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July 10, 2020

Great Lakes Water Authority
735 Randolph Street, 15th Floor
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Thank you for using Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP ("Baker Tilly" or "we" or "our") as your auditors.

The purpose of this letter (the "Engagement Letter") is to confirm our understanding of the terms and objectives of our engagement and the nature of the services we will provide as independent accountants of the Great Lakes Water Authority ("you" or "your").

Service and Related Report

We will audit the financial statements of the Great Lakes Water Authority as of and for the years ended June 30, 2020 and 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements. Upon completion of our audit, we will provide the Great Lakes Water Authority with our audit report on the financial statements and supplemental information referred to below. If, for any reasons caused by or relating to the affairs or management of the Great Lakes Water Authority, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to or have not formed an opinion, or if we determine in our professional judgment the circumstances necessitate, we may withdraw and decline to issue a report as a result of this engagement.

The following supplementary information accompanying the financial statements will also be subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, and our auditor's report will provide an opinion on it in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

- > Combining and Individual Fund Schedules included within the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

The following supplementary information will also be subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, and our auditor's report will provide an opinion on it in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

- > Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (if in separate document from financial statements)

Accounting standards generally accepted in the United States of America provide for certain required supplementary information ("RSI"), such as management's discussion and analysis, to supplement the Great Lakes Water Authority's financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to the Great Lakes Water Authority's RSI in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. These limited procedures will consist of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's response to our inquiries, the financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the financial statements. We will 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. The following RSI is required by generally accepted accounting principles and will be subjected to certain limited procedures, but will not be audited:

- > Management's Discussion and Analysis
- > Defined Benefit Pension Plan Schedules

We will read the following other information accompanying the financial statements to identify any material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements; however, the other information will not be subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements and our auditor's report will not provide an opinion or any assurance on that other information:

- > Introductory Section
- > Statistical Section

Our Responsibilities and Limitations

The objective of a financial statement audit is the expression of an opinion on the financial statements. The objective also includes reporting on:

- > Internal control related to the financial statements and compliance with laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts or grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.
- > Internal control related to major federal programs and an opinion (or disclaimer of opinion) on compliance with laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts or grant agreements that could have a direct and material effect on each major program in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* ("Uniform Guidance").

The *Government Auditing Standards* report on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance and other matters will include a paragraph that states (i) that the purpose of the report is solely to describe the scope of 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, and (ii) that the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. The Uniform Guidance report on internal control over compliance will include a paragraph that states that the purpose of the report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Both reports will state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose.

We will be responsible for performing the audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAS"); the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996; the Uniform Guidance, and will include tests of accounting records, a determination of major program(s) in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions and to render the required reports.

These standards require that we plan and perform our audit to obtain reasonable, rather than absolute, assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether from (i) errors, (ii) fraudulent financial reporting, (iii) misappropriation of assets, or (iv) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the Great Lakes Water Authority or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the Great Lakes Water Authority. Because the determination of abuse is subjective, *Government Auditing Standards* do not expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting abuse. Our audit will include examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. Our audit does not relieve management and the audit committee or equivalent group charged with governance of their responsibilities.

The audit will include obtaining an understanding of the Great Lakes Water Authority and its environment, including internal controls, sufficient to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and to determine the nature, timing and extent of further audit procedures. An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify deficiencies in internal control. However, during the audit, we will communicate to management and the audit committee or equivalent group charged with governance internal control matters that are required to be communicated under professional standards. We will also inform you of any other matters involving internal control, if any, as required by *Government Auditing Standards* and the Uniform Guidance.

As required by the Uniform Guidance, we will perform tests of controls over compliance to evaluate the effectiveness of the design and operation of controls that we consider relevant to preventing or detecting material noncompliance with compliance requirements applicable to each major federal award program. However, our tests will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on those controls and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control over compliance issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance.

We will design our audit to obtain reasonable, but not absolute, assurance of detecting misstatements due to errors or fraud that would have a material effect on the financial statements as well as other illegal acts having a direct and material effect on financial statement amounts. An audit is not designed to detect error or fraud that is immaterial to the financial statements. Our audit will not include a detailed audit of transactions, such as would be necessary to disclose errors or fraud that did not cause a material misstatement of the financial statements. It is important to recognize that there are inherent limitations in the auditing process. Audits are based on the concept of selective testing of the data underlying the financial statements, which involves judgment regarding the areas to be tested and the nature, timing, extent and results of the tests to be performed. Our audit is not a guarantee of the accuracy of the financial statements and, therefore, is subject to the limitation that material errors or fraud or other illegal acts having a direct and material financial statement impact or a direct and material effect on major federal programs, if they exist, may not be detected. Because of the characteristics of fraud, particularly those involving concealment through collusion, falsified documentation and management's ability to override controls, an audit designed and executed in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, may not detect a material fraud. Further, while effective internal control reduces the likelihood that errors, fraud or other illegal acts will occur and remain undetected, it does not eliminate that possibility. For these reasons, we cannot ensure that errors, fraud or other illegal acts or noncompliance, if present, will be detected. However, we will communicate to you, as appropriate, any such matters that we identify during our audit. Also, if required by *Government Auditing Standards*, we will report known or likely fraud, illegal acts, violations of provisions of contracts or grant agreements, or abuse directly to parties outside of the Great Lakes Water Authority.

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of the Great Lakes Water Authority's compliance with the provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and agreements, including grant agreements. However, the objective of those procedures will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion in our report on compliance issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

The Uniform Guidance require that we also plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether you have complied with applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements applicable to major programs. Our procedures will consist of test of transactions and other applicable procedures described in the OMB Compliance Supplement for the types of compliance requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each of the Great Lakes Water Authority's major programs. The purpose of those procedures will be to express an opinion on your compliance with requirements applicable to each of your major programs in our report on compliance issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance.

We are also responsible for determining that the audit committee or equivalent group charged with governance is informed about certain other matters related to the conduct of the audit, including (i) our responsibility under GAAS, (ii) an overview of the planned scope and timing of the audit, and (iii) significant findings from the audit, which include (a) our views about the qualitative aspects of your significant accounting practices, accounting estimates, and financial statement disclosures; (b) difficulties encountered in performing the audit; (c) uncorrected misstatements and material corrected misstatements that were brought to the attention of management as a result of auditing procedures; and (d) other significant and relevant findings or issues (e.g., any disagreements with management about matters that could be significant to your financial statements or our report thereon, consultations with other independent accountants, issues discussed prior to our retention as independent auditors, fraud and illegal acts, and all significant deficiencies and material weaknesses identified during the audit). Lastly, we are responsible for ensuring that the audit committee or equivalent group charged with governance receives copies of certain written communications between us and management including written communications on accounting, auditing, internal controls or operational matters and representations that we are requesting from management.

The audit will not be planned or conducted in contemplation of reliance of any specific third party or with respect to any specific transaction. Therefore, items of possible interest to a third party will not be specifically addressed and matters may exist that would be addressed differently by a third party, possibly in connection with a specific transaction.

Management's Responsibilities

The Great Lakes Water Authority's management is responsible for the financial statements referred to above. Management is also responsible for identifying government award programs and understanding and complying with the compliance requirements, and for preparation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in accordance with the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. In this regard, management is responsible for establishing policies and procedures that pertain to the maintenance of adequate accounting records and effective internal controls, including internal controls over compliance, and for evaluating and monitoring ongoing activities; to help ensure that appropriate goals and objectives are met; following laws and regulations; and ensuring that there is reasonable assurance that government programs are administered in compliance with applicable requirements; and ensuring that management is reliable and financial information is reliable and properly reported. Management is also responsible for implementing systems designed to achieve compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements. Your responsibilities also include identifying significant vendor relationships in which the vendor has responsibility for program compliance and for the accuracy and completeness of that information. You are also responsible for the selection and application of accounting principles, the authorization of receipts and disbursements, the safeguarding of assets, the proper recording of transactions in the accounting records, for reporting financial information in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP"), and for compliance with applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements.

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Management is also responsible for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud, and for informing us in the management representation letter (i) about all known or suspected fraud affecting the Great Lakes Water Authority involving: (a) management, (b) employees who have significant roles in internal control over financial reporting, and (c) others where the fraud or illegal acts could have a material effect on the financial statements; and (ii) of its knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the Great Lakes Water Authority received in communications from employees, former employees, analysts, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the entity complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants and for taking timely and appropriate steps to remedy fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts or grant agreements, or abuse that we report. Additionally, as required by the Uniform Guidance, it is management's responsibility to follow up and take corrective action on reported audit findings and to prepare a summary schedule of prior audit findings and a corrective action plan. The summary schedule of prior audit findings should be available for our review before we begin fieldwork.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining a process for tracking the status of audit findings and recommendations. Management is also responsible for identifying for us previous financial audits, attestation engagements, performance audits or other studies related to the objectives discussed above. This responsibility includes relaying to us corrective actions taken to address significant findings and recommendations resulting from those audits, attestation engagements, performance audits or studies. You are also responsible for providing management's views on our current findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as your planned corrective actions for the report, and for the timing and format for providing that information.

You are responsible for the preparation of the supplementary information in conformity with GAAP. You agree to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains, and indicates that we have reported on, the supplementary information. You also agree to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the supplementary information that includes our report thereon. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the representation letter that (a) you are responsible for presentation of the supplementary information in accordance with GAAP; (b) that you believe the supplementary information, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with GAAP; (c) that the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (d) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the supplementary information.

You are responsible for preparation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards (including notes and noncash assistance received) in conformity with the Uniform Guidance. You agree to include our report on the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in any document that contains and indicates that we have reported on the schedule of expenditures of federal awards. You also agree to make the audited financial statements readily available to intended users of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards no later than the date the schedule of expenditures of federal and the awards is issued with our report thereon. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in a written representation letter that (a) you are responsible for presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in accordance with the Uniform Guidance; (b) that you believe the schedule of expenditures of federal awards including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with the Uniform Guidance; (c) that the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior year (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (d) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards.

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Management is responsible for (i) adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and for affirming to us in a management representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period under audit are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole, and (ii) notifying us of all material weaknesses, including other significant deficiencies, in the design or operation of your internal control over financial reporting that are reasonably likely to adversely affect your ability to record, process, summarize and report external financial data reliably in accordance with GAAP. Management is also responsible for identifying and ensuring that the Great Lakes Water Authority complies with the laws and regulations applicable to its activities.

As part of management's responsibility for the financial statements and the effectiveness of its system of internal control over financial reporting, management is responsible for making available to us, on a timely basis, all of your original accounting records and related information and for the completeness and accuracy of that information and your personnel to whom we may direct inquiries. As required by GAAS, we will make specific inquiries of management and others about the representations embodied in the financial statements and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting. GAAS also requires that we obtain written representations covering audited schedule of expenditures of federal awards, federal award programs, and compliance with laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements from certain members of management. The results of our audit tests, the responses to our inquiries, and the written representations, comprise the evidential matter we intend to rely upon in forming our opinion on the financial statements.

Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP is not a municipal advisor as defined in Section 975 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act or under Section 15B of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act"). Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP is not recommending an action to the Great Lakes Water Authority; is not acting as an advisor to you and does not owe a fiduciary duty pursuant to Section 15B of the Act to you with respect to the information and material contained in the deliverables issued under this engagement. Any municipal advisory services would only be performed by Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors LLC ("BTMA") pursuant to a separate engagement letter between you and BTMA. You should discuss any information and material contained in the deliverables with any and all internal and external advisors and experts that you deem appropriate before acting on this information or material.

Nonattest Services

Prior to or as part of our audit engagement, it may be necessary for us to perform certain nonattest services. For purposes of this letter, nonattest services include services that *Government Auditing Standards* refers to as nonaudit services.

None of these nonattest services constitute an audit under generally accepted auditing standards including *Government Auditing Standards*.

We will not perform any management functions or make management decisions on your behalf with respect to any nonattest services we provide.

In connection with our performance of any nonattest services, you agree that you will:

- > Continue to make all management decisions and perform all management functions, including approving all journal entries and general ledger classifications when they are submitted to you.
- > Designate an employee with suitable skill, knowledge, and/or experience, preferably within senior management, to oversee the services we perform.
- > Evaluate the adequacy and results of the nonattest services we perform.

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- > Accept responsibility for the results of our nonattest services.
- > Establish and maintain internal controls, including monitoring ongoing activities related to the nonattest function.

On a periodic basis, as needed, we will meet with you to discuss your accounting records and the management implications of your financial statements. We will notify you, in writing, of any matters that we believe you should be aware of and will meet with you upon request.

Government Auditing Standards require that we provide you with a copy of our most recent external peer review report and any subsequent peer review reports received during the period of the contract. Our most recent peer review report accompanies this letter.

This engagement is subject to the terms and conditions outlined in the professional services contract No. 1900933.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to you.



MOSSADAMS

Report on the Firm's System of Quality Control

September 26, 2018

To the Partners of Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP and the
AICPA National Peer Review Committee

We have reviewed the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP (the firm) applicable to engagements not subject to PCAOB permanent inspection in effect for the year ended March 31, 2018. Our peer review was conducted in accordance with the Standards for Performing and Reporting on Peer Reviews established by the Peer Review Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (Standards).

A summary of the nature, objectives, scope, limitations of, and the procedures performed in a System Review as described in the Standards may be found at www.aicpa.org/prsummary. The summary also includes an explanation of how engagements identified as not performed or reported in conformity with applicable professional standards, if any, are evaluated by a peer reviewer to determine a peer review rating.

Firm's Responsibility

The firm is responsible for designing a system of quality control and complying with it to provide the firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with applicable professional standards in all material respects. The firm is also responsible for evaluating actions to promptly remediate engagements deemed as not performed or reported in conformity with professional standards, when appropriate, and for remediating weaknesses in its system of quality control, if any.

Peer Reviewer's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the design of the system of quality control and the firm's compliance therewith based on our review.

Required Selections and Considerations

Engagements selected for review included engagements performed under *Government Auditing Standards*, including compliance audits under the Single Audit Act, audits of employee benefit plans, audits performed under FDICIA, an audit of a broker-dealer, and examinations of service organizations [SOC 1 and SOC 2 engagements].

As a part of our peer review, we considered reviews by regulatory entities as communicated by the firm, if applicable, in determining the nature and extent of our procedures.

Opinion

In our opinion, the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP applicable to engagements not subject to PCAOB permanent inspection in effect for the year ended March 31, 2018, has been suitably designed and complied with to provide the firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with applicable professional standards in all material respects. Firms can receive a rating of pass, pass with deficiency(ies) or fail. Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP has received a peer review rating of *pass*.

Moss Adams LLP