

Eco-Rapid Transit, formerly known as the Orangeline Development Authority, is a joint powers authority (JPA) created to pursue development of a transit system that moves as rapidly as possible, uses grade separation as appropriate, and is environmentally friendly and energy efficient. The system is designed to enhance and increase transportation options for riders of this region utilizing safe, advanced transit technology to expand economic growth that maximizes ridership in Southern California. The Authority is composed of the following public agencies:

- City of Artesia
- City of Bell
- City of Bell Gardens
- City of Bellflower
- City of Cudahy
- City of Downey
- City of Glendale
- City of Huntington Park
- City of Maywood
- City of Paramount
- City of South Gate
- City of Vernon
- Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority

Chair

Maria Davila
Vice Mayor
City of South Gate

Vice Chairman

Zareh Sinanyan
Council Member
City of Glendale

Secretary

Cristian Markovich
Council Member
City of Cudahy

Treasurer

Pedro Aceituno
Council Member
City of Bell Gardens

Internal Auditor

Ali Sajjad Taj
Mayor
City of Artesia

Executive Director

Michael R. Kodama

General Counsel

Teresa L. Highsmith

Ex-Officio

Rene Bobadilla
City Manager Representative

AGENDA REPORT

TO: Members of Eco-Rapid Transit
FROM: Michael Kodama, Executive Director
DATE: February 8, 2017
SUBJECT: **APPROVE SELECTION OF WHITE NELSON DIEHL EVANS LLP TO CONDUCT AUDIT OF THE ORANGELINE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY/ECO-RAPID TRANSIT**

ISSUE

Approve selection of White Nelson Diehl Evans LLP to conduct audit of the Orangeline Development Authority/Eco-Rapid Transit with an estimated cost of \$9,950. White Nelson Diehl Evans LLP also perform the audit for the City of Bellflower.

BACKGROUND

The objective of the audit is the expression of opinions as to whether the Authority's basic financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and to report on the fairness of the supplementary information referred to in the second paragraph when considered in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

The audit will be conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and will include tests of the accounting records of the Authority and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions.

They will issue a written report upon completion of the audit of the Authority's basic financial statements addressed to the Board of Directors of the Authority. White Nelson Diehl Evans LLP conducted the audit last year.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Approve selection of White Nelson Diehl Evans LLP to conduct an audit of Orangeline Development Authority/Eco-Rapid Transit.

January 27, 2017

Mr. Michael R. Kodama, Executive Director
Orangeline Development Authority
Eco-Rapid Transit
16614 Clark Avenue
Bellflower, CA 90706

Dear Mr. Kodama:

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the services we are provide to the Orangeline Development Authority Eco-Rapid Transit (the Authority) for the year ended June 30, 2016. We will audit the financial statements of the governmental activities and major fund of the Authority as of and for the year ended June 30, 2016.

Accounting standards generally accepted in the United States of America provide for certain required supplementary information (RSI), such as management's discussion and analysis (MD&A) to accompany the Authority's basic financial statements. Such information, although not a 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. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to the Authority's RSI in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. These limited procedures will consist of inquiries of management regarding 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 financial statements. We will 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. The following RSI is required by generally accepted accounting principles and will be subjected to certain limited procedures, but will not be audited:

1. Budgetary Comparison Schedule - General Fund

Audit Objectives

The objective of our audit is the expression of opinions as to whether the Authority's basic financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and to report on the fairness of the supplementary information referred to in the second paragraph when considered in relation to the financial statements as a whole. Our audit will be conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and will include tests of the accounting records of the Authority and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions. We will issue a written report upon our completion of our audit of the Authority's basic financial statements. Our report will be addressed to the Board of Directors of the Authority. We cannot provide assurance that unmodified opinions will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinion or add emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraphs. If our opinions on the 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 issue reports, or may withdraw from this engagement.

We will also provide a report (that does not include an opinion) on internal control related to the financial statements and compliance with the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements as required by *Government Auditing Standards*. The report on internal control and on compliance and other matters will include a paragraph that states (1) that the purpose of the report is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control and compliance, and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control on compliance, and (2) that the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Authority's internal control and compliance. The paragraph will also state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose. If during our audit we become aware that the Authority is subject to an audit requirement that is not encompassed in the terms of this engagement, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance that an audit in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* may not satisfy the relevant legal, regulatory, or contractual requirements.

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. 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 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 Authority or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the Authority. Because the determination of abuse is subjective, *Government Auditing Standards* do not expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting abuse.

Audit Procedures - General (Continued)

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, combined with the inherent limitations of internal control, 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, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*. 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 financial statements. However, we will inform the appropriate level of management of any material errors, any fraudulent financial reporting or misappropriation of assets that come to our attention. We will also inform the appropriate level of management of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential, and of any material abuse that comes to our attention. Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to 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 physical existence of inventories, and direct confirmation of receivables and certain other assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected individuals, funding sources, creditors, and financial institutions. We will request written representations from your attorneys as part of the engagement, and they may bill you for responding to this inquiry. At the conclusion of our audit, we will require certain written representations from you about your responsibilities for the financial statements; compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements; and other responsibilities required by generally accepted auditing standards.

Audit Procedures - Internal Control

Our audit will include obtaining an understanding of the Authority and its environment, including internal control, sufficient to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and to design the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures. 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 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 financial statements. 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*.

An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. However, during the audit, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance internal control related matters that are required to be communicated under AICPA professional standards and *Government Auditing Standards*.

Audit Procedures - Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of the Authority's compliance with the provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants. However, the objective of our audit 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*.

Other Services

We will also assist in preparing the financial statements and related notes of the Authority in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles based on information provided by you. These nonaudit services do not constitute an audit under *Government Auditing Standards* and such services will not be conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. We will perform the services in accordance with applicable professional standards. The other services are limited to the financial statement services previously defined. We, in our sole professional judgment, reserve the right to refuse to perform any procedure or take any action that could be construed as assuming management responsibilities.

Management Responsibilities

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls, including evaluating and monitoring ongoing activities, to help ensure that appropriate goals and objectives are met; following laws and regulations; and ensuring that management is reliable and financial information is reliable and properly reported. Management is also responsible for implementing systems designed to achieve compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements. You are also responsible for the selection and application of accounting principles, for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and all accompanying information in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, and for compliance with applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements.

Management is also responsible for making all financial records and related information available to us and for the accuracy and completeness of that information. You are also responsible for providing us with (1) access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, (2) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit, and (3) unrestricted access to persons within the government from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence. Because of the importance of oral and written management representations to the effective performance of our services, the Authority releases and indemnifies our firm and its personnel from any and all claims, liabilities, costs and expenses attributable to any misrepresentation by management and its representatives.

Your responsibilities include adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and for confirming to us in the written 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 financial statements taken as a whole.

Management Responsibilities (Continued)

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 affecting the government involving (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. Your responsibilities include informing us of your knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the Authority received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the Authority complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants and for taking timely and appropriate steps to remedy fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts or grant agreements, or abuse that we report.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining a process for tracking the status of audit findings and recommendations. Management is also responsible for identifying and providing report copies of previous financial audits, attestation engagements, performance audits or other studies related to the objectives discussed in the Audit Objectives section of this letter. This responsibility includes relaying to us corrective actions taken to address significant findings and recommendations resulting from those audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or other studies. You are also responsible for providing management's views on our current findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as your planned corrective actions, for the report, and for the timing and format for providing that information.

You agree to assume all management responsibilities relating to the financial statements and related notes and any other nonaudit services we provide. You will be required to acknowledge in the management representation letter our assistance with preparation of the financial statements and related notes and that you have reviewed and approved the financial statements and related notes prior to their issuance and have accepted responsibility for them. Further, you agree to oversee the nonaudit services by designating an individual, preferably from senior management, with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience; evaluate the adequacy and results of those services; and accept responsibility for them.

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.

Engagement Administration Fees, and Other

Noted below is a listing of work required by Authority staff to assist in the audit.

1. Preparation of trial balances for all funds, after posting of all year end journal entries.
2. Preparation of supporting schedules for all material balance sheet accounts, and selected revenue and expense accounts.
3. Typing of all confirmation requests.
4. Pulling and refileing of all supporting documents required for audit verification.

Engagement Administration Fees, and Other (Continued)

Mr. Nitin P. Patel is the engagement partner and is responsible for supervising the engagement and signing the report or authorizing another individual to sign it. Our fee for these services generally will be based upon our standard hourly rates, together with travel and other out-of-pocket costs, with an estimated fee of \$9,950. Our standard hourly rates vary according to the degree of responsibility involved and the experience level of the personnel assigned to your audit. Invoices will be rendered as work is performed and are payable on presentation.

The maximum annual fee stipulated herein contemplates that conditions satisfactory to the normal progress and completion of the examination will be encountered and the Authority's accounting personnel will furnish the agreed upon assistance in connection with the audit. However, if unusual circumstances are encountered which make it necessary for us to do additional work; we shall report such conditions to the responsible Authority officials and provide the Authority with an estimate of the additional accounting fees involved. You may terminate our services or we may withdraw from this engagement at any time. Any disputes arising under this agreement shall be mediated under the rules of the American Arbitration Association.

We will provide copies of our reports to the Authority; however, management is responsible for distribution of the reports and the financial statements. Unless restricted by law or regulation, or containing privileged and confidential information, copies of our reports are to be made available for public inspection.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of White Nelson Diehl Evans LLP and constitutes confidential information. However, subject to applicable laws and regulations, audit documentation and appropriate individuals will be made available upon request and in a timely manner to grantor agencies or their designees, a federal agency providing direct or indirect funding, or the U.S. Government Accountability 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 White Nelson Diehl Evans 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.

In accordance with our firm's current record retention policy, all of your original records will be returned to you at the conclusion of this engagement. Our audit documentation files will be kept for a period of seven years after the issuance of the audit report. All other files will be kept for as long as you retain us as your auditors. However, upon termination of our service, all records will be destroyed after a period of seven years. Physical deterioration or catastrophic events may further shorten the life of these records. The audit documentation files of our firm are not a substitute for your original records.

Mr. Michael R. Kodama, Executive Director
Orangeline Development Authority Eco-Rapid Transit
January 27, 2017
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Engagement Administration Fees, and Other (Continued)

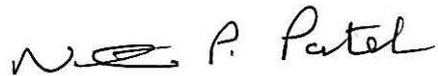
We expect to begin our fieldwork in February 2016 and issue our report in March 2016.

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 most recent peer review report accompanies this letter.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to the Orangeline Development Authority and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of our engagement. If you have any questions, please let us know. If you agree with the terms of our engagement as described in this letter, please sign the enclosed copy and return it to us.

Very truly yours,

WHITE NELSON DIEHL EVANS LLP



Nitin P. Patel, CPA
Engagement Partner

RESPONSE:

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding
of the Orangeline Development Authority Eco-Rapid Transit.

By _____

Title _____

Date _____

System Review Report

July 22, 2015

To the Owners of
White Nelson Diehl Evans LLP
and the Peer Review Committee of the CA Society of CPAs

We have reviewed the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of White Nelson Diehl Evans LLP (the firm) in effect for the year ended March 31, 2015. Our peer review was conducted in accordance with the Standards for Performing and Reporting on Peer Reviews established by the Peer Review Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. As a part of our peer review, we considered reviews by regulatory entities, if applicable, in determining the nature and extent of our procedures. The firm is responsible for designing a system of quality control and complying with it to provide the firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with applicable professional standards in all material respects. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the design of the system of quality control and the firm's compliance therewith based on our review. The nature, objectives, scope, limitations of, and the procedures performed in a System Review are described in the standards at www.aicpa.org/prsummary.

As required by the standards, engagements selected for review included engagements performed under the *Government Auditing Standards* and audits of employee benefit plans.

In our opinion, the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of White Nelson Diehl Evans LLP in effect for the year ended March 31, 2015, has been suitably designed and complied with to provide the firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with applicable professional standards in all material respects. Firms can receive a rating of *pass*, *pass with deficiency(ies)* or *fail*. White Nelson Diehl Evans LLP has received a peer review rating of *pass*.



Heidenreich & Heidenreich, CPAs, PLLC