NORTH JERSEY DISTRICT WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION WANAQUE SOUTH PROJECT – A JOINT VENTURE

REPORT OF AUDIT

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021

NORTH JERSEY DISTRICT WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION WANAQUE SOUTH PROJECT – A JOINT VENTURE TABLE OF CONTENTS

		<u>Page</u>
Independent A	uditor's Report	1-3
Financial State	<u>ments</u>	
Schedule A	Comparative Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Equity	4
Schedule B	Comparative Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Equity	5
Schedule C	Comparative Statements of Cash Flows	6
Notes to Final	ncial Statements	7-10
Roster of Offi	cials as of December 31, 2022	11
Government A	uditing Standards	
Other Matte	nternal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and ors Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in with Government Auditing Standards – Independent Auditor's Report	12-13
Schedule of	Findings and Responses	14
Summary Sc	hedule of Prior Audit Findings	15

DIETER P. LERCH, CPA, RMA, PSA GARY J. VINCI, CPA, RMA, PSA JEFFREY C. BLISS, CPA, RMA, PSA PAUL J. LERCH, CPA, RMA, PSA JULIUS B. CONSONI, CPA, PSA ANDREW D. PARENTE, CPA, RMA, PSA ELIZABETH A. SHICK, CPA, RMA, PSA ROBERT W. HAAG, CPA, RMA, PSA DEBRA GOLLE, CPA MARK SACO, CPA ROBERT LERCH, CPA, PSA CHRISTOPHER M. VINCI, CPA, PSA CHRISTINA CUIFFO, CPA, PSA JOHN CUIFFO, CPA, PSA

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board of Commissioners North Jersey District Water Supply Commission Wanaque, New Jersey

Report on the Audit of Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying statements of assets, liabilities and equity-modified accrual basis of the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission's ("the NJDWSC" or the "Commission") Wanaque South Project, a Joint Venture (the "Joint Venture"), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, and the related statements of revenues, expenses and changes in equity-modified accrual basis and cash flows - modified accrual basis for the years then ended and the related notes to the financial statements.

Unmodified Opinion on Modified Accrual Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the financial statements – modified accrual basis referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position – modified accrual basis of the NJDWSC Wanaque South Project, a Joint Venture as of December 31, 2022 and 2021, and the change in equity – modified accrual basis and cash flows – modified accrual basis for the years then ended in accordance with the basis of financial accounting and reporting principles and practices described in Note 1.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the "Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles" paragraph above, the financial statements referred to above do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Joint Venture as of December 31, 2022 and 2021, or changes in financial position, or, where applicable, cash flows for the years then ended.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in <u>Government Auditing Standards</u> issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the NJDWSC Wanaque South Project, a Joint Venture and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

As described in Note 1 of the financial statements, the financial statements are prepared and presented by the Joint Venture on the modified accrual basis of accounting. This basis of accounting does not present the financial statement in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The effects on the financial statements of the variances between the modified accrual basis of accounting described in Note 1 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the modified accrual basis of accounting, which differs in certain respects from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the NJDWSC Wanaque South Project, a Joint Venture's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Financial Statements

Our objectives 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 opinions. 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 generally accepted auditing standards, Government Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. 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. Misstatements 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.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, Government Auditing Standards we:

- Exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- 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 NJDWSC Wanaque South Project, a Joint Venture's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- 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.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the NJDWSC Wanaque South Project, a Joint Venture's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 1 (A), the financial statements-modified accrual basis of the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission Wanaque South Joint Venture, are intended to present the financial position-modified accrual basis, the changes in equity-modified accrual basis and cash flows-modified accrual basis of only that portion of the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission that is attributable to the transactions of the Wanaque South Joint Venture. They do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position-modified accrual basis of the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission as of December 31, 2022 and 2021, the changes in its equity-modified accrual basis and cash flows-modified accrual basis for the years then ended in accordance with the basis of financial accounting and reporting principles and practices as described in Note 1. Our opinion on the financial statements-modified accrual basis is not modified with respect to this matter.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

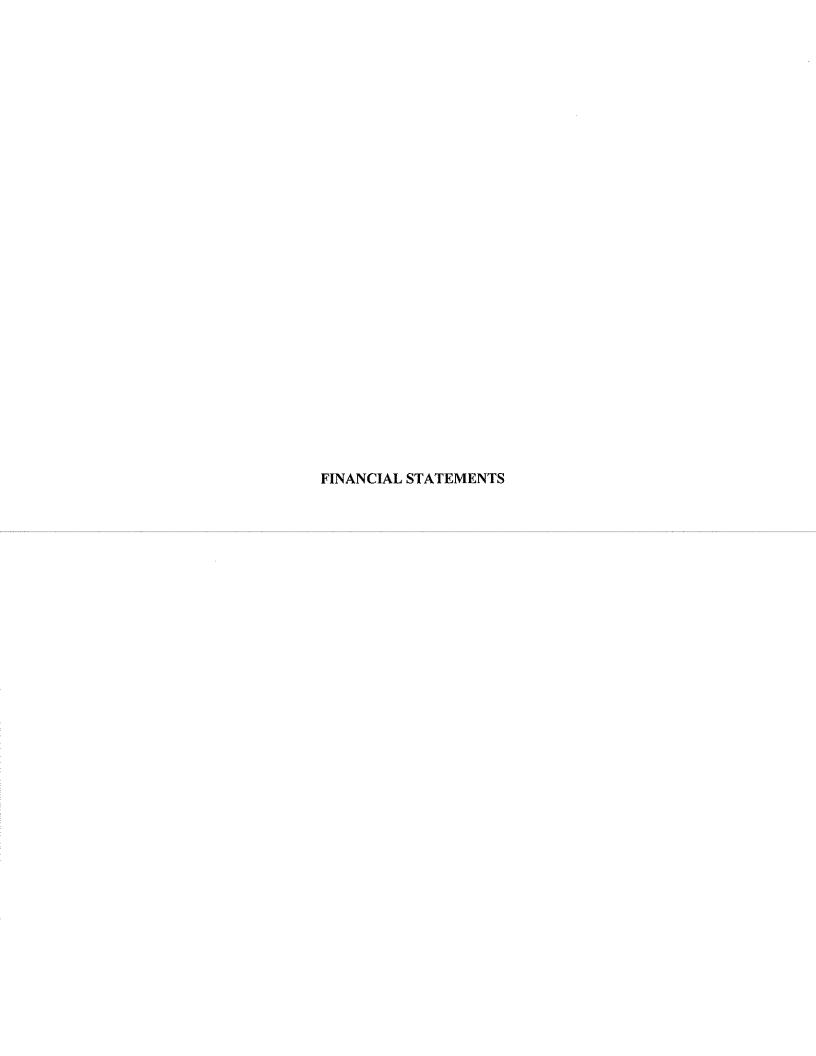
In accordance with <u>Government Auditing Standards</u>, we have also issued our report dated October 23, 2023 on our consideration of the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission's Wanaque South Project, a Joint Venture's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission's Wanaque South Project, a Joint Venture's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with <u>Government Auditing Standards</u> in considering the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission's Wanaque South Project, a Joint Venture's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

LERCH, VINCI & BLISS, LLP
Certified Public Accountants
Registered Municipal Accountants

Dieter P. Lerch

Registered Municipal Accountant RMA Number CR00398

Fair Lawn, New Jersey October 23, 2023



WANAQUE SOUTH PROJECT, A JOINT VENTURE COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND EQUITY (MODIFIED ACCRUAL BASIS) AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021

	2022	<u>2021</u>	
ASSETS			
Unrestricted Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 459,067	\$ 114,044	
Due from Wanaque South Project	414,181	231,091	
Due from Veolia	758,695	240,311	
Total Unrestricted Current Assets	1,631,943	585,446	
Total Assets	\$ 1,631,943	\$ 585,446	
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY			
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities (Payable from Unrestricted Assets)			
Due to Wanaque North Project	\$ 1,626,943	\$ 580,446	
Total Current Liabilities Payable from Unrestricted Assets	1,626,943	580,446	
Total Liabilities	1,626,943	580,446	
EQUITY			
Equity - Wanaque South Project	2,500	2,500	
Equity - Veolia	2,500	2,500	
Total Equity	5,000	5,000	
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$ 1,631,943	\$ 585,446	

WANAQUE SOUTH PROJECT, A JOINT VENTURE COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN EQUITY (MODIFIED ACCRUAL BASIS)

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021

ODED ATING DEVICANTES		2022		<u>2021</u>
OPERATING REVENUES	ø.	646 110	æ	646 110
Charges for Services - Wanaque South Towns	\$	646,119	\$	646,119
Charges for Services - Veolia		3,567,785		3,408,409
Reimbursement - Wanaque South Project Miscellaneous Income		2,752,095 156,075		2,592,900 135,953
Wiscendicous meone	+	130,073		155,755
Total Operating Revenues		7,122,074		6,783,381
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Sources of Supply				
Utilities		8,338		7,653
Repairs and Maintenance		58,154		35,554
Real Estate Taxes		42,186		41,473
Pump Stations				
Utilities		795,831		556,232
Repairs and Maintenance		9,759		12,539
Real Estate Taxes		247,604		258,163
Other Expenses		44,595		23,406
Allocated Wanaque North Project Costs				
Salaries and Wages		2,418,247		2,459,314
Fringe Benefits		1,242,745		1,192,030
Other Expenses		1,568,962		1,534,455
Administrative and General				
Insurance		535,648		479,714
Professional Fees		150,005		182,848
Total Operating Expenses		7,122,074		6,783,381
Operating Income		-		_
NON ODED ATING DEVENUES (EVDENISES)				
NON-OPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES) Capital Outlay				
Capital Outlay				
Total Non-Operating Revenues (Expenses)				
Changes in Equity		-		-
Equity - Beginning of Year		5,000		5,000
Equity - End of Year	<u>\$</u>	5,000	<u>\$</u>	5,000

WANAQUE SOUTH PROJECT, A JOINT VENTURE COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS (MODIFIED ACCRUAL BASIS) FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021

	<u>2022</u>		<u>2021</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Changes in Equity	\$ _	\$	_
Adjustments to Reconcile Changes in Equity to Net Cash			
Provided by Operating Activities			
(Increase)/Decrease in Due from/to Wanaque South Project	(183,090)		211,578
(Increase)/Decrease in Due from/to Veolia	(518,384)		63,727
Increase/(Decrease) in Accounts Payable			
Increase/(Decrease) in Due to Wanaque North Project	1,046,497		(277,041)
Increase/(Decrease) in Unearned Revenue	 		-
Net Cash Provided by (Used for) Operating Activities	345,023		(1,736)
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	345,023		(1,736)
Cook and Cook Equivalents Posinning of Voor	114,044		115,780
Cash and Cash Equivalents Beginning of Year	 114,044		113,/00
Cash and Cash Equivalents End of Year	\$ 459,067	\$	114,044
	 - 7	<u> </u>	,

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Reporting Entity

The Wanaque South Project, a Joint Venture (the "Joint Venture") is a joint venture between the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission's (the "Commission"), Wanaque South Project, and Veolia (formerly Suez), an investor-owned water utility company (collectively, the "Co-owners"). The Joint Venture was created to substantially increase the water supply available to the Co-owners primarily through the expansion of an existing pumping station (Ramapo Pumping Station) and the construction of a new pumping station (Wanaque South Pump Station), a large capacity pipeline (Wanaque South Aqueduct) and a reservoir (Monksville Reservoir), collectively, the "project assets". Expansion and construction activities were completed in 1992. Upon completion, the project assets, with cumulative construction costs of approximately \$87.6 million, were transferred from the Joint Venture to the Co-owners in accordance with the ownership percentages noted below.

The Co-owners have entered into project agreements, which define the ownership, rights, benefits and obligations of the Co-owners with respect to the Joint Venture. The Co-owners, as tenants in common, own all the facilities not owned by either Co-owner forming a part of the Joint Venture, including real estate ownership interests, easements and licenses, as follows:

- Wanaque South Project an undivided 50% interest, and Veolia an undivided 50% interest.
- The Ramapo Pumping Station and intake facilities, except the land and the Ramapo pipeline, are owned by the Co-owners as tenants in common as follows:
- Wanaque South Project an undivided 5/6 interest and Veolia an undivided 1/6 interest.
- Each Co-owner is granted from the other party rights to use any portion of the project and common facilities, which are owned solely by one Co-owner, as, are necessary for the operation of the Joint Venture.
- Each Co-owner is entitled to 50% of the additional raw water "safe yield" made available by the Joint Venture.

Operating Agreement:

The Co-owners signed an operating agreement (the "Agreement") on December 1, 1981. Operations commenced on January 1, 1987 and under terms of the Agreement, the Commission, as operating agent, operates and maintains the Joint Venture in a manner consistent with the rights of the Co-owners under the project agreements. Veolia has agreed to allow the Commission to act as its agent and fiduciary as to Veolia's interest in the Joint Venture, and the Commission has agreed to undertake, as agent and fiduciary for Veolia, the responsibility for the performance of the operating work in accordance with the operating agreement. The Co-owners have agreed to share equally, the costs of operating the Joint Venture, except for certain real estate and sales taxes, which are paid entirely by Veolia. An annual operating budget is prepared and adopted by the Commission.

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

B. Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting and Financial Statement Presentation

The financial statements of the Joint Venture have been prepared on the modified accrual basis of accounting, which differs in certain respects than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP"). Under the modified accrual basis, revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when incurred, however, capital outlays are expensed in the period incurred, which is not in accordance with GAAP, which requires capital outlays to be capitalized and depreciated over the estimated life of the asset. The operating costs of the Joint Venture are presented in accordance with the uniform system of accounts of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Commission, which comply with GAAP.

<u>Use of Estimates - The preparation of financial statements requires management of the Joint Venture to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of accrued revenues and expenditures during the reporting period. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.</u>

<u>Revenue Recognition</u> - The Joint Venture is reimbursed by the Co-owners in accordance with the Agreement for operating costs in the period the costs are incurred.

<u>Capital Outlays</u> – Represents capital costs funded by the co-owners of the Joint Venture in the period incurred. GAAP requires that these costs be capitalized and depreciated over the estimated life of the asset.

NOTE 2 CASH DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

The Joint Venture considers petty cash, change funds, cash in banks, certificates of deposit and deposits with the New Jersey Cash Management Fund as cash and cash equivalents.

Cash Deposits

The Joint Venture's deposits are insured through either the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund (NCUSIF), Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC) or New Jersey's Governmental Unit Deposit Protection Act (GUDPA). The Joint Venture is required to deposit their funds in a depository which is protecting such funds pursuant to GUDPA. The New Jersey Governmental Unit Deposit Protection Act requires all banks doing business in the State of New Jersey to pledge collateral equal to at least 5% of the average amount of its public deposits and 100% of the average amount of its public funds in excess of the lesser of 75% of its capital funds or \$200 million for deposits in excess of the FDIC or NCUSIF insured amounts.

Bank balances are insured up to \$250,000 in the aggregate by the FDIC for each bank. SIPC replaces cash claims up to a maximum of \$250,000 for each failed brokerage firm. At December 31, 2022 and 2021, the book value of the Joint Venture's deposits were \$459,067 and \$114,044, respectively, and bank and brokerage firm balances of the Joint Venture's deposits amounted to \$459,067 and \$113,960 at December 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively. The Joint Venture's deposits which are displayed on the balance sheet as "cash and cash equivalents" are categorized as:

	<u>2022</u>		<u>2021</u>	
Depository Account				
Insured	\$	459,067	\$	113,960

NOTE 2 CASH DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS (Continued)

Cash Deposits (Continued)

<u>Custodial Credit Risk – Deposits</u> – Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the government's deposits may not be returned to it. The Joint Venture does not have a formal policy for custodial credit risk. As of December 31, 2022 and 2021, the Joint Venture's bank balances were not exposed to custodial credit risk.

NOTE 3 RELATED COMPANY TRANSACTIONS

Due from Related Companies

The Co-owners are charged their respective amounts for operating costs of the Joint Venture. As of December 31, 2022 and 2021, the Co-owners owe the Joint Venture \$1,172,876 and \$471,402, respectively. These amounts are non-interest bearing, payable on demand and consist of the following:

	<u>2022</u>		<u>2021</u>	
Wanaque South Project	\$	414,181	\$	231,091
Veolia	400000000000000000000000000000000000000	758,695		240,311
	\$	1,172,876	<u>\$</u>	471,402

The Commission's Wanaque North Project advances funds for construction costs on behalf of the Joint Venture. As of December 31, 2022 and 2021, the amount due to the Wanaque North Project is \$1,626,943 and \$580,446, respectively. The advances are non-interest bearing and are payable on demand.

Cost Allocations

The Joint Venture is allocated certain operating costs, based on a predetermined formula, from the Commission's Wanaque North Project and for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, the costs consisted of:

		<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Salaries and Wages	\$	2,418,247	\$ 2,459,314
Fringe Benefits		1,242,745	1,192,030
Other Expenses	•	1,568,962	 1,534,455
	\$	5,229,954	\$ 5,185,799

NOTE 3 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Equity

The governing board and management of the Joint Venture consists of personnel from both co-owners in the Joint Venture. The personnel have the ability to approve budgets, sign contracts with exercise control over facilities and to determine the outcome or disposition of matters affecting the recipients of services provided. At December 31, 2022 and 2021, the Equity in the Joint Venture is as follows:

	:	<u> 2022</u>	<u>2021</u>		
Wanaque South Project Veolia	\$	2,500 2,500	\$	2,500 2,500	
	\$	5,000	\$	5,000	

NOTE 4 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The Commission is a party defendant in some lawsuits, none of a kind unusual for an entity of its size and scope of operation. In the opinion of the Commission's Attorney, the potential claims against the Commission not covered by insurance policies would not materially affect the financial condition of the Commission.

The Commission is subject to various regulations promulgated by the U.S. and State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (collectively, "DEP"). Laws and regulations governing DEP are complex and subject to interpretation. Compliance with such laws and regulations can be subject to future government review and interpretation, as well as significant regulatory action including fines and penalties. The Commission is not aware of non-compliance of said laws and regulations.

NOTE 5 RISK MANAGEMENT

The Commission is exposed to various risks of loss related to general liability, automobile coverage, theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; termination of employees and natural disasters. The Commission has obtained commercial insurance coverage to guard against these events to minimize the exposure to the Commission should they occur.

There has been no significant reduction in insurance coverage from the previous year.

NORTH JERSEY DISTRICT WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION WANAQUE SOUTH PROJECT, A JOINT VENTURE ROSTER OF OFFICIALS DECEMBER 31, 2022

The following officials of the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission were in office at December 31, 2022:

COMMISSIONERS

Howard Burrell, Chairman

Charles P. Shotmeyer, Vice-Chairman

Alan S. Ashkinaze

James L. Cassella

Cristina M. Cutrone

Robert C. Garofalo

Donald C. Kuser

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Timothy J. Eustace Executive Director

William Schaffner Chief Financial Officer



DIETER P. LERCH, CPA, RMA, PSA GARY J. VINCI, CPA, RMA, PSA JEFFREY C. BLISS, CPA, RMA, PSA PAUL J. LERCH, CPA, RMA, PSA JULIUS B. CONSONI, CPA, PSA ANDREW D. PARENTE, CPA, RMA, PSA ELIZABETH A. SHICK, CPA, RMA, PSA ROBERT W. HAAG, CPA, RMA, PSA DEBRA GOLLE, CPA MARK SACO, CPA ROBERT LERCH, CPA, PSA CHRISTOPHER M. VINCI, CPA, PSA CHRISTINA CUIFFO, CPA, PSA JOHN CUIFFO, CPA, PSA

REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board of Commissioners North Jersey District Water Supply Commission Wanaque, New Jersey

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in <u>Government Auditing Standards</u> issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements –modified accrual basis of the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission's Wanaque South Project, a Joint Venture, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2022, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated October 23, 2023. Our report on the financial statements – modified accrual basis indicated that the financial statements were not prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America but rather prepared in accordance with the modified accrual basis of accounting as described in Note 1.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission Wanaque South Project, a Joint Venture's internal control over financial reporting to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission Wanaque South Project, a Joint Venture's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission Wanaque South Project, a Joint Venture's internal control.

A <u>deficiency in internal control</u> 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 <u>material weakness</u> is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Joint Venture's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A <u>significant deficiency</u> is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. 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.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission Wanaque South Project, a Joint Venture's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission Wanaque South Project, a Joint Venture's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with <u>Government Auditing Standards</u> in considering the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission Wanaque South Project, a Joint Venture's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

LERCH, VINCI & BLISS, LLP Certified Public Accountants

Registered Municipal Accountants

Dieter P. Lerch

Registered Municipal Accountant

RMA Number CR00398

Fair Lawn, New Jersey October 23, 2023

NORTH JERSEY DISTRICT WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION WANAQUE SOUTH PROJECT, A JOINT VENTURE SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

Schedule of Financial Statement Findings

This section identifies the significant deficiencies, material weaknesses, fraud, illegal acts, violations of provisions of contracts and grant agreements and abuse related to the financial statements in accordance with Government Auditing Standards.

There are none.

NORTH JERSEY DISTRICT WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION WANAQUE SOUTH PROJECT, A JOINT VENTURE SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

This section identifies the status of prior year findings related to the financial statements that are required to be reported in accordance with Chapter 6.12 of *Government Auditing Standards*.

There were none.