 represents capital contributions (contributions in aid of construction). In 2015, the Authority's net position increased $14,245,692. For 2015, $10,111,672 is net income. The remaining increase of $4,134,020 represents capital contributions.
- The assets and deferred outflows of the Authority exceeded its liabilities and deferred inflows by $344,255,257 and $323,215,094, representing net position at December 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively. At December 31, 2016 and 2015, unrestricted net positions were $22,836,468 and $18,770,920 respectively, and may be used to meet the Authority's ongoing obligations.
- The Authority's bonded indebtedness, including related bond premiums and discounts, decreased $11,112,313 in 2016 compared to a decrease of $8,827,236 in 2015. A principal decrease of $14,890,000 in 2016 resulted from the issuance of the 2016 Series Refunding Bonds in the amount of $30,725,000 whose proceeds were used to redeem $7,850,000 in 2012 Series Bonds and $29,705,000 of 2007 Series Bonds. Scheduled principal payments throughout the year on all issues totaled $8,060,000. The 2016 Series Refunding Bonds resulted in increased bond premiums of $4,378,154 and bond discounts of $109,654, offset by annual net amortization of $490,813. The net decrease in 2015 resulted from scheduled principal payments of $8,525,000.

Overview of the Financial Statements

This discussion and analysis are intended to serve as an introduction to the Authority's basic financial statements. The financial statements are organized as follows:

- The ***Statement of Net Position*** presents information on all of the Authority's assets, deferred outflows of resources liabilities and deferred inflows of resources, with the difference reported as "net position". Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the Authority is improving or deteriorating.
- The ***Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Net Position*** presents information showing how the Authority's net position changed during the most recent reporting period. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Thus, revenues and expenses

are reported in this statement for some items that will result in cash flows in future periods (e.g., earned but unbilled revenue and earned but unused vacation leave).

- The ***Statement of Cash Flows*** presents information depicting the Authority's cash flow activities for the most recent reporting period and the effect that these activities had on the Authority's cash and cash equivalent balances.
- The ***Notes to Financial Statements*** present additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the financial statements. The notes to the financial statements can be found following the financial statements section of this report.

Financial Analysis

As noted earlier, net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of an entity's financial position. In the case of the Authority, assets and deferred outflows of resources exceeded liabilities and deferred inflows of resources by $344,255,257 at December 31, 2016 as compared to $323,215,094 at December 31, 2015, as presented below in Table 1:

Table 1—Condensed Statements of Net Position

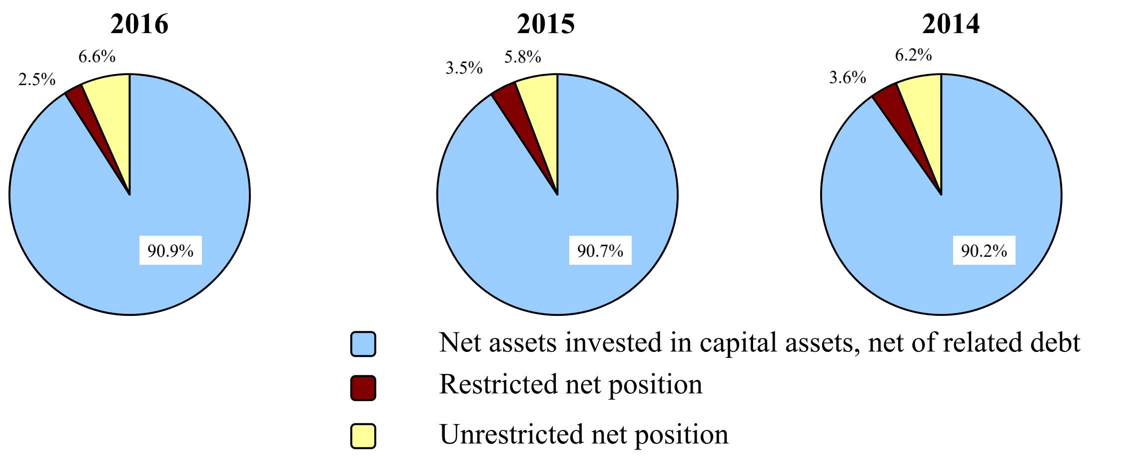
	December 31,		Increase/(Decrease)	
	2016	2015	Dollars	Percent
Current assets	$ 46,028,227	$ 48,260,946	$ (2,232,719)	(4.6)
Noncurrent assets:				
Other noncurrent assets	31,621,936	21,655,499	9,966,437	46.0
Capital assets	369,413,111	360,641,152	8,771,959	2.4
Total assets	447,063,274	430,557,597	16,505,677	3.8
Deferred ouflows of resources	11,107,335	2,500,423	8,606,912	344.2
Current liabilities	21,577,629	17,674,779	3,902,850	22.1
Noncurrent liabilities	91,245,363	92,168,147	(922,784)	(1.0)
Total liabilities	112,822,992	109,842,926	2,980,066	2.7
Deferred inflows of resources	1,092,360	-	1,092,360	n/a
Investment in capital assets, net of related debt	313,073,344	293,189,072	19,884,272	6.8
Restricted	8,345,445	11,255,102	(2,909,657)	(25.9)
Unrestricted	22,836,468	18,770,920	4,065,548	21.7
Total net position	$ 344,255,257	$ 323,215,094	$ 21,040,163	6.5

(continued)

Table 1—Condensed Statements of Net Position (concluded)

	December 31, 2015	December 31, 2014	Increase/(Decrease) Dollars	Increase/(Decrease) Percent
Current assets	$ 48,260,946	$ 44,186,699	$ 4,074,247	9.2
Noncurrent assets:				
Other noncurrent assets	21,655,499	24,661,647	(3,006,148)	(12.2)
Capital assets	360,641,152	354,995,016	5,646,136	1.6
Total assets	430,557,597	423,843,362	6,714,235	1.6
Deferred ouflows of resources	2,500,423	2,246,850	253,573	11.3
Current liabilities	17,674,779	18,367,368	(692,589)	(3.8)
Noncurrent liabilities	92,168,147	98,753,442	(6,585,295)	(6.7)
Total liabilities	109,842,926	117,120,810	(7,277,884)	(6.2)
Investment in capital assets, net of related debt	293,189,072	278,715,700	14,473,372	5.2
Restricted	11,255,102	11,234,946	20,156	0.2
Unrestricted	18,770,920	19,018,756	(247,836)	(1.3)
Total net position	$ 323,215,094	$ 308,969,402	$ 14,245,692	4.6

At December 31, 2016, the largest portion of the Authority's net position, 90.9%, consists of the Authority's investment in capital assets, as compared to 90.7% and 90.2% at December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. This amount is presented net of any outstanding debt which was used to acquire such capital assets. The second portion of net position, 6.6%, at December 31, 2016, as compared to 5.8% and 6.2%, at December 31, 2015, and 2014, respectively, consists of unrestricted net position. These assets are not limited in any way with regards to how and what they may be used for. The remainder of net position, 2.5%, 3.5% and 3.6% at December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014, respectively, is restricted for various purposes.



The Authority's liabilities totaled $112,822,992, $109,842,926, and $117,120,810, at December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014 respectively. The largest component of liabilities is outstanding water revenue bonds.

The Authority had current ratios of 2.13, 2.73, and 2.41, at December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014, respectively. Such a ratio implies that the Authority has sufficient assets on hand to cover its liabilities that will come due in the ensuing year.

A comparison of current assets as compared to current liabilities of the Authority at December 31, 2016, 2015, and 2014 follows:

Table 2—Comparison of Current Assets and Current Liabilities

	December 31,		
	2016	2015	2014
Current assets	$ 46,028,227	$ 48,260,946	$ 44,186,699
Current liabilities	21,577,629	17,674,779	18,367,368
Ratio of current assets to current liabilities	2.13	2.73	2.41

Table 3 shows the changes in net position for the years ended December 31, 2016, 2015, and 2014:

Table 3—Changes in Net Position

	Year Ended December 31,	
	2016	2015
Operating revenue	$ 79,711,080	$ 69,595,215
Operating expenses:		
Operation and administration	28,452,632	27,858,447
Maintenance	13,813,338	13,880,273
Depreciation	12,713,386	12,494,706
Other post-employment benefit expense	4,522,436	3,202,218
Total operating expenses	59,501,792	57,435,644
Operating income	20,209,288	12,159,571
Nonoperating revenues (expenses):		
Interest income on investments	359,812	355,130
Gain on sale of investments	852,694	-
Interest on loans receivable	58,554	-
Interest capitalization during construction	105,383	239,440
Interest expense	(2,189,655)	(2,642,469)
Total nonoperating revenues (expenses)	(813,212)	(2,047,899)
Net income before contributions in aid of construction	19,396,076	10,111,672
Contributions in aid of construction	1,644,087	4,134,020
Change in net position	21,040,163	14,245,692
Total net position - beginning of year	323,215,094	308,969,402
Total net position - end of year	$ 344,255,257	$ 323,215,094

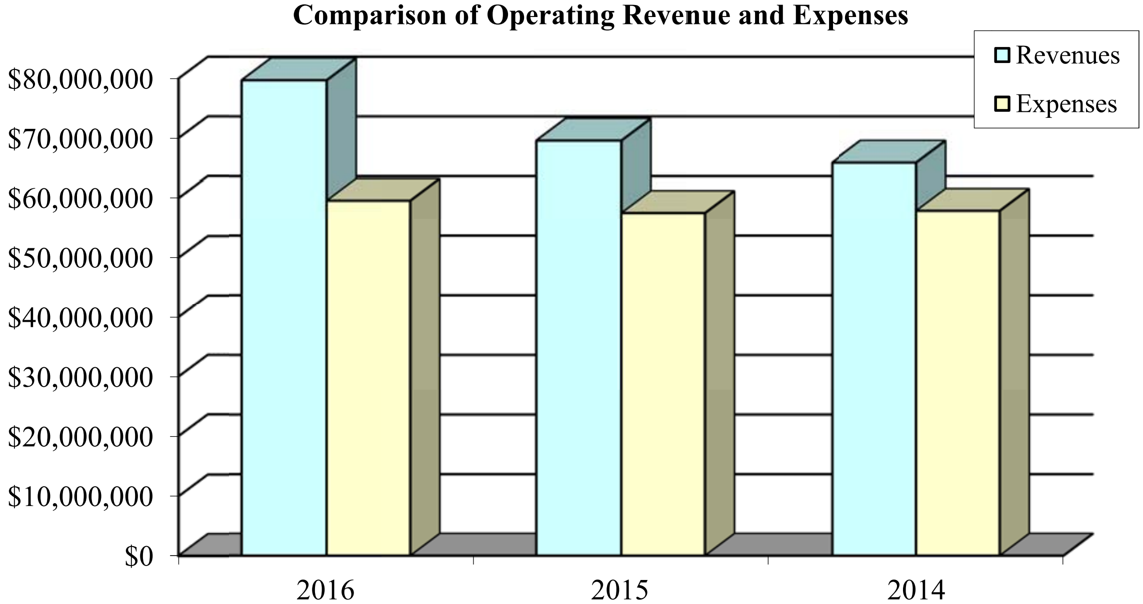
(continued)

Table 3—Changes in Net Position (concluded)

	Year Ended December 31,	
	2015	2014
Operating revenue	$ 69,595,215	$ 65,908,808
Operating expenses:		
Operation and administration	27,858,447	28,355,340
Maintenance	13,880,273	14,343,462
Depreciation	12,494,706	12,355,427
Other post-employment benefit expense	3,202,218	2,757,755
Total operating expenses	57,435,644	57,811,984
Operating income	12,159,571	8,096,824
Nonoperating revenues (expenses):		
Interest income on investments	355,130	356,668
Interest capitalization during construction	239,440	55,722
Interest expense	(2,642,469)	(2,966,823)
Total nonoperating revenues (expenses)	(2,047,899)	(2,554,433)
Net income before contributions in aid of construction	10,111,672	5,542,391
Contributions in aid of construction	4,134,020	1,464,688
Change in net position	14,245,692	7,007,079
Total net position - beginning of year	308,969,402	302,301,839
GASB Statement Nos. 68 & 71 implementation	-	(339,516)
Total net position - end of year	$ 323,215,094	$ 308,969,402

The following chart depicts a 14.5% increase in operating revenue from $69,595,215 in 2015 to $79,711,080 in 2016, compared to a 5.6% increase in operating revenue from $65,908,808 in 2014 to $69,595,215 in 2015. Operating expenses increased 3.6% from $57,435,644 in 2015 to $59,501,792 in 2016, compared to a 0.7% decrease from $57,811,984 in 2014 to $57,435,644 in 2015.

Comparison of Operating Revenue and Expenses



A summary of operating revenue for the years ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014 is presented below in Table 4:

Table 4—Summary of Operating Revenue

	Year Ended December 31,		Increase/(Decrease)	
	2016	2015	Dollars	Percent
Water sales:				
Residential	$ 41,060,222	$ 36,335,268	$ 4,724,954	13.0
Commercial	8,601,762	7,899,110	702,652	8.9
Industrial	1,910,133	1,721,516	188,617	11.0
Public authorities	2,519,639	2,394,994	124,645	5.2
Fire protection	4,336,263	4,275,127	61,136	1.4
Sales to other utilities	4,281,064	3,625,852	655,212	18.1
Infrastructure investment charge	13,251,131	10,355,324	2,895,807	28.0
Other water sales	3,153,218	2,281,933	871,285	38.2
Total water sales	79,113,432	68,889,124	10,224,308	14.8
Other operating revenue:				
Rents from water towers	551,765	546,065	5,700	1.0
Miscellaneous	45,883	160,026	(114,143)	(71.3)
Operating revenue	$ 79,711,080	$ 69,595,215	$ 10,115,865	14.5

	Year Ended December 31,		Increase/(Decrease)	
	2015	2014	Dollars	Percent
Water sales:				
Residential	$ 36,335,268	$ 35,954,051	$ 381,217	1.1
Commercial	7,899,110	7,450,855	448,255	6.0
Industrial	1,721,516	1,689,835	31,681	1.9
Public authorities	2,394,994	2,275,352	119,642	5.3
Fire protection	4,275,127	4,266,755	8,372	0.2
Sales to other utilities	3,625,852	3,686,340	(60,488)	(1.6)
Infrastructure investment charge	10,355,324	7,992,100	2,363,224	29.6
Other water sales	2,281,933	2,011,698	270,235	13.4
Total water sales	68,889,124	65,326,986	3,562,138	5.5
Other operating revenue:				
Rents from water towers	546,065	531,608	14,457	2.7
Miscellaneous	160,026	50,214	109,812	218.7
Operating revenue	$ 69,595,215	$ 65,908,808	$ 3,686,407	5.6

Water sales represent the vast majority of revenue for the Authority, 99.3% for the year ended December 31, 2016, 99.0% and 99.1% for the years ended December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively.

Following are some of the issues and events affecting revenue in 2016:

- Revenue from Infrastructure Investment Charges increased $2,895,807 from $10,355,324 in 2015 to $13,251,131 in 2016. The 2015 rate of $15.45 per billing for quarterly customers was increased to $19.65; monthly customers saw an increase from $5.15 per billing to $6.55 effective January 1, 2016.

- Metered rates rose 3.9% (or $.12) per thousand gallons on January 1, 2016 for all monthly and quarterly customers giving rise to increases in revenues recognized for all metered water categories. Billed consumption increased an average of 23.7% in July, August and September 2016 over the same months in 2015.

- Summer surcharge revenue increased $829,005 as a result of a rate increase from $.75 to $.78 per thousand gallons effective January 1, 2016. Surcharges are assessed on water billed between May 1st and October 31st, where consumption exceeds of 120% of the winter bill.

- Miscellaneous revenue decreased $114,143 in 2016 as a result of $108,350 in payments received from the Federal and State Emergency Management Agencies in 2015 for a November 2014 storm claim and a $9,668 decrease in proceeds received from equipment auctions and sales of scrap metal during 2016.

Comparatively, these issues and events impacted revenue in 2015:

- The infrastructure investment charge increased $2,363,224 in 2015. On January 1, 2015, the 2014 rate of $12.00 per billing quarterly or $4.00 per billing monthly was increased to $15.45 and $5.15 per billing, respectively. The conversion of the Village of Williamsville from bulk service to direct service in June of 2014 also contributed to the increase. Approximately 1,800 additional monthly and quarterly customers paid a full year of the infrastructure investment charge compared to seven months of charges in 2014.

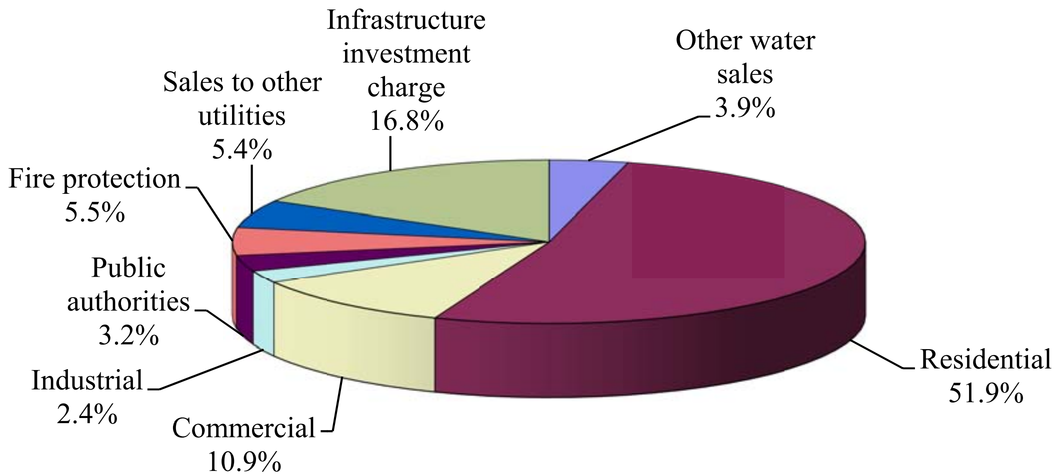
- Metered rates rose 1.67% (or $.05) per thousand gallons on January 1, 2015 giving rise to small increases in revenue in all metered water categories except bulk sale revenue. Bulk sale revenue decreased 1.6% due to the conversion of the Village of Williamsville from bulk sales to direct service in June of 2014.

- An increase in late charges of $119,012, 11.9%, from $1,002,029 in 2014 to $1,121,041 contributed to the rise in revenue as well. Although the late charge rate remained the same, the Authority collected 7,786 more late charges in 2015 than in 2014. As a result of the increased water and infrastructure investment charges, they were, also, 5.4% higher on average.

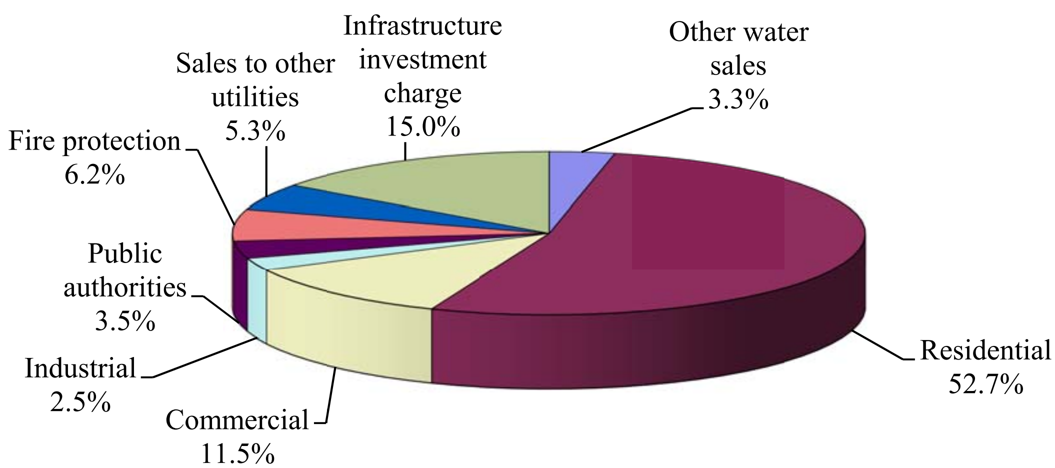
- Miscellaneous non-operating revenue increased $109,812 in 2015 due to the unanticipated receipt of $108,350 in net payments in excess of the 2014 receivable from the Federal and State Emergency Management Agencies for the Authority's damage claim from a November 2014 snow storm.

As presented in the illustration below, residential water sales represent the largest portion of water sales for the Authority, which was 51.9%, 52.7%, and 55.0% of total water sales for the years ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014, respectively. Infrastructure investment charges were the next largest revenue component at 16.8%, 15.0% and 12.2% in the years ended December, 31, 2016, 2015, and 2014, respectively.

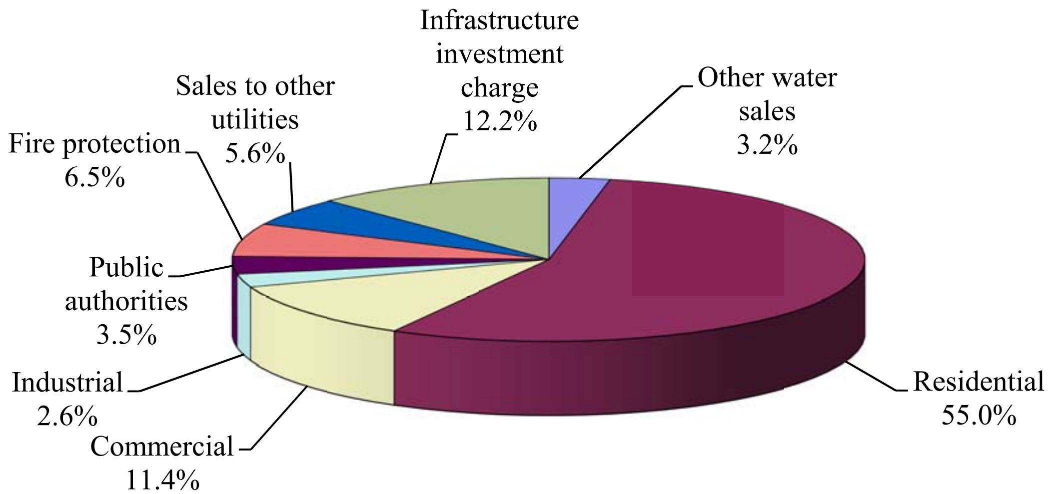
2016 Water Sales Revenue



2015 Water Sales Revenue



2014 Water Sales Revenue



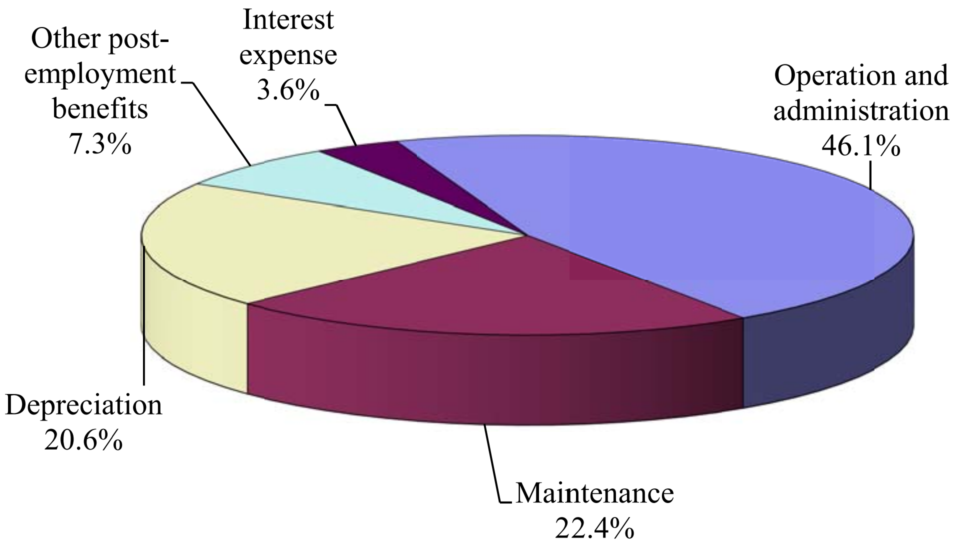
As illustrated below, operation and administration expenses are the largest expense and account for 46.1%, 46.4%, and 46.7%, of the Authority's expenses for the years ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014, respectively. The second largest expense for the Authority for the years ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014 was maintenance, which was 22.4%, 23.1%, and 23.6%, respectively.

Table 5—Summary of Expenses

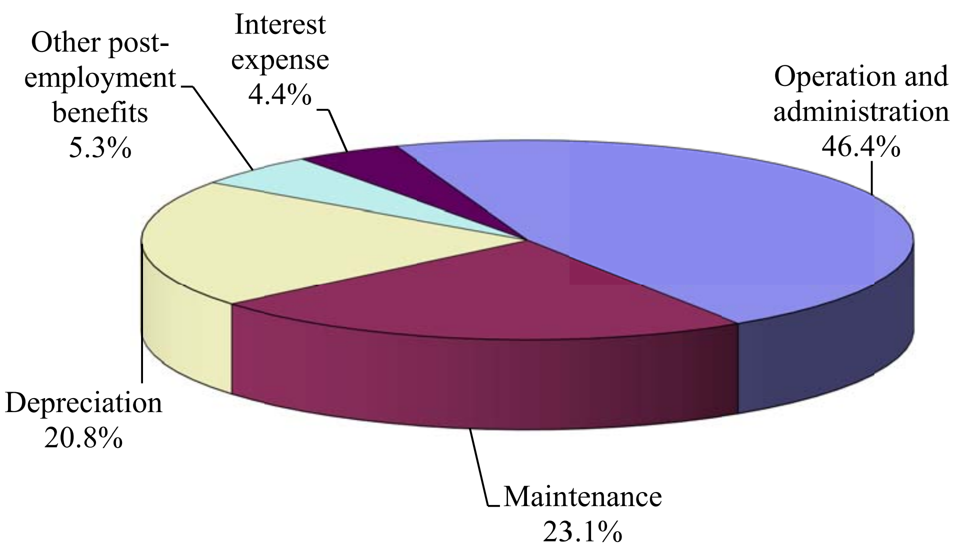
	Year Ended December 31,		Increase/(Decrease)	
	2016	2015	Dollars	Percent
Operation and administration	$ 28,452,632	$ 27,858,447	$ 594,185	2.1
Maintenance	13,813,338	13,880,273	(66,935)	(0.5)
Depreciation	12,713,386	12,494,706	218,680	1.8
Interest expense	2,189,655	2,642,469	(452,814)	(17.1)
Other postemployment benefits	4,522,436	3,202,218	1,320,218	41.2
Total	$ 61,691,447	$ 60,078,113	$ 1,613,334	2.7

	Year Ended December 31,		Increase/(Decrease)	
	2015	2014	Dollars	Percent
Operation and administration	$ 27,858,447	$ 28,355,340	$ (496,893)	(1.8)
Maintenance	13,880,273	14,343,462	(463,189)	(3.2)
Depreciation	12,494,706	12,355,427	139,279	1.1
Interest expense	2,642,469	2,966,823	(324,354)	(10.9)
Other postemployment benefits	3,202,218	2,757,755	444,463	16.1
Total	$ 60,078,113	$ 60,778,807	$ (700,694)	(1.2)

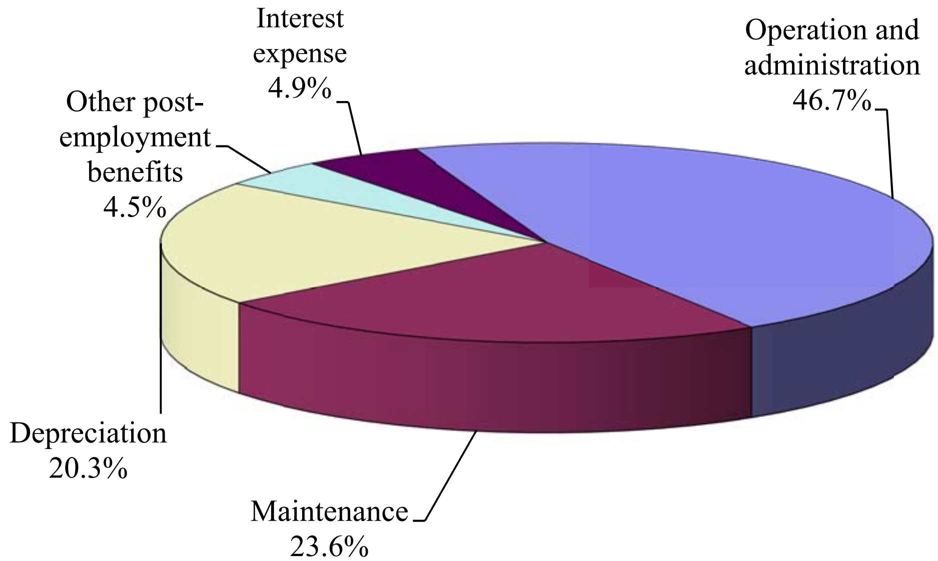
2016 Expenses



2015 Expenses



2014 Expenses



Following are some of the issues and events affecting expenses in 2016:

- Operation and administration expenses increased 2.1%, or $594,185.

  - ✓ Corporate and fiscal expenses increased as a result of $274,336 in bond issuance costs related to the 2016 Series Refunding Bonds.

  - ✓ Expenses paid to contractors for studies increased as a result of increased payments of $51,138 for a cost of service and rate structure study completed in 2016. Payments also increased $192,358 under the Authority's contract for management and operations enhancements in conjunction with the installation of a new work asset management system in 2016.

  - ✓ Outfall rehabilitation and erosion control projects at the Sturgeon Point treatment plant increased operation and administration expenses $203,085 in 2016.

  - ✓ A new contract to review processes and procedures at both treatment plants in an effort to improve performance increased engineering costs $55,174 in 2016.

  - ✓ Power costs decreased $215,845, 24.5%, from $3,525,641 in 2015 to $3,309,796 in 2016. While usage increased 4.9% during 2016, the average cost per kilowatt hour was 18% lower than in 2015.

  - ✓ Postage expense decreased $45,160, 9.9%, from $454,870 in 2015 to $409,710 in 2016 due to the expiration on April 10, 2016 of USS Exigent Surcharge Pricing. Postage rates for bills and read-by-mail postcards decreased 4.1% and 5.7%, respectively.

- Maintenance expenses decreased 0.5%, or $66,935.

  - ✓ A decrease in the number of repairs performed by outside contractors in 2016 resulted in a $251,116 savings in payments to repair contractors. Contractors made 705 repairs in 2016 as compared to 922 in 2015. Payments to contractors for repairs decreased 13.7% from $1,830,487 in 2015 to $1,579,371 in 2016.

  - ✓ Materials and supplies expense increased $103,138 from $1,281,096 in 2015 to $1,384,234 in 2016. While there was a decrease in the amount of materials used during repairs in 2016, there was an increase of $172,753 in materials purchased and expensed in the Control and Water Quality Units in 2016.

- Interest expense decreased $452,814 due entirely to a decrease in the bond principal outstanding as a result of the 2016 bond maturities and the refunding of the 2007 Series and 2012 Series Bonds with a principal balance of $37,555,000 with the 2016 Series Refunding Bonds with a principal balance of $30,725,000.

- Other post-employment benefit expense increased $1,320,218 from $3,202,218 2015 to $4,522,436 in 2016. In addition to the accumulation of interest on unpaid actuarial accrued liability and normal cost plus the current amortization of unpaid liability, increases resulted from greater than expected claims costs and a change in accounting for accrued sick time with no cash value used to offset premium contributions in retirement. These benefits are now considered a post employment benefit; they were previously accounted for as compensated absences. The change increased the overall OPEB liability in 2016.

Comparatively, these issues and events impacted expenses in 2015:

- Operation and administration expenses decreased 1.8%, or $496,893.

  - ✓ Power costs decreased $1,141,899, 24.5%, from $4,667,540 in 2014 to $3,525,641 in 2015. While usage remained consistent with 2014, the average cost per kilowatt hour was 32% lower in 2015.

  - ✓ Workers' Compensation insurance expense increased 34%, or $412,200, from $1,213,207 in 2014 to $1,625,407 in 2015 due largely to the assessment of a New York State Insurance Fund charge equal to 30% of the premium, or $374,844, for the plan year July 1, 2015—June 30, 2016. This is the first year this assessment was levied.

- Maintenance expenses decreased 3.2%, or $463,189.

  - ✓ Restoration costs decreased $249,839 due to fewer sites restored at a lower overall average cost per site.

  - ✓ Payments to other contractors decreased $88,340 largely due to a new contract for landscaping services. In April of 2015, the Authority contracted with New York State Industries for the Disabled, a New York State Preferred Contractor, to provide landscaping services for all of our properties.

- Interest expense decreased $324,354, 10.9% due entirely to bond maturities.

- The value of other postemployment benefits increased $444,463, 16.1%, due to changes in actuarial assumptions with respect to health care trend rates and updated mortality tables.

Table 6—Summary of Cash Flow Activities

	Year Ended December 31,		Increase/(Decrease)
	2016	2015	Dollars
Cash flows provided (used) by:			
Operating activities	$ 38,166,569	$ 23,730,946	$ 14,435,623
Capital and related financing activities	(34,331,732)	(24,980,603)	(9,351,129)
Investing activities	(1,284,186)	594,802	(1,878,988)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalent	2,550,651	(654,855)	3,205,506
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	37,417,622	38,072,477	(654,855)
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	$ 39,968,273	$ 37,417,622	$ 2,550,651

	Year Ended December 31,		Increase/(Decrease)
	2015	2014	Dollars
Cash flows provided (used) by:			
Operating activities	$ 23,730,946	$ 21,547,274	$ 2,183,672
Capital and related financing activities	(24,980,603)	(22,108,338)	(2,872,265)
Investing activities	594,802	(30,912)	625,714
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(654,855)	(591,976)	(62,879)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	38,072,477	38,664,453	(591,976)
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	$ 37,417,622	$ 38,072,477	$ (654,855)

At December 31, 2016, 2015, and 2014, cash and cash equivalents were restricted for various purposes as presented below:

Table 7—Summary of Cash and Cash Equivalents

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2016	2015	2014
Unrestricted	$ 20,556,168	$ 28,722,627	$ 24,227,980
Restricted	19,412,105	8,694,995	13,844,497
Total	$ 39,968,273	$ 37,417,622	$ 38,072,477

Total cash and cash equivalents increased $2,550,651 from $37,417,622 in 2015 to $39,968,273 in 2016.

Total cash and cash equivalents decreased $654,855 from $38,072,477 in 2014 to $37,417,622 in 2015.

Capital Assets

The Authority's investment in capital assets as of December 31, 2016 amounted to $369,413,111 (net of accumulated depreciation) as compared to $360,641,152 as of December 31, 2015 and $354,995,016 as of December 31, 2014. This investment includes land, buildings and structures, mains and hydrants, equipment, construction in progress and other (service installations, leasehold improvements, etc.). The Authority's greatest investment in capital assets is in buildings and structures and mains and hydrants.

Presented in Table 8 is a comparative summary of capital assets. Additional information on the Authority's capital assets can be found in Note 4 of the financial statements.

Table 8—Summary of Capital Assets (Net of Accumulated Depreciation)

	December 31,		Increase/(Decrease)	
	2016	2015	Dollars	Percent
Capital assets not being depreciated:				
Land	$ 2,231,137	$ 2,231,137	$ -	-
Construction work in progress	3,990,410	3,244,739	745,671	23.0
Total capital assets, not being depreciated	6,221,547	5,475,876	745,671	13.6
Capital assets being depreciated:				
Buildings and structures	279,652,616	270,685,457	8,967,159	3.3
Mains and hydrants	226,025,894	220,347,031	5,678,863	2.6
Equipment	58,878,144	56,395,641	2,482,503	4.4
Other	58,218,045	56,192,707	2,025,338	3.6
Total capital assets, being depreciated	622,774,699	603,620,836	19,153,863	3.2
Less accumulated depreciation	259,583,135	248,455,560	11,127,575	4.5
Total capital assets, being depreciated, net	363,191,564	355,165,276	8,026,288	2.3
Total capital assets, net	$ 369,413,111	$ 360,641,152	$ 8,771,959	2.4

	December 31,		Increase/(Decrease)	
	2015	2014	Dollars	Percent
Capital assets not being depreciated:				
Land	$ 2,231,137	$ 2,231,137	$ -	-
Construction work in progress	3,244,739	5,795,468	(2,550,729)	(44.0)
Total capital assets, not being depreciated	5,475,876	8,026,605	(2,550,729)	(31.8)
Capital assets being depreciated:				
Buildings and structures	270,685,457	260,667,136	10,018,321	3.8
Mains and hydrants	220,347,031	214,871,473	5,475,558	2.5
Equipment	56,395,641	54,333,355	2,062,286	3.8
Other	56,192,707	54,807,942	1,384,765	2.5
Total capital assets, being depreciated	603,620,836	584,679,906	18,940,930	3.2
Less accumulated depreciation	248,455,560	237,711,495	10,744,065	4.5
Total capital assets, being depreciated, net	355,165,276	346,968,411	8,196,865	2.4
Total capital assets, net	$ 360,641,152	$ 354,995,016	$ 5,646,136	1.6

Debt Administration

At December 31, 2016 the Authority had $56,339,767 in water revenue bond principal outstanding, net of deferred amounts for bond premiums and discounts, as compared to $67,452,080 and $76,279,316 December 31, 2015 and 2014. Water revenue bonds outstanding, net of deferred amounts from bond premiums and discounts, decreased $11,112,313 during the year ended December 31, 2016, as a result of the redemption of $7,850,000 2012 Series Bonds and the advance refunding of $29,705,000 2007 Series Bonds and with the issuance of the 2016 Series Refunding Bonds. The 2016 Series Refunding Bonds were issued in the amount of $30,725,000, with bond premiums of $4,378,154 and bond discounts of $109,654. Scheduled principal payments of $8,060,000 were also made. Principal payments and amortization of premiums and discounts occurred as shown in Table 9.

Table 9—Summary of Bond Payments and Premiums

	Year Ended December 31,	
	2016	2015
1998D Series	$ 1,040,000	$ 1,000,000
2003F Series	725,000	705,000
2007 Series	29,705,000	800,000
2008 Series	5,090,000	4,845,000
2012 Series	9,055,000	1,175,000
2016 Series	-	-
Total water revenue bond payments	45,615,000	8,525,000
Amortization of bond premiums	492,202	302,236
Amortization of bond discount	(1,389)	-
Total water revenue bond payments, bond premiums and bond discounts	$ 46,105,813	$ 8,827,236

The Authority's issuance of 1998D Series and 2003F Series Bonds were through the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) and are rated based on the EFC's rating.

The Authority's bond ratings have remained stable receiving an AA+ rating from both Fitch Ratings and Standard & Poor's Rating Services.

For additional information on long-term debt activity, see Note 5 to the basic financial statements.

Economic Factors

Although the local economic outlook for Western New York has improved as a result of several economic development projects in the region, individual conservation efforts and changes in Federal and State laws and regulations which require appliances to use less water, significant increases in consumption other than those caused by extreme weather conditions are not expected.

A nearly four decade effort to promote conservation and water appliance efficiency is showing results with decreased water consumption per customer. At present, over 30% of the bills sent to Authority customers are for the monthly or quarterly minimum. Given the reality of rising repair and replacement costs of an aging infrastructure, and decreasing consumption, the Authority established an infrastructure investment charge in 2011. The infrastructure investment charge was implemented to maintain the

Authority’s aggressive investment program in very costly system-wide infrastructure, and to allow for a more equitable distribution among customer classifications of fixed costs to provide a dependable, high quality water supply and fire protection services to all customers. In 2016, the infrastructure investment charge was 16.8% of water sales as compared to 15.0% and 12.2% in 2015 and 2014, respectively.

In an effort to measure the effectiveness of this approach the Authority contracted with consultants in late 2015 to conduct a Cost of Service and Rate Structure Review study. After a complete review of the Authority's current cost of providing service to its various customer classes, future service demands and costs and future capital project needs, a new rate structure was recommended to better meet the needs of the future. Highlights of this new structure included the elimination of declining block rates and summer surcharges in all customer classes. These rates have been replaced by a new structure which assigns volumetric rates and infrastructure charges based upon water meter size. A summary of the Authority's rate structure can be found in Table 10.

Over the past fifteen years the Authority has also been engaged in a series of water system consolidations whereby independent municipal water system operators have transferred ownership of their systems to the Authority. The continuation of this trend will have the effect of shifting costs from smaller systems and rate bases to the Authority. However, due to economies of scale enjoyed by the Authority, the overall community-wide costs should be lower in a coordinated, unified system compared to those of a patchwork network of small systems.

Table 10—Tariff Rates Effective January 1, 2017

A. SMALL METER CUSTOMERS - Installed Meter Sizes 5/8", 3/4" and 1"

Volumetric Rate — $3.17 per 1,000 gallons

Size of Meter (inches)	Quarterly Commodity Allowance (gallons)	Quarterly Minimum Commodity Charge	Quarterly Infrastructure Investment Charge	Quarterly Minimum Charge
5/8	9,000	$ 28.53	$ 19.65	$ 48.18
3/4	9,000	28.53	19.65	48.18
1	9,000	28.53	19.65	48.18

(continued)

Table 10—Tariff Rates Effective January 1, 2017 (concluded)

B. LARGE METER CUSTOMERS - Installed Meter Sizes 1 1/4" and larger

Volumetric Rate — $2.84 per 1,000 gallons

Size of Meter (inches)	Quarterly Commodity Allowance (gallons)	Quarterly Minimum Commodity Charge	Quarterly Infrastructure Investment Charge	Quarterly Minimum Charge
1 1/4	27,000	$ 76.68	$ 25.38	$ 102.06
1 1/2	39,000	110.76	25.38	136.14
2	63,000	178.92	40.59	219.51
3	120,000	340.80	76.11	416.91
4	198,000	562.32	126.87	689.19
6	390,000	1,107.60	253.71	1,361.31
8	630,000	1,789.20	405.90	2,195.10
10	900,000	2,556.00	583.50	3,139.50
12	1,230,000	3,493.20	1,090.86	4,584.06
20	2,820,000	8,008.80	4,694.76	12,703.56
24	3,840,000	10,905.60	9,480.84	20,386.44

C. BULK SERVICE CUSTOMERS - Customers who buy water for resale

Volumetric Rate — $2.48 per 1,000 gallons

Size of Meter (inches)	Quarterly Commodity Allowance (gallons)	Quarterly Minimum Commodity Charge	Quarterly Infrastructure Investment Charge	Quarterly Minimum Charge
1 1/4	27,000	$ 66.96	$ 25.38	$ 92.34
1 1/2	39,000	96.72	25.38	122.10
2	63,000	156.24	40.59	196.83
3	120,000	297.60	76.11	373.71
4	198,000	491.04	126.87	617.91
6	390,000	967.20	253.71	1,220.91
8	630,000	1,562.40	405.90	1,968.30
10	900,000	2,232.00	583.50	2,815.50
12	1,230,000	3,050.40	1,090.86	4,141.26
20	2,820,000	6,993.60	4,694.76	11,688.36
24	3,840,000	9,523.20	9,480.84	19,004.04

Requests for Information

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Authority's finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to Robert J. Lichtenthal, Jr., Deputy Director, Erie County Water Authority, 295 Main Street, Rm. 350, Buffalo, New York 14203-2494.

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BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
Statements of Net Position
December 31, 2016 and 2015

	2016	2015
ASSETS		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 20,556,168	$ 28,722,627
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	967,482	1,784,338
Unrestricted investments	3,800,000	-
Restricted investments	1,674,105	1,380,791
Customer accounts receivable, (net of allowance for doubtful accounts)	5,024,359	4,195,746
Materials and supplies	2,454,809	2,116,557
Accrued revenue	8,618,909	7,354,044
Prepaid expenses and other assets	2,932,395	2,706,843
Total current assets	46,028,227	48,260,946
Noncurrent assets:		
Investments	549,983	549,983
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	18,444,623	6,910,657
Restricted investments	10,258,105	11,797,158
Loans receivable	2,369,225	2,397,701
Capital assets, not being depreciated	6,221,547	5,475,876
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	363,191,564	355,165,276
Total noncurrent assets	401,035,047	382,296,651
Total assets	447,063,274	430,557,597
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES		
Post-measurement date retirement contributions	1,789,968	1,946,395
Changes in retirement system assumptions	8,000,814	554,028
Advanced refunding of 2007 Series Bonds	1,316,553	-
Total deferred outflows of resources	11,107,335	2,500,423
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	7,855,874	3,398,738
Advances for construction	562,123	405,202
Construction retention	979,000	1,046,400
Accrued interest on water revenue bonds	287,202	354,053
Accrued liabilities	1,480,314	1,563,525
Compensated absences	1,315,708	1,709,625
Water revenue bonds - current portion	9,097,408	9,197,236
Total current liabilities	21,577,629	17,674,779
Noncurrent liabilities:		
Compensated absences	1,298,779	2,756,225
Net pension liability	8,958,247	1,933,536
Other postemployment benefits	33,745,978	29,223,542
Water revenue bonds - long term	47,242,359	58,254,844
Total noncurrent liabilities	91,245,363	92,168,147
Total liabilities	112,822,992	109,842,926
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES		
Changes in retirement system assumptions	1,092,360	-
Total deferred inflows of resources	1,092,360	-
NET POSITION		
Net investment in capital assets	313,073,344	293,189,072
Restricted:		
Debt service reserve account	6,668,524	8,903,197
Debt service account	1,676,921	2,351,905
Unrestricted	22,836,468	18,770,920
Total net position	$ 344,255,257	$ 323,215,094

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of these statements.

ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
Statements of Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position
Years Ended December 31, 2016 and 2015

	2016	2015
Operating revenues	$ 79,711,080	$ 69,595,215
Operating expenses:		
Operation and administration	28,452,632	27,858,447
Maintenance	13,813,338	13,880,273
Depreciation	12,713,386	12,494,706
Other postemployment benefits	4,522,436	3,202,218
Total operating expenses	59,501,792	57,435,644
Operating income	20,209,288	12,159,571
Nonoperating revenues (expenses):		
Interest income	359,812	355,130
Gain on sale of investments	852,694	-
Interest on loans receivable	58,554	-
Interest capitalization during construction	105,383	239,440
Interest expense	(2,189,655)	(2,642,469)
Total nonoperating revenues (expenses)	(813,212)	(2,047,899)
Net income before contributions in aid of construction	19,396,076	10,111,672
Contribution in aid of construction	1,644,087	4,134,020
Change in net position	21,040,163	14,245,692
Net position—beginning	323,215,094	308,969,402
Net position—ending	$ 344,255,257	$ 323,215,094

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of these statements.

ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
Statements of Cash Flows
Years Ended December 31, 2016 and 2015

	2016	2015
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Receipts from customers	$ 77,522,153	$ 68,000,946
Payments to contractors	(15,432,468)	(20,383,143)
Payments to employees including fringe benefits	(23,923,116)	(23,886,857)
Net cash provided by operating activities	38,166,569	23,730,946
CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Acquistion and construction of capital assets	(21,552,746)	(17,850,253)
Bond repayment	(8,060,000)	(8,525,000)
Net bond refunding activity	(4,031,091)	-
Interest paid on revenue bonds	(2,488,903)	(2,746,404)
Advances for construction	156,921	7,034
Contribution in aid of construction	1,644,087	4,134,020
Net cash used for capital and related financing activities	(34,331,732)	(24,980,603)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of investment securities	(17,436,325)	(11,398,160)
Proceeds from sale or maturity of investments	14,882,169	11,641,161
Interest received	1,269,970	351,801
Net cash (used for) provided by investing activities	(1,284,186)	594,802
Net increase (decrease) in cash	2,550,651	(654,855)
Cash and cash equivalents—beginning (including amounts restricted for future construction, debt service reserve, debt service, and customer deposits)	37,417,622	38,072,477
Cash and cash equivalents—ending (including amounts restricted for future construction, debt service reserve, debt service, and customer deposits)	$ 39,968,273	$ 37,417,622

(continued)

ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
Statements of Cash Flows
Years Ended December 31, 2016 and 2015

(concluded)

	2016	2015
Reconciliation of operating income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Operating income:	$ 20,209,288	$ 12,159,571
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation expense	12,713,386	12,494,706
Other postemployment benefits expense	4,522,436	3,202,218
(Increase) decrease in accounts receivable	(828,613)	1,179,095
(Increase) decrease in material and supplies	(338,252)	2,841
(Increase) in accrued revenue	(1,264,865)	(471,295)
(Increase) in other assets	(224,561)	(275,560)
(Increase) decrease in other loans receivable	28,476	(2,397,701)
(Increase) in other deferred outflows	(7,290,359)	(253,573)
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable	4,457,136	(1,690,218)
Increase (decrease) in other accrued liabilities	(83,211)	210,755
Increase (decrease) in compensated absences	(1,851,363)	222,937
Increase (decrease) in net pension liability	7,024,711	(652,830)
Increase in deferred inflows	1,092,360	-
Total adjustments	17,957,281	11,571,375
Net cash provided by operating activities	$ 38,166,569	$ 23,730,946

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of these statements.

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1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Reporting entity—The Erie County Water Authority (the "Authority") is a public benefit corporation created in 1949 by the State of New York. The accounts of the Authority are maintained generally in accordance with the Uniform System of Accounts prescribed by the New York State Public Service Commission ("PSC"), although the Authority is not subject to PSC rules and regulations. The rates established by the Authority do not require PSC approval.

The Authority operates its business activities on a direct service basis where the Authority owns the assets and is responsible for their operation, maintenance, improvement and replacement; on a leased managed service basis where the Authority is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the assets while the lessor is responsible for the improvement and replacement of assets; and on a bulk sales basis where the Authority contracts with the customer to provide water while the customer owns the assets and is responsible for their operation, maintenance, improvement and replacement as well as billings and customer collections.

Basis of accounting—The financial statements of the Authority have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board ("GASB") is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles.

The activities of the Authority are accounted for similar to those often found in the private sector using the flow of economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. All assets, deferred outflows, liabilities, deferred inflows, net position, revenues and expenses are accounted for through a single enterprise fund with revenues recorded when earned and expenses recorded at the time liabilities are incurred.

Revenues from providing water services are reported as operating revenues. Operating revenues are recorded as water service is supplied. Water supplied, but not billed, as of the calendar year end is estimated based upon historical usage and has been accounted for as accrued revenue.

Transactions which are capital, financing or investing related are reported as nonoperating revenues. All expenses related to operating the system are reported as operating expenses. Interest expense and financing costs are reported as nonoperating expenses.

Budgets—The Authority is not required to have a legally adopted budget.

Compensated absences—Authority employees earn vacation, sick leave and compensatory time in varying amounts. In the event of termination or upon retirement, represented employees are entitled to payment for accrued vacation, sick and compensatory time limited to amounts defined under their respective collectively bargained agreements. All non-represented employees receive benefits as defined by Authority policy or by resolution of the Board.

Retirement plan—The Authority provides retirement benefits for all of its employees through contributions to the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System. The system provides various plans and options, some of which require employee contributions.

Cash and cash equivalents—The Authority considers cash and cash equivalents to be all unrestricted and restricted cash accounts and short-term investments purchased with an original maturity of three months or less.

Investments—The Authority considers cash invested for more than three months investments. Investments are carried at fair value based on quoted market prices. The cost of investments sold is determined using the specific identification method and then adjusted to fair value changes to reflect the combined net change in these elements in the statements of revenue, expenses and changes in net position.

Customer accounts receivable—All receivables are reported at their gross values and, where appropriate, are reduced by the estimated portion that is expected to be uncollectible. The Authority recognizes water revenues in the period in which the service is provided. Billings to customers generally consist of revenues earned from the prior three months for quarterly billed customers and revenues earned from the prior month for monthly-billed customers.

Materials and supplies—Materials and supplies are stated at the lower of cost or market, cost being determined on the basis of moving-average cost.

Accrued revenue—This account represents earned water revenues as of the end of the year that have not yet been billed to customers.

Prepaid expenses and other assets—These consist primarily of certain payments reflecting costs applicable to future accounting periods and interest earned from securities and investments but not yet received.

Capital assets—Capital assets are defined by the Authority as assets with an initial, individual cost of more than $10,000 and an estimated useful life in excess of two years. Infrastructure assets with individual costs less than $10,000 are treated as a class of assets and are capitalized. The cost of additions to capital assets, including purchased property or property contributed in aid of construction, and replacement of property, is capitalized. Cost includes direct material, labor, overhead and an allowance for funds used during construction equivalent to the average cost of borrowed funds advanced for construction purposes. Overhead is added proportionately to the cost of a project on a monthly basis. The cost of retirements of capital assets is charged against accumulated depreciation. Maintenance and repairs are charged to expenses as incurred, and major betterments are capitalized.

Depreciation of capital assets is computed using the composite and straight-line methods based upon annual rates established in accordance with PSC guidelines: buildings and structures, 15 to 76 years; hydrants and mains, 64 to 100 years; equipment, 5 to 43 years; and other, 4 to 50 years. Depreciation expense approximated 2.07% and 2.10% of the original cost of average depreciable property for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015 respectively.

Long-term obligations—Long term debt is reported as a liability in the statements of net position. Bond premiums and bond discounts are deferred and amortized over the life of the bonds using the straight-line method. Bonds payable are reported net of the applicable bond premium or discount.

Advances for construction—Advances for construction primarily represent amounts received from contractors for water system expansions. Upon completion of the expansion, the cost of the construction is transferred to contributions in aid of construction, with any remaining advance being refunded.

Accrued liabilities—Included are provisions for estimated losses and surcharges collected from customers on behalf of various municipalities and unpaid at year end.

Contributions in aid of construction—Contributions in aid of construction represent amounts received from individuals, governmental agencies, and others to reimburse the Authority for construction costs incurred on capital projects or the original cost of certain water plant systems conveyed to the Authority by municipalities and others. Only those water plant systems resulting in increased revenue generation are assigned any value and, therefore, recorded as a contribution in aid of construction.

Risk management—The Authority limits its risk exposure to risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters through various insurance policies. Insurance coverage has remained relatively stable from the previous year. Insurance expense for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015 totaled $2,596,072 and $2,425,398, respectively. There were no settlements that significantly exceeded insurance coverage or reserved amounts for each of the last three years. Any unpaid claims outstanding as of December 31, 2016 and 2015 have been adequately reserved for.

Use of estimates—The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and related notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Adoption of new accounting pronouncements—During the year ended December 31, 2016, the Authority implemented GASB Statements No. 72, *Fair Value Measurement and Application*; No. 73, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions and Related Assets That Are Not within the Scope of GASB Statement 68, and Amendments to Certain Provisions of GASB Statements 67 and 68*; No. 76, *The Hierarchy of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles for State and Local Governments*; No. 77, *Tax Abatement Disclosures*; No. 78, *Pensions Provided through Certain Multiple-Employer Defined Benefit Pension Plans*; and No. 79, *Certain External Investment Pools and Pool Participants,* effective for the year ended December 31, 2016. None of the Statements had a material effect on the Authority's financial operation.

Future impacts of accounting pronouncements—The Authority has not completed the process of evaluating the impact that will result from adopting GASB Statements No. 74, *Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans*; No. 80, *Blending Requirements for Certain Component Units — an amendment of GASB Statement No.14*; No. 81, *Irrevocable Split-Interest Agreements*; No. 82, *Pension Issues — an Amendment of GASB Statements No. 67, No. 68 and No. 73,* effective for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017; No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions;* No. 85, *Omnibus 2017*, effective for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018; No. 83, *Certain Asset Retirement Obligations* and No. 84, *Fiduciary Activities,* effective for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2019. The Authority is therefore unable to disclose the impact that adopting these Statements will have on its financial position and results of operations when such statements are adopted, if any.

2. CASH, CASH EQUIVALENTS AND INVESTMENTS

Deposits**—**All uninsured bank deposits are fully collateralized.

Investments—The Authority's bond resolutions and investment guidelines allow for monies to be invested in the following instruments:

- Obligations of the United States Government;
- Obligations of Federal Agencies which represent full faith and credit of the United States Government;
- Bonds issued by the Federal National Mortgage Association or the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation with remaining maturities not exceeding three years;
- Time deposits and money market accounts;
- Commercial paper which matures not more than 270 days after the date of purchase; and
- Municipal obligations of any state, instrumentality, or local governmental unit of such state.

Restricted cash, cash equivalents, and investments**—**Cash has been deposited into various trust accounts with a fiscal agent to satisfy certain legal covenants, or restricted internally through Board resolution. Further, the amounts are invested in compliance with the Authority's investment guidelines. The following is a brief synopsis of restricted cash:

Restricted for debt service—Cash restricted for debt service was established to fulfill the debt service requirements on the outstanding water revenue bonds as they become due and payable.

Restricted for customer deposits—Cash restricted for customer deposits was established to keep customer deposits for future work to be performed and deposits taken from customers to secure payment of their water bills segregated from the Authority's operating cash.

Restricted for employee pension contributions—New employees meeting eligibility requirements can elect participation in the New York State Voluntary Defined Contribution Program sponsored by the State University of New York (SUNY) Optional Retirement Plan. Eligible employees have a 366 day vesting period during which the employer retains the employee and employer contributions.

Restricted employee payroll withholdings**—**Employee elective payroll withholding under Title 26 U.S. Code §125 - Cafeteria plans and §105(h) - Amounts received under accident and health plans.

Restricted for future construction—Cash restricted for future construction was established to maintain a construction account, which has been committed for future capital expenditures.

Restricted for debt service reserve—The Authority restricts investments in the debt service reserve account as required by various bond resolutions. For 2016, the amount reserved as arbitrage rebate resulting from the 2007 bond refunding is included.

As of December 31, 2016 and 2015, the Authority had the following restricted cash, cash equivalents, and investments:

	December 31, 2016		December 31, 2015	
	Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Amortized Cost	Fair Value
Restricted for debt service:				
Cash	$ 2,816	$ 2,816	$ 886,098	$ 886,098
Cash equivalents - U.S. Treasury bills	-	-	84,994	85,016
Investments - U.S. Treasury bills	1,674,119	1,674,105	1,380,930	1,380,791
	1,676,935	1,676,921	2,352,022	2,351,905
Restricted for customer deposits:				
Cash	898,640	898,640	797,705	797,705
Restricted for employee payroll withholdings:				
Cash	16,643	16,643	15,519	15,519
Current restricted cash, cash equivalents, and investments	$ 2,592,218	$ 2,592,204	$ 3,165,246	$ 3,165,129
Restricted for future construction:				
Cash	$ 18,444,587	$ 18,444,587	$ 6,910,618	$ 6,910,618
Investment - Certificate of Deposit	3,639,000	3,639,000	2,894,000	2,894,000
	22,083,587	22,083,587	9,804,618	9,804,618
Restricted for debt service reserve:				
Cash	49,419	49,419	39	39
Investment - State and Local Government Series Treasury bonds	6,619,105	6,619,105	8,903,158	8,903,158
	6,668,524	6,668,524	8,903,197	8,903,197
Noncurrent restricted cash, cash equivalents, and investments	$ 28,752,111	$ 28,752,111	$ 18,707,815	$ 18,707,815
Total restricted cash, cash equivalents and investments	$ 31,344,329	$ 31,344,315	$ 21,873,061	$ 21,872,944

Fair value measurement—The Authority reports its fair value measures using a three-level hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs used to measure fair value. This hierarchy, established by GAAP, requires that entities maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs when measuring fair value. The three levels of inputs used to measure fair value are as follows:

- Level 1. Quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets to which the Authority has access at the measurement date.
- Level 2. Inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. Level 2 inputs include:
    - Quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets;

- Quoted prices for identical or similar assets in markets that are not active;

- Observable inputs other than quoted prices for the asset or liability (for example, interest rates and yield curves);and

- Inputs derived principally from, or corroborated by, observable market data by correlation or by other means.

- Level 3. Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability. Unobservable inputs should be used to measure fair value to the extent that observable inputs are not available.

Authority has the following fair value measurements as of December 31, 2016:

- Money market funds, DDA and NOW accounts of $39,968,273 are values using quoted prices for identical assets in active markets (Level 1 input).

- Certificates of deposit of $7,439,000 are values using quoted prices for identical assets in active markets (Level 1 input).

- U.S. treasury bills of $1,674,105 are values using quoted prices for identical assets in active markets (Level 1 input).

- Treasury Securities - State and Local Government Series of $7,169,088 is valued using quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets (Level 2 input).

Description	12/31/2016	Level 1 Investments	Level 2 Investments	Level 3 Investments
Investments by fair value level:				
Money Market/DDA/NOW Accounts	$ 39,968,273	$ 39,968,273	$ -	$ -
Certificate of Deposit	7,439,000	7,439,000	-	-
U.S. Treasury bills	1,674,105	1,674,105	-	-
Treasury Securities - SLGs	7,169,088	-	7,169,088	-
Total	$ 56,250,466	$ 49,081,378	$ 7,169,088	$ -

***Custodial credit risk*—**For deposits, this is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the Authority's deposits may not be returned. For cash equivalents and investments, this is the risk that in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the Authority will not be able to recover the value of its investments that are in the possession of an outside party. By State statute all deposits in excess of FDIC insurance coverage must be collateralized. As of December 31, 2016 and 2015, all uninsured bank deposits were fully collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institutions' trust departments or agents in the Authority's name and all of the Authority's cash equivalents and investments were registered in the Authority's name.

Interest rate risk—For investments, this is the risk that potential purchasers of debt securities will not agree to pay face value for those securities if interest rates subsequently increase. There is the prospect of a loss should those securities be sold prior to maturity. The Authority uses the specific identification method to identify the maturity for each investment and evaluate risk accordingly.

3. CUSTOMER ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Customer accounts receivable primarily represent amounts due from customers for current and past due water services provided, including penalties, unpaid bill charges, collection fees and shut-off charges.

Customers are billed either on a monthly or quarterly basis depending on the type of customer and the level of water usage. Municipalities are billed for hydrant maintenance annually. Customers are provided a fifteen day (15) payment period from the billing date to pay their current water charges. A late penalty of 10% is assessed on any unpaid balance 10 days after the due date. An account will receive a collection letter if the account is active, has a receivable balance greater than $100, has a receivable that is 90 days or greater in arrears and has no current collections activity. The collection letter indicates that the customer could be subject to the discontinuance of their water service and additional delinquent charges.

Following fifteen (15) days from the collection letter date, an unpaid account is sent to a collector who schedules a visit to the customer with an unpaid bill notice. At the visit, the account is "posted," and the customer has three (3) working days to either pay the bill in full, or submit a partial payment (25%-33%) with a signed promissory agreement for the remaining balance. The agreement is normally kept to a term of 90 days, with some exceptions to 180 days. In agreements with lease managed water districts and in some direct service districts, unpaid water bills are referred to municipalities for payment per the terms of the service agreement. Allowances for doubtful accounts at December 31, 2016 and 2015 total $406,070 and $412,256 respectively.

4. CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital asset activity for the years ended December 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015 is presented on the following page.

	Balance 1/1/2016	Additions	Retirements & Reclassifications	Balance 12/31/2016
Capital assets not being depreciated:				
Land	$ 2,231,137	$ -	$ -	$ 2,231,137
Construction work in progress	3,244,739	20,832,606	(20,086,935)	3,990,410
Total non-depreciable capital assets	5,475,876	20,832,606	(20,086,935)	6,221,547
Capital assets being depreciated:				
Buildings and structures	270,685,457	9,771,900	(804,741)	279,652,616
Mains and hydrants	220,347,032	5,695,280	(16,418)	226,025,894
Equipment	56,395,640	3,940,092	(1,457,588)	58,878,144
Other	56,192,707	2,025,338	-	58,218,045
Total depreciable capital assets	603,620,836	21,432,610	(2,278,747)	622,774,699
Less accumulated depreciation:				
Buildings and structures	133,115,443	6,719,314	(804,741)	139,030,016
Mains and hydrants	50,608,934	2,218,076	(16,418)	52,810,592
Equipment	33,538,192	2,815,634	(764,652)	35,589,174
Other	31,192,991	960,362	-	32,153,353
Total accumulated depreciation	248,455,560	12,713,386	(1,585,811)	259,583,135
Capital assets being depreciated, net	355,165,276	8,719,224	(692,936)	363,191,564
Total capital assets, net	$ 360,641,152	$ 29,551,830	$ (20,779,871)	$ 369,413,111

	Balance 1/1/2015	Additions	Retirements & Reclassifications	Balance 12/31/2015
Capital assets not being depreciated:				
Land	$ 2,231,137	$ -	$ -	$ 2,231,137
Construction work in progress	5,795,468	17,219,708	(19,770,437)	3,244,739
Total non-depreciable capital assets	8,026,605	17,219,708	(19,770,437)	5,475,876
Capital assets being depreciated:				
Buildings and structures	260,667,136	10,018,321	-	270,685,457
Mains and hydrants	214,871,473	5,505,498	(29,939)	220,347,032
Equipment	54,333,355	3,343,464	(1,281,179)	56,395,640
Other	54,807,942	2,352,488	(967,723)	56,192,707
Total depreciable capital assets	584,679,906	21,219,771	(2,278,841)	603,620,836
Less accumulated depreciation:				
Buildings and structures	126,529,670	6,585,773	-	133,115,443
Mains and hydrants	48,478,911	2,159,962	(29,939)	50,608,934
Equipment	31,464,358	2,826,812	(752,978)	33,538,192
Other	31,238,556	922,160	(967,725)	31,192,991
Total accumulated depreciation	237,711,495	12,494,707	(1,750,642)	248,455,560
Capital assets being depreciated, net	346,968,411	8,725,064	(528,199)	355,165,276
Total capital assets, net	$ 354,995,016	$ 25,944,772	$ (20,298,636)	$ 360,641,152

5. LONG-TERM DEBT

Summary of long-term debt—the following is a summary of the Authority's water revenue bonds at December 31, 2016:

Series	Final Annual Installment Payment Due	Year of Earliest Principal Payment	Interest Rate		Original Issue	Principal Outstanding 12/31/2016
1998D Series	10/15/2019	2000	.845-3.355%	(*)	$ 16,859,700	$ 3,375,000
2003F Series	7/15/2023	2004	.79-4.50%	(*)	15,544,443	6,508,384
2008 Series	12/1/2018	2009	4.00-5.00%		45,770,000	10,950,000
2016 Series	12/1/2036	2017	2.00-5.00%		30,725,000	30,725,000
						51,558,384
Less portion due within one year						(8,590,000)
						$ 42,968,384

(*) Gross rates subject to subsidy from the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC)

All outstanding bonds have been issued under the Authority's Fourth Resolution and, therefore, all of the current bondholders have equal claims against the Authority's revenues.

1998D Series Bonds

The Current Interest 1998D Series Bonds were issued to the EFC under their aggregate pool financing identified as New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation State Clean Water and Drinking Water Revolving Funds Revenue 1998D Series in 1998.

The 1998D Series Bonds in the amount of $16,859,700, representing the Authority's portion of the financing, were issued to cover the cost of the construction of two new clearwell water tanks and a new pumping station at the Authority's Sturgeon Point plant.

Interest on the 1998D Series Bonds ranges from .845% to 3.355% and is payable semi-annually on April 15 and October 15. The terms of the EFC borrowings provide for an interest subsidy of approximately one-third of the stated interest rates shown above. The subsidy is generated from a United States Environmental Protection Agency grant to the EFC which the EFC invests and credits the borrower with the earnings on the invested funds as an offset to the interest payable on the bonds.

Principal is payable on October 15. The final maturity of the bonds is October 15, 2019.

2003F Series Bonds

On July 24, 2003 the 2003F Series Bonds were issued to the EFC under their aggregate pool financing identified as New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation State Clean Water and Drinking Water Revolving Funds Revenue Bonds 2003F Series.

The 2003F Series Bonds in the amount of $15,544,443 representing the Authority's portion of this financing were issued to cover the cost of new pump stations along with meters, water mains, a pump station and a storage tank in the City of Tonawanda.

Interest on the 2003F Series Bonds ranges from .79% to 4.50% and is payable semi-annually on January 15 and July 15. The terms of the EFC borrowings provide for an interest subsidy of approximately one-third of the stated interest rates shown above. The subsidy is generated from a United States Environmental Protection Agency grant to the EFC which the EFC invests and credits the borrower with the earnings on the invested funds as an offset to the interest payable on the bonds.

On August 1, 2013 EFC refunded the 2003F Series Bonds. New bonds were issued in the same principal denomination. The Authority paid off $691,616 on the outstanding bond principal. The Authority did not issue new bonds to EFC. The interest rates on the outstanding bonds were significantly reduced. The net present value savings as calculated by EFC is $1,382,895.

Principal is payable on July 15. The final maturity of the bonds is July 15, 2023.

2007 Series Bonds

On September 13, 2007, the 2007 Series Bonds were issued for $35,194,288, which includes a premium of $194,288 that is amortized over the life of the bonds. The purpose of these bonds includes the replacement of various water mains and valves in the distribution system, construction of new pump stations, upgrades to the coagulation basins, the replacement of electrical equipment and installation of standby emergency generators at the Authority's Sturgeon Point and Van de Water Treatment Plants.

Interest on the 2007 Series Bonds ranges from 4.50% to 5.00% and is payable semi-annually on June 1 and December 1.

Principal was payable on December 1. The original final maturity of the bonds was scheduled for December 1, 2037.

The 2007 Series Bonds were advance refunded on September 29, 2016 as part of the 2016 bond issuance and is discussed in more detail in the 2016 Series Refunding Bonds Section. Outstanding bonds will be called on the first allowable date — December 1, 2017.

2008 Series Bonds

On June 25, 2008, the Authority issued $45,770,000 of Water Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2008. The proceeds of the issue, including a $3,081,304 premium which is amortized over the life of the 2008 Series Bonds, were used to refund the principal of the 1993A Series and 1993B Series Bonds, $27,500,000 and $15,000,000, respectively. A portion of the proceeds covered the costs of issuance including a fee in connection with the termination of the swap agreement related to the 1993A Series and 1993B Series Bonds. The remaining proceeds were deposited into the 2008 Series Debt Service Reserve Account. The 1993A Series and 1993B Series Bonds were redeemed on July 25, 2008. The issuance of the 2008 Series Refunding Bonds reduced the debt service by $7,481,572 and has a net present value cash flow savings of $8,393,467.

Interest on the 2008 Series Bonds ranges from 4.0% to 5.0% and is payable semi-annually on June 1 and December 1.

Principal is payable on December 1. The final maturity of the bonds is December 1, 2018.

2012 Series Bonds

On June 8, 2012, the Authority issued $12,500,000 of Bonds under a Bond Direct Purchase Agreement. The bonds were issued under the Authority's Fourth Bond Resolution. The purpose of these bonds is to provide funds for the acquisition and construction of Sturgeon Point clarifier/thickener improvements, pump station improvements, raw water pumps, Van De Water coagulation basins and the Texas/Lang interconnection with the City of Buffalo.

Interest on the 2012 Series Bonds is 2.41% and is payable semi-annually on June 1 and December 1.

Principal was payable annually on June 1. The original final maturity of the bonds was scheduled for June 1, 2022.

The 2012 Series Bonds were refunded on September 29, 2016 as part of the 2016 bond issuance and is discussed in more detail in the 2016 Series Refunding Bonds Section.

2016 Series Refunding Bonds

On September 29, 2016, the Authority issued $30,725,000 of Water Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2016. The proceeds of the issue after premium of $4,378,154 and discount of $109,654 were used to refund the principal of the 2007 Series and 2012 Series Bonds, $29,705,000 and $7,850,000, respectively. A portion of the proceeds were deposited into a Rebate Liability Fund to be used to pay any arbitrage rebate due on the 2007 Series Bonds in September 2017. The remainder of the proceeds covered the costs of issuance. The issuance of the 2016 Series Refunding Bonds reduced the debt service by $9,330,782 and has a net present value cash flow savings of $6,787,290.

The advance refunding resulted in a deferred outflow of resources of $1,333,446 which is being amortized over the life of the 2016 Series Refunding Bonds. The deferred outflow is the difference between the reacquisition price, which is the amount deposited into the escrow account, and the carrying amount of the 2007 Series Bonds at the time of defeasance.

Interest on the 2016 Series Refunding Bonds ranges from 2.0% to 5.0% and is payable semi-annually on June 1 and December 1.

Principal is payable on December 1. The final maturity of the bonds is December 1, 2036.

The 2012 Series Bonds were redeemed immediately. The remaining net proceeds from the issuance and certain existing funds were deposited with an escrow agent ("Escrow account") pursuant to the refunding agreement, and invested in U.S. Government securities for the 2007 Series Bonds. The maturities of these invested funds and related earnings thereon are expected to provide sufficient cash flow to meet the debt service requirements of the defeased bonds. These advance refunding transactions effectively released the Authority from its obligation to repay these bonds and constituted in-substance defeasances. The 2007 Series Bonds are callable on December 1, 2017. Until then interest and principal payments are being made from the Escrow account. On December 1, 2017 the remaining bonds will be redeemed. The principal outstanding on the defeased bonds is $28,870,000 at December 31, 2016 with maturities ranging from 2017 to 2037.

Long-term debt requirements—Long-term debt requirements are summarized as follows:

Year ending December 31,	Bond Principal	Interest on Bonded Debt
2017	$ 8,590,000	$ 2,137,082
2018	9,380,000	1,782,210
2019	3,905,000	1,363,393
2020	2,860,000	1,196,769
2021	2,985,000	1,071,952
2022-2026	9,198,384	3,553,157
2027-2031	6,700,000	2,058,615
2032-2036	7,940,000	715,251
	51,558,384	13,878,429
Less portion due within one year	8,590,000	2,137,082
	$ 42,968,384	$ 11,741,347

***Summary of changes in long-term debt*—**The following is a summary of changes in water revenue bonds and other long-term debt for the years ended December 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015:

	Balance 1/1/2016	Additions and Appreciation	Reductions	Balance 12/31/2016	Due Within One Year
1998D Series	$ 4,415,000	$ -	$ (1,040,000)	$ 3,375,000	$ 1,080,000
2003F Series	7,233,384	-	(725,000)	6,508,384	740,000
2007 Series	29,705,000	-	(29,705,000)	-	-
2008 Series	16,040,000	-	(5,090,000)	10,950,000	5,340,000
2012 Series	9,055,000	-	(9,055,000)	-	-
2016 Series	-	30,725,000	-	30,725,000	1,430,000
Bonds payable	66,448,384	30,725,000	(45,615,000)	51,558,384	8,590,000
Bond premiums	1,003,696	4,378,154	(492,202)	4,889,648	512,844
Bond discounts	-	(109,654)	1,389	(108,265)	(5,436)
Net bonds payable	$ 67,452,080	$ 34,993,500	$ (46,105,813)	$ 56,339,767	$ 9,097,408
Compensated absences	$ 4,465,850	$ 186,499	$ (2,037,862)	$ 2,614,487	$ 1,315,708

	Balance 1/1/2015	Additions and Appreciation	Reductions	Balance 12/31/2015	Due Within One Year
1998D Series	$ 5,415,000	$ -	$ (1,000,000)	$ 4,415,000	$ 1,040,000
2003F Series	7,938,384	-	(705,000)	7,233,384	725,000
2007 Series	30,505,000	-	(800,000)	29,705,000	835,000
2008 Series	20,885,000	-	(4,845,000)	16,040,000	5,090,000
2012 Series	10,230,000	-	(1,175,000)	9,055,000	1,205,000
Bonds payable	74,973,384	-	(8,525,000)	66,448,384	8,895,000
Bond premiums	1,305,932	-	(302,236)	1,003,696	302,236
Total bonds payable	$ 76,279,316	$ -	$ (8,827,236)	$ 67,452,080	$ 9,197,236
Compensated absences	$ 4,242,910	$ 544,524	$ (321,584)	$ 4,465,850	$ 1,709,625

6. PENSION PLAN

Plan Description—The Authority participates in the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System ("State Plan"), which is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer, public employee retirement system. The State Plan provides retirement, disability, and death benefits to members as authorized by the New York State Retirement and Social Security Law ("NYSRSSL"). The net position of the State Plan is held in the New York State Common Retirement Fund (the Fund), which was established to hold all net assets and record changes in plan net position allocated to the State Plan. The Comptroller of the State of New York ("Comptroller") serves as the trustee of the Fund and is the administrative head of the State Plan. The Comptroller is an elected official determined in a direct statewide election and serves a four year term. Thomas P. DiNapoli has served as Comptroller since February 7, 2007. In November 2014 he was elected for a new term commencing January 1, 2015. Once a public employer elects to participate in the State Plan, the election is irrevocable. The New York State Constitution provides that pension membership is a contractual relationship and plan benefits cannot be diminished or impaired. Benefits can be changed for future members only by enactment of a State statute. The Authority also participates in the Public Employees' Group Life Insurance Plan (GLIP) which provides death benefits in the form of life insurance. The State Plan is included in the State's financial report as a pension trust fund. That report, including information with regard to benefits provided, may be found at www.osc.state.ny.us/retire/publications/index.php or obtained by writing to the New York State and Local Retirement System, 110 State Street, Albany, New York 12244.

Funding Policy—Plan members who joined the State Plan before July 27, 1976 are not required to make contributions. Those joining on or after July 27, 1976 are required to contribute 3% of their annual salary for the first ten years of their membership, and members hired after January 1, 2010 generally contribute 3% of their salary for the duration of their membership. For members hired after April 1, 2012 the contribution rate varies from 3% to 6% depending on salary.

Under the authority of the NYSRSSL, the Comptroller annually certifies the actuarially determined rates expressly used in computing the employers' contributions based on salaries paid during the State Plans fiscal year ending March 31. Contributions for the current year and two preceding years were equal to 100% of the contributions required, as presented below.

Year Ended December 31,	Amount
2016	$ 2,386,624
2015	2,595,193
2014	2,995,800

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions—The Authority's proportionate share of net pension liability was $8,958,247 and $1,933,536 as of December 31, 2016 and 2015 respectively. The net pension liability is measured as of March 31of each year, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The Authority's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the Authority's long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating members, actuarially determined.

At December 31, 2016 the Authority's proportion was .056%, a .001% decrease from December 31, 2015. For the years ended December 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015, the Authority recognized pension expense of $2,849,957 and $1,769,726 respectively. As of December 31, 2016, the Authority reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	$ 45,268	$ 1,061,850
Changes of assumptions	2,388,894	-
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	5,314,523	-
Changes in proportion and differences between Authority contributions and proportionate share of contributions	252,129	30,510
Authority contributions subsequent to the measurement date	1,789,968	-
Total deferred outflows/inflows of resources	$ 9,790,782	$ 1,092,360

The $1,789,968 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from Authority contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended December 31, 2017. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Year Ended December 31,	Amount
2017	$ 1,761,123
2018	1,761,123
2019	1,761,123
2020	1,625,085

Actuarial assumptions—The total pension liability for the March 31, 2016 measurement dates was determined by using an actuarial valuation as of April 1, 2015, with update procedures used to roll forward the total pension liability to March 31, 2016. The valuation used the following actuarial assumptions:

Actuarial cost method	Entry age normal
Inflation	2.5%
Salary scale	3.8%, indexed by service
Investment rate of return, including inflation	7.0% compounded annually, net of investment expense
Cost of living adjustments	1.3% annually
Decrements	Developed from the Plan's 2015 experience study of the period April 1, 2010 through March 31, 2015
Mortality improvement	Society of Actuaries Scale MP-2014

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected return, net of investment expenses and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation.

The target allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized as follows:

Asset class	Target allocation	Long-term expected real rate of return
Domestic equity	38.00%	7.30%
International equity	13.00%	8.55%
Private equity	10.00%	11.00%
Real estate	8.00%	8.25%
Absolute return strategies	3.00%	6.75%
Opportunistic portfolio	3.00%	8.60%
Real assets	3.00%	8.65%
Bonds and mortgages	18.00%	4.00%
Cash	2.00%	2.25%
Inflation-indexed bonds	2.00%	4.00%
	100.00%	

Discount rate—The discount rate used to calculate the total pension liability was 7.0%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes that contributions from plan members will be made at the current contribution rates and that contributions from employers will be made at the statutorily required rates, actuarially determined. Based upon the assumptions, the State Plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore the long term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

Sensitivity of the proportionate share of the net pension liability to the discount rate assumption—The following presents the Authority's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.0%, as well as what the Authority's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1% lower (6.0%) or 1% higher (8.0%) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease 6.0%	Current Assumption 7.0%	1% Increase 8.0%
Employer's proportionate share of the net pension liability/(asset)	$ 20,200,195	$ 8,958,247	$ (540,720)

Collective net position liability of participating employers and actuarial information—The components of the net position liability of the employers as of March 31, 2016 were as follows:

	2016 (in thousands)
Employers' total pension liability	$ 172,303,544
Plan net position	(156,253,265)
Employers' net pension liability	$ 16,050,279
Fiduciary net position as a percentage of total pension liability	90.7%

7. LABOR RELATIONS

Certain Authority employees are represented by two bargaining units, Brotherhood of Western New York Water Workers ("Brotherhood"), and Civil Service Employees Association, Inc. ("CSEA"). The CSEA and the Authority entered into a nine-year collective bargaining agreement dated October 16, 2012. On November 15, 2016 the New York State Labor Relations Board Case No. C-6400 was approved allowing employees previously represented by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) to organize as the Brotherhood. The Authority entered into a nine-year collective bargaining agreement with AFSCME on November 23, 2011— that contract will remain in effect until a new contract is negotiated with the Brotherhood. Both contracts are effective from April 1, 2008 through March 31, 2017.

8. POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Plan Description—The Authority provides retiree health plans through Labor Management Healthcare Fund ("LMHF"). Retirees must meet age and years of service requirements to qualify for health benefits under this multiple-employer defined benefit healthcare plan ("the Plan"). Retiree benefits continue for the lifetime of the retiree and spousal benefits continue for their lifetime unless they remarry. There were 160 and 161 retirees receiving health care benefits at December 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015 respectively.

Funding Policy—Authorization for the Authority to pay a portion, or all, of retiree health insurance premiums was enacted by resolution of the Authority's Board of Commissioners or through union contracts, which are ratified by the Board of Commissioners. Retired employees that met the age and years of service requirements and were enrolled in any healthcare plan prior to June 1, 2004 are not required to make a contribution. Retirees enrolling in the Traditional Blue PPO 812 plan after June 1, 2004 are required to make contributions equal to the difference between the Traditional Blue PPO 812 plan premium and the highest premium of any other plan offered to that retiree.

Represented Brotherhood employees hired after November 23, 2011 who meet the eligibility requirements will pay 15% of the total premium of the Core Plan for the duration of their retirement. To be eligible, employees represented by the Brotherhood must be 58 years of age. Employees hired before January 1, 2006 must have 15 years of service, and employees hired after January 1, 2006, become eligible after 20 years of service.

Employees represented by the CSEA hired after July 26, 2012 who meet the eligibility requirements will pay 15% of the total premium of the Core Plan for the duration of their retirement. Eligibility criteria for CSEA employees hired prior to January 1, 2008 is 55 years of age with a minimum of ten years of service, while employees hired on or after January 1, 2008 must be 58 with a minimum of fifteen years of service with the Authority.

Retirees not represented by a collective bargaining agreement who meet the eligibility requirements contribute 15% of the full premium for a single, double or family point of service ("POS") contract. Eligibility requirements for non-represented employees is 55 years of age with a minimum of 15 years of service; or a minimum of 10 years of service , and the sum of age and service years is equal to or greater than 70.

The Authority's annual postemployment benefit ("OPEB") cost is calculated based on the annual required contributions ("ARC") of the employer, an amount actuarially determined in accordance with the parameters of GASB. The ARC represents a level funding that, if paid on an ongoing basis, is projected to cover the normal cost each year and amortize any unfunded actuarial liability over a period not to exceed thirty years. The following table shows the components of the Authority's annual OPEB cost, the amount actually contributed to the plan, and the changes in the Authority's net OPEB obligation for 2016 and 2015.

	Year Ended December 31,	
	2016	2015
Annual required contribution	$ 6,784,692	$ 5,039,133
Interest on net OPEB obligation	1,461,177	1,301,066
Adjustment to annual required contribution	(1,901,033)	(1,692,724)
Annual OPEB costs (expense)	6,344,836	4,647,475
Contributions made	(1,822,400)	(1,445,257)
Increase in net OPEB obligation	4,522,436	3,202,218
Net OPEB obligation—beginning	29,223,542	26,021,324
Net OPEB obligation—ending	$ 33,745,978	$ 29,223,542

Funding Status and Funding Progress—As of January 1, 2016, the most recent actuarial valuation date, the plan was not funded. Since there were no assets, the unfunded actuarial liability for benefits was $66,999,419. The ratio of unfunded actuarial accrued liability to covered payroll of $13,651,198 is 4.91 for 2016.

The schedule of the Authority's annual OPEB cost, amount and percentage of annual OPEB cost contributed to the plan, and the net OPEB obligation were as follows:

Fiscal Year Ending	Valuation Date	Annual OPEB Cost	Contributions Made	Percentage Contributed	Net OPEB Obligation
December 31, 2016	January 1, 2016	$ 6,344,836	$ 1,822,400	28.7%	$ 33,745,978
December 31, 2015	January 1, 2015	4,647,475	1,445,257	31.1%	29,223,542
December 31, 2014	January 1, 2014	4,225,473	1,467,718	34.7%	26,021,324

Actuarial Methods and Assumptions—Actuarial valuations involve estimates of the value of reported amounts and assumptions about the probability of events far into the future, and are subject to continual revision as actual results are compared to past expectations and new estimates are made about the future. The required schedule of funding progress for the most recent and past two actuarial valuations immediately follows the notes to the financial statements and presents multiyear trend information about whether the actuarial value of plan assets is increasing or decreasing over time relative to the actuarial accrued liability for benefits.

Calculations are based on the types of benefits provided under the terms of the substantive plan, the plan as understood by the employer and the plan members at the time of the valuation, and on the pattern of cost sharing between the employer and plan members. The projection of benefits does not incorporate the potential effect of a change in the pattern of cost sharing between the employer and plan members in the future. Calculations reflect a long-term perspective, so methods and assumptions used include techniques that are designed to reduce short-term volatility.

In the January 1, 2016 actuarial valuation the actuarial methods and assumptions listed below were used.

Actuarial cost method – Projected Unit Credit

Investment rate of return and discount rate – 5%

Annual rate of increase in the consumer price index – 2.25%

Healthcare cost trend rate – The assumed rates of increase in health care costs are presented in the table below. The trend rate schedule has been developed based on a review of published National trend survey data in relation to the retiree health plan offerings and updated long-term rates based on the Society of Actuaries Long Term Healthcare Cost Trends Model (The Getzen model).

Year	Pre-65 Medical	Post-65 Medical Medicare Advantage	Prescription Drug
2016	7.750%	6.000%	11.000%
2017	7.500%	6.000%	10.500%
2018	7.250%	5.750%	10.000%
2019	7.000%	5.750%	9.500%
2020	6.723%	5.682%	8.807%
2021	6.447%	5.613%	8.113%
2022	6.170%	5.545%	7.420%
2023	5.894%	5.477%	6.727%
2024	5.617%	5.409%	6.034%
2025	5.340%	5.340%	5.340%

Amortization of actuarial accrued liability – Actuarial accrued liability is being amortized over thirty years using the level dollar method, on an open basis.

Mortality – The sex-distinct RP-2014 Mortality Tables for employees and healthy annuitants, adjusted backward to 2006 with Scale MP-2014, and then adjusted for mortality improvements with Scale MP-2016 mortality improvement scale on a generational basis. This assumption was based on a review of published morality tables and the demographics and industry of the Plan.

Turnover – Rates of turnover are based on experience under the New York State Employees' Retirement System (State Plan).

Retirement incidence – Rates of retirement are based on the experience under the State Plan.

Election percentage – It was assumed 97% of future retirees eligible for coverage will elect postretirement healthcare coverage.

Spousal coverage – 80% of future retirees are assumed to elect spousal coverage upon retirement.

Per capita costs – All retiree health plans are offered through LMHF. Actual claims experience from LMHF was used to develop retiree claim costs for ECWA.

9. NET POSITION AND RESERVES

The Authority financial statements utilize a net position presentation. Net position is categorized into net investment in capital assets, restricted and unrestricted.

Net investment in capital assets—This category groups all capital assets into one component of net position. Accumulated depreciation and the outstanding balances of debt that are attributable to the acquisition, construction or improvement of these assets reduce the balance in this category.

	December 31,	
	2016	2015
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	$ 369,413,111	$ 360,641,152
Related debt:		
Water revenue bonds issued for capital assets	(51,558,384)	(66,448,384)
Bond premium	(4,889,648)	(1,003,696)
Bond discount	108,265	-
Net investment in capital assets	$ 313,073,344	$ 293,189,072

Restricted net position—This category presents external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws and regulations of other governments and restrictions imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

For the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015, net position was restricted for the following purposes:

- ***Debt Service Reserve Account*** — During 1998, the Authority established a Debt Service Reserve Account as required by the 1998D Series bond resolution. The bond resolution requires a reserve amount equal to the average of the annual installments of debt service. The required amount was determined by EFC and must remain on deposit until the bonds mature.

  During 2003, per the 2003F Series bond resolution the Authority established a Debt Service Reserve Account from a portion of the 2003F bond proceeds. The required debt service reserve is based on ten percent of the total principal of the loan. The required amount was determined by EFC and must remain on deposit until the bonds mature.

  During 2007, the Authority established a Debt Service Reserve Account as required by the 2007 Series bond resolution to maintain a specified amount of funds to meet future debt service requirements. The Authority established the Debt Service Reserve Account based on the maximum amount of principal and interest coming due in any succeeding calendar year on the outstanding 2007 Series Bonds. On September 29, 2016 the 2007 Series Bonds were advance refunded. As a result, this Debt Service Reserve Account had a zero balance at December 31, 2016. A reserve for potential arbitrage rebate of $49,383 is included in the debt service reserve totals for 2016.

  During 2008, the Authority established a Debt Service Reserve Account as required by the 2008 Series bond resolution to maintain a specified amount of funds to meet future debt service requirements. The Authority established the Debt Service Reserve Account based on ten percent of the total principal of the loan.

- ***Debt Service Account*** — The 1992 Fourth Resolution, 1998D, 2003F, 2007, 2008, 2012 and 2016 Supplemental Fourth Resolution bond resolutions require that a specified amount of funds be maintained in the Debt Service Account. The requirements of the Debt Service Account state that the Authority must deposit funds to provide for monthly interest and principal payments to start not later than six months prior to the payment of interest and twelve months prior to the payment of principal. The 2007 Series and 2012 Series Bonds were refunded on September 29, 2016; the related debt service accounts are zero as of December 31, 2016.

Unrestricted net position—This category represents the amount of net position the Authority has not restricted for any project or other purpose. Management intends to utilize a portion of unrestricted net position to finance the Authority's projected five-year capital spending, which will require future resources in excess of $143,000,000.

When an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted amounts are available, the Authority's policy concerning which to apply first varies with the intended use and associated legal requirements. Management typically makes this decision on a transactional basis.

10. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

The Authority maintains and operates certain facilities employed in the sale and distribution of water which it leases from various local municipal water districts pursuant to lease management agreements. No financial consideration is afforded the municipalities in conjunction with these lease agreements. Such agreements generally are for at least ten-year terms and automatically renew for additional ten-year terms unless terminated by either party one year prior to expiration of the term. The agreements provide that the municipalities obtain water exclusively from the Authority. Future maintenance and operating costs to be incurred by the Authority under such arrangements presently in effect are not determinable.

The Authority is also committed under various operating leases for the use of certain equipment and office space. Rental expense for 2016 and 2015 aggregated $228,709 and $251,958. Future minimum annual rentals to be paid under such leases are not significant.

The Authority is subject to various laws and regulations, which primarily establish uniform minimum national water quality standards. The Authority has established procedures for the on-going evaluation of its operations to identify potential exposures and assure continued compliance with these regulatory standards.

The Authority is involved in litigation and other matters arising in its normal operating, financing, and investing activities. While the resolution of such litigation or other matters could have a material effect on earnings and cash flows in the year of resolution, the Authority has obtained various liability, property, and workers' compensation insurance policies which would reduce exposure to loss on the part of the Authority. Management has made provisions for anticipated losses in the accompanying financial statements as advised by legal counsel. None of this litigation and none of these other matters are expected to have a material effect on the financial condition of the Authority at this time.

11. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Management has evaluated subsequent events through March 23, 2017, which is the date the financial statements are available for issuance, and have determined that there are no subsequent events that require disclosure under generally accepted accounting principles.

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REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
Schedule of Funding Progress-Other Postemployment Benefits Plan
Year Ended December 31, 2016

Actuarial Vauation Date	Actuarial Value of Assets	Actuarial Accrued Liability ("AAL")	Unfunded AAL ("UAAL")	Funded Ratio	Covered Payroll	Ratio of UAAL to Covered Payroll
January 1, 2016	$ -	$ 66,999,419	$ 66,999,419	-	$ 13,651,198	4.91
January 1, 2014	-	45,566,345	45,566,345	-	15,140,745	3.01
January 1, 2012	-	41,810,183	41,810,183	-	14,873,087	2.81

Erie County Water Authority
Schedule of the Authority's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability—New York State Employees' Retirement System
Last Three Fiscal Years

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2016	2015	2014
Measurement date	March 31, 2016	March 31, 2015	March 31, 2014
Authority's proportion of the net pension liability/(asset)	0.0558137%	0.0572349%	0.0572349%
Authority's proportionate share of the net pension liability/(asset)	$ 8,958,247	$ 1,933,536	$ 2,586,366
Authority's covered-employee payroll	$ 15,035,523	$ 15,112,883	$ 15,752,018
Authority's proportionate share of the net pension liability/(asset) as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	59.6%	12.8%	16.4%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	90.7%	97.9%	97.2%

ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
Schedule of Contributions to the New York State Employees' Retirement System
Last Ten Fiscal Years
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Contractually required contribution	$ 2,387	$ 2,595	$ 2,996	$ 2,905	$ 2,564	$ 2,208	$ 1,658	$ 962	$ 1,123	$ 1,332
Contributions in relation to required contribution	2,387	2,595	2,996	2,905	2,564	2,208	1,658	962	1,123	1,332
Contribution deficiency (excess)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Covered employee payroll	$15,567	$15,708	$15,438	$14,800	$14,550	$14,446	$14,431	$14,642	$14,462	$14,601
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	15.334%	16.520%	19.407%	19.628%	17.622%	15.285%	11.489%	6.570%	7.765%	9.123%

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Certified Public Accountants

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' 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*

The Board of Commissioners
Erie County Water Authority

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 Accounting Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the business-type activities of the Erie County Water Authority (the "Authority") as of and for the year ended December 31, 2016, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Authority's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated March 23, 2017.

Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Authority'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 Authority's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority'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 entity'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 over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting 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 Authority's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its 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 result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity'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 entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Drescher & Malecki LLP

March 23, 2017

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Certified Public Accountants

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 2925(3)(f) OF THE NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC AUTHORITIES LAW

The Board of Commissioners
Erie County Water Authority

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial statements of the business-type activities of the Erie County Water Authority (the "Authority"), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2016, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Authority's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated March 23, 2017.

In connection with our audit, nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that the Authority failed to comply with Section 2925(3)(f) of the New York State Public Authorities Law regarding investment guidelines during the year ended December 31, 2016. However, our audit was not directed primarily toward obtaining knowledge of such noncompliance. Accordingly, had we performed additional procedures, other matters may have come to our attention regarding the Authority's noncompliance with the above rules and regulations.

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope and results of our testing. This communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Drescher & Malecki LLP

March 23, 2017

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