



Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy

Accountability Audit Report

Beacon Hill Water and Sewer District

Cowlitz County

For the period January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016

Published December 14, 2017

Report No. 1020361





Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy

December 14, 2017

Board of Commissioners
Beacon Hill Water and Sewer District
Kelso, Washington

Report on Accountability

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you to promote accountability, integrity and openness in government. The State Auditor's Office takes seriously our role of providing state and local governments with assurance and accountability as the independent auditor of public accounts. In this way, we strive to help government work better, cost less, deliver higher value and earn greater public trust.

Independent audits provide essential accountability and transparency for District operations. This information is valuable to management, the governing body and public stakeholders when assessing the government's stewardship of public resources.

The attached comprises our report on the District's compliance and safeguarding of public resources. Our independent audit report describes the overall results and conclusions for areas we examined. We appreciate the opportunity to work with your staff and we value your cooperation during the audit.

Sincerely,

Pat McCarthy
State Auditor
Olympia, WA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Audit Summary.....	4
Related Reports.....	5
Information About The District	6
About The State Auditor’s Office.....	7

AUDIT SUMMARY

Results in brief

In the areas we audited, District operations complied with applicable requirements and provided adequate safeguarding of public resources. The District also complied with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures in the areas we examined.

About the audit

This report contains the results of our independent accountability audit of the Beacon Hill Water and Sewer District from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.

Management is responsible for ensuring compliance and adequate safeguarding of public resources from fraud, loss or abuse. This includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal controls relevant to these objectives.

Our audit involved performing procedures to obtain evidence about the District's uses of public resources, compliance with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures, and internal controls over such matters.

In keeping with general auditing practices, we do not examine every transaction, activity or area. Instead, the areas examined were those representing the highest risk of fraud, loss, abuse, or noncompliance. The following areas were examined during this audit period:

- Payroll and leave accruals
- Billings and accounts receivable
- Financial condition
- Procurement of architectural and engineering services

RELATED REPORTS

Financial

Our opinion on the District's financial statements is provided in a separate report, which includes the District's financial statements. That report is available on our website, <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE DISTRICT

The Beacon Hill Sewer District was formed in 1959 to provide wastewater collection and transmission for the Beacon Hill and Columbia Heights areas of Longview and Kelso. Lexington area customers were added to the system in the early 1970s. On December 28, 2010, the District acquired the water system from Cowlitz County Public Utility District No. 1 and now serves approximately 4,000 customers.

An elected, three-member Board of Commissioners governs the District. Board Members serve staggered, six-year terms. The Board appoints a District Manager to oversee the District's daily operations as well as its 10 employees. For 2016, the District operated on an annual budget of approximately \$3.5 million.

Contact information related to this report	
Address:	Beacon Hill Water and Sewer District 1121 Westside Highway Kelso, WA 98626
Contact:	Debbie Vela, Financial Administrator
Telephone:	(360) 636-3860 x 11
Website:	www.bhwsd.org

Information current as of report publish date.

Audit history

You can find current and past audit reports for the Beacon Hill Water and Sewer District at <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

ABOUT THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

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

We work with our audit clients and citizens to achieve our vision of government that works for citizens, by helping governments work better, cost less, deliver higher value, and earn greater public trust.

In fulfilling our mission to hold state and local governments accountable for the use of public resources, we also hold ourselves accountable by continually improving our audit quality and operational efficiency and developing highly engaged and committed employees.

As an elected agency, the State Auditor's Office has the independence necessary to objectively perform audits and investigations. Our audits are designed to comply with professional standards as well as to satisfy the requirements of federal, state, and local laws.

Our audits look at financial information and compliance with state, federal and local laws on the part of all local governments, including schools, and all state agencies, including institutions of higher education. In addition, we conduct performance audits of state agencies and local governments as well as [fraud](#), state [whistleblower](#) and [citizen hotline](#) investigations.

The results of our work are widely distributed through a variety of reports, which are available on our [website](#) and through our free, electronic [subscription](#) service.

We take our role as partners in accountability seriously, and provide training and technical assistance to governments, and have an extensive quality assurance program.

Contact information for the State Auditor's Office	
Public Records requests	PublicRecords@sao.wa.gov
Main telephone	(360) 902-0370
Toll-free Citizen Hotline	(866) 902-3900
Website	www.sao.wa.gov