

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO MEASURE M ORDINANCE AND MEASURE M LOCAL RETURN GUIDELINES

TO THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022





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TO THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Measure M Local Return Fund Consolidated Audit Report Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO MEASURE M ORDINANCE AND MEASURE M LOCAL RETURN GUIDELINES

To: Board of Directors of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and Measure M Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee

Report on Compliance

Opinion

We have audited the compliance of the County of Los Angeles (County) and the thirty-nine (39) Cities identified in the List of Package A Jurisdictions, with the types of compliance requirements described in the Measure M Ordinance enacted through a Los Angeles County voter-approved law in November 2016; Measure M Local Return Guidelines, issued by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), approved by its Board of Directors on June 22, 2017 (collectively, the Guidelines); and the respective Assurances and Understandings Regarding Receipt and Use of Measure M Local Return Funds, executed by Metro, the County and the respective Cities for the year ended June 30, 2022 (collectively, the Requirements). Compliance with the above-noted Guidelines and Requirements by the County and the Cities are identified in the accompanying Summary of Audit Results, Schedule 1 and Schedule 2.

In our opinion, the County and the Cities complied, in all material respects, with the Guidelines and Requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on the Measure M Local Return program for the year ended June 30, 2022.

Basis for Opinion

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 (*Government Auditing Standards*); and the Guidelines. Our responsibilities under those standards and the Guidelines 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 County and the Cities and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with 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 with the Guidelines. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the County's and the Cities' compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.





Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

Management is responsible for the County's and the Cities' compliance with the Guidelines 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 program agreements applicable to the County and each City's Measure M Local Return program.

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 County's and the Cities' 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 Guidelines will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting 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 judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the County's and the Cities' compliance with the requirements of the Guidelines as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, Government Auditing Standards, and the Guidelines, we:

- 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 County's and the Cities' 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 County's and the Cities' 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 Guidelines, but not for
 the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's and the Cities' internal
 control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

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.

Other Matters

The results of our auditing procedures disclosed instances of noncompliance, which are required to be reported in accordance with the Guidelines and which are described in the accompanying Summary of Compliance Findings (Schedule 1) and Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs (Schedule 2) as Findings #2022-001 through #2022-007. Our opinion is not modified with respect to these matters.



Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the Cities' responses to the noncompliance findings identified in our compliance audits described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs (Schedule 2). The Cities' responses were not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of compliance and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the responses.

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

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 have not been identified. However, as discussed below, we did identify certain deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses and significant deficiencies.

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 the Guidelines on a timely basis. A material weakness in internal control over compliance is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with the Guidelines will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. We consider the deficiency in internal control over compliance described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs (Schedule 2) as Finding #2022-003, that we consider to be a material weakness.

A significant deficiency in internal control over compliance is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with the Guidelines that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance. We consider the deficiencies in internal control over compliance described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs (Schedule 2) as Findings #2022-004 and #2022-005, that we consider to be significant deficiencies.

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.

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the Cities' responses to the internal control over compliance findings identified in our audits are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs (Schedule 2). The Cities' responses were not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of compliance and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the responses.



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 Guidelines. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Glendale, California December 30, 2022

Varguer & Company LLP

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Measure M Local Return Fund List of Package A Jurisdictions Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

- 1. COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
- CITY OF AGOURA HILLS
- 3. CITY OF AZUSA
- 4. CITY OF BALDWIN PARK
- 5. CITY OF BELL
- 6. CITY OF BELL GARDENS
- 7. CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
- 8. CITY OF CALABASAS
- 9. CITY OF CARSON
- 10. CITY OF COMMERCE
- 11. CITY OF COMPTON
- 12. CITY OF CUDAHY
- 13. CITY OF CULVER CITY
- 14. CITY OF EL MONTE
- 15. CITY OF GARDENA
- 16. CITY OF HAWTHORNE
- 17. CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS
- 18. CITY OF HUNTINGTON PARK
- 19. CITY OF INDUSTRY
- 20. CITY OF INGLEWOOD
- 21. CITY OF IRWINDALE
- 22. CITY OF LA PUENTE
- 23. CITY OF LAWNDALE
- 24. CITY OF LYNWOOD
- 25. CITY OF MALIBU
- 26. CITY OF MAYWOOD
- 27. CITY OF MONTEBELLO
- 28. CITY OF MONTEREY PARK
- 29. CITY OF PICO RIVERA
- 30. CITY OF POMONA
- 31. CITY OF ROSEMEAD
- 32. CITY OF SAN FERNANDO
- CITY OF SANTA FE SPRINGS
- 34. CITY OF SANTA MONICA
- 35. CITY OF SOUTH EL MONTE
- 36. CITY OF SOUTH GATE
- 37. CITY OF VERNON
- 38. CITY OF WALNUT
- CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
- 40. CITY OF WESTLAKE VILLAGE

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Measure M Local Return Fund Compliance Area Tested Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

- 1. Funds were expended for transportation purposes.
- 2. Separate Measure M Local Return Account was established.
- 3. Revenues received including allocations, project generated revenues and interest income was properly credited to the Measure M Local Return Account.
- 4. Funds were expended with Metro's approval.
- 5. Funds were not substituted for property tax and are in compliance with the Maintenance of Effort.
- 6. Timely use of funds.
- 7. Administrative expenses are within the 20% cap.
- 8. Expenditure Plan (Form M-One or electronic equivalent) was submitted on time.
- 9. Expenditure Report (Form M-Two or electronic equivalent) was submitted on time.
- 10. Where funds expended were reimbursable by other grants or fund sources, the reimbursement was credited to the Local Return Account upon receipt of the reimbursement.
- 11. Where Measure M funds were given, loaned or exchanged by one jurisdiction to another, the receiving jurisdiction has credited its Local Return Account with the funds received.
- 12. A separate account was established for Capital reserve funds and Capital reserve was approved by Metro.
- 13. Funds were used to augment, not supplant existing local revenues being used for transportation purposes unless there is a fund shortfall.
- 14. Recreational transit form was submitted on time.
- 15. Fund exchanges (trades, loans, or gifts) were approved by Metro.
- 16. Accounting procedures, record keeping and documentation are adequate.



Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Measure M Local Return Fund Summary of Compliance Findings Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

The audits of the County of Los Angeles and 39 cities have resulted in 7 findings. The table below summarizes those findings:

Finding	# of Findings	Responsible Cities/ Finding No. Reference	Questioned Costs	Resolved During the Audit
Funds were expended with Metro's approval.	4	Bell (See Finding #2022-001)	\$ 30,428	\$ 30,428
		Calabasas (See Finding #2022-003)	41,656	41,656
		Compton (See Finding #2022-004)	813,333	813,333
		Montebello (See Finding #2022-005)	52,957	52,957
		Bell Gardens (See Finding #2022-002)	None	None
Expenditure Plan (Form M-One or electronic equivalent) was submitted on time.	3	South Gate (See Finding #2022-006)	None	None
equitationly made dubinition distribution		Vernon (See Finding #2022-007)	None	None
Total Findings and Questioned Costs	7		\$ 938,374	\$ 938,374

Details of the findings are in Schedule 2.

Finding #2022-001	City of Bell
Compliance Reference	Section XXV Administrative, Reporting Requirements, Expenditure Plan (8/1 Table) of the Measure M Local Return Guidelines states that, "To maintain legal eligibility and meet Measure M LR program compliance requirements, Jurisdiction shall submit to Metro an Expenditure Plan (8/1 Table), annually, by August 1st of each year".
	"Expenditure Plan (Form M-One) provides a listing of projects funded with Measure M LR funds along with estimated expenditures for the year. For both operating and capital projects, Part I is to be filled out. Part II is to be filled out for capital projects (projects over \$250,000). Metro will provide LR funds to a capital project or program sponsor who submits the required expenditure plan".
Condition	The City claimed expenditures under MMLRF Project Code 170, Maintenance and Operation, totaling \$30,428 prior to approval by Metro. Although we found the expenditures to be eligible for Local Return funding, the projects had no prior approval from Metro.
Cause	Due to staffing constraints, the budget request was not properly allocated and reviewed when it was submitted online.
Effect	The City claimed expenditures totaling \$30,428 prior to approval by Metro. The City did not comply with the Guidelines.
Recommendation	We recommend the City establish procedures and internal controls to ensure that approval is obtained from Metro prior to spending on Measure M-funded projects.
Management's Response	The \$30,428 request was submitted on time, but due to staffing shortage, there was an oversight, and it was not properly allocated/broken down between the Administration and Operating Costs.
Finding Corrected During the Audit	Metro Program Manager granted a retroactive approval for the said project on September 21, 2022. No follow up is required.

Finding #2022-002	City of Bell Gardens
Compliance Reference	Section XXV Administrative Section, Expenditure Plan (8/1 Table) of the Measure M Local Return Guidelines state that, "To maintain legal eligibility and meet Measure M LR program compliance requirements, Jurisdiction shall submit to Metro an Expenditure Plan (8/1 Table), annually, by August 1st of each year".
	"Expenditures Plan (8/1 Table) provides a listing of projects funded with Measure M LR funds along with estimated expenditures for the year. For both operating and capital projects, Part I is to be filled out. Part II is to be filled out for capital projects (projects over \$ 250,000). Metro will provide LR funds to a capital project or program sponsor who submits the required expenditure plan."
Condition	The City submitted its Expenditure Plan (8/1 Table) on August 10, 2021, 9 days after the due date of August 1, 2021.
Cause	The City inadvertently missed the filing deadline.
Effect	The City was not in compliance with the reporting requirements of the Local Return Guidelines.
Recommendation	We recommend the City establish procedures and internal controls to ensure that the Expenditure Plan (8/1 Table) is submitted by August 1 st as required by the Guidelines.
Management's Response	Management will ensure that the Expenditure Plan (8/1 Table) is submitted in a timely manner by the due date of August 1 st of each fiscal year.
Finding Corrected During the Audit	The City subsequently submitted the Expenditure Plan (8/1 Table). No follow up is required.

Finding #2022-003	City of Calabasas
Compliance Reference	Section XXV Administrative, Reporting Requirements, Expenditure Plan (8/1 Table) of the Measure M Local Return Guidelines states that, "To maintain legal eligibility and meet Measure M LR program compliance requirements, Jurisdiction shall submit to Metro an Expenditure Plan (8/1 Table), annually, by August 1st of each year".
	"Expenditure Plan (Form M-One) provides a listing of projects funded with Measure M LR funds along with estimated expenditures for the year. For both operating and capital projects, Part I is to be filled out. Part II is to be filled out for capital projects (projects over \$250,000). Metro will provide LR funds to a capital project or program sponsor who submits the required expenditure plan".
Condition	The City claimed expenditures under MMLRF Project Code 640, Direct Administration, totaling \$41,656 prior to approval by Metro.
	Although we found the expenditures to be eligible for Local Return funding, the project had no prior approval from Metro.
	This is a repeat finding from prior years' audits.
Cause	The City was in transition staff wise. Information was not properly communicated.
Effect	The City claimed MMLRF expenditures totaling \$41,656 prior to approval by Metro. The City did not comply with the Guidelines.
Recommendation	We recommend the City establish procedures and internal controls to ensure that approval is obtained from Metro prior to spending on Measure M-funded projects.

Finding #2022-003 (Continued)	City of Calabasas
Management's Response	The City agrees with the findings and will continue to work diligently to establish procedures and internal controls to ensure that approval is obtained from Metro prior to spending on any Measure M-funded projects. The City submitted a Budget Request to Metro Program Manager and obtained a retroactive approval of the budgets for said projects on November 22, 2022.
Finding Corrected During the Audit	Metro Program Manager granted a retroactive approval of the said projects. No additional follow up is required.

Finding #2022-004	City of Compton
Compliance Reference	Section XXV Administrative, Expenditure Plan (Form M-One or 8/1 Table) of the Measure M Local Return Guidelines states that, "To maintain legal eligibility and meet Measure M LR program compliance requirements, Jurisdiction shall submit to Metro an Expenditure Plan (Form M-One or 8/1 Table) or its electronic equivalent, annually, by August 1st of each year".
	"Expenditure Plan (Form M-One or 8/1 Table) provides a listing of projects funded with Measure M LR funds along with estimated expenditures for the year. For both operating and capital projects, Part I is to be filled out. Part II is to be filled out for capital projects (projects over \$250,000). Metro will provide LR funds to a capital project or program sponsor who submits the required expenditure plan".
Condition	The City's issuance of the PCLRF, MRLRF and MMLRF Limited Tax Bonds and the use of the proceeds of the bonds for Street Improvement Projects was approved by Metro before the issuance of the bonds in March 2021. Accordingly, the debt service payments were also approved as an eligible expense under MMLRF. However, to comply with Metro's annual budget approval process and reporting requirement, the City is required to submit a Budget Request or "8/1" Table and include the annual budgets for both bond proceeds project expenditures and debt service payment for approval by Metro. Debt service payments of \$813,333 were not included in the Budget Request or "8/1" Table.
	This is a repeat finding from prior year's audit in relation to the MMLRF's prior period adjustment to recognize the FY2020/21 debt service payment of \$207,115.
Cause	The City had received approval for the bond issuance from Metro, but was not aware that separate approvals were required for underlying annual project expenditures including debt service payments through the Budget Request or "8/1" Table.
Effect	The City claimed debt service payments totaling \$813,333 prior to approval by Metro. The City did not comply with the Local Return Guidelines.

Finding #2022-004 (Continued)	City of Compton
Recommendation	We recommend the City establish procedures and internal controls to ensure that approval is obtained from Metro prior to spending on Measure M-funded projects.
Management's Response	The City submitted a Budget Request to Metro Program Manager and obtained a retroactive approval of the said project on December 1, 2022.
Finding Corrected During the Audit	Metro Program Manager granted a retroactive approval of the budgets for said project. No additional follow up is required.

Finding #2022-005	City of Montebello
Compliance Reference	Section XXV Administrative, Expenditure Plan (Form M-One) of the Measure M Local Return Program Guidelines state that, "To maintain legal eligibility and meet Measure M LR program compliance requirements, Jurisdiction shall submit to Metro an Expenditure Plan (Form M-One) or its electronic equivalent, annually, by August 1st of each year". "Expenditure Plan (Form M-One) provides a listing of projects funded with Measure M LR funds along with estimated expenditures for the year. For both operating and capital projects, Part I is to be filled out. Part II is to be filled out for capital projects (projects over \$250,000). Metro will provide LR funds to a capital project or program sponsor who submits the required expenditure plan".
Condition	The City claimed expenditures for the following MMLRF projects prior to approval by Metro:
	a. Project code 490, Sales Tax Revenue Bonds, totaling \$1,605; and
	b. Project code 640, Administrative Overhead, totaling \$51,352.
	Although we found the expenditures to be eligible for Local Return funding, these projects had no prior approval from Metro.
	This is a repeat finding from prior year's audit.
Cause	The City did not anticipate incurring eligible expenditures for these projects. The City was not able to submit a budget request for Metro's approval until after June 30, 2022.
Effect	The City claimed expenditures totaling \$52,957 prior to approval by Metro. The City did not comply with the Guidelines.
Recommendation	We recommend the City establish procedures and internal controls to ensure that approval is obtained from Metro prior to spending on Measure M-funded projects.

Finding #2022-005 (Continued)	City of Montebello
Management's Response	The City submitted a Budget Request to Metro Program Manager and obtained a retroactive approval of the said projects on July 5, 2022 and August 18, 2022.
Finding Corrected During the Audit	Metro Program Manager granted a retroactive approval of the budgets for said projects. No additional follow up is required.

Finding #2022-006	City of South Gate
Compliance Reference	Section XXV Administrative Section, Expenditure Plan (8/1 Table) of the Measure M Local Return Guidelines states that, "To maintain legal eligibility and meet Measure M LR program compliance requirements, Jurisdiction shall submit to Metro an Expenditure Plan (8/1 Table), annually, by August 1st of each year".
	"Expenditures Plan (8/1 Table) provides a listing of projects funded with Measure M LR funds along with estimated expenditures for the year. For both operating and capital projects, Part I is to be filled out. Part II is to be filled out for capital projects (projects over \$ 250,000). Metro will provide LR funds to a capital project or program sponsor who submits the required expenditure plan."
Condition	The City submitted its Expenditure Plan (8/1 Table) on August 10, 2021, 9 days after the due date of August 1, 2021.
Cause	The City inadvertently missed the filing deadline.
Effect	The City was not in compliance with the reporting requirements of the Local Return Guidelines.
Recommendation	We recommend the City establish procedures and internal controls to ensure that the Expenditure Plan (8/1 Table) is submitted by August 1 st as required by the Guidelines.
Management's Response	Management will ensure that the Expenditure Plan (8/1 Table) is submitted in a timely manner by the due date of August 1 st of each fiscal year.
Finding Corrected During the Audit	The City subsequently submitted the Expenditure Plan (8/1 Table). No follow up is required.

Finding #2022-007	City of Vernon
Compliance Reference	Section XXV Administrative Section, Expenditure Plan (8/1 Table) of the Measure M Local Return Guidelines states that, "To maintain legal eligibility and meet Measure M LR program compliance requirements, Jurisdiction shall submit to Metro an Expenditure Plan (8/1 Table), annually, by August 1st of each year".
	"Expenditures Plan (8/1 Table) provides a listing of projects funded with Measure M LR funds along with estimated expenditures for the year. For both operating and capital projects, Part I is to be filled out. Part II is to be filled out for capital projects (projects over \$ 250,000). Metro will provide LR funds to a capital project or program sponsor who submits the required expenditure plan."
Condition	The City submitted its Expenditure Plan (8/1 Table) on August 10, 2021, 9 days after the due date of August 1, 2021.
Cause	The City inadvertently missed the filing deadline.
Effect	The City was not in compliance with the reporting requirements of the Local Return Guidelines.
Recommendation	We recommend the City establish procedures and internal controls to ensure that the Expenditure Plan (8/1 Table) is submitted by August 1 st as required by the Guidelines.
Management's Response	Management will ensure that the Expenditure Plan (8/1 Table) is submitted in a timely manner by the due date of August 1.
Finding Corrected During the Audit	The City subsequently submitted the Expenditure Plan (8/1 Table). No follow up is required.



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