



Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy

Accountability Audit Report

**Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer
District**

For the period January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2019

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**Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy**

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Board of Commissioners
Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District
Bellingham, Washington

Report on Accountability

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you to promote accountability, integrity and openness in government. The Office of the Washington State Auditor takes seriously our role of providing state and local governments with assurance and accountability as the independent auditor of public accounts. In this way, we strive to help government work better, cost less, deliver higher value and earn greater public trust.

Independent audits provide essential accountability and transparency for District operations. This information is valuable to management, the governing body and public stakeholders when assessing the government's stewardship of public resources.

Attached is our independent audit report on the District's compliance with applicable requirements and safeguarding of public resources for the areas we examined. We appreciate the opportunity to work with your staff and we value your cooperation during the audit.

Sincerely,

Pat McCarthy
State Auditor
Olympia, WA

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AUDIT RESULTS

Results in brief

This report describes the overall results and conclusions for the areas we examined. In those selected areas, District operations complied, in all material respects, with applicable state laws, regulations, and its own policies, and provided adequate controls over the safeguarding of public resources.

In keeping with general auditing practices, we do not examine every transaction, activity, policy, internal control, or area. As a result, no information is provided on the areas that were not examined.

About the audit

This report contains the results of our independent accountability audit of the Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2019.

Management is responsible for ensuring compliance and adequate safeguarding of public resources from fraud, loss or abuse. This includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal controls relevant to these objectives.

This audit was conducted under the authority of RCW 43.09.260, which requires the Office of the State Auditor to examine the financial affairs of all local governments. Our audit involved obtaining evidence about the District's uses of public resources, compliance with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures, and internal controls over such matters. The procedures performed were based on our assessment of risks in the areas we examined.

Based on our risk assessment for the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018, the areas examined were those representing the highest risk of fraud, loss, abuse, or noncompliance. We examined the following areas during this audit period:

- Payroll – gross wages and leave cash outs
- Accounts receivable – utility billing, adjustments and collections

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RELATED REPORTS

Financial

Our opinion on the District's financial statements is provided in a separate report, which includes the District's financial statements. That report is available on our website, <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

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INFORMATION ABOUT THE DISTRICT

Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District is located in Whatcom County. It was established in 1968 and was formerly known as Whatcom County Water District No. 10. The District provides water service to approximately 4000 sewer connections and 3700 water connections in an 18 square-mile area encompassing Lake Whatcom.

The District is operated by 18 full time staff persons headed by a General Manager, and is governed by an elected five-member Board of Commissioners. Revenue comes from utility payments for water and sewer services. The District has an annual operations and maintenance budget of about \$7 million dollars. Revenue comes from utility payments for water and sewer services. The District had operating expenditures of \$4,640,112 for 2018 and \$4,585,145 for 2019.

Contact information related to this report	
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Information current as of report publish date.

Audit history

You can find current and past audit reports for the Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District at <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.



ABOUT THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

The State Auditor's Office is established in the state's Constitution and is part of the executive branch of state government. The State Auditor is elected by the citizens of Washington and serves four-year terms.

We work with our audit clients and citizens to achieve our vision of government that works for citizens, by helping governments work better, cost less, deliver higher value, and earn greater public trust.

In fulfilling our mission to hold state and local governments accountable for the use of public resources, we also hold ourselves accountable by continually improving our audit quality and operational efficiency and developing highly engaged and committed employees.

As an elected agency, the State Auditor's Office has the independence necessary to objectively perform audits and investigations. Our audits are designed to comply with professional standards as well as to satisfy the requirements of federal, state, and local laws.

Our audits look at financial information and compliance with state, federal and local laws on the part of all local governments, including schools, and all state agencies, including institutions of higher education. In addition, we conduct performance audits of state agencies and local governments as well as fraud, state whistleblower and citizen hotline investigations.

The results of our work are widely distributed through a variety of reports, which are available on our website and through our free, electronic subscription service.

We take our role as partners in accountability seriously, and provide training and technical assistance to governments, and have an extensive quality assurance program.

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