

**HIGHLANDS RECREATION DISTRICT**

**MANAGEMENT REPORT**

**For The Year Ended  
JUNE 30, 2012**

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R. J. RICCIARDI, INC.  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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To the Board of Directors  
Highlands Recreation District  
San Mateo, California

In planning and performing our audit of the basic financial statements of Highlands Recreation District for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered its internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the basic financial statements but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of its internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Highlands Recreation District's internal control.

A control deficiency 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 misstatements on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or a combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the entity's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report financial data reliably in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles such that there is more than a remote likelihood that a misstatement of the entity's basic financial statements that is more than inconsequential will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal control.

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or a combination of significant deficiencies, that results in more than a remote likelihood that a material misstatement of the basic financial statements will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses, as defined above. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above.

During our audit, we noted certain matters involving internal controls and other operational matters that are presented for your consideration in this report. We will review the status of these comments during our next audit engagement. Our comments and recommendations, all of which have been discussed with appropriate members of management, are not intended to be all-inclusive, but rather represent those matters that we considered worthy of your consideration. Our comments and recommendations are submitted as constructive suggestions to assist you in strengthening controls and procedures; they are not intended to reflect on the honesty or integrity of any employee. We will be pleased to discuss these comments in further detail at your convenience, to perform any additional study of these matters, or to assist Highlands Recreation District in implementing the recommendations.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management of Highlands Recreation District and others within the organization, and is not to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

We thank Highlands Recreation District's staff for its cooperation during our audit.

*R.J. Ricciardi, Inc.*

R.J. Ricciardi, Inc.  
Certified Public Accountants

San Rafael, California  
December 7, 2012

Highlands Recreation District  
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We have audited the basic financial statements of Highlands Recreation District for the year ended June 30, 2012. Professional standards require that we provide you with the following information related to our audit.

Our Responsibility under U.S. Generally Accepted Auditing Standards

As stated in our engagement letter dated May 18, 2012, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to plan and perform our audit to obtain reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that the basic financial statements are free of material misstatement and are fairly presented in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Because an audit is designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute assurance and because we did not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, there is a risk that material misstatements may exist and not be detected by us.

As part of our audit, we considered the internal control of Highlands Recreation District. Such considerations were solely for the purpose of determining our audit procedures and not to provide any assurance concerning such internal control.

**Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices**

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter, we will advise management about the appropriateness of accounting policies and their application. During the fiscal year '09-10, Highlands Recreation District adopted an accounting policies and procedures manual. The significant accounting policies used by Highlands Recreation District are described in Note 2 to the basic financial statements. We noted no transactions entered into by Highlands Recreation District during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. There are no significant transactions that have been recognized in the basic financial statements in a different period than when the transaction occurred.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the basic financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the basic financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the accounting estimates in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The most sensitive estimates affecting the basic financial statements were:

- Accrual and disclosure of compensated absences;
- Capital asset lives and depreciation expense.

**Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit**

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

**Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements**

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. There were no misstatements that came to our attention during the course of the audit.

**Disagreements with Management**

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the basic financial statements or the auditors' report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

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**Management Representations**

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated October 31, 2012.

**Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants**

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to Highlands Recreation District's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

**Other Audit Findings or Issues**

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as Highlands Recreation District's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

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Current Year Observations

There were no current year observations.

Prior Year Observations

1) County Check Signers

Observation:

During the course of our audit it was noted that Highlands Recreation District is now processing and signing checks paid out of the account with the County of San Mateo. The Borel Bank account requires two signatures for check amounts over \$1,500 but the County of San Mateo account does not have this requirement.

Recommendation:

We recommended Highlands Recreation District consider requiring two signatures for check amounts over \$1,500 for the County of San Mateo account.

Status:

This recommendation has been implemented.