

February 15, 2022

To the Board of Directors and President  
Galveston Island Redevelopment Authority  
Galveston, Texas 77550

You have requested that we audit the financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of Galveston Island Redevelopment Authority (the "Authority"), as of September 30, 2021 and for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Authority's basic financial statements.

We are pleased to confirm our acceptance and our understanding of this audit engagement by means of this letter. Our audits will be conducted with the objectives of our expressing an opinion on each opinion unit. The objectives of our audit of the financial statements are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS), will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements, including omissions, can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

*Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America* require that *certain information* be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by *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. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information (RSI) in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. These limited procedures will consist primarily of inquiries of management regarding their methods of measurement and presentation, and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries. We will not express an opinion or provide any form of assurance on the RSI. The following RSI is required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. This RSI will be subjected to certain limited procedures but will not be audited:

- Management's Discussion and Analysis.
- Budgetary comparison schedules

#### **Audit of the Financial Statements**

We will conduct our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAS). As part of an audit of financial statements in accordance with GAAS we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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. However, we will communicate to you in writing concerning any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control relevant to the audit of the financial statements that we have identified during the audit.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of internal control, an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements or noncompliance may not be detected exists, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with GAAS.

Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any other periods.

We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of the Authority's basic financial statements. Circumstances may arise in which our report may differ from its expected form and content based on the results of our audit. Depending on the nature of these circumstances, it may be necessary for us to modify our opinions, add an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph(s) to our auditor's report, or if necessary, withdraw from the engagement. If our opinions on the basic financial statements are other than unmodified, we will 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 opinions, we may decline to express opinions or to issue a report as a result of this engagement.

As part of a compliance audit in accordance with GAAS we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks.

#### **Management's Responsibilities**

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that management and, when appropriate, those charged with governance acknowledge and understand that they have responsibility:

- For the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America;
- For 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;
- For identifying and providing report copies of previous audits, attestation engagements, or other studies that directly relate to the objectives of the audit, including whether related recommendations have been implemented;
- To provide us with:
  - a) Access to all information of which management is aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements such as records, documentation, and other matters;
  - b) Additional information that we may request from management for the purpose of the audit; and
  - c) Unrestricted access to persons within the Authority from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
  - d) A written acknowledgement of all the documents that management expects to issue that will be included in the annual report and the planned timing and method of issuance of that annual report; and
  - e) A final version of the annual report (including all the documents that, together, comprise the annual report) in a timely manner prior to the date of the auditor's report
- For adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and confirming to us in the management representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current

engagement and pertaining to the current year period(s) under audit are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole;

- For acceptance of nonattest services, including identifying the proper party to oversee nonattest work;
- For maintaining adequate records, selecting and applying accounting principles, and safeguarding assets;
- For informing us of any known or suspected fraud affecting the entity involving management, employees with significant role in internal control and others where fraud could have a material effect on compliance;
- For the accuracy and completeness of all information provided;
- For taking reasonable measures to safeguard protected personally identifiable and other sensitive information; and
- For confirming your understanding of your responsibilities as defined in this letter to us in your management representation letter.

As part of our audit process, we will request from management and, when appropriate, those charged with governance, written confirmation concerning representations made to us in connection with the audit.

We understand that your employees will prepare all confirmations we request and will locate any documents or invoices selected by us for testing.

If you intend to publish or otherwise reproduce the financial statements and make reference to our firm, you agree to provide us with printers' proofs or masters for our review and approval before printing. You also agree to provide us with a copy of the final reproduced material for our approval before it is distributed.

Nonattest services could include assistance with the preparation of financial statements including the government-wide conversion entries and note disclosures. We will not assume management responsibilities on behalf of the Authority. However, we will provide advice and recommendations to assist management of the Authority in performing its responsibilities.

The Authority's management is responsible for (a) making all management decisions and performing all management functions; (b) assigning a competent individual to oversee the services; (c) evaluating the adequacy of the services performed; (d) evaluating and accepting responsibility for the results of the services performed; and (e) establishing and maintaining internal controls, including monitoring ongoing activities.

Our responsibilities and limitations of the nonattest services are described below:

The nonattest services are limited to the services we described above. Our firm, in its sole professional judgment, reserves the right to refuse to do any procedure or take any action that could be construed as making management decisions or assuming management responsibilities, including determining account coding and approving journal entries. Our firm will advise the Authority regarding these nonattest services, but the Authority must make all decisions with regard to those matters.

#### **Fees and Timing**

The timing of our audit will be scheduled for performance and completion as follows:

Document internal control and preliminary tests; perform substantive testing procedures February/March 2022

Issue audit reports March 2022

We anticipate meeting these deadlines barring any delays.

Patrick Simmons, CPA is the engagement partner for the audit services specified in this letter. His responsibilities include supervising Whitley Penn, LLP's services performed as part of this engagement and signing or authorizing another qualified firm representative to sign the audit report.

Our fee for the audit services will be based on the amount of time required and the difficulty of the work involved which we estimate to be \$15,500. The fee estimate for the audit is based on anticipated cooperation from the Authority's personnel and the assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered during the audit. If significant additional time is necessary, we will keep you informed of any problems we encounter and our fees will be adjusted accordingly.

Additional time required for nonattest services such as assisting with year-end closing entries and reconciliations will be billed at our standard rates. However, we will provide you with an hours and fee estimate prior to incurring charges.

Our invoices for these fees will be rendered each month as work progresses and are payable on presentation and payment is due in Tarrant County. You agree to pay reasonable attorney fees and collection costs incurred relating to collection of fees for services performed under the terms of this engagement. In accordance with Whitley Penn, LLP policy, work may be suspended if your account becomes 30 days or more past due and will not resume until your account is paid in full. In addition, invoices not paid in full by the last day of the month will be assessed interest at a rate of one percent per month. If we elect to terminate our services for nonpayment, our engagement will be deemed to have been complete even if we have not issued our report. You will be obligated to compensate us for all time expended and to reimburse us for all out-of-pocket expenditures through the date of termination. Our final auditors' report will be released upon final payment of any outstanding invoices.

You may request that we perform additional services not addressed in this engagement letter. If this occurs, we will communicate with you concerning the scope of the additional services and the estimated fees. We also may issue a separate engagement letter covering the additional services. In the absence of any other written communication from us documenting such additional services, our services will continue to be governed by the terms of this engagement letter.

We would like to make the following comments regarding the fee estimates:

1. Our fee estimates have not considered the effects of any changes to auditing standards and accounting principles, which may be promulgated by the AICPA, Congress, or any other regulatory body in the future and are unknown to us at this time. If significant additional time is necessary resulting in increased fees, we will endeavor to notify you of any such circumstances as they are assessed.
2. The Authority's personnel are responsible for the preparation of all items requested in the Prepared by Client ("PBC") listing and received by the date requested. Any delays caused by not preparing the items when requested may result in additional fees, as well as the possibility of postponing our fieldwork. The PBC listing will be provided to you during the planning process of the engagement.
3. Time incurred for audit adjustments identified during our audit and the related additional testing required has not been considered in our fee estimates. Prior to performing any additional testing, we will notify you of the exceptions and obtain approval for any additional fees which may be incurred.
4. Our fee estimates are based on all general ledger sub ledgers being reconciled to the general ledger balance and any adjustment necessary should be recorded to the general ledger prior to our fieldwork start date.

The ethics of our profession prohibit the rendering of professional services where the fee for such services is contingent, or has the appearance of being contingent, upon the results of such services. Accordingly, it is important that our bills be paid promptly when received. If a situation arises in which it may appear that our independence would be questioned because of significant unpaid bills, we may be prohibited from issuing our auditors' report.

In the unlikely event that differences concerning our services or fees should arise that are not resolved by mutual agreement, to facilitate judicial resolution and save time and expense of both parties, the Authority and Whitley Penn, LLP agree not to demand a trial by jury in any action, proceeding or counterclaim arising out of or relating to our services and fees for this engagement. Any controversy, dispute, or questions arising out of or in connection with this agreement or our engagement shall be determined by arbitration conducted in accordance with the rules of the American Arbitration Association, and any decision rendered by the American Arbitration Association shall be binding on both parties to this agreement. The costs of



any arbitration shall be borne equally by the parties. Any and all claims relating to or arising out of this contract/agreement shall be governed by the laws of Texas and any dispute shall be finally resolved by the Texas courts in Tarrant County.

This letter replaces and supersedes any previous proposals, correspondence and understanding, whether written or oral. The agreements contained in this engagement letter shall survive the completion or termination of this engagement.

To ensure that Whitley Penn, LLP's independence is not impaired under the AICPA Code of Professional Conduct, you agree to inform the engagement partner before entering into any substantive employment discussions with any of our personnel.

#### **Other Matters**

During the course of the engagement, we may communicate with you or your personnel via fax or e-mail, and you should be aware that communication in those mediums contains a risk of misdirected or intercepted communications.

In the course of our services, our firm may transmit confidential information that you provided us to third parties in order to facilitate our services. As applicable, we require confidentiality agreements with all our service providers to maintain the confidentiality of your information and additionally the firm will take reasonable precautions to determine that our service providers have the appropriate procedures in place to prevent the unauthorized release of confidential information to others.

We will remain ultimately responsible for the work provided by any third-party service providers used under this agreement. By your signature below, you consent to having confidential information transmitted to entities outside the firm. Please feel free to inquire if you would like additional information regarding the transmission of confidential information to entities outside the firm.

Regarding the electronic dissemination of audited financial statements, including financial statements published electronically on your Internet 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.

Professional standards prohibit us from being the sole host and/or the sole storage for your financial and non-financial data. As such, it is your responsibility to maintain your original data and records and we cannot be responsible to maintain such original information. By signing this engagement letter, you affirm that you have all the data and records required to make your books and records complete.

In the event we are required by government regulation, required by subpoena or other legal process to produce information or our personnel for interviews or depositions in relation to a matter involving the Authority, the Authority will, so long as we are not a party or the focus of the proceeding or inquiry in which the information is sought, reimburse us for our professional time and expenses, as well as the fees and expenses of our counsel, incurred in responding to such requests.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of Whitley Penn, LLP and constitutes confidential information. However, we may be requested to make certain audit documentation available to your pass-through regulatory entity and federal agencies and the U.S. Government Accountability Office pursuant to authority given to it by law or regulation, or to peer reviewers. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision Whitley Penn, LLP's personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to these agencies and regulators. The regulators and agencies may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies of information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

The Authority may wish to include our report on these financial statements in an exempt offering document. The Authority agrees that the aforementioned auditor's report, or reference to our Firm, will not be included in such offering document without prior permission or consent. Any agreement to perform work in connection with an exempt offering document, including an agreement to provide permission or consent, will be a separate engagement letter. For exempt offerings for which we are not involved, you will clearly indicate that we were not involved with the contents of such offering document and a disclosure as shown below will be included in the exempt offering:

“Whitley Penn, our independent auditor, has not been engaged to perform and has not performed, since the date of its report included herein, any procedures on the financial statements addressed in that report. Whitley Penn also has not performed any procedures relating to this offering document.”

Further, we will be available during the year to consult with you on financial management and accounting matters of a routine nature.

During the course of the audit, we may observe opportunities for economy in, or improved controls over, your operations. We will bring such matters to the attention of the appropriate level of management, either orally or in writing. We agree to retain our audit documentation or work papers for a period of at least five years from the date of our report.

You agree to inform us of facts that may affect the financial statements of which you may become aware during the period from the date of the auditor’s report to the date the financial statements are issued.

At the conclusion of our audit engagement, we will communicate to the Board of Trustees the following significant findings from the audit:

- Our view about the qualitative aspects of the Authority’s significant accounting practices;
- Significant difficulties, if any, encountered during the audit;
- Uncorrected misstatements, other than those we believe are trivial, if any;
- Disagreements with management, if any;
- Other findings or issues, if any, arising from the audit that are, in our professional judgment, significant and relevant to those charged with governance regarding their oversight of the financial reporting process;
- Material, corrected misstatements that were brought to the attention of management as a result of our audit procedures;
- Representations we requested from management;
- Management’s consultations with other accountants, if any; and
- Significant issues, if any, arising from the audit that were discussed, or the subject of correspondence, with management.

Please sign and return the attached copy of this letter to indicate your acknowledgment of, and agreement with, the arrangements for our audit of the financial statements compliance over major federal award programs including our respective responsibilities.

We appreciate the opportunity to be your financial statement auditors and look forward to working with you and your staff.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Whitley Penn LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Houston, Texas

**RESPONSE:**

This letter correctly sets forth our understanding.

Acknowledged and agreed on behalf of Galveston Island Redevelopment Authority by:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_