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Certified Public Accountants

March 23, 2017

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, 2016, 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, 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.

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 several 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. 74—The Authority is required to implement GASB Statement No. 74, *Financial Reporting for Post-employment Benefit Plans Other than Pension Plans*, effective for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017. The requirements of this Statement address the financial reports of defined benefit OPEB plans that are administered through trusts that meet certain criteria. This Statement replaces GASB Statement No. 43, *Financial Reporting for Post-employment Benefit Plans Other than Pension Plans*.

GASB Statement No. 75—The Authority is required to implement GASB Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Post-employment Benefits Other than Pensions*, effective for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018. This Statement replaces GASB Statement No. 45, *Accounting and Financial Reporting by Employers for Post-employment Benefits Other than Pensions*, and will require more extensive note disclosures and required supplementary information about their OPEB liabilities.

GASB Statement No. 80—The Authority is required to implement GASB Statement No. 80, *Blending Requirements for Certain Component Units*, effective for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017. The purpose of this Statement is to clarify the financial statement presentation requirements for certain component units.

GASB Statement No. 81—The Authority is required to implement GASB Statement No. 81, *Irrevocable Split-Interest Agreements*, effective for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017. This Statement will improve accounting and financial reporting by establishing recognition and measurement requirements for irrevocable split-interest agreements.

GASB Statement No. 82—The Authority is required to implement GASB Statement 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. This Statement addresses issues regarding (1) the presentation of payroll-related measures in the supplementary information, (2) the selection of assumptions and the treatment of deviations from the guidance in an Actuarial Standard of Practice for financial reporting purposes, and (3) the classification of payments made by employers to satisfy employee (plan member) contribution requirements.

GASB Statement No. 83—The Authority is required to implement GASB Statement No. 83, *Certain Asset Retirement Obligations*, effective for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2019. This Statement establishes criteria for determining the timing and pattern of recognition of a liability and a corresponding deferred outflow of resources for asset retirement obligations (AROs).

GASB Statement No. 84—The Authority is required to implement GASB Statement No. 84, *Fiduciary Activities*, effective for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2019. This statement establishes criteria for identifying fiduciary activities of all state and local governments.

GASB Statement No. 85—The Authority is required to implement GASB Statement No. 85, *Omnibus 2017*, effective for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018. The objective of this Statement is to address practice issues that have been identified during implementation and application of certain GASB Statements.