

SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAY EMERGENCIES
(A Component Unit of the
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority)
Financial Statements and Supplementary Information
June 30, 2023
(With Independent Auditor's Report Thereon)

SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAY EMERGENCIES
(A Component Unit of the
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority)

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Auditor's Opinion

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Board of Directors
Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies
Los Angeles, California

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund of the Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE), a component unit of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise SAFE's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and the major fund of SAFE as of June 30, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards (Government Auditing Standards)*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. 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 SAFE, 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 opinions.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and 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 SAFE'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 as a whole 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.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we

- 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 SAFE'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 SAFE's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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.

Required Supplementary Information

Management has omitted the management's discussion and analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by 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. Our opinions on the basic financial statements are not affected by this missing information.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise SAFE's basic financial statements. The schedule of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances – budget and actual is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic 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 basic financial statements. The 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 schedule of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances – budget and actual is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic 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 December 6, 2023 on our consideration of SAFE's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely 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 SAFE'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 SAFE's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Crowe LLP". The letters are cursive and fluid.

Crowe LLP

Los Angeles, California
December 6, 2023

SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAY EMERGENCIES

(A Component Unit of the
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority)

Statement of Net Position

June 30, 2023

(Amounts expressed in thousands)

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
Assets:	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 12,015
Investments	26,865
Intergovernmental receivable	1,419
Interest receivable	77
Total assets	<u>40,376</u>
Liabilities:	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	<u>971</u>
Total liabilities	<u>971</u>
Net position:	
Restricted for motorist aid system projects	<u>39,405</u>
Total net position	<u>\$ 39,405</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAY EMERGENCIES

(A Component Unit of the
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority)

Statement of Activities

June 30, 2023

(Amounts expressed in thousands)

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
Program expenses, net of revenues:	
Transit operations:	
Congestion relief operations	\$ 5,040
Total program expenses	<u>5,040</u>
General revenues:	
License fees	8,126
Investment income	1,009
Total general revenues	<u>9,135</u>
Change in net position	4,095
Net position – beginning of year	<u>35,310</u>
Net position – end of year	<u><u>\$ 39,405</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAY EMERGENCIES

(A Component Unit of the
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority)

Balance Sheet

June 30, 2023

(Amounts expressed in thousands)

	<u>Special Revenue Fund</u>
Assets:	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 12,015
Investments	26,865
Intergovernmental receivable	1,419
Interest receivable	77
Total assets	<u>\$ 40,376</u>
Liabilities:	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	<u>971</u>
Fund balance:	
Restricted for motorist aid system projects	<u>39,405</u>
Total liabilities and fund balance	<u><u>\$ 40,376</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAY EMERGENCIES
 (A Component Unit of the
 Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority)
 Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance
 June 30, 2023

	Special Revenue Fund
Revenues:	
License fees	\$ 8,126
Investment income	1,009
Total revenues	9,135
Expenditures:	
Administration and other transportation projects	5,040
Total expenditures	5,040
Net change in fund balance	4,095
Fund balance – beginning of year	35,310
Fund balance – end of year	\$ 39,405

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAY EMERGENCIES

(A Component Unit of the
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority)
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
June 30, 2023

The notes to the basic financial statements are a summary of significant accounting policies and other disclosures considered necessary for a clear understanding of the accompanying basic financial statements.

Unless otherwise indicated, all dollar amounts are expressed in thousands.

(1) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) *Reporting Entity*

The Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE) was created in February 1988 pursuant to California Streets and Highway Code Section 2550 et seq., and is responsible for the operation, maintenance, and administration of the Los Angeles County Kenneth Hahn Call Box system. Under the authority of the above section, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) is the designated SAFE for Los Angeles County.

As LACMTA's board is SAFE's board, SAFE is a component unit of LACMTA and is included in LACMTA's financial statements as a blended component unit.

(b) *Operations*

SAFE is responsible for the implementation, maintenance, operation, and administration of motorist aid on the network of freeways, highways, and unincorporated county roads within Los Angeles County. SAFE operates and maintains approximately 625 (not in thousands) call boxes along 436 (not in thousands) miles of freeways, state highways, and selected county roads in Los Angeles County. SAFE also funds, operates, and manages the Southern California 511 traveler information system. This system provides real-time and planned traffic, transit and other related traveler information to the public via the phone, web and mobile application.

(c) *Government-wide Financial Statements*

SAFE's financial statements, prepared in accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 34, *Basic Financial Statements and Management's Discussion and Analysis for State and Local Governments*, consist of government-wide statements, including a statement of net position, statement of activities, and fund financial statements, which provide a more detailed level of financial information.

SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAY EMERGENCIES

(A Component Unit of the

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority)

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

June 30, 2023

The government-wide financial statements report information on all of the non-fiduciary activities of the agency and are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting.

The statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses, including centralized expenses of a given function or segment, are offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function or segment. License fees and investment earnings not considered program revenues are reported as general revenues.

(d) Fund Accounting

SAFE utilizes fund accounting to report its financial position and the results of its operations. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain governmental functions or activities. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Funds are classified into three categories: governmental, proprietary, and fiduciary.

Governmental funds are used to account for SAFE's activities. The governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Additionally, the SAFE fund is considered a special revenue governmental fund. Special revenue funds are used to account for specific revenue sources that are legally restricted to specific purposes. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, SAFE considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 90 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred and a valid claim is presented.

(e) Fund Balance and Net Position

Restricted fund balance and net position include amounts that can be spent only for specific purposes stipulated by enabling legislation, by grants, creditors, or by regulations of other governments. SAFE's fund balance and net position were classified as restricted as they can only be used in accordance with the provisions of the California Streets and Highway Code Section 2550 et seq by which the fund was created.

SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAY EMERGENCIES

(A Component Unit of the
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Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

June 30, 2023

(f) *Budgetary Accounting*

Enabling legislation and adopted policies and procedures provide that the SAFE Board of Directors approve an annual budget. The Board of Directors conducts a public hearing for discussion of the proposed annual budget prior to adoption of the final budget. Unexpended appropriations lapse at year-end. The legal level of control is at the fund level, and expenses may not exceed total appropriations without board approval. By policy, the board has provided procedures for management to make revisions within operational or project budgets when there is no net dollar impact to total appropriations. The budget is prepared on a generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) basis.

(g) *Cash and Investments*

SAFE maintains a minimum balance with the Los Angeles County Treasurer's external investment pool. Balances in excess of \$50 are withdrawn and deposited into the LACMTA internal investment pool. Cash and investments are reported at fair market value which is the quoted market price.

(h) *Receivables*

Receivables are net of estimated allowances for uncollectible accounts which are determined based on past experience. Receivables include license fees due from the State Department of Motor Vehicles. As of June 30, 2023, SAFE has a receivable for license fees of \$1,419.

(i) *Vehicle Registration Fees*

Vehicle registration fees revenue is recognized when earned and is generated by a \$1 (amount not in thousands) per each car registered in Los Angeles County, which is collected by the State Department of Motor Vehicles.

(j) *Effects of New GASB Pronouncements*

There were no new GASB Pronouncements applicable to SAFE for the year ended June 30, 2023.

SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAY EMERGENCIES
 (A Component Unit of the
 Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority)
 Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
 June 30, 2023

(2) Cash and Investments

The following is a breakdown of SAFE’s cash and investments as of June 30, 2023.

LACMTA investment pool	\$	38,181
Los Angeles County investment pool		699
Total	\$	38,880

SAFE’s cash balances are pooled with other LACMTA funds participating in the investment pool by the LACMTA Treasurer. These funds are subject to withdrawal from the Treasurer’s pool upon demand. The LACMTA Board of Directors provides regulatory oversight for the LACMTA pool. Each fund maintains an equity interest in the pool and is presented as cash and investments in the Statement of Net Position. The value of the position in the investment pool is the same as the value of the pool. The investment pool is not rated for purposes of evaluating credit risk as of June 30, 2023. Detailed information regarding the LACMTA’s pooled cash and investments can be found in the LACMTA Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). A copy of the LACMTA’s ACFR can be obtained by submitting a written request to the Accounting Department, One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952.

SAFE’s cash balances are also pooled with other County funds and invested by the Los Angeles County Treasurer. These funds are subject to withdrawal from the Treasurer’s pool upon demand. The County Board of Supervisors provides regulatory oversight for the Los Angeles County Investment Pool (LACIP). The value of the position in the investment pool is the same as the value of the pool. The investment pool is not rated for purposes of evaluating credit risk as of June 30, 2023. Detailed information regarding the County’s pooled cash and investments can be found in the County of Los Angeles Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). A copy of the County’s ACFR can be obtained by submitting a written request to the Los Angeles County Auditor-Controller, 500 West Temple Street, Room 525, Los Angeles, CA 90012-2766.

SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAY EMERGENCIES

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Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority)

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

June 30, 2023

In accordance with GASB Statement No. 40, *Deposit and Risk Disclosure - an Amendment of GASB Statement No. 3*, certain required disclosures regarding investment policies and practices with respect to the risk associated with their concentration of credit risk, custodial credit risk, interest rate risk, and foreign currency risk are discussed in the following paragraphs:

(a) Concentration of Credit Risk

Concentration of credit risk is the risk associated with a lack of diversification or having too much invested in a few individual shares. SAFE maintains investment policies that establish thresholds for holdings of individual securities. SAFE does not have any holdings meeting or exceeding these threshold levels. As of June 30, 2023, SAFE does not have any investments with more than 5% of the total investments under one issuer except for obligations of the U.S. government or obligations explicitly guaranteed by the U.S. government.

(b) Custodial Credit Risk

SAFE has no known custodial credit risk for deposits as financial institutions are required by the California Government Code to collateralize deposits of public funds by pledging government securities as collateral. Such collateralization of public funds is accomplished by pooling.

(c) Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in interest rate will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. SAFE measures interest rate risk on its short-term investments using the effective duration method. SAFE maintains policy requiring the average duration of the externally managed short-term investments not to exceed 150% of the benchmark duration and the average duration of the internally managed short-term investments not to exceed three years.

(d) Foreign Currency Risk

Foreign currency risk is the risk that changes in exchange rates will adversely affect the fair values of the cash deposits or investments. As of June 30, 2023, there is no exposure to currency risk as all SAFE cash deposits and investments are denominated in U.S. dollar currency.

SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAY EMERGENCIES
(A Component Unit of the
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority)
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
June 30, 2023

(3) Significant Commitments

SAFE has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Public Transportation Services Corporation (PTSC), a blended component unit of LACMTA, for PTSC to provide cost reimbursable administrative support services to SAFE. The MOU will remain in effect until terminated by either party with a minimum of sixty (60) days written notice.

SAFE had \$1,929 of outstanding contractual commitments as of June 30, 2023 that had not been claimed or disbursed.

SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAY EMERGENCIES
(A Component Unit of the
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority)
Schedules of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal year ended June 30, 2023
(Amounts expressed in thousands)

	Original Budget*	Final Budget*	Actual	Variance with Final Budget
Revenues:				
License fees	\$ 8,038	\$ 8,038	\$ 8,126	\$ 88
Investment income	50	50	1,087	1,037
Net decline in fair value of investments	—	—	(78)	(78)
Total revenues	8,088	8,088	9,135	1,047
Expenditures:				
Administration and other transportation projects	8,403	8,403	5,040	3,363
Total expenditures	8,403	8,403	5,040	3,363
Net change in fund balance	(315)	(315)	4,095	4,410
Fund balances – beginning of year	35,310	35,310	35,310	—
Fund balances – end of year	\$ 34,995	\$ 34,995	\$ 39,405	\$ 4,410

*Budget prepared in accordance with GAAP.

Independent Auditor on Compliance

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 *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

The Board of Directors
Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies
Los Angeles, California

We have audited, in accordance with the 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 governmental activities and the major fund of the Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE) a component unit of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise SAFE's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated December 6, 2023.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered SAFE'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 SAFE's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of SAFE'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 entity'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 in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that have not been identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether SAFE'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 entity'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 entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Crowe LLP". The letters are cursive and fluid.

Crowe LLP

Los Angeles, California
December 6, 2023