



Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy

Financial Statements and Federal Single Audit Report

Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District

For the period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024

Published May 27, 2025

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

May 27, 2025

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

Report on Financial Statements and Federal Single Audit

Please find attached our report on the Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District's financial statements and compliance with federal laws and regulations.

We are issuing this report in order to provide information on the District's financial activities and condition.

Sincerely,

Pat McCarthy, State Auditor
Olympia, WA

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs..... | 4 |
| Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with <i>Government Auditing Standards</i> | 6 |
| Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program and Report on Internal Control Over Compliance in Accordance With the Uniform Guidance | 9 |
| Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements..... | 13 |
| Financial Section..... | 17 |
| About the State Auditor's Office..... | 31 |

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024

SECTION I – SUMMARY OF AUDITOR’S RESULTS

The results of our audit of the Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District are summarized below in accordance with Title 2 *U.S. Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance).

Financial Statements

We issued an unmodified opinion on the fair presentation of the District’s financial statements in accordance with its regulatory basis of accounting. Separately, we issued an adverse opinion on the fair presentation with regard to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) because the financial statements are prepared using a basis of accounting other than GAAP.

Internal Control over Financial Reporting:

- *Significant Deficiencies:* We reported no deficiencies in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be significant deficiencies.
- *Material Weaknesses:* We identified no deficiencies that we consider to be material weaknesses.

We noted no instances of noncompliance that were material to the financial statements of the District.

Federal Awards

Internal Control over Major Programs:

- *Significant Deficiencies:* We reported no deficiencies in the design or operation of internal control over major federal programs that we consider to be significant deficiencies.
- *Material Weaknesses:* We identified no deficiencies that we consider to be material weaknesses.

We issued an unmodified opinion on the District’s compliance with requirements applicable to its major federal program.

We reported no findings that are required to be disclosed in accordance with 2 CFR 200.516(a).

Identification of Major Federal Programs

The following program was selected as a major program in our audit of compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance.

| <u>ALN</u> | <u>Program or Cluster Title</u> |
|------------|---------------------------------|
| 97.039 | Hazard Mitigation Grant |

The dollar threshold used to distinguish between Type A and Type B programs, as prescribed by the Uniform Guidance, was \$750,000.

The District did not qualify as a low-risk auditee under the Uniform Guidance.

SECTION II – FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS

None reported.

SECTION III – FEDERAL AWARD FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

None reported.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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*

Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024

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

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated May 19, 2025.

We issued an unmodified opinion on the fair presentation of the District's financial statements in accordance with its regulatory basis of accounting. We issued an adverse opinion on the fair presentation with regard to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) because the financial statements are prepared by the District using accounting practices prescribed by state law and the State Auditor's *Budgeting, Accounting and Reporting System* (BARS) manual described in Note 1, which is a basis of accounting other than GAAP. The effects on the financial statements of the variances between the 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.

REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* 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 *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the District's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* 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 above 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.

REPORT ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the District'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 financial statements. 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 District's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the District's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose. However,

this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited. It also serves to disseminate information to the public as a reporting tool to help citizens assess government operations.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat McCarthy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Pat" and last name "McCarthy" clearly distinguishable.

Pat McCarthy, State Auditor

Olympia, WA

May 19, 2025

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program and Report on Internal Control over Compliance in Accordance with the Uniform Guidance

Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024

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

REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR EACH MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We have audited the compliance of the Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District, with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the U.S. *Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of the District's major federal programs for the year ended December 31, 2024. The District's major federal programs are identified in the auditor's results section of the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs.

In our opinion, the District complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended December 31, 2024.

Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS); the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance)* are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report.

We are required to be independent of the District and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion on

compliance for each major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination on the District's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to the District's federal programs.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on the District's compliance based on our audit. 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 GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards* and the Uniform Guidance will always detect a material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material, if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgement made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the District's compliance with the requirements of each major federal program as a whole.

Performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards* and the Uniform Guidance includes the following responsibilities:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit;
- Identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, 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 District's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances;
- Obtain an understanding of the District's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed; and

- We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE

A *deficiency in internal control over compliance* exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. A *material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed. Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance 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 over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited. It also

serves to disseminate information to the public as a reporting tool to help citizens assess government operations.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat McCarthy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pat McCarthy, State Auditor

Olympia, WA

May 19, 2025

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024

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

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Unmodified and Adverse Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of the Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, as listed in the financial section of our report.

Unmodified Opinion on the Regulatory Basis of Accounting (BARS Manual)

As described in Note 1, the District has prepared these financial statements to meet the financial reporting requirements of state law and accounting practices prescribed by the State Auditor's *Budgeting, Accounting and Reporting System* (BARS) Manual. Those accounting practices differ from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). The differences in these accounting practices are also described in Note 1.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash and investments of the Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District, and its changes in cash and investments, for the year ended December 31, 2024, on the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. GAAP

The financial statements referred to above were not intended to, and in our opinion, they do not, present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District, as of December 31, 2024, or the changes in financial position or cash flows thereof for the year then ended, because of the significance of the matter discussed below.

Basis for Unmodified and Adverse Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and *Government Auditing Standards*. 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 District, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit unmodified and adverse opinions.

Matter Giving Rise to Adverse Opinion on U.S. GAAP

Auditing standards issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) require auditors to formally acknowledge when governments do not prepare their financial statements, intended for general use, in accordance with GAAP. As described in Note 1 of the financial statements, the financial statements are prepared by the District in accordance with state law using accounting practices prescribed by the BARS Manual, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of state law and the BARS Manual described in Note 1. This includes determining that the basis of accounting is acceptable for the presentation of the financial statements in the circumstances. 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 misstatement, 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 District'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 the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements 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 GAAS and

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.

Performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* includes the following responsibilities:

- Exercise professional judgment 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 District'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 District's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time; and
- 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.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements that collectively comprise the District's financial statements. The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by Title 2 *U.S. Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). The Schedule of Liabilities is also presented for purposes of additional analysis, as required by the prescribed BARS manual. These schedules are not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and

certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

OTHER REPORTING REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 19, 2025 on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and on the tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is 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 District's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Pat McCarthy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Pat" and last name "McCarthy" clearly distinguishable.

Pat McCarthy, State Auditor

Olympia, WA

May 19, 2025

FINANCIAL SECTION

Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Fund Resources and Uses Arising from Cash Transactions – 2024
Notes to Financial Statements – 2024

SUPPLEMENTARY AND OTHER INFORMATION

Schedule of Liabilities – 2024
Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards – 2024
Notes to the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards – 2024

**Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District
Fund Resources and Uses Arising from Cash Transactions
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024**

Beginning Cash and Investments

| | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| 308 | Beginning Cash and Investments | 7,601,056 |
| 388 / 588 | Net Adjustments | - |

Revenues

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| 310 | Taxes | - |
| 320 | Licenses and Permits | - |
| 330 | Intergovernmental Revenues | 1,158,510 |
| 340 | Charges for Goods and Services | 9,156,102 |
| 350 | Fines and Penalties | 68,404 |
| 360 | Miscellaneous Revenues | 234,352 |
| Total Revenues: | | 10,617,368 |

Expenditures

| | | |
|---|------------------------------|-----------|
| 510 | General Government | - |
| 520 | Public Safety | - |
| 530 | Utilities | 5,680,223 |
| 540 | Transportation | - |
| 550 | Natural/Economic Environment | - |
| 560 | Social Services | - |
| 570 | Culture and Recreation | - |
| Total Expenditures: | | 5,680,223 |
| Excess (Deficiency) Revenues over Expenditures: | | 4,937,145 |

Other Increases in Fund Resources

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---|
| 391-393, 596 | Debt Proceeds | - |
| 397 | Transfers-In | - |
| 385 | Special or Extraordinary Items | - |
| 381, 382, 389, 395, 398 | Other Resources | - |
| Total Other Increases in Fund Resources: | | - |

Other Decreases in Fund Resources

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------|-----------|
| 594-595 | Capital Expenditures | 2,753,998 |
| 591-593, 599 | Debt Service | 865,677 |
| 597 | Transfers-Out | - |
| 585 | Special or Extraordinary Items | - |
| 581, 582, 589 | Other Uses | (5,709) |
| Total Other Decreases in Fund Resources: | | 3,613,966 |

Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Investments: 1,323,179

Ending Cash and Investments

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| 50821 | Nonspendable | - |
| 50831 | Restricted | 646,125 |
| 50841 | Committed | 1,275,000 |
| 50851 | Assigned | 7,003,110 |
| 50891 | Unassigned | - |
| Total Ending Cash and Investments | | 8,924,235 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

LAKE WHATCOM WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

Notes to the Special-Purpose Financial Statement For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District (the District) was incorporated in 1968 and operates under the laws of the State of Washington applicable to a water-sewer district. The District is a special purpose government and provides water and sewer services. The District uses single-entry, cash basis accounting, which is a departure from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

The District reports financial activity in accordance with the *Cash Basis Budgeting, Accounting and Reporting System* (BARS) Manual prescribed by the State Auditor's Office under the authority of Washington State law, Chapter 43.09 RCW. This manual prescribes a financial reporting framework that differs from GAAP in the following manner:

- Financial transactions are recognized on a cash basis of accounting as described below.
- Component units are required to be disclosed but are not included in the financial statements.
- Government-wide statements, as defined in GAAP, are not presented.
- All funds are presented, rather than a focus on major funds.
- The *Schedule of Liabilities* is required to be presented with the financial statements as supplementary information.
- Supplementary information required by GAAP is not presented.
- Ending balances for proprietary and fiduciary funds are presented using classifications that are different from the ending net position classifications in GAAP.

Fund Accounting - Financial transactions of the government are reported in individual funds. Each fund uses a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprises its cash and investments, revenues and expenditures. The government's resources are allocated to and accounted for in individual funds depending on their intended purpose. Each fund is reported as a separate column in the financial statements, except for fiduciary funds, which are presented by fund types. The total column is presented as "memo only" because any interfund activities are not eliminated. The following fund types are used:

Enterprise Fund - This fund accounts for operations that provide goods and services to the general public and is supported primarily through user charges. The purpose of the District's funds are for water and sewer service.

Basis of Accounting and Measurement Focus - Financial statements are prepared using the cash basis of accounting and measurement focus. Revenues are recognized when cash is received and expenditures are recognized when paid. In accordance with state law the District also recognizes expenditures paid during twenty days after the close of the fiscal year for claims incurred during the previous period.

Cash and Investments - It is the District's policy to invest all temporary cash surpluses. (The interest on these investments is prorated to the various funds). For further information see Note 2 - *Deposits and Investments*.

Capital Assets - Capital assets are assets with an initial individual cost of more than \$5,000 and an estimated useful life in excess of one year. The capital assets of the District are recorded as capital expenditures when purchased.

LAKE WHATCOM WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

**Notes to the Special-Purpose Financial Statement
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024**

Note 1 - Continued

Compensated Absences - Vacation leave may be accumulated up to 80 hours and is payable upon separation or retirement. Sick leave may be accumulated up to 1,000 hours. If an employee separates with at least ten years of service, the employee will be compensated for sick leave balances up to 1,000 hours at one-quarter of the employee's final hourly pay rate, which is paid into the employee's health reimbursement arrangement voluntary employees' beneficiary association (HRA VEBA) account. Payments are recognized as expenditures when paid.

Liabilities - See Note 4, Long-Term Debt. The District had no long-term leases or subscription-based information technology arrangements (SBITAs) at December 31, 2024.

Restricted and Committed Portion of Ending Cash and Investments - Beginning and ending cash and investments are reported as restricted or committed when it is subject to restrictions on use imposed by external parties or due to internal commitments established by resolution. When expenditures that meet restrictions are incurred, the District intends to use the most restricted resources first.

Restrictions and commitments of Ending Cash and Investments at December 31, 2024 consists of the following:

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Restricted- | |
| Bond reserve | \$ 646,125 |
| Committed- | |
| Sewer contingency reserve | 815,000 |
| Water contingency reserve | <u>460,000</u> |
| | <u><u>\$ 1,921,125</u></u> |

Note 2 - Deposits and Investments

Investments are reported at original cost. Deposits and investments by type at December 31, 2024 are as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| | District's Own Deposits and Investments |
| Bank deposits | \$ 1,896,808 |
| Local government investment pool | 3,517,918 |
| U.S. Government Securities | <u>3,509,509</u> |
| | <u><u>\$ 8,924,235</u></u> |

It is the District's policy to invest all temporary cash surpluses. The interest on these investments is prorated to both the Water Utility Fund and the Sewer Utility Fund.

The District's long-term investment securities are managed through US Bank and invested in U.S. Treasury notes. Maturity dates range from January 2025 through June 2026 with yields ranging from 1.125 % to 4.921%.

LAKE WHATCOM WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

**Notes to the Special-Purpose Financial Statement
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024**

Note 2 - Continued

Investments in the State Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) - The District is a voluntary participant in the Local Government Investment Pool, an external investment pool operated by the Washington State Treasurer. The pool is not rated and not registered with the SEC. Rather; oversight is provided by the State Finance Committee in accordance with Chapter 43.250 RCW. Investments in the LGIP are reported at amortized cost, which is the same as the value of the pool per share. The LGIP does not impose any restrictions on participant withdrawals.

The Office of the State Treasurer prepares a stand-alone financial report for the pool. A copy of the report is available from the Office of the State Treasurer, PO Box 40200, Olympia, Washington 98504-0200, online at www.tre.wa.gov.

Custodial Credit Risk - Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that, in event of a failure of a depository financial institution, the District would not be able to recover deposits or would not be able to recover collateral securities that are in possession of an outside party. The District's deposits and certificates of deposit are mostly covered by federal depository insurance (FDIC) or by collateral held in a multiple financial institution collateral pool administered by the Washington Public Deposit Protection Commission (PDPC).

All investments are insured, registered or held by the District or its agent in the government's name.

Credit Risk - The District's investment policy limits investments to those authorized by State of Washington statutes governing the investment of public funds. As of December 31, 2024, the District's investments with the United States Treasury were rated Aaa by Moody's Rating Service.

Note 3 - Long-Term Liabilities

Debt - The accompanying Schedule of Liabilities provides more details of the outstanding debt and liabilities of the District and summarizes the District's debt transactions for year ended December 31, 2024.

The outstanding debt at December 31, 2024 is as follows:

| | Original Amount | Interest Rate | Amount Outstanding |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Refunding bonds - issued 2016 | \$ 6,415,000 | 2.0% - 4.0% | \$ 3,775,000 |
| DWSRF Loan DM13-952-137 | 2,038,938 | 1.5% | 1,319,312 |
| DWSRF Loan DM13-952-1136 | 1,244,019 | 1.5% | 851,170 |
| | <u>\$ 9,697,957</u> | | <u>\$ 5,945,482</u> |

LAKE WHATCOM WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

Notes to the Special-Purpose Financial Statement For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 3 - Continued

The annual debt service requirements to maturity for revenue debts are as follows:

| For the Year Ending December 31, | Principal | Interest | Total |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2025 | \$ 675,412 | \$ 178,282 | \$ 853,694 |
| 2026 | 705,412 | 155,901 | 861,313 |
| 2027 | 720,412 | 134,920 | 855,332 |
| 2028 | 735,412 | 113,414 | 848,826 |
| 2029 | 755,412 | 88,633 | 844,045 |
| 2030 - 2034 | 1,962,061 | 208,245 | 2,170,306 |
| 2035 - 2037 | 391,361 | 10,692 | 402,053 |
| | <u><u>\$ 5,945,482</u></u> | <u><u>\$ 890,087</u></u> | <u><u>\$ 6,835,569</u></u> |

The District was approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Washington State Public Works Board (PWB) to receive loans through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program in order to improve its drinking water system.

There are \$646,125 in restricted assets of the District as of December 31, 2024, these represent sinking funds and reserve requirements as contained in the various indentures. There are a number of other limitations and restrictions contained in the various bond indentures. The District is in compliance with all significant limitations and restrictions.

In January 2024, the District executed a contract with the Washington State Public Works Board for a construction loan of \$800,000. The stated interest rate is 1.72% and the loan term is 20 years. Payments of principal and interest may be deferred for the first five years of the loan term, but interest will accrue during this period. An accrued interest-only payment is due June 1 of the 6th year of the loan term. Interest and principal payments are due on June 1 of the 7th year of the loan term and every remaining year of the loan term thereafter. This loan is to be used towards the Division 7 Reservoir Replacement Project, which includes the demolition of a one-million-gallon reservoir and the construction of two 237,900-gallon reservoirs. The loan had no outstanding balance at December 31, 2024.

Compensated Absences - During the year ended December 31, 2024, the following changes occurred in compensated absences:

| | Beginning Balance January 1, 2024 | Additions | Reductions | Ending Balance December 31, 2024 |
|----------------------|--|-----------|------------|---|
| Compensated absences | \$ 65,788 | \$ 81,463 | \$ - | \$ 147,251 |

LAKE WHATCOM WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

**Notes to the Special-Purpose Financial Statement
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024**

Note 4 - Pension Plans

Substantially all the District's full-time and qualifying part-time employees participate in the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) Plans 1, 2 and 3 administered by the Washington State Department of Retirement Systems (DRS) under cost-sharing, multiple-employer public employee defined-benefit and defined-contribution retirement plans (the Plans).

The State Legislature establishes and amends laws pertaining to the creation and administration of all public retirement systems.

The Department of Retirement Systems, a department within the primary government of the State of Washington, issues a publicly available Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for each plan. The DRS ACFR may be obtained by writing to:

Department of Retirement Systems
Communications Unit
P.O. Box 48380
Olympia, WA 98540-8380

Also, the DRS ACFR may be downloaded from the DRS website at www.drs.wa.gov.

At June 30, 2024 (the measurement date of the plans), the District's proportionate share of the collective net pension liabilities (assets), as reported on the Schedule of Liabilities, was as follows:

| | Employer Contributions | Allocation Percent | Liability or (Asset) |
|-------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| PERS 1 UAAL | \$ 55,789 | 0.009320% | \$ 165,601 |
| PERS 2/3 | \$ 119,563 | 0.012147% | \$ (400,435) |

Note 5 - Deferred Compensation Plans

The District offers its employees deferred compensation plans created in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code Section 457. One plan is with the State of Washington, Committee for Deferred Compensation. The District also offers a deferred compensation plan with Mission Square, formerly ICMA RC. These plans, available to eligible employees, permit them to defer a portion of their salary to future years.

The deferred compensation is not available to employees until termination, retirement, death, or unforeseeable emergency. In June 2004, the State of Washington Deferred Compensation Plan assets were placed into trust for the exclusive benefit of participants and beneficiaries. Pursuant to Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement 32, since the District is no longer the owner of these assets, as of December 31, 1998, the plan assets and liabilities are no longer considered as property/debt of the District.

LAKE WHATCOM WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

**Notes to the Special-Purpose Financial Statement
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024**

Note 6 - Other Postemployment Benefits

The District is a participating employer in the State of Washington’s Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) program, a defined benefit plan administered by the Washington State Health Care Authority. The plan provides medical, dental, and life insurance benefits for public employees and retirees and their dependents on a pay-as-you-go basis. The plan provides other post-employment benefits through both explicit and implicit subsidies. The explicit subsidy is a set dollar amount that lowers the monthly premium paid by members over the age of 65 enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B. PEBB determines the amount of the explicit subsidy annually. The implicit subsidy results from the inclusion of active and non-Medicare eligible retirees in the same pool when determining premiums. There is an implicit subsidy from active employees since the premiums paid by retirees are lower than they would have been if the retirees were insured separately.

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Number of active plan members | 17 |
| Number of retired plan members | 1 |
| Contributions made | \$ 409,846 |
| Total OPEB liability | \$ 460,938 |

The District had 17 active plan members and 1 retired plan member as of December 31, 2024. The District contributed \$409,846 to the plan for the year ended December 31, 2024.

Note 7 - Risk Management

The District is a member of the Water and Sewer Risk Management Pool (the Pool). Chapter 48.62 RCW authorizes the governing body of any one or more governmental entities to form together into or join a pool or organization for the joint purchasing of insurance, and/or joint self-insuring, and/or joint hiring or contracting for risk management services to the same extent that they may individually purchase insurance, self-insurance, or hire or contract for risk management services. An agreement to form a pooling arrangement was made pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 39.34 RCW, the Interlocal Cooperation Act. The Pool was formed in November 1987 when water and sewer districts in the State of Washington joined together by signing an Interlocal Governmental Agreement to pool their self-insured losses and jointly purchase insurance and administrative services. The Pool currently has 77 members. The Pool’s fiscal year is November 1st through October 31st.

The Pool allows members to jointly purchase insurance coverage, establish a plan of self-insurance coverage, and provide related services, such as risk management and loss prevention. The Pool provides the following forms of group purchased insurance coverage for its members: All-Risk Property (including Building, Electronic Data Processing, Boiler and Machinery, and Mobile Equipment); General Liability; Automotive Liability; Excess Liability, Crime; Public Officials Liability; Employment Practices Liability, Cyber Liability, Identity Fraud Reimbursement Program and bonds of various types. Most coverages are on an “occurrence” basis.

The annual report of the Water & Sewer Risk Management Pool can be located at the following website:
<https://www.waterandseweriskmgmtpool.org/about>.

LAKE WHATCOM WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

Notes to the Special-Purpose Financial Statement For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 7 - Continued

Members make an annual contribution to fund the Pool. The Pool purchases insurance policies from unrelated underwriters as follows:

| Type of Coverage | Member Deductible | Self-Insured Retention/Group | Excess Limits |
|--|--|---|---|
| Property Loss: | | | |
| Buildings and Contents | \$1,000 - \$25,000 and See (C) below | \$25,000 | \$200,000,000 |
| Flood | See (A) below | See (A) below | \$20,000,000 |
| Earthquake | See (B) below | See (B) below | \$80,000,000 (\$50,000,000 shared by all members, \$30,000,000 dedicated to Alderwood) |
| Terrorism | \$1,000 - \$25,000 | \$25,000 Primary layer | \$700,000,000 Primary layer |
| Boiler & Machinery | \$1,000 - \$350,000 depending on object | \$25,000 - \$350,000 depending on object | \$100,000,000 |
| Auto - Physical Damage | \$1,000-\$25,000 | \$25,000 | |
| Liability: | | | |
| Commercial General Liability | \$1,000 - \$25,000 | \$500,000 | \$10,000,000 |
| Auto Liability | \$1,000 - \$25,000 | Same as above | \$10,000,000 |
| Public Officials Errors and Omissions | \$1,000 - \$25,000 | Same as above | \$10,000,000 |
| Employment Practices | \$1,000 - \$25,000 | Same as above | \$10,000,000 |
| Other: | | | |
| Cyber Liability | \$50,000 | N/A | \$2,000,000 |
| Public Officials Bonds | Various | N/A | Various |
| Crime | \$1,000 - \$25,000 | \$25,000 | \$2,000,000 |
| Identity Fraud | \$0 | \$0 | \$25,000 |
| (A) \$100,000 member deductibles, per occurrence, in Flood zones except Zones A&V; \$250,000 member deductible per occurrence, in Flood Zones A&V. | | | |
| (B) Member deductible for earthquakes is 5% subject to \$100,000 minimum Earthquake Shock. The deductible will apply per occurrence on a per unit basis, as defined in the policy form, subject to the stated minimum. | | | |
| (C) Member deductible for Cyber liability is \$50,000 and where applicable the dollar amount of the business interruption loss during the policy's required 8 hour waiting period. | | | |

LAKE WHATCOM WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

Notes to the Special-Purpose Financial Statement For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 7 - Continued

Pool members are responsible for a deductible on each coverage and the Pool is responsible for the remainder of the self-insured retention listed in the table above except where noted as follows. The insurance carriers then cover the loss to the maximum limit of the policy. Each member is responsible for the full deductible applicable to the perils of earthquake and flood (the Pool is not responsible for any deductible or self-insured retention for earthquake and flood claims). Each member is also responsible for the full deductible applicable to the Cyber Liability, and that part of a Boiler & Machinery deductible, which exceeds \$25,000.

Upon joining, the members contract to remain in the Pool for one full policy period. Following completion of one full policy period, members must give six months' notice before terminating participation (e.g., to withdraw from the Pool on November 1, 2024, written notice must be in possession of the Pool by April 30, 2024). The Interlocal Governmental Agreement is renewed automatically each year. Even after termination of relationship with the Pool, a member is still responsible for contributions to the Pool for any unresolved, unreported, and in process claims, for the period that the District was a signatory to the Interlocal Governmental Agreement.

The Pool is fully funded by its member participants. Claims are filed by members with the Pool who determines coverage and performs claims adjustment in consultation with various independent public adjusters.

The Pool is governed by a Board of Directors, which is comprised of one designated representative from each participating member. An Executive Committee is elected at the annual meeting and is responsible for overseeing the business affairs of the Pool and providing policy direction to the Pool's Executive Director.

Note 8 - Other Disclosures

Significant Commitments or Obligations - The District has active construction projects as of December 31, 2024. At year end, the District's projects and commitments with contractors are as follows:

| | Paid to Date | Remaining Commitment |
|--|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Euclid Sewer Pump Station Improvements | \$ 546,226 | \$ - |
| Div 7 Reservoir Tree Falling Project | 26,064 | |
| Div 30 Booster and SVPS PLC & UPS Improvements | 249,537 | |
| SVWTP Front Window Removal Project | | 42,536 |
| SVWTP Coil Up Door | 42,536 | |
| Div 30 Reservoir Hazard Tree Removal Project | 32,797 | |
| Division 7 Reservoir Replacement | 893,629 | 1,790,558 |
| Division 30 Cathodic Protection | 27,795 | |
| Midnight Court Sewer Repair | 42,976 | |
| Rocky Ridge and Lakewood Lift Station Improvements | 720,792 | 596,420 |
| Beaver Creek Exposed Sewer Pipes CIPP | | 122,400 |
| 2024 Asphalt "On-Call" Unit Price Contract | 28,521 | |
| Electrical "On-Call" Unit Price Contract | 15,344 | |
| | <u>\$ 2,626,217</u> | <u>\$ 2,551,914</u> |

LAKE WHATCOM WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

Notes to the Special-Purpose Financial Statement For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 8 - Continued

Capital Asset Activity - In addition to protecting against variations in the timing of operating costs and revenues, it is prudent to maintain a capital contingency amount to meet unexpected emergency capital outlays. While it would be impractical to reserve against major system-wide failures as a result of a catastrophic event, it is reasonable to identify and quantify possible failures of individual system components. The District utilizes an estimate of replacement costs to derive the targeted contingency reserve dollar amount. The District's estimated replacement costs of capital assets as of December 31, 2024, totals \$127,500,000. This investment in capital assets includes water collection and transmission lines, pumping stations and equipment, sewage collection and transmission lines, service pipes from the distribution mains to customers' meters, administration and operation facilities, and transportation and office equipment. The District currently has \$1,275,000 (approximately 1.0% of estimated replacement costs) for capital contingency, \$815,000 allocated to the sewer contingency reserve and \$460,000 allocated to the water contingency reserve as shown in Note 1.

Note 9 - Accounting Changes and Error Corrections

During fiscal year 2024, the District implemented Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No.101, *Compensated Absences*, as required by the BARS Manual. There was no impact to cash or investment beginning balances as a result of implementing this standard.

Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District
Schedule of Liabilities
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

| ID. No. | Debt ID Title | Description | Due Date | Beginning Balance | Additions | Reductions | Ending Balance |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| Revenue and Other (non G.O.) Debt/Liabilities | | | | | | | |
| 252.11 | Non-voted Revenue bonds | Refund Bonds - Issued 2016 | 11/1/2035 | 4,255,000 | - | 480,000 | 3,775,000 |
| 259.12 | Compensated Absences | Compensated Absences | | 65,788 | 81,463 | - | 147,251 |
| 263.92 | Miscellaneous Debt | Latecomer Fees & Other Deferred Credits | 12/31/2099 | 12,500 | - | 500 | 12,000 |
| 264.30 | Pension Liabilities | Pension Liability | | 256,168 | - | 90,567 | 165,601 |
| 264.40 | OPEB Liabilities | OPEB Liability | | 450,019 | 10,919 | - | 460,938 |
| 263.88 | Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF) Loans | DWSRF Loan DM13-952-137 | 10/1/2035 | 1,439,250 | - | 119,938 | 1,319,312 |
| 263.88 | Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF) Loans | DWSRF Loan DM 13-952-136 | 10/1/2037 | 916,645 | - | 65,475 | 851,170 |
| Total Revenue and Other (non G.O.) Debt/Liabilities: | | | | 7,395,370 | 92,382 | 756,480 | 6,731,272 |
| Total Liabilities: | | | | 7,395,370 | 92,382 | 756,480 | 6,731,272 |

**Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District
Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024**

| Federal Agency (Pass-Through Agency) | Federal Program | ALN Number | Other Award Number | Expenditures | | | Passed through to Subrecipients | Note |
|---|-------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|---------------------------------------|-------|
| | | | | From Pass- Through Awards | From Direct Awards | Total | | |
| FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, HOMELAND SECURITY, DEPARTMENT OF (via Washington State Military Department) | Hazard Mitigation Grant | 97.039 | D24-016 | 729,441 | - | 729,441 | - | 1,2,3 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, HOMELAND SECURITY, DEPARTMENT OF (via Washington State Military Department) | Hazard Mitigation Grant | 97.039 | D24-048- Revised | 34,750 | - | 34,750 | - | 1,2,3 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, HOMELAND SECURITY, DEPARTMENT OF (via Washington State Military Department) | Hazard Mitigation Grant | 97.039 | D24-057 | 12,588 | - | 12,588 | - | 1,2,3 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Total ALN 97.039: | | | | 776,779 | - | 776,779 | - | |
| Total Federal Awards Expended: | | | | 776,779 | - | 776,779 | - | |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

LAKE WHATCOM WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

Notes to the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 1 - Basis of Accounting

This Schedule is prepared on the same basis of accounting as the District's financial statements. The District uses the *Cash Basis Budgeting, Accounting and Reporting System (BARS)* Manual prescribed by the State Auditor's Office under the authority of Washington State law, Chapter 43.09 RCW.

Note 2 - Federal Indirect Cost Rate

The District has elected to use the 10-percent de minimis indirect cost rate allowed under Uniform Guidance.

Note 3 - Program Costs

The amounts shown as current year expenditures represent only the federal award portion of the program costs. Entire program costs, including the District's portion, are more than shown. Such expenditures recognized following the cost principles contained in Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowable or are limited as to reimbursement.

ABOUT THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

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

We work with state agencies, local governments and the public to achieve our vision of increasing trust in government by helping governments work better and deliver higher value.

In fulfilling our mission to provide citizens with independent and transparent examinations of how state and local governments use public funds, we hold ourselves to those same standards by continually improving our audit quality and operational efficiency, and by developing highly engaged and committed employees.

As an agency, the State Auditor's Office has the independence necessary to objectively perform audits, attestation engagements and investigations. Our work is designed to comply with professional standards as well as to satisfy the requirements of federal, state and local laws. The Office also has an extensive quality control program and undergoes regular external peer review to ensure our work meets the highest possible standards of accuracy, objectivity and clarity.

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

The results of our work are available to everyone through the more than 2,000 reports we publish each year on our website, www.sao.wa.gov. Additionally, we share regular news and other information via an email subscription service and social media channels.

We take our role as partners in accountability seriously. The Office provides training and technical assistance to governments both directly and through partnerships with other governmental support organizations.

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