



MACIAS GINI & COMPANY^{LLP}

515 S. Figueroa Street, Ste. 325
Los Angeles, California 90071

213.612.0200 PHONE
213.286.6426 FAX

June 8, 2005

Audit Oversight Committee and
Board of Supervisors
County of Orange
12 Civic Center Plaza
Santa Ana, CA 92701

We are pleased to reconfirm our understanding of the services we are to provide to the County of Orange, California (County) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2005. As stated in our audit contract with you dated May 29, 2003 for fiscal years ended June 30, 2003, 2004 and 2005, we will audit the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the discretely presented component unit, each major fund and aggregate remaining fund information, which collectively comprise the entity's basic financial statements of the County as of and for the year ended June 30, 2005. Also, the County's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Single Audit Report will include the following additional information that will be subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the basic financial statements:

1. Management's Discussion and Analysis
2. Supplemental Combining Statements and Schedules
3. Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards

The CAFR will also include a Statistical Section that will not be subject to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the basic financial statements, and for which our auditor's report will disclaim an opinion.

In addition, we will also audit the financial statements of the following departments and component units: John Wayne Airport, Integrated Waste Management Department, Orange County Development Agency and the Orange County Special Financing Authority. Under separate contract we have been engaged to audit the Orange County Children and Families Commission. The information set forth in this letter also applies to the financial statements of these departments and component unit.

Audit Objectives

The objective of our audit is the expression of an opinion as to whether your basic financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles

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and to report on the fairness of the additional information referred to in the second paragraph when considered in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The objective also includes reporting on:

- Internal control related to the financial statements and compliance with laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts or grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.
- Internal control related to major programs and an opinion (or disclaimer of opinion) on compliance with laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts or grant agreements that could have a direct and material effect on each major program in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*.

The reports on internal control and compliance will each include a statement that the report is intended for the information and use of the Audit Oversight Committee, Board of Supervisors, County management, specific legislative or regulatory bodies, federal awarding agencies, and as applicable, pass-through entities and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Our audit will be conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards in the United States of America; the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996; and the provisions of OMB Circular A-133, and will include tests of accounting records, a determination of major programs in accordance with OMB Circular A-133, and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such an opinion and to render the required reports. If our opinion on the basic financial statements or the Single Audit compliance opinion is other than unqualified, we will fully discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed an opinion, we may decline to express an opinion or to issue a report as a result of this engagement.

Management Responsibilities

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control and for compliance with laws, regulations, contracts and agreements. In fulfilling this responsibility, estimates and judgments by management are required to assess the expected benefits and related costs of the controls. The objectives of internal control are to provide management with reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized use or disposition, that transactions are executed in accordance with management's authorizations and recorded properly to permit the preparation of basic financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that federal award programs are managed in compliance with applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements.

Management is responsible for making all financial records and related information available to us, including any significant vendor relationships in which the vendor has the responsibility for program compliance. We understand that you will provide us with such information required for our audit and that you are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of that information. We will advise you about appropriate accounting principles and their application and will assist in the preparation of your basic financial statements, including the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, but the responsibility for the financial statements remains with you. As part of our engagement, we may propose standard, adjusting, or correcting journal entries to your financial statements. You are responsible for reviewing the entries and understanding the nature of any proposed entries and the impact they have on the basic financial statements. That responsibility includes the establishment and maintenance of adequate records

and effective internal control over financial reporting and compliance, the selection and application of accounting principles, and the safeguarding of assets. Management is responsible for adjusting the basic financial statements to correct material misstatements and for confirming to us in the representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

You are responsible for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud, and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud or illegal acts affecting the government involving (a) the management, (b) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (c) others where the fraud could have a material effect on the basic financial statements. You are also responsible for informing us of your knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud or illegal acts affecting the government received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the County complies with applicable laws and regulations and for taking timely and appropriate steps to remedy any fraud, illegal acts, violations of contracts or grant agreements, or abuse that we may report. Additionally, as required by OMB Circular A-133, it is management's responsibility to follow up and take corrective action on reported audit findings and to prepare a summary schedule of prior audit findings and a corrective action plan.

With regard to using the auditor's report, you understand that you must obtain our prior written consent to reproduce or use our report in bond offering official statements or other documents. With regard to the electronic dissemination of audited financial statements, including financial statements published electronically on your website, you understand that electronic sites are a means to distribute information and, therefore, we are not required to read the information contained in these sites or to consider the consistency of other information in the electronic site with the original document.

Audit Procedures—General

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; therefore, our audit will involve judgment about the number of transactions to be examined and the areas to be tested. We will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable rather than absolute assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the County or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the County. Because the determination of abuse is subjective, *Government Auditing Standards* do not expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting abuse. As required by the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular A-133, our audit will include test of transactions related to major federal award programs for compliance with applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements. Because an audit is designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute assurance and because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, there is a risk that material misstatements may exist and not be detected by us. In addition, an audit is not designed to detect immaterial misstatements or violations of laws or governmental regulations that do not have a direct and material effect on the basic financial statements or major programs. However, we will inform you of any material errors and any fraudulent financial reporting or misappropriation of assets that comes to our attention. We will also inform you of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential. We will include such matters in the reports required for a Single Audit. Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to matters that might arise during any later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

Our procedures will include tests of documentary evidence supporting the transactions recorded in the accounts, and may include tests of the physical existence of inventories, and direct confirmation of receivables and certain other assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected individuals, creditors, and financial institutions. We will request written representations from your attorneys as part of the engagement. At the conclusion of our audit, we will also require certain written representations from you about the basic financial statements and related matters.

Identifying and ensuring that the County complies with laws, regulations, contracts, and agreements is the responsibility of management. As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the basic financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of the County's compliance with applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of contracts and agreements. However, the objective of our audit will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion.

Audit Procedures—Internal Controls

In planning and performing our audit, we will consider the internal control sufficient to plan the audit in order to determine the nature, timing, and extent of our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the County's basic financial statements and on its compliance with requirements applicable to major programs.

We will obtain an understanding of the design of the relevant controls and whether they have been placed in operation, and we will assess control risk. Tests of controls may be performed to test the effectiveness of certain controls that we consider relevant to preventing and detecting errors and fraud that are material to the basic financial statements and to preventing and detecting misstatements resulting from illegal acts and other noncompliance matters that have a direct and material effect on the basic financial statements. Tests of controls relative to the basic financial statements are required only if control risk is assessed below the maximum level. Our tests, if performed, will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on internal control and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

As required by OMB Circular A-133, we will perform tests of controls over compliance to evaluate the effectiveness of the design and operation of controls that we consider relevant to preventing or detecting material noncompliance with compliance requirements, applicable to each major federal award program. However, our tests will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on those controls and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to OMB Circular A-133.

An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify reportable conditions. However, we will inform the Board of Supervisors and the Audit Oversight Committee of any matters involving internal control and its operation that we consider to be reportable conditions under standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Reportable conditions involve matters coming to our attention relating to significant deficiencies in the design or operation of the internal control that, in our judgment, could adversely affect the County's ability to record, process, summarize, and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the basic financial statements. We will also inform you of any nonreportable conditions or other matters involving internal control, if any, as required by *Government Auditing Standards* and OMB Circular A-133.

Audit Procedures—Compliance

Our audit will be conducted in accordance with the standards referred to in the section titled Audit Objectives. As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the basic financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of the County's compliance with applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of contracts and agreements, including grant agreements. However, the objective of those procedures will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion in our report on compliance issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

OMB Circular A-133 requires that we also plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the County has complied with applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements applicable to major programs. Our procedures will consist of the applicable procedures described in the *OMB Circular A-133 Compliance Supplement* for the types of compliance requirements that could have a direct and material effect of each of the County's major programs. The purpose of those procedures will be to express an opinion on the County's compliance with requirements applicable to major programs in our report on compliance issued pursuant to OMB Circular A-133.

Audit Administration

We understand that your employees will prepare all cash, accounts receivable, or other confirmations we request and will locate any invoices selected by us for testing.

At the conclusion of the engagement, we will complete the appropriate sections of and sign the Data Collection Form that summarizes our audit findings. We will provide a signed Data Collection Form; however, it is management's responsibility to submit the reporting package (including financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, summary schedule of prior audit findings, auditors' reports, and a corrective action plan) along with the Data Collection Form to the designated federal clearinghouse and, if appropriate, to pass-through entities. The Data Collection Form and the reporting package must be submitted within the earlier of 30 days after receipt of the auditors' reports or nine months after the end of the audit period, unless a longer period is agreed to in advance by the cognizant or oversight agency for audits. At the conclusion of the engagement, we will provide information to management as to where the reporting packages should be submitted and the number to submit.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of Macias Gini & Company LLP and constitutes confidential information. However, pursuant to authority given by law or regulation, we may be requested to make certain audit documentation available to the Department of Housing and Urban Development or its designee, a federal agency providing direct or indirect funding, or the U.S. General Accounting Office for purposes of a quality review of the audit, to resolve audit findings, or to carry out oversight responsibilities. We will notify you of any such request. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of Macias Gini & Company LLP personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to the aforementioned parties. These parties may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies or information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

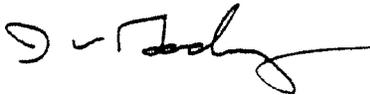
The audit documentation for this engagement will be retained for a minimum of seven years after the date the auditors' report is issued or for any additional period requested by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. If we are aware that a federal awarding agency, pass-through entity, or auditee is contesting an audit finding, we will contact the party contesting the audit finding for guidance prior to destroying the audit documentation.

Peer Review Report

Government Auditing Standards require that we provide you with a copy of our most recent external peer review report and any letter of comment, and any subsequent peer review reports and letters of comment received during the period of the contract. Our 2003 peer review report accompanies this letter.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to the County and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant responsibilities of our engagement. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Gini", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Macias Gini & Company LLP

WILLIAM V. ALLEN, Jr.

Certified Public Accountants

PEER REVIEW REPORT

June 13, 2003

To the Partners
Macias, Gini & Company LLP

We have reviewed the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of Macias, Gini & Company LLP (the firm) in effect for the year ended March 31, 2003. A system of quality control encompasses the firm's organizational structure and the policies adopted and procedures established to provide it with reasonable assurance of conforming with professional standards. The elements of quality control are described in the Statements on Quality Control Standards issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). The design of the system and compliance with it are the responsibility of the firm. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the design of the system, and the firm's compliance with the system based on our review.

Our review was conducted in accordance with standards established by the Peer Review Board of the AICPA. In performing our review, we obtained an understanding of the system of quality control for the firm's accounting and auditing practice. In addition, we tested compliance with the firm's quality control policies and procedures to the extent we considered appropriate. These tests covered the application of the firm's policies and procedures on selected engagements. Because our review was based on selective tests, it would not necessarily disclose all weaknesses in the system of quality control or all instances of lack of compliance with it.

Because there are inherent limitations in the effectiveness of any system of quality control, departures from the system may occur and not be detected. Also, projection of any evaluation of a system of quality control to future periods is subject to the risk that the system of quality control may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or because the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of Macias, Gini & Company LLP in effect for the year ended March 31, 2003, has been designed to meet the requirements of the quality control standards for an accounting and auditing practice established by the AICPA and was complied with during the year then ended to provide the firm with reasonable assurance of conforming with professional standards.

William V. Allen, Jr.

Peer Review Without Peer

2148 Margarita Drive ♦ The Villages, FL 32159 ♦ (352) 750-9636 ♦ bill@billallen.com