

CARMEL AREA WASTEWATER DISTRICT

Kenneth H. Pun, CPA, CGMA

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PROPOSAL

Financial Audit Services



**THE
PUN GROUP**
ACCOUNTANTS & ADVISORS



Kenneth H. Pun, CPA, CGMA
Founder & Managing Partner

WHY CHOOSE THE PUN GROUP LLP?

“ The Pun Group’s most valuable asset is our people, they and their deep experience drive our every interaction with clients. ”

- Big firm expertise, small firm values
- Personal attention meets technical expertise
- A unique firm culture
- Innovation embraced
- Achievable plans to move your organization forward

The Pun Group LLP is recognized for its professionalism, integrity, and providing clients with practical solutions unique to their circumstances and issues. You will receive a superior level of service and a quality audit.

Thank You!

Thank you for allowing us to submit our qualifications to provide you with
Financial Audit Services.

The Pun Group LLP
Certified Public Accountants and Business Advisors

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The Pun Group Wins 2021 “Best of Accounting” Award



The Pun Group is proud to have won 2021's Best of Accounting® award from ClearlyRated. ClearlyRated recognizes the best in staffing, accounting, and other professional services by recording Net Promoter Scores® (NPS) and reviews to measure client satisfaction.

This award is unique in the U.S. and Canada because it is the only accolade that relies solely on ratings submitted from third-party validated survey responses. Firms that receive a ClearlyRated award are recognized as “leading their industry through their ongoing commitment to service excellence.” The Pun Group received a positive 75% NPS, reflecting an exceptionally loyal and satisfied audience.

Our firm excelled in five key areas: Responsiveness, Quality, Value, Needs Understanding, and Proactive Approach.

About ClearlyRated

Rooted in satisfaction research for professional service firms, ClearlyRated utilizes a Net Promoter® Score survey program to help professional service firms measure their service experience, build an online reputation, and differentiate on service quality.



“The Pun Group has always provided exceptional service. They are always there to answer any questions we have throughout the year.”

Kathleen J.



“In all these years they have been wonderful to work with and responsive.”

Graciela S.



“The Pun Group returns our calls promptly, provides responses to our questions because they have a thorough understanding of our needs and of the District, and are proactive in their approach to helping us. Also, the majority of the Board really likes that Ken Pun himself comes and presents the audit to them.”

State & Local Client



“I really appreciate in such a difficult time, The Pun Group continually provides valuable webinars, not only to extend our knowledge but also to provide us the updated status. Thank you!”

Anonymous Client

December 27, 2021

Carmel Area Wastewater District
Ms. Barbara Buikema, General Manager
P.O. Box 221428 Carmel, CA 93922
buikema@cawd.org

Dear Ms. Buikema:

Please allow us to introduce our Firm and share our qualifications and proposed audit plan for the Carmel Area Wastewater District (the "District," "CAWD") according to your Request for Proposals for Financial Audit Services for fiscal years ending June 30, 2022, through 2024, with the option to extend for three (3) additional years.

The Pun Group LLP (the "Firm") has the knowledge and experience necessary to become the District's next public accounting firm, and the work plan to ensure a smooth audit process.

This letter is an acknowledgment of the Firm's understanding of the work to be performed. We are offering our commitment to deliver all of the required work, complete the audit, and issue the necessary auditor's reports within the periods outlined by the District.

The Pun Group is the right choice for the Carmel Area Wastewater District because:



Strong California Footprint. The Pun Group is reputable for its governmental practice. We are the principal auditors for districts such as Alameda County Water District, Central Basin Water District, Marina Coast Water District, Olivenhain Municipal Water District, Santa Fe Irrigation District. Accordingly, we have a deep understanding of the current issues special districts are facing, such as varying demographics, economic environments, and the constantly changing landscape of laws and regulations.



Recognized Leader in the Governmental Industry. We are a small national Firm with licenses in the States of California, Arizona, and Nevada and a proven leader in professional services to the government sector. All key engagement team professionals are licensed to practice as Certified Public Accountants and meet the Continuing Professional Education requirements under US GAO's Government Auditing Standards to perform the proposed audits. The partners and all employees proposed to perform the requested services do not have a record of substandard audit work nor have any outstanding claim of substandard practice or unsatisfactory performance pending with the State Board of Accountancy or other professional organizations. In addition, we are members of the national AICPA Audit Quality Center.

We strongly believe that part of our success is credited to our professionals' participation with various industry-leading organizations. Such affiliations are critical to addressing emerging accounting and auditing issues within the industry environment.

The Firm is the recipient of several awards, including the *SARC's Award for Excellence in Knowledge, Value, and Overall Client Satisfaction* (2021). This particular award results from positive feedback from our clients in an independent survey, demonstrating our Firm's highest commitment to Federal standards, quality, and client satisfaction.





You'll Work with a Team that Embraces Innovation and Continuous Improvement. Our Firm is committed to continuous improvement as it relates to service delivery. We embrace innovation and identify areas of technological enhancements in our audit and project management approaches. For example:

Secure Data File Transfer System. In order to improve audit efficiency, workflow management software plays an essential role between your organization and our engagement team. We employ a secure data file transfer system called Suralink. Suralink's dynamic request list is integrated with our secure file hosting system for seamless document-request coordination, including the upload of large-size files. It means all our requests are in one place, updated in real-time, and accessible by everyone working on the engagement. Not only makes the operation more cost-efficient, but it also enables you and your team to spend your time getting the job done, not reconciling a messy list of outstanding items. In addition, Suralink's dashboard allows you to visualize the process of the document-request fulfillment.

AI Auditor. The Pun Group leverages the technology and research tools required to provide excellent services to its clients. With the usage of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology, the Firm is capable of issuing all reports requested faster than other audit firms, without exposing the District to unnecessary risks.

Remote Auditing Capability. Remote working arrangements have suddenly become the "new normal" in these trying times. Our Firm has deployed top-notch technology and fully transitioned to "remote auditing," offering our clients the quality services they deserve while being fully "remote" or operating in a "hybrid" schedule. "On-site" audits are still the Firm's preferred method, and we'll continue to offer and promote those as well.



Knowledge is Shared with You. As part of our pledge to keep you updated on new technical accounting and financial issues, we implemented our 2021 *Virtual* Government Accounting Conference, which qualifies for up to 15 hours of CPE – nearly double of what other firms offer. These online sessions are free of charge and part of the service package provided to you. More details and dates can be found on the "*Client Training Webinars*" topic under this proposal.

The Pun Group is proud of its inclusive values and is an avid promoter of equality and diversity. In addition, the Firm is an equal opportunity employer and complies with all federal and state hiring requirements. We're proud of supporting affirmative-action philosophies and work hard to provide opportunities for self-enhancement to members of disadvantaged groups.

This proposal is a firm and irrevocable offer valid for ninety (90) days following the closing date for the receipt of all proposals.

Finally, we would like to emphasize one additional point: **We want to earn your trust and win your business!** We are confident that the energetic and experienced team we have assembled is the right one for the District.

Our commitment to serving the Carmel Area Wastewater District cannot be adequately conveyed in a letter, and I look forward to continuing the discussion with you. I'm assigned as your primary contact for contract negotiations and stand steadfast to serve as your engagement partner. I'm also authorized to legally bind the Firm. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact me at (949) 777-8801 or by email at ken.pun@pungroup.com.

Sincerely,

Kenneth H. Pun, CPA, CGMA | Partner | The Pun Group LLP
2121 North California Blvd., Suite 290, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Independence

The Pun Group LLP requires all employees to adhere to strict independence standards concerning the Firm's clients. These independence standards exceed, in many instances, the rules promulgated by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA).

The Pun Group LLP certifies that it is independent of the Carmel Area Wastewater District. The Firm meets independence requirements defined by the United States Government Accountability Office's (US GAO's) Government Auditing Standards and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). Based on that, we have not identified an instance that constitutes a conflict of interest relative to performing the services requested by the District.

The Firm had no relationship with the Carmel Area Wastewater District during the past five (5) years. The Firm will give the Carmel Area Wastewater District written notice of any professional relationships entered into during the period of the engagement.

In addition, the Firm has no conditions such as bankruptcy, pending litigations, planned office closures, mergers, or any organizational conflict of interest that may affect the ability of the Firm to perform the required duties requested by the Carmel Area Wastewater District.

License to Practice in California and Others

License to Practice in California

The Firm and all key professional staff are licensed by the State of California to practice as Certified Public Accountants and meet the Continuing Professional Education requirements under US GAO's Government Auditing Standards to perform the proposed audits.

Firm Registration:

California State Board of Accountancy Number – PAR 7601
Federal Identification Number – 46-4016990

Insurance

If selected, the Firm will maintain the minimum insurance requirements during the entire execution of the agreement with the Carmel Area Wastewater District. Within ten days from the implementation of the contract, we will furnish the Carmel Area Wastewater District with satisfactory evidence of the insurance requirements and proof that each carrier is required to give at least 30 days prior written notice of the cancellation of any policy during the entire period of the agreement. The Carmel Area Wastewater District will be named as an additional named insured under the Firm's policies.

Firm Qualifications and Experience

About The Pun Group LLP

The Pun Group LLP, Certified Public Accountants, and Business Advisors, founded in 2012, is a limited liability partnership. We are a full-service accounting firm comprised of forty-five professionals providing auditing, accounting, and advisory services to our clients. Our Governmental Division consists of forty full-time individuals and has three part-time interns.

The Firm has become one of the “Top Accounting Firms” in Orange County according to the Orange County Business Journal and is also on the list of CalCPA Top 150 firms.

The combination of our hands-on experience and practical knowledge exercised by our audit professionals makes the Firm unique in our field. Our technical expertise and thorough understanding of current regulations and issues—along with the Firm’s commitment to hard work, integrity, and teamwork on every engagement—enable us to help our clients succeed.

Our Partners’ Group—which includes Kenneth H. Pun, John F. Georger, Jr., Coley Delaney, Vanessa I. Burke, Kenneth Macias, Gary M. Caporicci, and Frances J. Kuo — provides auditing, accounting, and advisory services to numerous governmental entities throughout the United States. With more than two hundred years of combined experience in the industry, we have become a trusted business partner and are well-respected as leaders in the industry in one of the fastest-growing firms. With nearly one hundred government and not-for-profit audit clients, our Partners have a real passion for the industry and believe we are unmatched regarding our municipal experience. The firm also meets professional 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 Firm’s headquarters are located in Orange County, California, with four branches in San Diego, Walnut Creek/Sacramento (California), Las Vegas (Nevada), and Phoenix (Arizona).

Our *NorCal* office, located at 2121 North California Blvd., Suite 290, Walnut Creek, CA 94596, will perform the requested services for the District. However, we may assign additional staff from our other offices to the engagement at no extra cost to the District. No hiring of subcontractors or joint-venture will be established for this engagement.

Global Capabilities

The Pun Group LLP is an independent member of Allinial Global, an association of over 100 independent accounting and consulting firms. Based in North America, Allinial Global offers international support by connecting its member firms to providers and global networks of accounting firms worldwide.

OUR FIRM AT A GLANCE



45 full-time auditing, accounting, tax and advisory professionals



One of the fastest growing firms serving California, Nevada and Arizona



Client retention rate: 90 – 95%



5 offices across 3 states



OUR AFFILIATIONS



Full-Time Government Auditors

As full-time government auditors, we understand that governmental entities do not operate independently but in an increasingly complex web of local, state, and federal relationships. We know how these relationships work, what they mean at the local level, and how every public organization's focus on resource management is critical to success.

Also, while many accounting Firms can provide services, not all can build an excellent working relationship with their clients. The Pun Group LLP prides itself on developing lasting, personal relationships with our clients. Our hands-on partner involvement and low personnel turnover are crucial tools to our success and highly beneficial to the District.

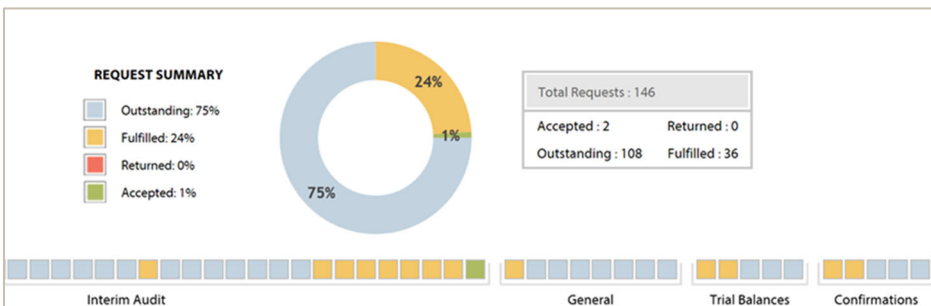
Local Office's Information Technology (IT) Audit Capabilities

The Pun Group LLP continues our efforts to invest in our IT system to enhance our security further and promote audit efficiency.

Top security for your data is the key to our success. When we have your data virtualized, our Firm takes all the preventive steps to avoid putting your information at risk. Our In-House IT administrator maintains our server to ensure our IT environment is continuously updated with the latest security fixes. Through VPN and Microsoft Remote Desktop, our In-House network administrator can lockdown files and system access from a single point, limiting the ability for remote sites to take data from our server.

Access to systems from anywhere and anytime. With more mobility being the norm rather than the exception, our engagement team needs robust access to the engagement files when they are working in your office. Accounting and Auditing Software applications are installed in our "Private" server and can be securely accessed through VPN and Microsoft Remote Desktop. The Firm uses CCH ProSystem fx® Engagement for audit documentation, which allows real-time synchronization of the work papers and instant collaboration quality control review.

Secure Data File Transfer System. In order to improve audit efficiency, workflow management software plays an essential role between your organization and our engagement team. We employ a secure data file transfer system called *Suralink*. *Suralink*'s dynamic request list is integrated with our secure file hosting system for seamless document-request coordination. It means all our requests are in one place, updated in real-time, and accessible by everyone working on the engagement. As a client, you no longer have to manually maintain a spreadsheet amongst several people, only to repeat the process in a day or two. Not only makes the operation more cost-efficient, but it also enables you and your team to spend your time getting the job done, not reconciling a messy list of outstanding items. The *Suralink* dashboard, as shown below, allows you to visualize the process of the document-request fulfillment.



BIG FIRM EXPERTISE. SMALL FIRM VALUES.

Our professional backgrounds at major national firms showed us how to solve complicated business and accounting challenges, but the sense of personal connection was missing.

We launched The Pun Group because we believe every client deserves to work with experienced business advisors and CPAs who have the time – and take the time – to create an authentic connection. Every client is our top priority!



A UNIQUE CULTURE.

"Personalization" is not just a buzzword – it's part of our firm's culture. We take a personal approach to everything we do. We collaborate with our clients, so they're always part of the process. We listen to our staff to make sure they have the right support and resources to do a great job. Getting to know others and discovering how we can serve them better is not just a sign of good business practices; it's a sign of good people.



INNOVATION EMBRACED.

New ideas keep you ahead of the game. From leveraging the value of emerging technologies to further refining trusted processes, we adopt proven solutions to meet your needs.



WHERE YOU GO, WE GO. WHERE YOU GROW, WE GROW.

Our success is defined by how you achieve yours. Partner with accomplished accounting and financial professionals who are laser-focused on taking your business to the next level.

Our Services

Our partners and seasoned professionals are always available, guiding clients through their periods of rapid growth as well as difficult times. We are able to do that by offering a portfolio of accounting services that is as diverse as the jurisdictions and entities themselves. The Pun Group LLP has successfully provided professional auditing, accounting, financial reporting, and management advisory/consulting services to a broad spectrum of governmental entities.



ASSURANCE

- Financial statements audits
- Compliance audits
- Performance audits
- Internal audits
- Service organization controls audits



ADVISORY

- Operational reviews/risk advisory services
- Forensic investigation
- Financial condition analysis
- Organizational structure review
- Cash flow analysis
- Debt restructuring consultation
- Litigation restructuring consultation



OTHER SERVICES

- Assistance with the preparation and review of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report
- Government property lease excise tax compliance review
- Sub-recipient monitoring
- Implementation of new GASB pronouncements
- Audit readiness services
- Contract Finance Director/Accountant services

Our Commitment to Public Sector

All of our partners actively participate in industry associations focused on state and local governments. By participating in industry associations and activities, we are always up to date on the latest industry changes and their impact on your operations. We will keep you and our colleagues in the Firm fully informed of these developments. Our team is committed to bringing the full breadth and depth of our expertise to the audit of the District, offering outstanding value to you and your stakeholders. Our Managing Partner has published several thought leadership articles in the California State Municipal Finance Office magazine on auditing and other relevant topics.

Quality Control System

Our Firm meticulously monitors the quality and contents of our reports. The Pun Group LLP is 100% committed to providing only the highest grade of work possible for our clients and for those who rely on our audits. The Firm strives to exceed professional industry standards because of the continuing respect for our clients and our emphasis on creating long-lasting relationships. The Pun Group LLP works exclusively with those who share the same moral integrity and values.

Our quality-control system is crafted with excellence in mind. It not only meets AICPA standards but also matches our high standards, which includes the following of professional development activities.

Federal or State Desk Review

No federal or state desk reviews or field reviews have been undertaken of any audits performed by the Firm or any of its partners, managers, or professionals during the past three (3) years.

Disciplinary Action

State regulatory bodies or professional organizations have taken no disciplinary action against the Firm or any of its partners, managers, or professionals during the past three (3) years.

The Firm has no conditions such as bankruptcy, pending litigations, planned office closures, mergers, or any organizational conflict of interest that may affect the ability of the Firm to perform the required duties requested by the Carmel Area Wastewater District.

Peer Review

Being a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), The Pun Group LLP is required to obtain an independent peer review of our audit and accounting practice every three (3) years. The peer reviewer assessed the Firm's quality-control policies, reviewed administrative records, interviewed professional personnel, and inspected the Firm's working papers and reports from a representative sample of accounting and auditing engagements, including governmental audits. The reviewer concluded that the Firm fully complied with the AICPA's stringent standards for quality control and issued a peer review rating of "Pass."

Our 2021 Peer Review is currently underway. A copy of our most recent peer review follows:



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Report on the Firm's System of Quality Control

December 7, 2018

To the Partners of
The Pun Group, LLP
And the National Peer Review Committee

We have reviewed the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of The Pun Group, LLP, (the firm), in effect for the year ended December 31, 2017. 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, and an audit of an employee benefit plan.

Opinion

In our opinion, the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of The Pun Group, LLP, in effect for the year ended December 31, 2017, 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*. The Pun Group, LLP, has received a peer review rating of *pass*.

EFPR Group, CPAs, PLLC

EFPR Group, CPAs, PLLC
Corning, NY

Partner, Supervisory, and Staff Qualifications and Experience

Who We Are

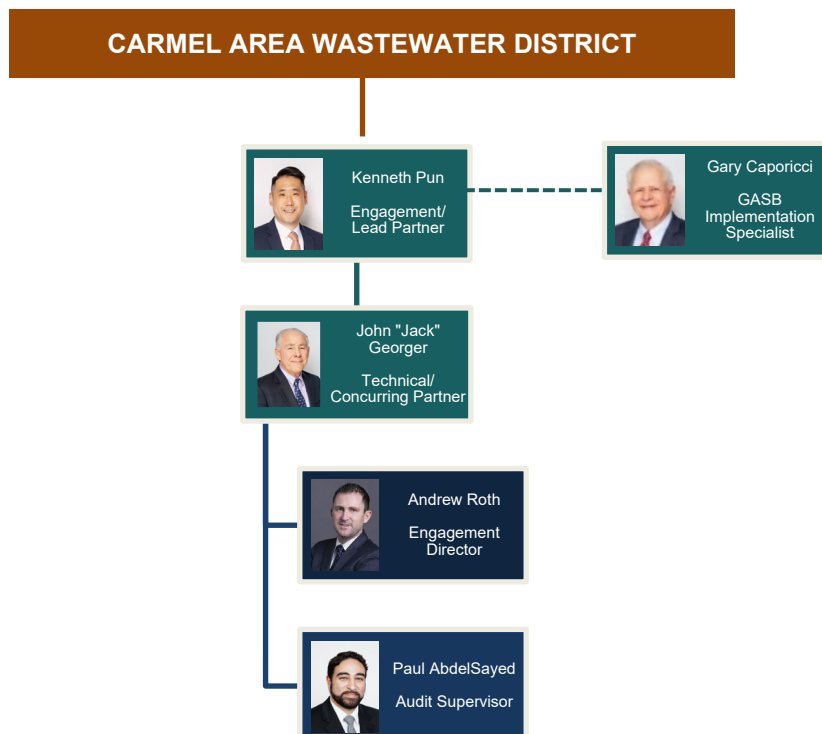
The engagement team was carefully selected to provide the District with all the services needed to complete the audit successfully. Your assigned Engagement and Technical Partners will be personally involved in the project, leading a team that has significant experience in *governmental auditing*. You can be confident that our broad experience and technical capabilities will allow us to provide technical support, interpret findings, and offer practical solutions to any issues that may arise.

About Your Engagement Team

The personnel assigned to this engagement are fully qualified to perform an effective audit of the District, and their extensive experience will be critical to the audit process. Our professionals are familiar with the complexities of governmental accounting, auditing, and financial reporting, including but not limited to all GASB pronouncements, the Single Audit Act, Uniform Guidance (formerly known as OMB Circular A-133), and fund operations. They have held positions as professional certified public accountants, as well as held significant roles within and outside of government agencies. Such qualities will bring to an entity like the Carmel Area Wastewater District the thought leadership, quality, and level of experience it requires.

Because of the “familiarity threat” under the professional audit and independence standards that may exist in long-term relationships with audit firms, the Firm is committed and has sufficient resources to rotate engagement partners, managers, and or supervisors assigned to the District’s audit with personnel with similar or higher qualifications and experience in order to overcome this threat.

If the Firm changes key personnel, we will provide the District with a written notification. **Engagement partners, managers, and specialists will only be changed with the express prior written permission from the District.** Audit personnel may be replaced only by those with similar or better qualifications and experience.



Carmel Area Wastewater District



Kenneth H. Pun, CPA, CGMA | Engagement/Lead Partner

Kenneth Pun is the Managing Partner and an Assurance Partner at the Firm. With over twenty-one years of public accounting experience in the state and local government sector, he specializes in audits, management, and consulting for governmental organizations. Mr. Pun has served as the Contract Deputy Finance Director for the City of San Marino in 2017. He has served as the Chair of the California Society of CPAs Governmental Auditing Accounting Committee. He is a Certified Public Accountant and a Chartered Global Management Accountant.

Mr. Pun will actively serve as the Engagement/Lead Partner overseeing the Engagement Team, developing the audit plan, reviewing fieldwork for quality, approving final reports, and communicating with the Finance Department. He will also be responsible for the timely delivery of all services for the District.



John ("Jack") F. Georger, CPA, CIA, CGMA | Technical/Concurring Partner

Throughout his forty years of experience, Mr. Georger has spent many years in Big 4 and national firms. He worked diligently alongside numerous governmental municipalities, including cities, counties, and transportation agencies, as well as not-for-profit entities, providing clients with financial and compliance auditing as well as consultation services. Mr. Georger annually instructs over 300 hours in accounting and auditing subjects and has authored training material in governmental accounting and auditing for the AICPA. Mr. Georger is also the technical reviewer of the CCH Knowledge-Based Audits™ of State and Local Governments with Single Audits, GAAP Guide (FASB), and Governmental GAAP Guide (GASB), the gold standard for audit firms throughout the United States. As the Chief Quality Officer in our Firm, he advises clients with their complex accounting questions and supports the engagement team with audit issues. He is a Certified Public Accountant, a Certified Internal Auditor, and a Chartered Global Management Accountant.

Mr. Georger will act as the Technical/Concurring Partner and provide a second partner review of significant high-risk areas, audit reports, and resolution of significant accounting, auditing, and reporting matters.



Gary M. Caporicci, CPA, CGFM, CFF | GASB Implementation Specialist

Gary Caporicci is an appointed member of the State Controller's Retirement Advisory Committee. Mr. Caporicci is a leading expert and has authored and taught several courses for CalCPA and AICPA on GASB 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions*, and GASB 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other than Pensions*. As an assurance partner with over forty years of experience, Mr. Caporicci has performed financial, compliance audit, and consultation services to government clients, including cities, counties, transportation agencies, and school districts, as well as various not-for-profit entities. He is a Certified Public Accountant, a Certified Government Financial Manager, and Certified in Financial Forensics.

Mr. Caporicci will utilize his expertise in providing advice and consultation during the implementation of the new GASB standards.



Andrew Roth, CPA | Engagement Director

Andrew Roth is a Director within the Firm who holds an Advanced Certification in Single Audits through the AICPA. He draws more than a decade of governmental and not-for-profit experience in the areas of financial audit and reporting under governmental and financial accounting standards, evaluation of internal controls under the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) Integrated Framework, the performance of Single Audits under the Uniform Guidance, subrecipient monitoring of Federal Grants, corporate financial reporting, data analytics, and exempt taxation. He is a Certified Public Accountant.

Mr. Roth will direct and supervise the audit team in its daily activities and tasks in order to deliver all services requested.

Carmel Area Wastewater District



Paul AbdelSayed, CMA | Audit Supervisor

Paul is a Supervisor within the Firm and has been assigned to secure the effective implementation of the services approach while assisting in the timely delivery of the requested services. Mr. AbdelSayed is a Certified Management Accountant.

Staff Continuity

The Pun Group LLP is committed to maintaining staff continuity throughout audit engagements, and we can assure that the partners assigned to this audit will be involved throughout the entire contract term.

While we cannot guarantee that our staff level members will stay with the Firm, we encourage loyalty by paying competitive wages, offering opportunities for promotion, using state-of-the-art equipment, and providing excellent working conditions. Also, we offer benefits, including retirement plans, medical plans, profit-sharing programs, and continuing education.

Quality-Control System

Our Firm meticulously monitors the quality and contents of our reports. The Pun Group LLP is 100% committed to providing only the highest grade of work possible for our clients and for those who rely on our audits. The Firm strives to exceed professional industry standards because of the continuing respect for our clients and our emphasis on creating long-lasting relationships. The Pun Group LLP works exclusively with those who share the same moral integrity and values.

Our quality-control system has been crafted with excellence in mind. It not only meets AICPA standards but also matches our own elevated standards, which includes following various professional development activities.

Engagement Team Resumes

The Carmel Area Wastewater District deserves experienced professionals who work as a team. The Pun Group LLP will provide qualified professionals to perform the audit. No subcontractors will be utilized to perform the requested services. Resumes for key engagement team members follow:



Kenneth H. Pun

CPA, CGMA

Engagement/
Lead Partner



EMAIL

ken.pun@pungroup.com



WEBSITE

www.pungroup.cpa

Expertise:



CITIES



COUNTIES



TRANSPORTATION
AGENCIES



ENTERPRISE
OPERATIONS



HIGHER
EDUCATION



NOT-FOR-PROFIT

Licensed to Practice in:
California

EXPERIENCE

Kenneth H. Pun is the Managing Partner and an Assurance Partner at The Pun Group LLP, which he founded in 2012 after serving in senior-level positions for well-established national and regional firms. Under his leadership, The Pun Group has become one of the “*Top Accounting Firms*” in Orange County, according to the Orange County Business Journal. The Pun Group is also on the list of CalCPA Top 150 firms.

Prior to founding The Pun Group, Ken has served clients in a variety of industries, including small to very large state and local governmental agencies, insurance companies, not-for-profits, healthcare, technology, and manufacturing and distribution clients. His career in public accounting was spent primarily with the Regional firms and National firms.

Leveraging more than 21 years of public accounting experience, Ken has earned a reputation of being a trusted advisor to governmental and Healthcare organizations throughout California and neighboring states. Municipalities and public agencies engage him because of his premier level of client service, commitment, and innovative methods of increasing operational efficiencies and reducing costs.

Ken maintains his deep commitment to professional education through his work as an instructor for the California Education Foundation. He has authored training materials in governmental accounting and auditing, such as Financial Reporting for State and Local Governments, 2018 Government Auditing Standards, and Single Audit Fundamentals for California Education Foundation. He is also the technical reviewer of the CCH Knowledge-Based Audits™ of State and Local Governments with Single Audits. He advises clients on those topics at influential industry forums. Internally, Ken mentors audit teams by providing direction and technical guidance to ensure adherence to the firm’s quality controls.

EDUCATION

University of California, Riverside

B.S. Degree – Business Administration, Emphasis in Accounting

LEADERSHIP & AFFILIATIONS

- Member, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA)
- Member, California Society of Certified Public Accountants (CalCPA)
- Past Chair, CalCPA Governmental Accounting and Auditing Committee
- Member, CalCPA California Committee on Municipal Accounting
- Member, CalCPA Governmental Accounting and Auditing Conference Planning Committee
- Member, Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA)
- Member, California Society of Municipal Finance Officers (CSMFO)
- Member, CSMFO Professional Standards Committee
- Speaker, CSMFO Conference (2014 and 2018)
- Instructor, CalCPA Education Foundation
- Technical Reviewer, CCH Knowledge-Based Audits™ of State and Local Governments with Single Audits

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- Alameda County Water District
- El Toro Water District
- Marina Coast Water District
- Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
- Alameda County Water District
- Central Basin Municipal Water District
- Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
- Orange County Coastkeeper
- South Orange County Wastewater Authority
- Sativa Los Angeles County Water District
- Central Basin Municipal Water District

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Various courses offered by the Firm, online through Thompson Reuters, AICPA, CalCPA Education Foundation, including:

- Governmental and Nonprofit Annual Update
- Government Auditing Standards
- GASB Basic Financial Statements for State and Local Governments
- Single Audits: Uniform Guidance (formerly OMB Circular A-133)
- Financial Accounting Standards Board Annual Updates
- Statement on Standards for Accounting and Review Services Updates

Has met/exceeded the current CPE educational requirements to perform audits of governmental agencies.



John F. Georger, Jr.
CPA, CIA, CGMA
Technical/
Concurring Partner



EMAIL

jack.georger@pungroup.com



WEBSITE

www.pungroup.cpa

Expertise:



CITIES



COUNTIES



TRANSPORTATION
AGENCIES



ENTERPRISE
OPERATIONS



HIGHER
EDUCATION



NOT-FOR-PROFIT

Licensed to Practice in:
California
Arizona
Nevada

EXPERIENCE

Jack Georger is the Chief Quality Officer within The Pun Group LLP's Assurance division. By leveraging more than forty (40) years of public accounting and auditing experience in the government, agribusiness, financial services, manufacturing, and nonprofit sectors, Mr. Georger brings in-depth knowledge and practical expertise to each engagement.

Jack coordinates, plans, and manages financial audit activities, consulting activities, federal and state compliance audit activities, performance audits, and numerous quality control and internal control reviews for a broad mix of governmental agencies and programs throughout the United States.

Mr. Georger leads our Peer Review department providing peer review services to other firms under the practice monitoring program of the AICPA.

Mr. Georger is a continuing professional education course instructor for the AICPA. Annually, he instructs over 300 hours in accounting and auditing subjects. Jack has authored training material in governmental accounting and auditing for the AICPA. He is the technical reviewer of the CCH Knowledge-Based Audits™ of State and Local Governments with Single Audits, GAAP Guide (FASB), and Governmental GAAP Guide (GASB).

Mr. Georger is licensed to practice as a certified public accountant in the states of California, New York, Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia, Missouri (inactive), Connecticut (inactive), and Wyoming (inactive). He is a Certified Internal Auditor (CIA).

EDUCATION

George Mason University Fairfax, Virginia

B.S. Degree – Accounting

LEADERSHIP & AFFILIATIONS

- Member and Instructor, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA)
- Member, Institute of Internal Auditors
- Member, California Society of Certified Public Accountants (CalCPA)
- Member, New York Society of Certified Public Accountants (NYSSCPA)
- Chairman, NYSSCPA Government Accounting and Auditing Committee
- Member, NYSSCPA Auditing Standards Committee
- Member, NYSSCPA Sustainability Committee
- Member, NYSSCPA Not-for-Profit Committee
- Nevada Society of Certified Public Accountants (NSCPA)
- Member, Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) – Reviewer
- Member, Institute of Internal Auditors

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

He has instructed over 300 hours of municipal accounting courses offered by the AICPA.

Has met/exceeded the current CPE educational requirements to perform audits of governmental agencies.

Carmel Area Wastewater District



Gary M. Caporicci
CPA, CGFM, CFF
GASB
Implementation
Specialist



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WEBSITE
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Expertise:



CITIES



COUNTIES



TRANSPORTATION
AGENCIES



ENTERPRISE
OPERATIONS



HIGHER
EDUCATION



NOT-FOR-PROFIT

Licensed to Practice in:
California

EXPERIENCE

Gary M. Caporicci has more than forty years of diversified business experience, including a specialization in audit and management consulting for government organizations. Gary's clients include public and private universities and colleges, city and county governments, state agencies, joint power authorities, healthcare agencies, transportation agencies, and special districts. Known for his expertise in the areas of construction and government, Gary wrote the AICPA audit guides on these topics, and he has authored many audit and accounting courses for professional groups, as well as academic institutions. He frequently speaks and lectures at many professional organizations, governmental seminars, and conferences held by industry associations, other accounting firms, and universities. Also, he authors white papers for the California Committee on Municipal Accounting.

Before working with the Firm, Gary founded his accounting practice. He also spent eleven years with a "Big Eight" professional services firm, where he was an Audit Manager and gained broad experience in a wide range of industries such as government, construction, manufacturing, mutual funds, and insurance. Gary has held a consultant position with a "Big Four" practice and was Vice President of a national insurance and financial services company.

In 2015 Gary Caporicci was appointed to the State Retirement Advisory Committee by the State Controller.

EDUCATION

Armstrong University
B.S. Degree – Accounting and Finance

LEADERSHIP & AFFILIATIONS

- Member and Instructor, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA)
- Member, Author, and Instructor, California Society of Certified Public Accountants (CalCPA)
- Past Chair, CalCPA Governmental Accounting and Auditing Committee
- Chair and Speaker, CalCPA Governmental Accounting and Auditing State Conferences
- Member, CalCPA Council
- Chair, California Committee on Municipal Accounting (CCMA)
- Member, Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA)
- Member, California Society of Municipal Finance Officers (CSMFO)
- Member, Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB)
- Member, Deposit and Investment Risks Disclosure Task Force (GASB No. 40)
- National Reviewer and Speaker, Government Finance Officers Association
- Adjunct Professor, National University
- Past Member, Texas Governmental Accounting and Auditing Committee
- GFOA Certificate for Excellence in Financial Reporting – Reviewer

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Author and instructor of various municipal accounting courses offered by the AICPA, CalCPA Education Foundation, and local universities, including:

- Governmental and Non-profit Annual Update
- Government Auditing Standards
- GASB Basic Financial Statements for State and Local Governments
- Single Audits: Uniform Guidance (formerly OMB Circular A-133)
- Financial Accounting Standards Board Annual Updates
- Statement on Standards for Accounting and Review Services Updates

Has met/exceeded the current CPE educational requirements to perform audits of governmental agencies.



Andrew Roth
CPA
Engagement
Director



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Expertise:



CITIES



COUNTIES



TRANSPORTATION
AGENCIES



ENTERPRISE
OPERATIONS



HIGHER
EDUCATION



NOT-FOR-PROFIT

Licensed to Practice in:
California
Arizona

EXPERIENCE

Andrew Roth is a Director within The Pun Group LLP. He has more than twelve (12) years of governmental and not-for-profit experience in the areas of financial audit and reporting under governmental and financial accounting standards, evaluation of internal controls under the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) Integrated Framework, the performance of Single Audits under the Uniform Guidance, subrecipient monitoring of Federal Grants, corporate financial reporting, data analytics, and exempt taxation. His client portfolio consists of moderate to large municipalities (cities and counties), municipal transportation districts, water districts, municipal electric utilities, and non-profit organizations whose missions involve building communities. His governmental agency clients have federal grant expenditures that range from \$100 million to \$750 million annually.

In various engagements, Andrew has been responsible for leading the service delivery where he has actively contributed and managed the planning process, implementation of the audit work plan, supervision of multiple audit teams, provided yearly team updates on the changes in compliance testing requirements for the Single Audits, and preparation of all deliverables including the Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports, the Single Audit, Compliance Reports, Data Collection Forms, and City Council/Board presentations. He has also been a guest speaker on topics involving Federal grants such as Update to Yellow Book Standards, Compliance Auditing, and Updates to the Uniform Guidance Procurement Requirements.

EDUCATION

San Diego State University
B.A. Degree – Accounting



LEADERSHIP & AFFILIATIONS

- Member, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA)
- Member, California Society of Certified Public Accountants (CalCPA)

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
- Olivenhain Municipal Water District
- City of Placerville
- City of Stockton
- County of Madera
- Marina Coast Water District
- City of National City
- City of Shafter
- County of San Diego
- County of Imperial

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Various courses offered by the Firm, online through Thompson Reuters, AICPA, CalCPA Education Foundation, including:

- Governmental and Non-profit Annual Update
- Government Auditing Standards
- GASB Basic Financial Statements for State and Local Governments
- Single Audits: Uniform Guidance (formerly OMB Circular A-133)
- Financial Accounting Standards Board Annual Updates
- Statement on Standards for Accounting and Review Services Updates

Has met/exceeded the current CPE educational requirements to perform audits of governmental agencies.



Paul AbdelSayed
CMA
Audit Supervisor



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Expertise:



CITIES



TRANSPORTATION
AGENCIES



ENTERPRISE
OPERATIONS



NOT-FOR-PROFIT

EXPERIENCE

Paul AbdelSayed is a Supervisor within The Pun Group LLP's Assurance division, with seven years of accounting and auditing experience.

Mr. AbdelSayed has successfully performed audits and other attestation services for several governmental and nonprofit agencies. His portfolio includes cities, transportation agencies, and special districts. In addition, Paul has assisted several clients in publishing their Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports in compliance with GASB Statement No. 34.

EDUCATION

California State University, Fullerton

B.A. Degree – Business Administrations, Emphasis in Accounting

LEADERSHIP & AFFILIATIONS

- Member, California Society of Certified Public Accountants (CalCPA)
- Member, Institute of Management Accountants (IMA)

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- Valley Sanitary District
- Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
- El Toro Water District
- Adelanto Public Utility Authority
- Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservative District
- West Valley Water District
- Central Basin Municipal Water District
- City of Hermosa Beach
- City of Lynwood
- City of Seal Beach

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Various courses offered by the Firm, online through Thompson Reuters, AICPA, CalCPA Education Foundation, including:

- Governmental and Nonprofit Annual Update
- Government Auditing Standards
- GASB Basic Financial Statements for State and Local Governments
- Single Audits: Uniform Guidance (formerly OMB Circular A-133)
- Financial Accounting Standards Board Annual Updates
- Statement on Standards for Accounting and Review Services Updates

Has met/exceeded the current CPE educational requirements to perform audits of governmental agencies.

Similar Engagement with Other Government Entities

The following are examples of some of the engagements with similar requirements as the Carmel Area Wastewater District's proposal. These clients can be used as references as well. Please feel free to contact these agencies to learn more about their experiences working with us.

Name of Public Agency	Alameda County Water District
Contact Info	Ms. Mariana Grajeda, CPA (510) 668-4258 mariana.grajeda@acwd.com
Total Hours:	Approximately 550 hours
Contract Price	\$60,800/year
Date of Services	2019 - Present
Scope of Work/Reports Prepared	Financial Audit and Compliance Services: Annual Comprehensive Financial Report Audit, GFOA Award, Debt Issues/Bond Covenants, SCO Report.

Name of Public Agency	Zone 7 Water Agency
Contact Info	Osborn Solitei, Treasurer/Assistant General Manager, Finance (925) 447-6704 osolitei@zone7water.com
Total Hours:	Approximately 400 hours
Contract Price	\$30,500/year
Date of Services	2020 - Present
Scope of Work/Reports Prepared	Financial Audit and Compliance Services: Annual Comprehensive Financial Report Audit, GFOA Award, Single Audit, OPEB Liability, SCO Report, Livermore Valley Water Financing Authority SCP, Debt Issues/Bond Covenants.

Name of Public Agency	Olivenhain Municipal Water District
Contact Info	Ms. Rainy Selamat RSelamat@olivenhain.com Phone: (760) 753-6466
Total Hours	200
Contract Price	\$25,500/year
Date of Services	2018 – Present
Scope of Work/Reports Prepared	Financial Statements Audit.

Carmel Area Wastewater District

Firm's Current and Past Experience with Special Districts and Authorities

Our Firm has provided professional services to several Districts and Authorities. Below is a representative listing of such engagements:

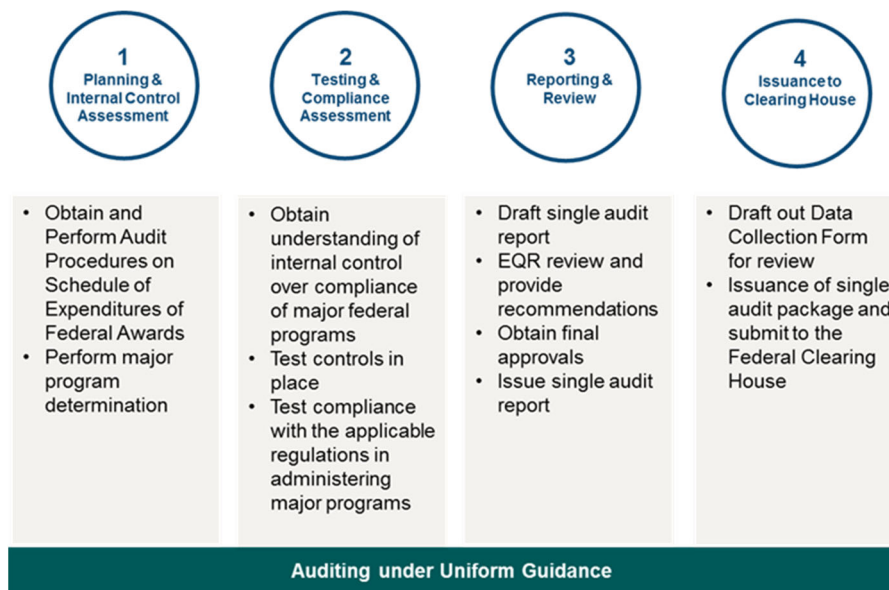
- Adelanto Public Utility Authority
- Alameda County Water District
- Arbuckle Public Utility District
- Bodega Bay Fire Protection District
- Casitas Municipal Water District
- Central Basin Municipal Water District
- Civic – Recreational – Industrial Authority
- City of Monterey Joint Powers Financing Authority
- Coachella Valley Resource Conservation District
- Coachella Fire Protection District
- Diablo Water District
- East Orange County Water District
- El Toro Water District
- Farm Mutual Water Company
- Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
- Las Virgenes – Triunfo Joint Powers Authority
- Los Angeles Waterkeeper
- Marina Coast Water District
- Menlo Park Fire Protection District
- Mountain Recreation Conservation Authority
- North County Dispatch Joint Powers Authority
- North County Fire Protection District
- Olivenhain Municipal Water District
- Orange County – City Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Authority
- Orange County Coastkeeper
- Palmdale Water District
- Perris Joint Powers Authority
- Presidio Municipal Services Agency
- Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District
- Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
- San Diego Coastkeeper
- San Bernardino County Fire District
- San Elijo Joint Powers Authority
- San Joaquin County Regional Fire Dispatch Authority
- South Bay Regional Public Communications Authority
- Santa Fe Irrigation District
- Sativa Los Angeles County Water District
- South Orange County Wastewater Authority
- Sweetwater Springs Water District
- Trabuco Canyon Water District
- Twentynine Palms Water District
- Valley Sanitary District
- Water Replenishment District of Southern California
- West County Wastewater District

Firm's Experience with Single Audit and Grants

The Pun Group LLP works with numerous organizations that receive extensive governmental funding and are subject to auditing under Uniform Grant Guidance. This Firm's specialization helps our audit team understand the procedures' nuances and execute the engagement accordingly. We also assist in preparing the data collection form and preparing the reporting package for submission to the federal audit clearinghouse.

The Firm is a member of the AICPA Governmental Audit Quality Center and has demonstrated our commitment to audit quality, including those performed under Government Auditing Standards and Uniform Guidance. Also, we are a recipient of the *Single Audit Resource Center's Award for Excellence*. This award bases on the positive feedback result from our clients in an independent survey, demonstrating our Firm's highest commitment to quality and client satisfaction.

We utilize standardized audit programs from the federal government's Compliance Supplement to ensure that our procedures meet the federal standards. Our audit programs are continually updated to reflect the revisions of OMB. Our Uniform Guidance risk-based approach focuses on areas of higher risk of noncompliance. Such an approach truly reflects the federal government intent by concentrating on the following four steps:



- 1. Planning & Internal control assessment:** The engagement team will obtain an understanding of the District and its operating environment and its internal control over the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards. The engagement team will perform the major program determination and communicate with the District's management before conducting major program testing.
- 2. Testing & compliance assessment:** The engagement team will obtain an understanding of internal control over compliance on the direct and material compliance requirements for each major program. The engagement will perform testing on internal controls over compliance to ensure the controls are in place working effectively and properly and that the District is in compliance with the applicable regulations in administering major programs.
- 3. Reporting & Review:** The engagement team will review and prepare the single audit reports and perform quality control procedures following the Quality Control Standards issued by the AICPA. Any comments will be issued to the management or the Charge with Governance, depending on the magnitude of the issues. Upon obtaining the final approvals from management, the Single Audit report will be issued.
- 4. Issuance to Clearing House:** The engagement team will assist the District in drafting out the data collection form and completing the final submission, including uploading the audit package to the Federal Clearing House.

Carmel Area Wastewater District

Our Firm has audited hundreds of millions of dollars in federal expenditures, making our engagement team uniquely experienced in single audits. We are familiar with *grantors*, such as:



- Corporation for National and Community Services
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Education
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Department of Transportation
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Labor
- Department of Homeland Security
- Department of Justice
- Department of Treasury
- Executive Office of the President

Following are a few examples of the types of federal programs our engagement team has experience auditing:

	CFDA
Child and Adult Care Food Program	10.558
Community Development Block Grants/Entitlement Grants	14.218
Home Investment Partnership	14.239
Housing Vouchers Cluster	14.871
Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Program	15.504
Equitable Sharing Program	16.922
WIAWIOA Adult Program	17.258
WIAWIOA Youth Activities	17.259
WIAWIOA Dislocated Worker Formula Grants	17.278
Airport Improvement Program	20.106
Highway Planning and Construction	20.205
Federal Transit - Capital Investments Grants	20.500
Federal Transit - Formula Grants	20.507
Minimum Penalties for Repeat Offenders for Driving While Intoxicated	20.608
Capitalization Grants for Clean Water State Revolving Funds Cluster	66.458
Special Programs for the Aging - Title III, Part B - Grants for Supportive Services and Senior Centers	93.044
Special Programs for the Aging - Title III, Part C - Nutrition Services	93.045
Nutrition Services Incentive Program	93.053
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Programs	93.558
Community Service Block Grant	93.569
Child Care and Development Block Grant	93.575
Child Care Mandatory and Matching Funds of the Child Care and Development Fund	93.596
ARRA - Emergency Contingency Fund for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Programs	93.714
National Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Response System	97.025
Homeland Security Grant Program	97.067

Carmel Area Wastewater District

Firm's Experience with State Controller's Reports

The Pun Group LLP has assisted numerous clients with the preparation of the required reports by the California State Controller's Office. Some of this experience follows:

Cities Financial Transactions Report:

- City of Arvin
- City of Bell
- City of Coachella
- City of Culver City
- City of Desert Hot Springs
- City of Hercules
- City of Placentia
- City of Laguna Niguel
- City of Lakewood
- City of Lynwood
- City of Monterey
- City of Morro Bay
- City of Napa
- City of National City
- City of Palm Springs
- City of Perris
- City of Rohnert Park
- City of South Gate
- City of Stockton

Annual Street Report:

- City of Desert Hot Springs
- City of Laguna Niguel
- City of Napa
- City of Palm Springs
- City of Perris
- City of Stockton

Special Districts Financial Transactions Report:

- Special District of West End Water Development Treatment and Conservation Joint Powers Authority
- Special District of West Valley Water District
- Special District of Coachella Financing Authority
- Special District of Coachella Sanitary District (Riverside)
- Special District of Coachella Water Authority
- Special District of Desert Hot Springs Public Financing Authority
- Special District of Desert Hot Springs Successor Agency
- Special District of Perris Public Utility Authority
- Special District of Perris Public Financing Authority
- Special District of Perris Joint Powers Authority
- Special District of Central Basin Municipal Water District
- Special District of Marina Coast Water District
- Special District of Menlo Park Fire Protection District
- Special District of San Bernardino County Fire Protection District

Transit Operators Financial Transactions Report:

- City of Arvin
- City of Culver City

Carmel Area Wastewater District

Firm's Expertise and Experience in Governmental Accounting Rules and Regulations Including Implementation of new GASB Pronouncements

Changing federal laws, statutes, ordinances, and compliance provisions have created unprecedented complexity in public accounting today. Our GASB Implementation Specialist, Mr. Gary Caporicci, has helped our clients implement new standards while adapting to changes within the existing standards. Our partners serve on committees that have input into how new standards are written. They actively participate in industry associations focused on state and local governments. By participating in industry associations and activities, we are always up to date on the latest industry changes and their impact on your operations. We will keep you and our colleagues in the Firm fully informed of these developments.

Also, our professionals are familiar with the complexities of governmental accounting, auditing, and financial reporting, including but not limited to all GASB pronouncements, the Single Audit Act, Uniform Guidance (formerly known as OMB Circular A-133), and fund operations. They have held positions as professional certified public accountants and taken on significant roles within and outside government agencies. Such experience brings to our clients the thought leadership, quality, and level of expertise they require.

The Firm is well versed and experienced in assisting our clients with the implementation of the applicable GASB pronouncements every year, such as GASB 34, GASB 54, GASB 65, GASB 68, GASB 75, and GASB 84. Mr. Gary Caporicci, as a chair of the California Committee on Municipal Accounting "CCMA," wrote "white-papers" on each of these pronouncements.

Throughout the engagement, several new GASB pronouncements will become effective. The Engagement Team will pay specific attention to upcoming statements that will become effective and work with the District to create a plan to address new standards before the implementation period. This step will allow the finance department staff the needed time to be prepared.

Special Attention: GASB Pronouncements in Effect

Technical Bulletin No. 2020-a, Accounting and Financial Reporting Issues Related to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) of 2020 and Coronavirus Diseases.

This bulletin provides guidance on accounting and reporting for resources under the CARES Act.

Statement No. 95, Postponement of the Effective Dates of Certain Authoritative Guidance

This action is intended to provide temporary relief in light of the COVID-19 pandemic by postponing the effective dates of certain provisions in GASB statements and implementation guides. Earlier application of the affected pronouncements is encouraged.

Statement No. 97, Certain Component Unit Criteria, and Accounting and Financial Reporting for IRC Section 457 Deferred Compensation Plans

The requirements that exempt governments from reporting defined contribution pension/OPEB plans in a fiduciary trust fund, unless the government actually controls the assets, are effective immediately. This limits the applicability of paragraph 7 of GASB 84 to defined benefit pension/OPEB plans that are administered through qualifying trusts.

(The requirements of this statement that are related to the financial accounting and reporting for IRC Section 457 plans are effective for reporting the year 2022)

GASB Pronouncements Effective for Reporting Year 2021

Statement No. 89, Accounting for Interest Cost Incurred before the end of a Construction Period

This statement suspends paragraphs 5-22 of GASB 62. Do not capitalize interest cost related to capital assets – expense as incurred. This statement was originally effective for the 2020 reporting year but was postponed by GASB 95.

Implementation Guide 2019-1

This guide's objective is to provide guidance that clarifies, explains, or elaborates on GASB Statements. This guide addresses OPEB, Derivative Instruments, Nonexchange Transactions, Impairment and Insurance Recoveries, and other accounting and reporting topics. This guidance was originally effective for the 2020 reporting year but was postponed by GASB 95.

Carmel Area Wastewater District

Firm's Governmental Clients

The Pun Group ^{LLP} has performed numerous audits of organizations subject to financial and compliance audits. These audits were performed under auditing standards generally accepted in the United States (GAAS), Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS), Uniform Guidance, and its Compliance Supplement (when applicable), Office of the State Controller's Minimum Audit Requirements and Reporting Guidelines. A representative list of current government audit clients follows:

Municipalities	Dates	Financial Audit	Single Audit	GFOA Certificate	Total Hours
City of Alameda	2019 – Present	Accounting and Consulting Services			150
City of Arvin	2013 – Present	Yes	Yes	N/A	400
City of Bell	2018 – Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	520
City of Bradbury	2012 – Present	Yes	N/A	N/A	150
City of Calexico	2007 – Present	Yes	Yes	N/A	750
City of Cerritos	2020 – Present	Accounting and Consulting Services			300
City of Cerritos	2012 – 2019	Yes	Yes	Yes	400
City of Clovis	2006 – Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	500
City of Coachella	2017 – Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	410
City of Cottonwood, AZ	2007 – Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	400
City of Corona	2021 – Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	640
Town of Danville	1999 – Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	400
City of Douglas, AZ	2020 – Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	300
City of Desert Hot Springs	2013 – Present	Yes	N/A	N/A	400
City of Gardena	2007 – Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	700
City of Gilroy	2020 – Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	640
City of Glendora	2017 – Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	430
City of Gustine	2017 – Present	Yes	N/A	N/A	400
City of Hemet	2015 – Present	Yes	Yes	N/A	380
City of Hercules	2020 – Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	450
City of Lakewood	2013 – Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	380
City of Lomita	2020 – Present	Accounting and Consulting Services			150
City of Lodi	2018 – Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	760
City of Lynwood	2016 – Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	585
City of Madera	2019 – Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	470

Carmel Area Wastewater District

Municipalities	Dates	Financial Audit	Single Audit	GFOA Certificate	Total Hours
City of Monterey	2016 – Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	620
City of Morro Bay	2015 – Present	Yes	Yes	N/A	600
City of Napa	2019 – Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	750
City of National City	2013 – Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	600
City of Palm Springs	2020 – Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	1,000
City of Patterson	2017 – Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	450
City of Perris	2019 – Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	840
City of Placentia	2016 – Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	620
City of Placerville	2008 – Present	Yes	Yes	N/A	400
City of Redding	2016 – Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	600
City of Ridgecrest	2009 – Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	300
City of Rohnert Park	2020 – Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	700
City of San Mateo	2021 – Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	900
City of Seal Beach	2017 – Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	410
City of Shafter	2017 – Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	400
City of South Gate	2016 – Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	480
City of Stockton	2012 – Present	Yes	Yes	N/A	3,000
City of Tracy	2021 – Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	960
City of Visalia	2021 – Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Imperial County Transportation Authority	2018 – Present	Yes	Yes	N/A	750
San Diego Metropolitan Transit System	2005 – Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	1,850
Shasta Regional Transportation Agency	2015 – Present	Yes	N/A	N/A	200
Alameda County Water District	2018 – Present	Yes	Yes	N/A	550
Central Basin Water District	2018 – Present	Yes	Yes	N/A	400
Gold Coast Transit District	2020 – Present	Accounting and Consulting Services			Hourly
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District	2014 – Present	Yes	N/A	N/A	400
Los Angeles County Law Library	2020 – Present	Yes	N/A	N/A	180
Marina Coast Water District	2012 – Present	Yes	N/A	Yes	240
Menlo Park Fire Protection District	2015 – Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	240
NALEO Educational Fund and NALEO	2020 – Present	Yes	N/A	N/A	300

Carmel Area Wastewater District

Municipalities	Dates	Financial Audit	Single Audit	GFOA Certificate	Total Hours
Olivenhain Municipal Water District	2019 – Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	200
Rancho Murieta Community Services District	2019 – Present	Accounting and Consulting Services			800
Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District	2015 – Present	Yes	N/A	N/A	120
San Bernardino County Emergency Training Center	2020 – Present	Yes	N/A	N/A	50
San Bernardino County Preschool Services Department	2020 – Present	Yes	Yes	N/A	150
San Bernardino County Fire Protection District	2016 – Present	Yes	N/A	N/A	200
San Elijo Joint Powers Authority	2016 – Present	Yes	N/A	N/A	146
Santa Clara Stadium Authority	2020 – Present	Yes	N/A	N/A	230
Santa Fe Irrigation District	2019 – Present	Yes	N/A	N/A	250
South Bay Cities Council of Governments	2020 – Present	Yes	N/A	N/A	100
South Orange County Water Authority	2017 – Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	240
South Bay Cities Council of Governments	2020 – Present	Yes	N/A	N/A	60
South Bay Regional Public Communications Authority	2015 – Present	Yes	N/A	N/A	100
Southwestern Community College District	2009 – Present	Yes	Yes	N/A	720
Valley Sanitary District	2015 – Present	Yes	N/A	Yes	140
West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District	2016 – Present	Yes	N/A	N/A	100
Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization, AZ	2015 – Present	Accounting and Consulting Services			
Zone 7 Water Agency	2020 – Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	400

GFOA Award Program

The Pun Group ^{LLP} realizes the importance of maintaining the Certificate for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the GFOA. Our professionals are exceptionally well qualified in assisting governments in obtaining and maintaining their certificates.

The Firm's commitment and involvement in the development of auditing and accounting standards can be shown in our active participation in the GFOA's financial statements certificate programs. 100% of our current clients who submitted their Annual Comprehensive Financial Report to the GFOA received these awards.

Also, two of our senior partners, Mr. Gary Caporicci and Mr. John F. Georger, are members of the Government Finance Officers Association and participate in the GFOA Special Review Committee.

Audit Approach

The Carmel Area Wastewater District is requesting the Firm to express an opinion on the fair presentation of its basic financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. These audits are to be completed in accordance with all applicable and generally accepted auditing standards, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Generally accepted auditing standards as set forth by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA).
- US General Accounting Office's (GAO) Standard for Audit of Governmental Organizations, Programs, Activities, and Functions.
- Local Governments and Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Pronouncements.
- The standards applicable to financial audits contained in the most current version of the *Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards* (Yellow Book), issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.
- The provisions of the Single Audit Act as amended in 1996.
- The provisions of the US Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Uniform Guidance (formerly known as Circular A-133), Audits of State and Local Governments and Non-profit Organizations, and the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards.

Scope of Work

The Firm will perform the following services:

- ✓ Financial Statement Audits and issuance of an opinion statement on the basic financial statements of the Carmel Area Wastewater District. The audit will be conducted in accordance with *Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards* and includes:
 - Express an opinion on the financial statements as to whether they present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the District and the changes in financial position in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles and issue an independent auditor's report stating this opinion.
 - Test internal control over financial reporting and compliance with laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, and other matters, in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and issue comments on their considerations.
 - Apply limited procedures related to the Required Supplementary Information (RSI), Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A), budgetary comparison information, and the Supplementary Information.
 - Conduct an exit interview with CAWD management to discuss relevant findings and proposed audit adjustments prior to the final report.
 - Deliver administrative draft audit reports and draft management letters (if deemed appropriate) to CAWD management prior to the final report.
 - Provide an electronic version of the final audit report, delivered two (2) weeks prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting with the CAWD Board of Directors after audit completion.
- ✓ Issue a separate "**Management Letters**," including recommendations for improvements on internal control, accounting procedures, and other significant observations considered to be non-reportable conditions.
- ✓ Complete and submit the **Annual Report of Financial Transactions** required by the **State Controller**.
- ✓ If needed/required, prepare a **Single Audit Report** which will include the following:
 - Report on compliance and on internal control over financial reporting based on an audit of financial statements performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.

Carmel Area Wastewater District

- Report on compliance with requirements applicable to each major program, internal control over compliance, and on the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in accordance with Uniform Guidance, “Audits of State and Local Governments,” and the Single Audit Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-502).
- Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards.
- Notes to Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards.
- Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs.
- Any other required schedules or reports.
- Prepare the Data Collection Form for Reporting on Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations.

Attendance at Meetings and Hearings: The engagement team will participate in as many meetings with staff as needed to perform the work scope tasks, present the audit plan prior to beginning fieldwork, and discuss the draft audit reports. The team will attend public meetings to present and discuss its findings and recommendations. Once all issues of discussion are resolved, the completed Basic Financial Statement report, Single Audit report (if applicable), and all other reports will be delivered to the District, according to the agreed-upon schedule.

Proposed Audit Adjustments: All proposed adjusting journal entries by the Firm will be discussed and explained in a timely manner with the designated Finance Department personnel. Such proposed adjustments will be in a format that shows the lowest level of posting detail needed for data entry in the general ledger systems.

Supplemental Reports, Audits, or Agreed-Upon Procedures: Other services, such as agreed-upon procedures, may be deemed necessary. These services will be performed at agreed-upon rates and will be added in a written agreement before commencing audit work. The Firm and the Carmel Area Wastewater District will discuss and approve the scope and associated costs of these tasks.

Advice and Consultation: Will be provided throughout the year on matters relating to accounting and financial reporting. Such services do not include any task that entails significant research or a formal report.

GASB Implementation: The Firm will provide technical assistance and training in the implementation of applicable GASB pronouncements not yet in effect. We have a dedicated partner, Mr. Gary Caporicci, who will be responsible for providing advice and consultation for the implementation of these new standards. The Firm will advise the District on the applicability of accounting and reporting standards and other accounting issues and provide guidance on new note disclosures, GASB implementations, and other reporting requirements. We will also provide training, resources, and information on topics relevant to the District’s financial reporting and operations. *(Based on the scope, additional charges may apply.)*

Report of all Irregularities and Illegal Acts: The Firm will make an immediate written report of all irregularities and illegal acts or indications of illegal actions of which we may become aware.

The engagement team will also make all communications to the District required by the audit standards under which the engagement is performed. Those communications include, but are not limited to:

- a) The auditor’s responsibility under generally accepted auditing standards.
- b) Significant accounting policies.
- c) Management judgment and accounting estimates.
- d) Significant audit adjustments.
- e) Other information in documents containing audited financial statements.
- f) Disagreements with management.
- g) Management consultation with other accountants.
- h) Major issues discussed with management prior to retention.
- i) Difficulties encountered in performing the audit.

Working Paper Retention and Access to Working Papers: The Firm will retain, at its own expense, all working papers and reports for a minimum of seven (7) years, unless the Carmel Area Wastewater District notifies the Firm in writing of the need to extend the retention period. The Firm will make working papers available to the District and its designees.

Also, we will comply with reasonable requests from successor auditors and allow them to review working papers that relate to matters of continuing accounting significance.

Methodology and Segmentation of Engagement

The Firm’s audit approach consists of six phases: Engagement Acceptance and General Planning, Planning and Internal Control Evaluation, Fieldwork, Post Fieldwork, Report Preparation and Review, and Final Production.



Benefits

- Client tailored approach emphasizing careful planning, open communication, proper assignment of responsibilities
- An efficient and effective audit, so disruption to office operations is kept to a minimum
- Offer beneficial observations and recommendation about policies and procedures for accounting and operating controls
- Opportunities to make operations more efficient and reduce costs
- Provide advisory services so recommendations can be implemented
- Meet objectives at no additional cost

1. **Engagement Acceptance and General Planning:** The engagement partner and manager will meet with District’s management to obtain an update on current District policies and procedures, help identify risk areas and new operations, and establish any specific requirements they may have. Our team will work on the identification of unique transactions, implementation of new GASB pronouncements, and develop the audit work plan for the engagement. *Proposed Timeline: agreed-upon date.*
2. **Planning and Internal Control Evaluation:** The engagement team, including the engagement partner, will assess accounting policies adopted by the District in order to obtain an understanding of its structure and its operating environment. Also, our team will review internal controls on all significant transaction classes, perform walkthroughs and/or tests of internal controls, perform preliminary analytical procedures, develop initial risk assessment, evaluate Single Audit compliance, identify any audit issues, and prepare confirmation correspondence. The engagement team and District’s Management will establish expectations, including responsibilities and assignments for the year-end fieldwork, and will hold a progress status meeting at the end of the interim phase. *Proposed Timeline: first week of July.*
3. **Fieldwork:** The engagement team, including the engagement partner, will conduct audit procedures on account balances in the general ledger, finish confirmation procedures, perform data analysis using our AI tools, search for unrecorded liabilities, perform substantial analytical review procedures, complete work on compliance with Federal Assistance, and conclude fieldwork. The engagement team and District’s Management will hold an exit conference at year-end. Periodic update meetings will be held to communicate audit progress to management. *Proposed Timeline: by early September.*
4. **Post Fieldwork:** During the phase, the engagement team, including the engagement partner, will review all documents and evaluate commitments and contingencies. The team will perform an assessment of the going concern and jointly plan for the next steps.
5. **Report Preparation and Review:** The Firm will review and prepare audit reports and perform quality control procedures following the Quality Control Standards issued by the AICPA. We will also examine reports for compliance with GFOA reporting guidelines at no additional cost. Any comments will be recorded in a letter to management. At the District’s request, the engagement partner and manager will present the audit to District’s Management and other governing bodies. *Proposed Timeline: drafts of the audit reports will be available for review by October 15th. A final report will be delivered by November 15th, or at least two weeks prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors.*
6. **Final Production:** The final phase of our approach entails obtaining the management representation letter and final financial statement report, which may include a final presentation to the District’s Management and other governing bodies (if applicable).

The Firm will complete the audit fieldwork and issue all reports within the established timeframe, assuming no internal circumstances within the District causes delays in the audit.

Carmel Area Wastewater District

Level of Staff and Number of Hours to be Assigned to Each Segment of the Engagement

The Pun Group LLP understands that the District is not only looking to employ our auditing services but is also seeking to receive value within that professional relationship. We believe that our value derives from the in-depth knowledge, experience, and commitment that our auditing firm employs. We stress and emphasize “employ” because all of the knowledge and expertise listed on paper will not benefit you unless it is applied. That is why we have developed a plan that we feel will accomplish the objectives of the District and your particular needs. Our Firm will utilize the information that you have shared with us and our experience from our previous audits of this nature from various government entities and cities to develop a practical plan for all major areas.

Estimated Total Hours*:

	Partner(s)	Manager(s)	Senior(s)	Staff	Clerical	Total
Engagement Acceptance & General Planning	1	1	2	4	0	7
Planning & Internal Control Evaluation	1	2	2	5	0	11
Fieldwork	5	10	12	27	1	55
Post Fieldwork	3	6	8	18	1	36
Report Preparation & Review	5	10	12	27	1	55
Final Production	2	3	4	9	0	18
Total*	16	32	40	90	4	182

*Does not include CPE hours related to Governmental Webinars and/or optional services.

Sample Size and the Extent to Which Statistical Sampling is to be Used in this Engagement

In our audit approach, random and statistical sampling is used in conjunction with our skilled judgment and knowledge of each situation. When designing an audit sample, our auditors consider the purpose of the audit procedure and the characteristics of the population from which the sample will be drawn. We determine a sample size sufficient to reduce sampling risk to an acceptably low level and select items for such a task in a way that we can reasonably expect it to be representative of the relevant sample and likely to provide the auditor with a reasonable basis for conclusions about the population.

Enhancing Auditing Quality with Artificial Intelligence

There are plenty of challenges with established audit practices. Outdated CAAT tools, sampling practices, and the explosive growth of big data are some of the examples, and they all present significant barriers to detecting anomalies, intentional or otherwise, in financial data. The Pun Group deploys a comprehensive, risk-based approach, complemented by using MindBridge™'s Artificial Intelligence Platform, to conduct our audit. Through this tool, we can seamlessly analyze thousands and thousands of financial and operating data and records, **identifying and cataloging significant risks in mere seconds.**



The *AI Auditor* platform works by our side, augmenting our capacity to detect errors or fraud in the collected data not only by analyzing the entire set but by cross-correlating dozens of testing criteria against pre-established data points, and presenting us with a view of every user, vendor, and transaction, by risk. All of this within moments of ingesting analyzed data, which is something standard audit procedures simply cannot accomplish.

We utilize these tools to allow our audit team to increase efficiency in the audit process, to enhance the existing quality of our work, to provide directed testing in areas subject to the highest risk, and to quickly assimilate large amounts of data your staff would typically be asked to gather. The tools also help us to meet our professional requirements regarding fraud and internal control, allowing us to:

- ✓ Run Benford's analysis to check for fraud in transactions.
- ✓ Increase the value of audit findings with complete, 100% data coverage.
- ✓ Isolate risk and control issues before they impact your operations.
- ✓ Improve productivity by automating procedures and eliminating manual tasks.
- ✓ Conduct more direct, efficient, and effective audits to improve overall service quality.

Carmel Area Wastewater District

Our engagement team easily imports data in a secure environment from the District's financial software and extracts useful data for testing and analytical procedures particular to the following areas:

- Successful Fraud Test
- Questionable Invoices
- Phantom Vendor Schemes
- Kickback or Conflict-of-Interest Schemes
- Dormant Account Schemes
- Money Laundering Schemes

Type and Extent of Analytical Procedures to be used in the Engagement

Analytical procedures are one of many financial audit processes that help an auditor understand the client's operation and changes in the environment and identify potential risk areas to plan other audit procedures. Such procedures include a comparison of financial information on prior periods, budget, forecast, and industry benchmark. We use trend and ratio analysis to identify any uncertain or unusual events. To perform these analyses, our Firm surveys cities and counties and develops benchmarks on specific vital financial indicators, such as the cost of services to tax revenues ratios, average general fund balance, capital assets, debt-to-capital, general fund unassigned fund balance to total general fund expenditures, etc. Our engagement members have extensive experience in successfully implanting analytical procedures to the District's benefit.

Our analytical procedures process is performed during three stages of audit: (a) at the start, (b) in the middle, and (c) at the end. These three stages are risk assessment procedures, substantive analytical procedures, and final analytical procedures:

- **Risk assessment procedures** are used to assist the auditor in understanding the business better and to plan the nature, timing, and extent of audit procedures.
- **Substantive analytical procedures** are used to obtain evidential matters about particular assertions related to the account balances or classes of transactions. During the interim phase, our engagement team will set up expectations for the year-to-date results and balances and compare them with budgeted and prior-year amounts. This process allows us to forecast year-end amounts, reducing the workload during the year-end phase and allowing us to focus on areas of concern.
- **Final analytical procedures** are used as an overall review of the financial information in the last review stage of the audit. The Engagement Partner(s) and Manager(s) will perform a high-level analytical analysis of the financial information, comparing its data both quantitatively and qualitatively to ensure the amounts are fairly presented in all material respect in the financial statements.

Approach to be Taken to Gain and Document an Understanding of the Internal Control Structure

Audit risk assessment is established by an internal control review, combined with the engagement team's understanding of the District's operations and accounting software. Using the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations (COSO) Framework, staff members will evaluate the District's processes and identify any control deficiencies. These diagnostic review procedures allow the engagement team to assess the District's systems and controls and to provide constructive feedback to management.

During our initial planning phase of the audit, our engagement team, including the engagement Partner and Manager, will obtain an understanding of the entity and its environment. It is an essential aspect of performing an audit under generally accepted auditing standards. That understanding establishes a frame of reference within which the auditor plans the procedures and exercises professional judgment about assessing risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and responding to those risks throughout the examination.

During the interim phase of the audit, our engagement team will perform a walkthrough of all significant accounting systems, including processes for financial reporting, revenue recognition and cash receipts, purchasing/contract management and cash disbursements, and payroll and related liabilities, and others. Our auditors will obtain the written policies and procedures, inquiring accounting personnel, and document the process in either a flowchart or narrative summary format. After gaining an understanding of the accounting and internal control systems, our auditor will make a preliminary assessment of control risk, at the assertion level, for each material account balance or class of transactions.

Carmel Area Wastewater District

The form and extent of this documentation are influenced by the size and complexity of the entity and the nature of its accounting and internal control systems. Generally, the more complex the entity's accounting and internal control systems and the more extensive the auditor's procedures, the broader our documentation will need to be.

Approach to be Taken in Determining Laws and Regulations that Will be Subject to Audit Test Work

The Firm stays continually up to date with audit requirements—including new regulations, compliance supplements, state guidelines, and related contracts—to ensure that we conduct audits under applicable laws and regulations. We test transactions for compliance with the Single Audit Act, California Government Code, provisions of applicable grant guidelines, requirements of local measures, and others.

For example, the Single Audit Act requires that we determine which grants to include in our audit and select transactions from those grants for detailed testing. While most items will be tested as part of the Interim phase, we cannot determine which grants will be selected for the Single Audit until the year-end/fieldwork stage of the audit.

Our compliance audits of cash, investments, debt covenants, and other areas will be performed following the California Government Code, which has many provisions and regulations covering investments.

Approach to be Taken in Drawing Audit Samples for Purposes of Tests of Compliance

To test compliance, we will follow the AICPA's Audit Sampling Considerations of Uniform Guidance Compliance Audits. We will select an appropriate sample size based on our professional judgment and knowledge. Any deviations from control and compliance requirements will be documented.

Audit Firm's Expectations of the Role and Participation of District's Staff in the Audit Process

The engagement team will meet with the District's management during the initial planning stage to discuss audit schedules and review prior year audit findings (if any). We will deliver a list of all documents to be provided by the District's staff. Once such materials are agreed upon by the engagement team and District's finance personnel, no other schedules will be requested unless new information comes to light in the course of test work.

Our goal is to cause the least amount of interruptions to the District's daily operations; therefore, to the extent possible, we will use information in the form available from the District's records.

We believe client/engagement team communication is vital to perform results satisfactorily. With that sentiment in mind, we will hold regular meetings with the District's management to determine the status of the audit as well as any items which will require special attention. **Open and frequent communication is critical.**

Objectives of Our Services

Our primary objective for the proposed audit is to examine the District's financial statements and express our opinion on their fairness of the presentation, following generally accepted accounting principles. Other objectives that will benefit the District include the following:

- To offer beneficial observations and recommendations about policies and procedures for accounting and operating controls
- To identify opportunities to make District operations more efficient and reduce costs
- To perform the audit efficiently and effectively, so disruption to office operations is kept to a minimum
- To provide continuing advisory services so the District can implement recommendations
- To meet these objectives at no additional cost to the District

The Engagement Team will perform the audit abiding by the Firm's quality-control procedures, which include following standard audit programs, careful planning, using industry-standardized software for auditing and internal control documentation, and welcoming an objective review of audit work. In other words, our client-tailored approach emphasizes careful planning, open communication, and proper assignment of responsibilities.

The Firm will supply portable computers to the on-site staff members.

Identification of Anticipated Potential Audit Problems

While we do not expect any problems with the audit, we will carefully investigate and monitor the following relevant accounting issues:

Investments:

- Compliance with GASB 31 and GASB 34
- Authorization and approval process for District investments
- Controls to assure District's compliance with investment limitations and types of specific investments
- Monitoring by the District of its investments

Financial Reporting:

- Compliance with current reporting and disclosure requirements issued by GASB
- Compliance with the various GASBs in effect
- Perform valuations of OPEB benefits to determine the liability for all benefits promised to active, retired, and inactive plan members as of each valuation date
- Compliance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statements 74 and 75
- Compliance with infrastructure obligations and regulatory provisions

Internal Control Structure:

- District's internal control functions and compliance with proper internal control philosophies
- Computer-system processes and controls, and adequacy of the control environment

Special Audit Considerations for the Fiscal Years 2021/2022*

- Grant Issues (FEMA, CARES)
- In many cases, governments may not know until they submit for reimbursement how much money they will receive. In those cases, governments should not record revenue until they are awarded a specific amount
- Governments should not report expenditures on the SEFA until the grant is awarded
- CARES funding may be subject to single audit requirements
- Government programs allowing deferral of customer payments (deferral of TOT payments, utility payments, and other lease holidays to help the community)
- In governmental fund types, this may impact the government's ability to record revenue because of the "measurable" and "available" criteria
- In proprietary fund types, this may impact the allowance for doubtful accounts estimates
- Internal controls during COVID – audit impact on possible circumvention of internal controls for emergency purchases or when individuals were not available to sign/approve activities
- Investment losses and credit risk
- Pension and OPEB plans – the impact of investment losses
- Is there an increased risk of litigation?
- Audit response to analytical variances – Set expectations for decreases in sales tax, hotel tax, fee-based revenues such as recreation, library or other community-based services, passenger facility charges, building permits, layoffs/furloughs, expanded senior and low/income program costs
- Going concern evaluations
- Subsequent events footnote disclosures of COVID
- Intermediate changes in the internal controls as a result of a remote workforce

We cannot speculate at this time on the contents of the auditor's reports. However, we expect to be able to discuss the tentative content of the auditor's reports well in advance of the issuance of such reports.

**Not all examples may be applicable to the District.*

Proposal Costs

Total All-Inclusive Maximum Price

Our proposed fees ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾ for Financial Audit Services for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2022, through 2024, with the option to extend for three (3) additional years, are as follows:

Requested Services	FY2021-22	FY2022-23	FY2023-24	FY2024-25 (Optional)	FY2025-26 (Optional)	FY2026-27 (Optional)
CAWD Audit and Related Reports	\$20,750.00	\$21,372.50	\$22,013.68	\$22,674.09	\$23,354.31	\$24,054.94
State Controller's Report	\$1,800.00	\$1,854.00	\$1,909.62	\$1,966.91	\$2,025.92	\$2,086.69
Total	\$22,550.00	\$23,226.50	\$23,923.30	\$24,640.99	\$25,380.22	\$26,141.63

- (1) The quote presented does not include Single Audit related services. If a Single Audit is required, the fee for auditing major programs will be \$5,000 per program. The number of programs determined to be "major" will be based on OMB Uniform Guidance. The Engagement Team will discuss with the Carmel Area Wastewater District's Management before starting Single Audit work.
- (2) Depending on the scope, certain services related to GASB implementation work may require additional charges. The Engagement Team will discuss details and associated costs with the Carmel Area Wastewater District's Management before starting any GASB implementation work.

Out of Pocket Expenses in the Total Maximum Price and Reimbursement Rates

The Firm's policy is to maintain flexible billing rates to meet the needs of clients and help them control costs. In the interest of starting our long-term relationship, we will absorb expenses such as travel and printing costs. Additionally, our Partners will be available to provide advice and consultation as necessary to the Carmel Area Wastewater District. The Firm will also absorb these costs.

Rates for Additional Professional Services

Below are the Firm's hourly billing rates, delineated by staffing levels:

Hourly Billing Rates	
Partner(s)	\$ 275
Manager(s)	\$ 200
Senior Accountant(s)	\$ 150
Staff Accountant(s)	\$ 125
Clerical	\$ 75

Any supplemental reports, audits, or agreed-upon procedures not covered by this proposal may be added in a written agreement prior to commencing audit work. The Firm and the District will discuss and approve the scope and associated costs of these tasks. Any additional work will be performed at the above-quoted hourly rates.

Carmel Area Wastewater District

Manner of Payment

Engagement Team members are required to maintain timesheets detailing the date, number of hours, and work performed for every audit task. The Firm will collect these timesheets and bill the Carmel Area Wastewater District, at the rates outlined in the Total All-Inclusive Maximum Price section, in four stages: (1) at the conclusion of the planning phase, (2) at the conclusion of the interim phase, (3) at the conclusion of the Year-End phase, (4) and after presentation and acceptance of the final audit reports. Interim billings will cover a period not less than a calendar month. The billing amounts generally break down as follows:

Work Performed	% of Proposal Amount
Planning	10%
Interim	40%
Fieldwork	40%
Presentation and Acceptance of Reports	10%

Let's Get to Work.

Benefits of Choosing The Pun Group LLP

The Pun Group LLP is recognized for its professionalism, integrity, and providing clients with practical solutions unique to their circumstances and issues. Our Firm prides itself on being able to provide personalized client services, and with that sentiment in mind, we have carefully chosen our engagement teams. The Pun Group's primary objective is to give the Carmel Area Wastewater District solutions and directions, led by highly experienced and capable partners who can successfully implement the work and produce the results you expect. This philosophy and mindset allow us to provide a superior level of service and a quality audit.

We trust that this proposal has given you the information needed about the Firm, the engagement team members, the overall audit approach, cost-saving measures, and audit fees. We are committed to exceeding your expectations, and we look forward to bringing our experience and expertise to the Carmel Area Wastewater District while providing you with the excellent level of service that you expect and deserve.

Thank You

Thank you for allowing us to submit our qualifications to provide you with Financial Audit Services. Please direct inquiries to:

Kenneth H. Pun, CPA, CGMA
Managing Partner
Email: ken.pun@pungroup.com
Phone: (949) 777-8801 | Fax: (949) 777-8850

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "The Pun Group, LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Pun Group LLP
Certified Public Accountants and Business Advisors

Appendix A – Certificate of Insurance



CERTIFICATE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE

DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)

2/26/2021

THIS CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED AS A MATTER OF INFORMATION ONLY AND CONFERS NO RIGHTS UPON THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER. THIS CERTIFICATE DOES NOT AFFIRMATIVELY OR NEGATIVELY AMEND, EXTEND OR ALTER THE COVERAGE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES BELOW. THIS CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE ISSUING INSURER(S), AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OR PRODUCER, AND THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER.

IMPORTANT: If the certificate holder is an ADDITIONAL INSURED, the policy(ies) must be endorsed. If SUBROGATION IS WAIVED, subject to the terms and conditions of the policy, certain policies may require an endorsement. A statement on this certificate does not confer rights to the certificate holder in lieu of such endorsement(s).

PRODUCER Wood Gutmann & Bogart 15901 Red Hill Ave., Suite 100 Tustin CA 92780		CONTACT NAME: Sarah Caballero PHONE (A/C, No, Ext): 714-824-8300 E-MAIL ADDRESS: scaballero@wgbib.com		FAX (A/C, No): 714-573-1770
INSURED The Pun Group, LLP 200 East Sandpointe Avenue, Suite 600 Santa Ana CA 92707		INSURER(S) AFFORDING COVERAGE		NAIC #
PUN&M-1		INSURER A : TRAVELERS CAS INS CO OF AMER		19046
		INSURER B : GREAT DIVIDE INS CO		25224
		INSURER C : Travelers Property Casualty Co of Amer		25674
		INSURER D : Travelers Property Casualty		25674
		INSURER E :		
		INSURER F :		

COVERAGES **CERTIFICATE NUMBER: 573457244** **REVISION NUMBER:**

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE POLICIES OF INSURANCE LISTED BELOW HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO THE INSURED NAMED ABOVE FOR THE POLICY PERIOD INDICATED. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY REQUIREMENT, TERM OR CONDITION OF ANY CONTRACT OR OTHER DOCUMENT WITH RESPECT TO WHICH THIS CERTIFICATE MAY BE ISSUED OR MAY PERTAIN, THE INSURANCE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES DESCRIBED HEREIN IS SUBJECT TO ALL THE TERMS, EXCLUSIONS AND CONDITIONS OF SUCH POLICIES. LIMITS SHOWN MAY HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY PAID CLAIMS.

INSR LTR	TYPE OF INSURANCE	ADDL SUBR INSD WVD	POLICY NUMBER	POLICY EFF (MM/DD/YYYY)	POLICY EXP (MM/DD/YYYY)	LIMITS
A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY <input type="checkbox"/> CLAIMS-MADE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$0 deductible GEN'L AGGREGATE LIMIT APPLIES PER: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLICY <input type="checkbox"/> PRO-JECT <input type="checkbox"/> LOC OTHER:	Y	8807G5921202142	3/1/2021	3/1/2022	EACH OCCURRENCE \$ 2,000,000 DAMAGE TO RENTED PREMISES (Ea occurrence) \$ 300,000 MED EXP (Any one person) \$ 5,000 PERSONAL & ADV INJURY \$ 2,000,000 GENERAL AGGREGATE \$ 4,000,000 PRODUCTS - COM/PO/ AGG \$ 4,000,000 \$
A	AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY <input type="checkbox"/> ANY AUTO <input type="checkbox"/> ALL OWNED AUTOS <input type="checkbox"/> SCHEDULED AUTOS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HIRED AUTOS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NON-OWNED AUTOS		BA8L4678832142	3/1/2021	3/1/2022	COMBINED SINGLE LIMIT (Ea accident) \$ 1,000,000 BODILY INJURY (Per person) \$ BODILY INJURY (Per accident) \$ PROPERTY DAMAGE (Per accident) \$ \$
C	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UMBRELLA LIAB <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUR <input type="checkbox"/> EXCESS LIAB <input type="checkbox"/> CLAIMS-MADE DED RETENTION \$		CUP4H2531482142	3/1/2021	3/1/2022	EACH OCCURRENCE \$ 1,000,000 AGGREGATE \$ 1,000,000 \$
D	WORKERS COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ANY PROPRIETOR/PARTNER/EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEMBER EXCLUDED? (Mandatory in NH) If yes, describe under DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS below	Y/N N/A	UB3K6534012142	3/1/2021	3/1/2022	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PER STATUTE <input type="checkbox"/> OTH-ER E.L. EACH ACCIDENT \$ 1,000,000 E.L. DISEASE - EA EMPLOYEE \$ 1,000,000 E.L. DISEASE - POLICY LIMIT \$ 1,000,000
B	E&O Retro 12/29/11		CAB20235901	3/1/2021	3/1/2022	3,000,000 agg 1,000,000

DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS / LOCATIONS / VEHICLES (ACORD 101, Additional Remarks Schedule, may be attached if more space is required)

CERTIFICATE HOLDER Proof of Coverage cert XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX XX XXXXX	CANCELLATION SHOULD ANY OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED POLICIES BE CANCELLED BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE THEREOF, NOTICE WILL BE DELIVERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICY PROVISIONS. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE
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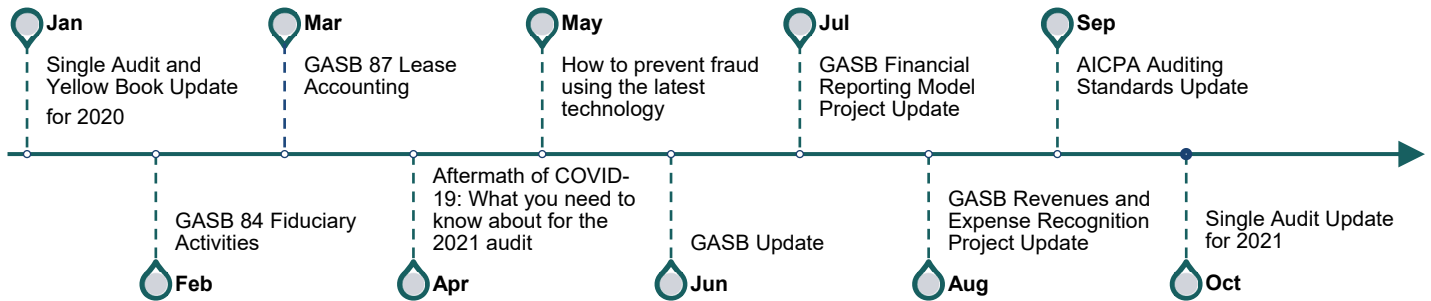
Appendix B – Available Training

Client Training Webinars

We pride ourselves in leading the governmental auditing profession nationwide and statewide. Members of our team have been assigned to the AICPA and State Government Accounting and Audit committees. Our membership with these two levels of government keeps us current, and such involvement helps our Firm with the constant changes in accounting and auditing standards, laws and regulations, and compliance provisions, which have created an unprecedented complexity in public accounting for state and local governments.

Every year, the Firm hosts a conference to update governmental clients on new technical accounting and financial issues. Since last year, by implementing “Webinars,” we’re expanding our horizons and offering our clients 15 hours of Continuing Professional Education (CPE). These sessions are **free of charge** and part of the service package provided to our clients.

Our 2021 *Virtual Governmental Accounting Webinars* covered the following topics.



Topics and dates for the 2022 *Virtual Government Accounting Webinars* will be released in January 2022.

Following is a list of seminars/webinars and training presented by the Firm during the past three years available for attendance by our clients:

<p>2018 In-Person Conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Santa Ana, CA • Clovis, CA • Danville, CA 	<p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2018 GASB Update • Implementation of the New OPEB Standards • 2018 Survey – Cities and Counties • Public Sector Benefits 2018: <i>Big Ticket Items You Need To Plan For</i> • Fraud in State and Local Governments • 2018 Auditing Standards and Single Audit Update
<p>2019 In-Person Conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Santa Ana, CA • Clovis, CA • Danville, CA 	<p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2019 GASB Update • Implementation of GASB Leases Standards, Statement No. 87 • 2019 Survey – Cities and Counties • Implementation of GASB Fiduciary Activities, Statement No. 84 • Fraud in State and Local Governments • ERP Implementation • 2019 Auditing Standards and Single Audit Update
<p>2020 Webinars</p>	<p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential Risk of Fraud During this Pandemic • 2020 Survey of California Cities Fiscal Assessment of California Cities and its School System • Surviving the Pandemic’s Fiscal Crisis – Option for Municipalities • GASB Update • Implementation of GASB 84



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