



BROWN ARMSTRONG

Certified Public Accountants

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Retirement and Audit Committee of
Contra Costa County Employees' Retirement Association
Concord, California

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Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying statement of fiduciary net position of the Contra Costa County Employees' Retirement Association (CCCERA), a pension trust fund of the County of Contra Costa, California, as of December 31, 2015, and the related statement of changes in fiduciary net position for the year then ended and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise CCCERA's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes 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.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit 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. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to CCCERA's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements 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 CCCERA's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation of the financial statements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the fiduciary net position of CCCERA as of December 31, 2015, and the changes in fiduciary net position for the year then ended, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 5 to the financial statements, the net pension liability of the participating employers as of December 31, 2015, was \$1,507,127 thousand. The fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total liability as of December 31, 2015, was 82.2%. The actuarial valuations are very sensitive to the underlying actuarial assumptions including a discount rate as of December 31, 2015, of 7.0%, which represents the long-term expected rate of return. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Additionally, as discussed in Note 2 to the financial statements, the financial statements include investments that are not listed on national exchanges or for which quoted market prices are not available. These investments include real assets, real estate, and alternative investments. Such investments totaled \$1,504,499 thousand (18.7% of total assets) at December 31, 2015. Where a publicly listed price is not available, the management of CCCERA uses alternative sources of information including audited financial statements, unaudited interim reports, independent appraisals, and similar evidence to determine the fair value of the investments. Our opinion is not modified with respect to these matters.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and required supplementary information, as listed in the table of contents, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements that collectively comprise CCCERA's basic financial statements. The other supplementary information and the introductory, investment, actuarial, and statistical sections as listed in the table of contents are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The other supplementary information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the other supplementary information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

The introductory, investment, actuarial, and statistical sections have not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on them.

Report on Summarized Comparative Information

We have previously audited CCCERA's December 31, 2014 financial statements, and our report dated June 11, 2015, expressed an unmodified opinion on those audited financial statements. In our opinion, the summarized comparative information presented herein as of December 31, 2014, is consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements from which it has been derived.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated June 21, 2016, on our consideration of CCCERA's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, 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 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 CCCERA's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

BROWN ARMSTRONG
ACCOUNTANCY CORPORATION

*Brown Armstrong
Accountancy Corporation*

Bakersfield, California
June 21, 2016