

October 24, 2025

Board of Commissioners
Michael O'Conner, Fire Chief
Montezuma Fire Protection District
21 N 4th Street
Rio Vista, California 94571

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the services we are to provide Montezuma Fire Protection District for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2025.

Audit Scope and Objectives

We will audit the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information, and the disclosures, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements of Montezuma Fire Protection District as of and for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2025. Accounting standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) provide for certain required supplementary information (RSI), such as management's discussion and analysis (MD&A), to supplement Montezuma Fire Protection District 's 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. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to Montezuma Fire Protection District 's RSI in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). 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 responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic 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 appropriate evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance. The following RSI is required by GAAP and will be subjected to certain limited procedures, but will not be audited:

- 1) Management's Discussion and Analysis (if requested)
- 2) Budget vs Actual Analysis

The objectives of our audit are to obtain reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion about whether your financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with GAAP; and report on the fairness of the supplementary information referred to in the second paragraph when considered in relation to the financial statements as a whole. 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. Misstatements, including omissions, can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment of a reasonable user made based on the financial statements.

The objectives also include reporting on internal control over financial reporting and compliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and award agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

We will conduct our audit in accordance with GAAS and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and will include tests of your accounting records and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions. As part of an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

We will evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management. We will also evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and determine whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation. We will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the government or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the government. Because the determination of waste and abuse is subjective, *Government Auditing Standards* do not expect auditors to perform specific procedures to detect waste or abuse in financial audits nor do they expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting waste or abuse.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, combined with the inherent limitations of internal control, and because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, there is an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements may not be detected by us, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*. In addition, an audit is not designed to detect immaterial misstatements or violations of laws or governmental regulations that do not have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, we will inform the appropriate level of management of any material errors, fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets that comes to our attention. We will also inform the appropriate level of management of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential. Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

We will also conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the government's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our procedures will include tests of documentary evidence supporting the transactions recorded in the accounts, tests of the physical existence of inventories, and direct confirmation of receivables and certain assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected customers, creditors, and financial institutions. We will also request written representations from your attorneys as part of the engagement.

We have identified the following significant risks of material misstatement as part of our audit planning:

- 1) Classification and amounts reported for fixed assets.

We may, from time to time and depending on the circumstances, use third-party service providers in serving your account. We may share confidential information about you with these service providers but remain committed to maintaining the confidentiality and security of your information. Accordingly, we maintain internal policies, procedures, and safeguards to protect the confidentiality of your personal information. In addition, we will secure confidentiality agreements with all service providers to maintain the confidentiality of your information and we will take reasonable precautions to determine that they have appropriate procedures in place to prevent the unauthorized release of your confidential information to others. In the event that we are unable to secure an appropriate confidentiality agreement, you will be asked to provide your consent prior to the sharing of your confidential information with the third-party service provider. Furthermore, we will remain responsible for the work provided by any such third-party service providers.

Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you of your responsibilities.

Audit Procedures-Internal Control

We will obtain an understanding of the government and its environment, including the system of internal control, sufficient to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and to design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks and obtain evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinions. Tests of controls may be performed to test the effectiveness of certain controls that we consider relevant to preventing and detecting errors and fraud that are material to the financial statements and to preventing and detecting misstatements resulting from illegal acts and other noncompliance matters that have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. Our tests, if performed, will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on internal control and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*. 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, misrepresentation, or the override of internal control. An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. Accordingly, we will express no such opinion. However, during the audit, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance internal control related matters that are required to be communicated under AICPA professional standards and *Government Auditing Standards*.

Audit Procedures-Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of Montezuma Fire Protection District 's compliance with the provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and agreements. However, the objective of our audit 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*.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that you acknowledge and understand your responsibility for designing, implementing, and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, including monitoring ongoing activities; for the selection and application of accounting principles; and for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America with the oversight of those charged with governance.

Management is responsible for making drafts of financial statements, all financial records, and related information available to us and for the accuracy and completeness of that information (including information from outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers). You are also responsible for providing us with (1) access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, such as records, documentation, identification of all related parties and all related-party relationships and transactions, and other matters; (2) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit; and (3) unrestricted access to persons within the government from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence. At the conclusion of our audit, we will require certain written representations from you about your responsibilities for the financial statements; compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements; and other responsibilities required by GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*.

Your responsibilities include adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and confirming to us in the management representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements of each opinion unit taken as a whole.

You are responsible for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud, and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud affecting the government involving (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. Your responsibilities include informing us of your knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the government received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for identifying compliance issues and ensuring that the government complies with applicable laws and regulations.

You are responsible for the preparation of the supplementary information in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (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. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the representation letter that (1) you are responsible for presentation of the supplementary information in accordance with GAAP; (2) you believe the supplementary information, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with GAAP; (3) 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 (4) you have

disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the supplementary information.

Other Services

We will also assist in preparing the financial statements of Montezuma Fire Protection District in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America based on information provided by you. In addition, we will assist with the preparation and filing of the State Controller's Annual Report of Financial Transactions and review the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for consistency with best practices and the audited financial statements, we will not perform any verification of amounts prepared by your staff.

These nonaudit services do not constitute an audit under *Government Auditing Standards* and such services will not be conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. We will perform the services in accordance with applicable professional standards. The other services are limited to the financial statement services previously defined. We, in our sole professional judgment, reserve the right to refuse to perform any procedure or take any action that could be construed as assuming management responsibilities.

You agree to assume all management responsibilities relating to the financial statements and related notes and any other nonaudit services we provide. You will be required to acknowledge in the management representation letter our assistance with preparation of the financial statements and related notes and that you have reviewed and approved the financial statements and related notes prior to their issuance and have accepted responsibility for them. Further, you agree to oversee the nonaudit services by designating an individual, preferably from senior management, with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience; evaluate the adequacy and results of those services; and accept responsibility for them

Electronic Communication, Client Portal Agreement and File Exchange Processes

In connection with this engagement, we may communicate with you or others via email transmission. As emails can be intercepted and read, disclosed, or otherwise used or communicated by an unintended third party, or may not be delivered to each of the parties to whom they are directed and only to such parties, we cannot guarantee or warrant that email from us will be properly delivered and read only by the addressee. Therefore, we specifically disclaim and waive any liability or responsibility whatsoever for interception or unintentional disclosure of emails transmitted by us in connection with the performance of this engagement. In that regard, you agree that we shall have no liability for any loss or damage to any person or entity resulting from the use of email transmissions, including any consequential, incidental, direct, indirect, or special damages, such as loss of revenues or anticipated profits, or disclosure or communication of confidential or proprietary information.

As part of our commitment to protecting your sensitive information, Fechter & Company works with Thomson Reuters to provide secure, encrypted, file transfer portals (Firm's Client Portal). All documents you prepare for our use in completing the services outlined in this engagement letter (Word, Excel and PDF files) should be transmitted to Fechter & Company through this portal system and all sensitive files will be transmitted through this system. In addition, we will publish all issued financial statements to this portal area for your use as long as you remain a client with Fechter & Company or as required by the terms of our engagement letters.

By using any features of the Firm's Client Portal, the District consents to the following terms and conditions and acknowledges that the Firm is relying on your consent in allowing you to use the Firm's Client Portal. Your continued use of the Firm's Client Portal after the posting of any amended terms and conditions shall constitute your agreement to be bound by any such changes. The Firm may modify, suspend, discontinue, or restrict the use of any portion of the Firm's Client Portal, including the availability of any portion of the content

at any time, without notice or liability.

The Firm will use its best reasonable efforts to provide availability of the Client Portal Service 24X7. The Firm shall not be responsible for any error, omission, interruption, deletion, defect, delay in operation or transmission, communications line failure, theft or destruction, or unauthorized access to the Client Portal. The Firm is not responsible for any problems or technical malfunctions of any telephone or fiber network or lines, computer online systems, servers or providers, computer equipment, software, failure of any email to be received by the Firm on account of technical problems or traffic congestion on the Internet or any website, or any combination thereof, including any injury or damage to the District's computers or peripherals related to downloading any materials from the Client Portal.

Documents are encrypted before being passed over the Internet and while being stored on the Portal and a username and password are required to access files. In addition, documents added to the Portal are scanned for viruses before being uploaded. All files are maintained behind firewalls to protect against outside intruders. *The Firm will use its best efforts to make the Client Portal secure from unauthorized access. However, the District recognizes that no completely secure system for electronic data transfer has yet been devised.*

Logon Accounts and Their Security

- a. The Firm will set up individual logon accounts for those of the District's employees who need access to the Client Portal. Each account will have access only to those document areas requested by Client. (The Firm strongly recommends that Client establish a policy that logon information not be shared with others.) In order to maintain security, the District agrees to designate a single individual as the authorized person to contact the Firm to request employee logons. The initial designee is listed below. Your username will be your email address, all passwords will be established by the user at the time of initial logon.
- b. You acknowledge that the use of username and password is an adequate form of security. You are solely responsible for (1) authorizing, monitoring, controlling access to, and maintaining the strict confidentiality of your username and password; (2) not allowing another person to use your username or password; (3) any charges or damages that may be incurred as a result of your neglect to maintain the strict confidentiality of your username and password; and (4) promptly informing the Firm in writing of any need to deactivate a username due to security concerns or otherwise. The Firm is not liable for any harm related to the misuse or theft of usernames or passwords, disclosure of usernames or passwords, or your authorization to allow another person or entity to access and use the Firm's Client Portal using your username or password. You shall immediately notify the Firm of any unauthorized use of your username or password and any breach of confidentiality. Until the Firm receives this notification from you, you will be held liable for any harm ensuing from the use of your username on the Firm's Client Portal.

Termination of Logon Account

The District agrees to notify the Firm via email at scottg@fechtercpa.com in writing when an individual logon account is to be terminated. The Firm will make every effort to confirm and terminate access within 3 business days. However, the District cannot be assured that access has been terminated until the requester receives an email confirmation of termination.

No Unlawful or Prohibited Use

As a condition of your use of the Client Portal website, you warrant to the Firm that you or your approved users will not use the Firm's Client Portal website for any purpose that is unlawful or prohibited by these terms, conditions, and notices. You may not use the Firm's Client Portal website in any manner that could damage, disable, overburden, or impair the Firm's website or interfere with any other party's use of the Client Portal website. You may not obtain or attempt to obtain any materials or information through any means not intentionally made available or provided for through the Client Portal website.

Information Disclosure

The Firm reserves the right at all times to disclose any information as necessary to satisfy any applicable law, regulation, legal process, or governmental request, or to edit, refuse to post, or to remove any information or materials, in whole or in part, in the Firm's sole discretion.

Client's Responsibility

You must at your own cost (a) provide for your own access to the Internet and pay any services fees, connection charges, and online services usage associated with such access and (b) provide all equipment necessary for you to make such connection to the Client Portal, including a computer and modem.

Dispute Resolution

The parties agree that any dispute between the District and the Firm relating to this Agreement, or the breach of it, shall, if negotiations and other discussions fail, be first submitted to mediation in accordance with the applicable rules for resolving professional accounting and related services disputes of the America Arbitration Association. If the parties are unable to resolve the dispute through mediation within 60 days from the date notice is first given from one party to the other as to the existence of such a dispute and the demand to mediate, then they may proceed to resolve the matter by arbitration if this agreement provides that the particular dispute is subject to arbitration, or by whatever other lawful means are available to them if this agreement does not provide for arbitration of the particular dispute. Costs of any mediation proceeding shall be shared equally by all parties.

WARRANTIES

THE FIRM MAKES NO WARRANTY, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, REGARDING THE EFFICACY OF THE SECURITY OF THE CLIENT PORTAL. THE CONTENT AND SERVICES ARE PROVIDED ON AN "AS IS" BASIS AND THE FIRM SPECIFICALLY DISCLAIMS ANY EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, WARRANTIES OF FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, OR WARRANTIES AGAINST INFRINGEMENT. THE FIRM, ITS AFFILIATES, EMPLOYEES, AND AGENTS SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY DAMAGES OR LOSSES, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, INDIRECT, CONSEQUENTIAL, SPECIAL, INCIDENTAL, OR PUNITIVE DAMAGES, RESULTING FROM OR CAUSED BY THE PORTAL, ITS CONTENT, OR SECURITY SERVICES PROVIDED HEREIN. THE FIRM DOES NOT WARRANT THAT THE CLIENT PORTAL'S FUNCTIONS WILL BE UNINTERRUPTED OR ERROR-FREE, THAT DEFECTS WILL BE CORRECTED, OR THAT THE FIRM'S CLIENT PORTAL OR THE SERVER THAT MAKES IT AVAILABLE ARE FREE OF VIRUSES OR OTHER HARMFUL COMPONENTS.

IF YOU ARE DISSATISFIED WITH ANY PORTION OF THE PORTAL, INFORMATION, DOCUMENTS, OR COMMUNICATIONS ON THE PORTAL, OR WITH ANY OF THESE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF USE, YOUR SOLE AND EXCLUSIVE REMEDY IS TO CEASE USING THE PORTAL AND THE INFORMATION, DOCUMENTS, OR COMMUNICATIONS YOU OBTAINED FROM THE PORTAL.

Term and Termination. This Agreement and the services contemplated by it may be terminated by either the Firm or Client with or without cause and with or without notice at any time. The Firm may at any time terminate in whole or in part the Firm's Client Portal without notice or liability.

Authorized person to contact the Firm to request employee logon User IDs:

Name: Alfred Abruzzini

Title: Interim Fire Chief

Email: ALAbruzzini@SolenoCounty.gov

Engagement Administration, Fees, and Other

We may from time to time and depending on the circumstances, use third-party service providers in serving your account. We may share confidential information about you with these service providers, but remain committed to maintaining the confidentiality and security of your information. Accordingly, we maintain internal policies, procedures, and safeguards to protect the confidentiality of your personal information. In addition, we will secure confidentiality agreements with all service providers to maintain the confidentiality of your information and we will take reasonable precautions to determine that they have appropriate procedures in place to prevent the unauthorized release of your confidential information to others. In the event that we are unable to secure an appropriate confidentiality agreement, you will be asked to provide your consent prior to the sharing of your confidential information with the third-party service provider. Furthermore, we will remain responsible for the work provided by any such third-party service providers.

We understand that your employees will prepare all cash, accounts receivable, or other confirmations we request and will locate any documents selected by us for testing.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of Fechter & Company, Certified Public Accountants or its assigns and constitutes confidential information.

We expect to begin our audit during November 2025 and to issue our reports no later than February 15, 2026. Scott German, CPA is the engagement partner and is responsible for supervising the engagement and signing the report or authorizing another individual to sign it.

Our fees for these services will be as follows:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Audit fees	\$ 16,030	\$ 15,152
Preparation of the State Controllers Report of Financial Transactions (each year prepared)	<u>1,500</u>	<u>1,500</u>
Total core audit services	<u>\$ 17,530</u>	<u>\$ 16,652</u>

These amounts will be billed as follows:

Upon submission of engagement letter, payable July 1	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
Upon completion of fieldwork	11,000	10,000
Due upon presentation of final report	1,030	1,152
Due upon filing of the State Controllers Report of Financial Transactions	<u>1,500</u>	<u>1,500</u>
	<u>\$ 17,530</u>	<u>\$ 16,652</u>

We will bill for actual expenses as incurred which may include travel, hotel, meals, word processing, postage etc. In accordance with our firm policies, work may be suspended if your account becomes 30 days or more overdue and may not be resumed until your account is paid in full. If we elect to terminate our services for nonpayment, our engagement will be deemed to have been completed upon written notification of termination, even if we have not completed our report. You will be obligated to compensate us for all time expended and to reimburse us for all out-of-pocket costs through the date of termination. The above fee is based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel and the assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered during the audit. If significant additional time is necessary, we will discuss it with you and arrive at a new fee estimate before we incur the additional costs.

Reporting

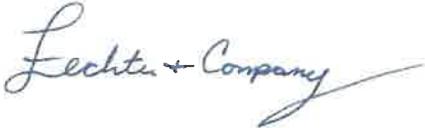
We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of Montezuma Fire Protection District 's financial statements . Our report will be addressed to The Board of Commissioners and Management of Montezuma Fire Protection District . Circumstances may arise in which our report may differ from its expected form and content based on the results of our audit. Depending on the nature of these circumstances, it may be necessary for us to modify our opinions, add a separate section, or add an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph to our auditor's report, or if necessary, withdraw from this engagement. If our opinions are other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed opinions, we may decline to express opinions or withdraw from this engagement.

We will also provide a report (that does not include an opinion) on internal control related to the financial statements and compliance with the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements as required by *Government Auditing Standards*. The report on internal control and on compliance and other matters will state (1) 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 on compliance, and (2) 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 report will also state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose. If during our audit we become aware that Montezuma Fire Protection District is subject to an audit requirement that is not encompassed in the terms of this engagement, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance that an audit in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* may not satisfy the relevant legal, regulatory, or contractual requirements.

We maintain a license with the California State Board of Accountancy, we will notify you of any change of the status of our license.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to Montezuma Fire Protection District and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of our engagement. If you have any questions, please let us know. If you agree with the terms of our engagement as described in this letter, please sign the attached copy and return it to us.

Very truly yours,



Fechter & Company
Certified Public Accountants

RESPONSE:

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of Montezuma Fire Protection District

Management signature



Title: Interim Fire Chief

Date: 11/4/2025

Governance signature



Title: BOARD OF DIRECTORS CHAIR

Date: 11-03-25