

March 25, 2021

The Board of Commissioners and Management
Erie County Water Authority:

In planning and performing our audit of the basic financial statements of the Erie County Water Authority (the "Authority") as of and for the year ended December 31, 2020, 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, we considered the Authority's internal control over financial reporting ("internal control") as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control over financial reporting.

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 over financial reporting, 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 reasonable possibility exists when the likelihood of an event occurring is either reasonably possible or probable as defined as follows:

- *Reasonably possible*. The chance of the future event or events occurring is more than remote but less than likely.
- *Probable*. The future event or events are likely to occur.

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

We summarized new reporting requirements in Exhibit I. These should be evaluated to determine the extent the Authority will be impacted in the future years.

The purpose of this communication, which is an integral part of our audit, is to describe for management, and those charged with governance, the scope of our testing of internal control and the results of that testing. Accordingly, this communication is not intended to be and should not be used for any other purpose.

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New Reporting Requirements

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (“GASB”) has adopted new pronouncements, which may have a future impact upon the Authority. These should be evaluated to determine the extent the Authority will be impacted in future years.

GASB Statement No. 87—The Authority is required to implement GASB Statement No. 87, *Leases*, effective for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2022. The objective of this Statement is to better meet the needs of financial statement users by improving accounting and financial reporting for leases by governments. This Statement increases the usefulness of governments’ financial statements by requiring recognition of certain lease assets and liabilities for leases that previously were classified as operating leases and recognized as inflows of resources or outflows of resources based on the payment provisions of the contract. It establishes a single model for lease accounting based on the foundational principle that leases are financings of the right to use an underlying asset. Under this Statement, a lessee is required to recognize a lease liability and an intangible right-to-use lease asset, and a lessor is required to recognize a lease receivable and a deferred inflow of resources, thereby enhancing the relevance and consistency of information about governments’ leasing activities.

GASB Statement No. 91—The Authority is required to implement GASB Statement No. 91, *Conduit Debt Obligations*, effective for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2022. The objectives of this Statement are to provide a single method of reporting conduit debt obligations by issuers and eliminate diversity in practice associated with (1) commitments extended by issuers, (2) arrangements associated with conduit debt obligations, and (3) related note disclosures.

GASB Statement No. 92—The Authority is required to implement the remaining requirements of GASB Statement No. 92, *Omnibus 2020*, effective for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2022. The objectives of this Statement are to enhance comparability in accounting and financial reporting and to improve the consistency of authoritative literature by addressing practice issues that have been identified during implementation and application of certain GASB Statements.

GASB Statement No. 93—The Authority is required to implement GASB Statement No. 93, *Replacement of Interbank Offered Rates*, effective for the fiscal years ending December 31, 2021 and December 31, 2022. The objectives of this Statement are to address accounting and financial reporting implications that result from the replacement of an interbank offered rate (“IBOR”).

GASB Statement No. 94—The Authority is required to implement GASB Statement No. 94, *Public-Public and Public-Private Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements*, effective for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2023. The objectives of this Statement are to improve financial reporting by addressing issues related to public-private and public-public partnerships arrangements (“PPPs”).

GASB Statement No. 96—The Authority is required to implement GASB Statement No. 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements*, effective for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2023. This Statement provides guidance on the accounting and financial reporting for subscription-based information technology arrangements for government end users.

GASB Statement No. 97—The Authority is required to implement the remaining requirements of GASB Statement No. 97, *Certain Component Unit Criteria, and Accounting and Financial Reporting for Internal Revenue Code Section 457 Deferred Compensation Plans—an amendment of GASB Statements No. 14 and No. 84, and a supersession of GASB Statement No. 32*, effective for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2022. The objectives of this Statement are to (1) increase consistency and comparability related to the reporting of fiduciary component units in circumstances in which a potential component unit does not have a governing board and the primary government performs the duties that a governing board typically would perform; (2) mitigate costs associated with the reporting of certain defined contribution pension plans, defined contribution other postemployment benefit (OPEB) plans, and employee benefit plans other than pension plans or OPEB plans (other employee benefit plans) as fiduciary component units in fiduciary fund financial statements; and (3) enhance the relevance, consistency, and comparability of the accounting and financial reporting for Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 457 deferred compensation plans (Section 457 plans) that meet the definition of a pension plan and for benefits provided through those plans.

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