


Treasurer/Tax Collector

County of Lassen



Nancy Cardenas, Treasurer/Tax Collector
Lassen County Courthouse, Suite 3
220 South Lassen Street
Susanville, CA 96130-4324

☎ 530/251-8221
FAX: 530/251-2677

Date: July 18, 2024
To: Board of Supervisors
From:  Nancy Cardenas, Lassen County Auditor/Controller, Treasurer/Tax Collector
Subject: CLA (Clifton Larson Allen LLP)

Recommendation: That the Board: 1) Approve proposed contract with CLA in the amount of \$165,800 for fiscal audit year 2024, \$176,610 for fiscal audit year 2025, and \$187,740 for fiscal audit year 2026. 2) Authorize the County Auditor Controller, Treasurer/Tax Collector to execute the proposed agreement.

The purpose of the requested action is to replace the contract that expired with Price Paige and Company for the County's external audit

This request is being funded out of the 2024, 2025, and 2026 non-departmental expense fund 100 budget unit 0101.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN LASSEN COUNTY

AND

CLA (CLIFTONLARSONALLEN LLP)

THIS AGREEMENT is made between the COUNTY OF LASSEN, a political subdivision of the State of California (hereinafter "COUNTY"), and CLIFTONLARSONALLEN LLP(CLA) with a principal place of business at 301 Northlake Ave, Pasadena CA 91101, (hereinafter "CONTRACTOR").

This Agreement is made with reference to the following facts and circumstances:

WHEREAS COUNTY has need for an outside audit firm and,

WHEREAS CONTRACTOR desires to provide those services.

In consideration of the services to be rendered, the sums to be paid, and each and every covenant and condition contained herein, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. SERVICES SEE ATTACHEMENT A.

The CONTRACTOR shall provide those services described in Attachment "A". CONTRACTOR shall provide said services at the time, place and in the manner specified in Attachment "A".

2. TERM.

The term of the agreement shall be for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026. With the right to amend for three years

3. PAYMENT.

COUNTY shall pay CONTRACTOR for services rendered pursuant to this Agreement at the time and in the amount set forth in Attachment "B". The payment specified in Attachment "B" shall be the only payment made to CONTRACTOR for services rendered pursuant to this Agreement. CONTRACTOR shall submit all billing for said services to COUNTY in the manner specified in Attachment "B".

4. FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT AND OTHER MATERIALS AND OBLIGATIONS OF COUNTY.

CONTRACTOR shall, at its sole cost and expense, furnish all facilities, equipment, and other materials which may be required for furnishing services pursuant to this Agreement.

COUNTY shall:

4.1 Pay the CONTRACTOR on the terms agreed upon herein in writing, provided that: (1) the CONTRACTOR timely submits appropriate invoices to the COUNTY, (2) the CONTRACTOR is not in breach of the terms and conditions of this Agreement, its attachments, or

_____ County Initials

Contractor Initials _____

the standards or/specifications referenced or applicable thereto; (3) the CONTRACTOR is not in violation of laws or regulations substantially impairing the value of the CONTRACTOR'S performance or the CONTRACTOR'S entitlement to payment; (4) funds to be paid to the CONTRACTOR are not the subject of any active levy, execution, claim, offset, or stop notice by any third party or the COUNTY; and (5) appropriate public funds are available to the COUNTY for such payment.

4.2 Retain ownership and have prompt access to any report, evaluations, intellectual property, findings, or data assembled/developed ("Deliverables") by CONTRACTOR under this Agreement. For the avoidance of doubt. Deliverables does not include CONTRACTOR's workpapers which are proprietary information and access is restricted.

5. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.

Those additional provisions unique to this Agreement are set forth in Attachment "C".

6. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

The general provisions set forth in Attachment "D" are part of this Agreement. Any inconsistency between said general provisions and any other terms or conditions of this Agreement shall be controlled by the other terms or conditions insofar as the latter are inconsistent with the general provisions.

7. DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVES.

Nancy Cardenas, is the designated representative of the COUNTY and will administer this Agreement for the COUNTY. Brianna Wiese is the authorized representative for CONTRACTOR. Changes in the designated representatives shall occur only by advance written notice to the other party.

8. ATTACHMENTS.

All attachments referred to herein are attached hereto and by this reference incorporated herein. Attachments include:

- Attachment A-Services
- Attachment B-Payment
- Attachment C-Additional Provisions
- Attachment D-General Provisions
- Attachment E-No Third Party Beneficiaries

Page 2

_____ County Initials Contractor Initials _____

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement on the dates shown opposite their respective signatures.

CONTRACTOR
CLA

Dated: _____

By: _____
Brianna Wiese, Principal

DocuSigned by:
Brianna Wiese
772E06802E384EA

COUNTY
County of Lassen

Dated: _____

By: _____
Nancy Cardenas
Auditor/Controller
Treasurer/Tax Collector

Approved as to form:

By: _____
Amanda Uhrhammer
Lassen County Counsel



[1Contract Standard Professional Services Master v20210505]

**ATTACHMENT A
AGREEMENT BETWEEN LASSEN COUNTY AND
CLA
SCOPE OF SERVICES**

A.1 SCOPE OF SERVICES AND DUTIES.

The services to be provided by CONTRACTOR and the scope of CONTRACTOR's duties include the following:

SEE ATTACHMENT A

_____ County Initials Contractor Initials _____

Attachment A

CLA financial disclosure



CliftonLarsonAllen LLP
220 South Sixth Street, Suite 300
Minneapolis, MN 55402-1436

phone 612-376-4500 fax 612-376-4850
CLAconnect.com

January 1, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP (CLA) is a professional services firm delivering integrated wealth advisory, outsourcing and public accounting capabilities to enhance our clients' enterprise value and assist them in growing and managing their related personal assets. CLA is among the nation's top 10 accounting, consulting and advisory firms and has been providing quality, service and experience to clients for more than 65 years. CLA has annual revenues of roughly \$2.2 billion and employs over 9,000 professionals at more than 120 locations throughout the United States.

As a privately held company we are not rated, nor do we provide financial information outside of the company. CLA is in good standing and maintains a D&B rating of 1R2.

Sincerely,

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heidi E. Hillman".

Heidi E. Hillman
Managing Principal, Financial Operations
612.376.4620
Heidi.hillman@claconnect.com

CLA (CliftonLarsonAllen LLP) is an independent network member of CLA Global. See CLAGlobal.com/discclaimer.



5. Work Plan

(RFP section B. Mandatory Content and Sequence of Submittal, 5)

The CLA Seamless Assurance Advantage (SAA)

The CLA Seamless Assurance Advantage (SAA) is an innovative approach to auditing that utilizes leading technologies, analytics, and audit methods to help solve client problems and create a seamless experience.

A different approach

SAA is unlike any conventional audit process. SAA does not depend on physical location. It reduces the time our professionals spend on site, creates fewer disruptions, enables more efficient use of resources (yours and ours), and allows for more impactful interactions with your people.

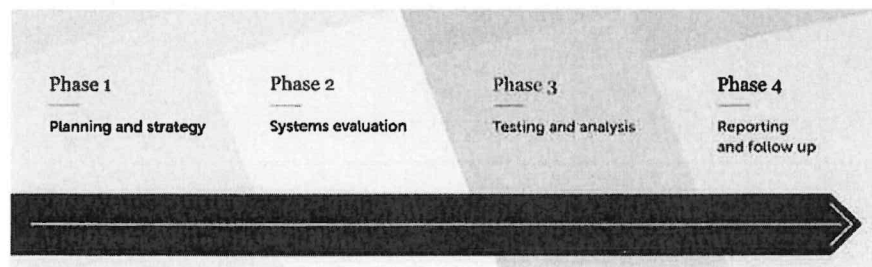
Insights through analytics

CLA uses strategic data analysis to examine whole data sets to gain a deeper understanding of your organization. Insights that were once impossible can now come into focus to help you measure performance, enhance strategic decision making, and understand your competitive opportunities.

Effective technology

CLA embraces technologies that help solve client problems and create a seamless experience. Assurance Information Exchange (AIE) is a web-based application developed by CLA to digitally request and obtain audit documents through a secure and efficient online portal.

Financial statement audit approach



Phase 1: Planning and strategy

The main objective of the planning phase is to identify significant areas and design efficient audit procedures.



- Conduct an entrance meeting. Brianne Wiese and staff will meet with the County personnel to agree on an outline of responsibilities and time frames
 - Establish audit approach and timing schedule
 - Determine assistance to be provided by the County personnel
 - Discuss application of generally accepted accounting principles
 - Address initial audit concerns
 - Establish report parameters and timetables
 - Progress reporting process
 - Establish principal contacts
- Gain an understanding of your operations, including any changes in organization, management style, and internal and external factors influencing the operating environment
- Identify significant accounts and accounting applications, critical audit areas, significant provisions of laws and regulations, and relevant controls over operations
-
- Perform a preliminary overall risk assessment
- Confirm protocol for meeting with and requesting information from relevant staff
- Establish a timetable for the fieldwork phase of the audit
- Determine a protocol for using TeamMate Analytics and Expert Analyzer (TeamMate), our data extraction and analysis software, to facilitate timely receipt and analysis of reports from management
- Compile an initial comprehensive list of items to be prepared by the County, and establish deadlines

A key element in planning this audit engagement will be the heavy involvement of principals and managers. We will clearly communicate any issues in a timely manner and will be in constant contact as to what we are finding and where we expect it will lead. Using the information we have gathered and the risks identified, we will produce an audit program specifically tailored to the County that will detail the nature and types of tests to be performed. We view our programs as living documents, subject to change as conditions warrant.

Phase 2: Systems evaluation

We will gain an understanding of the internal control structure of the County for financial accounting and relevant operations. Next, we will identify control objectives for each type of control material to the financial statements, and then identify and gain an understanding of the relevant control policies and procedures that effectively achieve the control objectives. Finally, we will determine the nature, timing, and extent of our control testing and perform tests of controls. This phase of the audit will include testing of certain key internal controls:

- Electronic data, including general and application controls reviews and various user controls
- Financial reporting and compliance with laws and regulations

We will test controls over certain key cycles, not only to gather evidence about the existence and effectiveness of internal control for purposes of assessing control risk, but also to gather evidence about the reasonableness of an account balance. Our use of multi-purpose tests allows us to provide a more efficient audit without sacrificing quality.

Our assessment of internal controls will determine whether the County has established and maintained internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the following objectives are met:

- Transactions are properly recorded, processed, and summarized to permit the preparation of reliable financial statements and to maintain accountability over assets
- Assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition



- Transactions are executed in accordance with laws and regulations that could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements

Based on our preliminary review, we will perform an initial risk assessment of each critical element in each general control category, as well as an overall assessment of each control category. We will then assess the significant computer-related controls. For IS/IT-related controls we deem to be ineffectively designed or not operating as intended, we will gather sufficient evidence to support findings and will provide recommendations for improvement. For IS controls we deem to be effectively designed, we will perform testing to determine if they are operating as intended through a combination of procedures, including observation, inquiry, inspection, and re-performance.

Phase 3: Testing and analysis

The extent of our substantive testing will be based on results of our internal control tests. Audit sampling will be used only in those situations where it is the most effective method of testing. After identifying individually significant or unusual items, we will decide the audit approach for the remaining balance of items by considering tolerable error and audit risk. This may include (1) testing a sample of the remaining balance; (2) lowering the previously determined threshold for individually significant items to increase the percent of coverage of the account balance; or (3) applying analytical procedures to the remaining balance. When we elect to sample balances, we will use TeamMate to efficiently control and select our samples. Our workpapers during this phase will clearly document our work as outlined in our audit programs. We will provide the County with status reports and be in constant communication with the County to determine that all identified issues are resolved in a timely manner. We will hold a final exit conference with the County to summarize the results of our fieldwork and review significant findings.

Phase 4: Reporting and follow up

Reports to management will include oral and/or written reports regarding:

- Independent Auditors' Report
- Independent Auditors' Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*
- Independent Auditors' Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program, Report on Internal Control Over Compliance, and Report on the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards Required by the *Uniform Guidance*
- Management Letter
- Written Communication to Those Charged with Governance

Once the final reviews of working papers and financial statements are completed, our opinion, the financial statements, and management letter will be issued. The County will be given a draft of any comments we propose to include in the management letter. Items not considered major may be discussed verbally with management instead of in the management letter. Our management letter will include items noted during our analysis of your operations. We will make a formal presentation of the audit results to those charged with governance, if requested.

Single audit approach

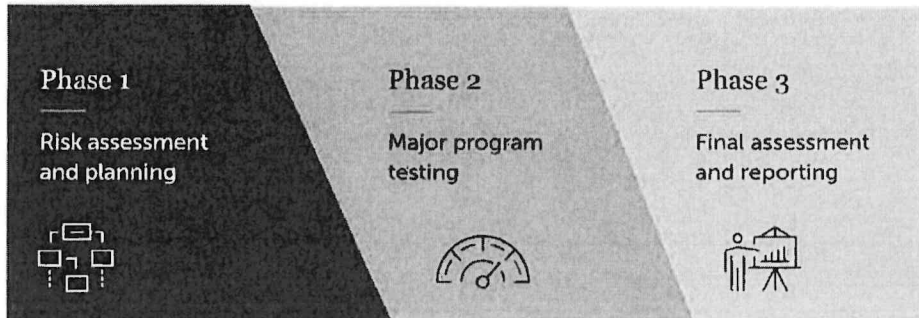
The OMB's *Uniform Guidance* (2 CFR Part 200) is effective for federal grants made on or after December 26, 2014. This affects how federal grants are managed and audited and impacts every organization that receives federal assistance. Grant compliance can be a confusing topic and many of our clients rely on their federal



funding as a major revenue source, so it is important that they understand what these changes mean to their organization. As a leader in the industry, CLA was out in front of these changes and informed our clients of how to be proactive about these changes and how they could impact their entity. CLA professionals are available to provide guidance and tools tailored to the County's needs, and to assist in compliance with these rules.

The AICPA clarified auditing standard, AU-C 935 "Compliance Audits," requires risk-based concepts to be used in all compliance audits including those performed in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200. Our risk-based approach incorporates this guidance.

We will conduct our single audit in three primary phases, as shown, below:



Phase 1: Risk assessment and planning

The risk assessment and planning phase will encompass the overall planning stage of the single audit engagement. During this phase, we will work closely with the County's management to determine that programs and all clusters of programs are properly identified and risk-rated for determination of the major programs for testing. We will also review the forms and programs utilized in the prior year to determine the extent of any changes which are required.

We will accomplish this by following the methodology below:

- Determine the threshold to distinguish between Type A and B programs, including the effect of any loans and loan programs
- Utilizing the preliminary Schedule of Expenditure of Federal Awards, we will identify the Type A and significant Type B programs (25% of Type A threshold) in accordance with the *Uniform Guidance*
- Identify the programs tested and the findings reported for the past two fiscal years. Determine and document the program risk based on the past two single audits
- Prepare and distribute Type B program questionnaires to determine risk associated with Type B programs
- Determine the major programs to be tested for the current fiscal year based on the previous steps
- Based on our determination of the major programs, we will obtain the current year compliance supplement to aid in the determination of direct and material compliance requirements, and customize the audit program accordingly
- Determine the preferred methods of communication during the audit

Phase 2: Major program testing

We will determine the programs to be audited based on the risk assessment performed in the planning phase. We will perform the audit of the programs in accordance with *UG*.

To accomplish this, we will perform the following:



- Schedule an introductory meeting and notify the County's management of the major programs for the current fiscal year
- Plan and execute the testing of the expenditures reported on the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards
- Perform tests of compliance and internal controls over compliance for each major program identified
- Schedule periodic progress meetings to determine that schedules are adhered to and identify issues as they arise
- Conduct entrance and exit conference meetings with each grant manager

Phase 3: Final assessment and reporting

We will re-perform the steps noted in the preliminary assessment and planning stage once the final Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards is received to determine if additional major programs were identified.

Based on the final determination of the programs we will perform the following:

- Identify Type A and significant Type B programs which were not previously identified
- Re-assess the risk and determine if we are required to audit additional programs
- Perform compliance testing at the entity wide level related to procurement and cash management requirements
- Perform testing to validate the status of prior year findings for those programs not selected for audit
- Prepare the Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
- Conduct exit conference with the County's management to review drafts of required reports:
 - Independent Auditors' Report on Internal Control over financial reporting and on compliance and other matters based on an audit of Financial Statements Performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*
 - Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program, Report on Internal Control Over Compliance, and Report on the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards Required by the *Uniform Guidance*

Throughout the single audit, we will maintain communication through periodic progress meetings with those designated by the County. These meetings will be on a set schedule, but as frequently as the County determines. During these meetings, we will discuss progress impediments and findings as they arise.

Communication process

Effective communication is critical to a successful engagement. This includes weekly status meetings where observations, potential exceptions, and leading practices are discussed. To avoid surprises at the end of the engagement, we discuss and document our observations, clarify fact patterns, and confirm management's understanding and agreement with our findings. CLA adheres to all auditing standards related to reporting observations, recommendations, and findings. All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses will be reported to the audit committee/governance in writing. Best practices, observations, and other matters will be reported to management in a management letter that can be used as a tool to track the implementation of our recommendations.

Report to those charged with governance — In addition to observations and recommendations, we will inform the audit committee of required information.

We are sensitive and understanding of the fact that we report to those charged with governance, and our audit professionals maintain objectivity and independence in issuing audit opinions. If we identify significant fraud, illegal acts, or significant delays during the audit process, we will alert the audit committee immediately.



Information related to overall fiscal health or other concerns of your organization observed during audit testing will be presented in the exit presentation and as part of the management letter. We will also help you create opportunities for improvement through recommendations and suggestions for strengthening your policies, accounting procedures, and processes.

Engagement timeline

Count on clear communication and regular updates.

Proposed work plan

Per our discussions we have designed a plan that meets your needs and key deadlines. In our planning meeting, we'll discuss this timeline with you in greater detail and adjust as appropriate.

	Task	FY 2024	FY 2025 & 2026
Phase 1 & 2	Pre-interim work		
	Request initial planning documents from the County	October 2024	June
	Initial planning meeting	November 2024	June
Phase 3	Interim audit work begins	January 2025	July
	Field audit work begins	January 2025	September
Phase 4	Draft reports	March 2025	November
	Presentation to the County	April 2025	January
	Planning and update meetings	Ongoing	Ongoing

Reliable: Look for us to respond in hours, not days. We strive to deliver service that exceeds your expectations.



7. Draft Scope of Work

(RFP section B. Mandatory Content and Sequence of Submittal, 7)



CliftonLarsonAllen LLP
<https://www.claconnect.com>

Statement of Work - Audit Services

April 1, 2024

This document constitutes a statement of work ("SOW") under the master service agreement ("MSA") dated February 9, 2024, or superseding MSA, made by and between CliftonLarsonAllen.LLP ("CLA," "we," "us," and "our") and County of Lassen ("you," "your," or "the entity"). We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the terms and objectives of our engagement and the nature and limitations of the services CLA will provide for the entity as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024.

Brianne Wiese is responsible for the performance of the audit engagement.

Scope of audit services

We will audit the financial statements of the ACFR, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements of County of Lassen, and the related notes to the financial statements as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) provides for certain required supplementary information (RSI) to accompany the entity's basic financial statements.

The following RSI will be subjected to certain limited procedures, but will not be audited.

- Management's discussion and analysis.
- Budgetary comparison schedules.
- GASB-required supplementary pension, OPEB, and infrastructure information under modified reporting.

The supplementary information other than RSI accompanying the financial statements will not be subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements and our auditors' report will not provide an opinion or any assurance on that information.

Nonaudit services

We will also provide the following nonaudit services:

- Preparation of your financial statements and the related notes.
- Preparation of the required supplementary information (RSI).

Page 1 of 13



- Preparation of the supplementary information.

Audit objectives

The objectives of our audit of the financial statements are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion about whether your financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP). Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAS) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements, including omissions, can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

Our audit will be conducted in accordance with U.S. GAAS; the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Those standards require us to be independent of the entity and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. Our audit will include tests of your accounting records, a determination of major program(s) in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express opinions and render the required reports.

We will apply certain limited procedures to the RSI in accordance with U.S. GAAS. However, we will not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance. We will also perform procedures to enable us to express an opinion on whether the supplementary information (as identified above) other than RSI accompanying the financial statements is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

The objectives of our audit also include:

- Reporting on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance with the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and award agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.
- Reporting on internal control over compliance related to major programs and expressing an opinion (or disclaimer of opinion) on compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards that could have a direct and material effect on each major program in accordance with the Uniform Guidance.

The *Government Auditing Standards* report on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance and other matters will include a paragraph that states (1) that the purpose of the report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance, and (2) that the report is



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

We will issue written reports upon completion of our audit of your financial statements and compliance with requirements applicable to major programs.

Circumstances may arise in which our report may differ from its expected form and content based on the results of our audit. Depending on the nature of these circumstances, it may be necessary for us to modify our opinions, add an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph to our auditors' report, or if necessary, withdraw from the engagement. If our opinions on the financial statements or compliance are other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If circumstances occur related to the condition of your records, the availability of sufficient, appropriate audit evidence, or the existence of a significant risk of material misstatement of the financial statements or material noncompliance caused by error, fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets, which in our professional judgment prevent us from completing the audit or forming an opinion on the financial statements or an opinion on compliance, we retain the right to take any course of action permitted by professional standards, including declining to express opinions or issue reports, or withdrawing from the engagement.

Auditor responsibilities, procedures, and limitations

We will conduct our audit in accordance with U.S. GAAS, the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance.

Those standards require that we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the planning and performance of the audit. As part of our audit, we will:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and evaluate whether audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement or a material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. However, we will communicate to you in writing any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control relevant to the audit of the financial statements that we have identified during the audit.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements,



including the amounts and disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

- Conclude, based on our evaluation of audit evidence obtained, whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Although our audit planning has not been concluded and modifications may be made, we have identified the following significant risk(s) of material misstatement as part of our audit planning:

- Management override of controls

We plan to use an auditors' specialist to Actuarial analysis.

There is an unavoidable risk, because of the inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of internal control, that some material misstatements or noncompliance may not be detected, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with U.S. GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance. Because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, material misstatements, whether from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the entity or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the entity, may not be detected. Because the determination of waste and abuse is subjective, *Government Auditing Standards* do not require auditors to perform specific procedures to detect waste or abuse in financial audits nor do they expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting waste or abuse.

In addition, an audit is not designed to detect immaterial misstatements or violations of laws or governmental regulations that do not have a direct and material effect on the financial statements or on major programs. However, we will inform the appropriate level of management and those charged with governance of any material errors, fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets that come to our attention. We will also inform the appropriate level of management and those charged with governance of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential. We will include such matters in the reports required for a single audit.

Tests of controls may be performed to test the effectiveness of certain controls that we consider relevant to preventing and detecting fraud or errors that are material to the financial statements and to preventing and detecting misstatements resulting from noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements that have a material effect on the financial statements. Our tests, if performed, will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on internal control and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

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



An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify deficiencies, significant deficiencies, or material weaknesses in internal control. However, we will communicate to you in writing significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control relevant to the audit of the financial statements that we identify during the audit that are required to be communicated under AICPA professional standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance.

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of the entity's compliance with the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements that have a material effect on the financial statements. However, the objective of our audit will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion in our report on compliance issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

We will include in our report on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance relevant information about any identified or suspected instances of fraud and any identified or suspected noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, or grant agreements that may have occurred that are required to be communicated under *Government Auditing Standards*.

The Uniform Guidance requires that we also plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the auditee has complied with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards that may have a direct and material effect on each of the entity's major programs. Our procedures will consist of tests of transactions and other applicable procedures described in the "OMB Compliance Supplement" for the types of compliance requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each of the entity's major programs. The purpose of these procedures will be to express an opinion on the entity's compliance with requirements applicable to each of its major programs in our report on compliance issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance.

We will evaluate the presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards accompanying the financial statements in relation to the financial statements as a whole. We will make certain inquiries of management and evaluate the form, content, and methods of preparing the schedule to determine whether the information complies with U.S. GAAP and the Uniform Guidance, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We will compare and reconcile the schedule to the underlying accounting records and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

Management responsibilities

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that you (management and, when appropriate, those charged with governance) acknowledge and understand that you have certain responsibilities that are fundamental to the conduct of an audit.

You are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, RSI, and the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in accordance with U.S. GAAP. Management is also responsible



for identifying all federal awards received, understanding and complying with the compliance requirements, and for the preparation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards (including notes and noncash assistance received) in accordance with the requirements of the Uniform Guidance.

Management's responsibilities include the selection and application of accounting principles; recording and reflecting all transactions in the financial statements; determining the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates included in the financial statements; adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements; and confirming to us in the management representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole. In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern for 12 months beyond the financial statement date.

Management is responsible for compliance with applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements, including compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards applicable to the entity's federal programs. Your responsibilities also include identifying significant contractor relationships in which the contractor has responsibility for program compliance and for the accuracy and completeness of that information.

You are responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control, including internal control over compliance, relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, including evaluating and monitoring ongoing activities and safeguarding assets to help ensure that appropriate goals and objectives are met; and that there is reasonable assurance that government programs are administered in compliance with compliance requirements.

You are responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal controls to prevent and detect fraud; assessing the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud; and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud affecting the entity involving (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. Your responsibilities include informing us of your knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the entity received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for implementing systems designed to achieve compliance with applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements, including compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards applicable to the entity's federal programs; identifying and ensuring that the entity complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, including compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards applicable to the entity's federal programs; and informing us of all instances of identified or suspected noncompliance whose effects on the financial statements should be considered.

You are responsible for taking timely and appropriate steps to remedy any fraud; noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, or grant agreements; or abuse that we may report. Additionally, as required by the Uniform Guidance, it is management's responsibility to evaluate and monitor



noncompliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards; take prompt action when instances of noncompliance are identified, including noncompliance identified in audit findings; and to follow up and take prompt corrective action on reported audit findings and to prepare a summary schedule of prior audit findings and a corrective action plan. The summary schedule of prior audit findings should be available for our review.

You are responsible for providing us with (1) access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, including amounts and disclosures, such as records, documentation, identification of all related parties and all related-party relationships and transactions, and other matters, and for the accuracy and completeness of that information (including information from within and outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers), and for ensuring management information and financial information is reliable and properly reported; (2) access to personnel, accounts, books, records, supporting documentation, and other information as needed to perform an audit under the Uniform Guidance; (3) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit; and (4) unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

You agree to inform us of events occurring or facts discovered subsequent to the date of the financial statements that may affect the financial statements.

You agree to include our report on the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in any document that contains and indicates that we have reported on the schedule of expenditures of federal awards. You also agree to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards that includes our report thereon or make the audited financial statements readily available to intended users of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards no later than the date the schedule of expenditures of federal awards is issued with our report thereon. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the representation letter that (1) you are responsible for presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in accordance with the Uniform Guidance; (2) you believe the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with the Uniform Guidance; (3) the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (4) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards.

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of other supplementary information in accordance with U.S. GAAP. You agree to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains, and indicates that we have reported on, the supplementary information. You also agree to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the supplementary information that includes our report thereon or make the audited financial statements readily available to users of the supplementary information no later than the date the supplementary information is issued with our report thereon. You agree to provide us written representations related to the presentation of the supplementary information.

Management is responsible for providing us with a written confirmation concerning representations made by you and your staff to us in connection with the audit and the presentation of the basic financial



statements and RSI. During our engagement, we will request information and explanations from you regarding, among other matters, the entity's activities, internal control, future plans, specific transactions, and accounting systems and procedures. The procedures we will perform during our engagement and the conclusions we reach as a basis for our report will be heavily influenced by the representations that we receive in the representation letter and otherwise from you. Accordingly, inaccurate, incomplete, or false representations could cause us to expend unnecessary effort or could cause a material fraud or error to go undetected by our procedures. In view of the foregoing, you agree that we shall not be responsible for any misstatements in the entity's financial statements that we may fail to detect as a result of misrepresentations made to us by you.

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

Responsibilities and limitations related to nonaudit services

For all nonaudit services we may provide to you, management agrees to assume all management responsibilities; oversee the services by designating an individual, preferably within senior management, who possesses suitable skill, knowledge, and/or experience to understand and oversee the services; evaluate the adequacy and results of the services; and accept responsibility for the results of the services. Management is also responsible for ensuring that your data and records are complete and that you have received sufficient information to oversee the services.

Use of financial statements

Should you decide to include or incorporate by reference these financial statements and our auditors' report(s) thereon in a future private placement or other offering of equity or debt securities, you agree that we are under no obligation to re-issue our report or provide consent for the use of our report in such a registration or offering document. We will determine, at our sole discretion, whether we will re-issue our report or provide consent for the use of our report only after we have performed the procedures we consider necessary in the circumstances. If we decide to re-issue our report or consent to the use of our report, we will be required to perform certain procedures including, but not limited to, (a) reading other information incorporated by reference in the registration statement or other offering document and (b) subsequent event procedures. These procedures will be considered an engagement separate and distinct from our audit engagement, and we will bill you separately. If we decide to re-issue our report or consent to the use of our report, you agree that we will be included on each distribution of draft offering materials and we will receive a complete set of final documents. If we decide not to re-issue our report or decide to withhold our consent to the use of our report, you may be required to engage another firm to audit periods covered by our audit reports, and that firm will likely bill you for its services. While the successor auditor may request access to our workpapers for those periods, we are under no obligation to permit such access.



If the parties (i.e., you and CLA) agree that CLA will not be involved with your official statements related to municipal securities filings or other offering documents, we will require that any official statements or other offering documents issued by you with which we are not involved clearly indicate that CLA is not involved with the contents of such documents. Such disclosure should read as follows:

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, our independent auditor, has not been engaged to perform and has not performed, since the date of its report included herein, any procedures on the financial statements addressed in that report. CliftonLarsonAllen LLP also has not performed any procedures relating to this offering document.

With regard to the electronic dissemination of audited financial statements, including financial statements published electronically on your website or submitted on a regulator website, you understand that electronic sites are a means to distribute information and, therefore, we are not required to read the information contained in those sites or to consider the consistency of other information in the electronic site with the original document.

We may issue preliminary draft financial statements to you for your review. Any preliminary draft financial statements should not be relied on or distributed.

Engagement administration and other matters

We understand that your employees will prepare all confirmations, account analyses, and audit schedules we request and will locate any documents or invoices selected by us for testing. A list of information we expect to need for our audit and the dates required will be provided in a separate communication.

At the conclusion of the engagement, we will complete the auditor sections of the electronic Data Collection Form SF-SAC and perform the steps to certify the Form SF-SAC and single audit reporting package. It is management's responsibility to complete the auditee sections of the Data Collection Form. We will create the single audit reporting package PDF file for submission; however, it is management's responsibility to review for completeness and accuracy and electronically submit the reporting package (including financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, summary schedule of prior audit findings, auditors' reports, and corrective action plan) along with the Data Collection Form to the federal audit clearinghouse and, if appropriate, to pass-through entities. The Data Collection Form and the reporting package must be electronically submitted within the earlier of 30 calendar days after receipt of the auditors' reports or nine months after the end of the audit period.

We will provide copies of our reports to the entity; however, management is responsible for distribution of the reports and the financial statements. Unless restricted by law or regulation, or containing confidential or sensitive information, copies of our reports are to be made available for public inspection.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the sole and exclusive property of CLA and constitutes confidential and proprietary information. However, subject to applicable laws and regulations, audit documentation and appropriate individuals will be made available upon request and in a timely manner to State and Federal Government, or its designee, a federal agency providing direct or indirect funding, or the U.S. Government Accountability Office for purposes of a quality review of the audit, to resolve audit



findings, or to carry out oversight responsibilities. We will notify you of any such request. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of CLA personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies or electronic versions of selected audit documentation to the aforementioned parties. These parties may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies or information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

The audit documentation for this engagement will be retained for a minimum of seven years after the report release date or for any additional period requested by the State and Federal Government. If we are aware that a federal or state awarding agency, pass-through entity, or auditee is contesting an audit finding, we will contact the party(ies) contesting the audit finding for guidance prior to destroying the audit documentation.

Professional standards require us to be independent with respect to you in the performance of these services. Any discussion that you have with our personnel regarding potential employment with you could impair our independence with respect to this engagement. Therefore, we request that you inform us prior to any such discussions so that we can implement appropriate safeguards to maintain our independence and objectivity. Further, any employment offers to any staff members working on this engagement without our prior knowledge may require substantial additional procedures to ensure our independence. You will be responsible for any additional costs incurred to perform these procedures.

Our audit engagement ends on delivery of our signed report. Any additional services that might be requested will be a separate, new engagement. The terms and conditions of that new engagement will be governed by a new, specific SOW for that service.

Government Auditing Standards require that we make our most recent external peer review report publicly available. The report is posted on our website at www.CLAconnect.com/Aboutus/.



We will also bill for expenses including travel, internal and administrative charges, and a technology and client support fee of five (5%) of all professional fees billed, which is included in the estimate provide. Our fee is based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel and their assistance with locating requested documents and preparing requested schedules. If the requested items are not available on the dates required or are not accurate, the fees and expenses will likely be higher.

Professional fees will be billed as follows:

Progress bill to be mailed on	Amount to be billed
Upon execution of the SOW	25% of total
Upon the commencement of substantive procedures	65% of total
Issuance of draft report(s)	10% of total

Unexpected circumstances

We will advise you if unexpected circumstances require significant additional procedures resulting in a substantial increase in the fee estimate.

Changes in accounting and audit standards

Standard setters and regulators continue to evaluate and modify standards. Such changes may result in new or revised financial reporting and disclosure requirements or expand the nature, timing, and scope of the activities we are required to perform. To the extent that the amount of time required to provide the services described in the SOW increases due to such changes, our fee may need to be adjusted. We will discuss such circumstances with you prior to performing the additional work.

Predecessor auditor communications

You agree to provide us permission to communicate with the predecessor auditor and to authorize the predecessor auditor to respond fully to our inquiries regarding any matters that will assist us in finalizing our engagement acceptance. You agree to authorize the predecessor to allow us to review their audit documentation, thereby providing us with information to assist us in planning and performing the engagement. You will be responsible for any fees billed by the predecessor auditor related to our review of their workpapers and our inquiries. You further acknowledge that our final acceptance of the engagement is subject to the completion of those inquiries and evaluation of the responses.

Agreement



We appreciate the opportunity to provide to you the services described in this SOW under the MSA and believe this SOW accurately summarizes the significant terms of our audit engagement. This SOW and the MSA constitute the entire agreement regarding these services and supersedes all prior agreements (whether oral or written), understandings, negotiations, and discussions between you and CLA related to audit services. If you have any questions, please let us know. Please sign, date, and return this SOW to us to indicate your acknowledgment and understanding of, and agreement with, the arrangements for our audit of your financial statements including the terms of our engagement and the parties' respective responsibilities.

Sincerely,

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Response:

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of County of Lassen.

Sample



CLA
CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Client
County of Lassen

SIGN: _____
Brienne Wiese, Principal

SIGN: _____
Nancy Cardenas

DATE: _____

DATE: _____

Sample



**ATTACHMENT B
AGREEMENT BETWEEN LASSEN
COUNTY AND
CLA**

PAYMENT

COUNTY shall pay CONTRACTOR as follows:

SEE ATTACHMENT B

_____ County Initials Contractor Initials _____

Attachment B

6. Cost

(RFP section B. Mandatory Content and Sequence of Submittal, 6)

Having upfront conversations builds relationships.

The value we can provide your organization starts with helping you uncover revenue opportunities and put dollars in your pocket. While we are addressing your compliance needs, our insights and strategies also represent a return on your investment.

Based on our understanding of your requirements, we propose the following fees:

Professional Services	2024	2025	2026
Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR)	\$103,400	\$108,600	\$114,000
Preparation of the ACFR	\$10,500	\$11,000	\$11,600
Treasury Oversight Committee	\$3,200	\$3,400	\$3,600
GANN	\$1,600	\$1,700	\$1,800
Single Audit (up to 4 programs)	\$25,200	\$26,500	\$27,800
Sheriff Communication Grant	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$6,000
Boating Safety and Enforcement Grant	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$6,000
FNS 209 Report Validation Review	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Bass Hill Landfill Enterprise Funds	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$6,000
Technology and client support fee (5%)	\$7,900	\$8,410	\$8,940
Total	\$165,800	\$176,610	\$187,740

Our fixed-fee quote is designed with an understanding that:

- The County personnel will provide documents and information requested in a timely fashion.
- The operations of your organization do not change significantly and do not include any future acquisitions or significant changes in your business operations.
- There are not significant changes to the scope, including no significant changes in auditing, accounting, or reporting requirements.

The 5% technology and client support fee supports our continuous investment in technology and innovation to enhance your experience and protect your data.



END OF ATTACHMENT "B"

**ATTACHMENT C
AGREEMENT BETWEEN LASSEN COUNTY AND
CLA
ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS**

SEE ATTACHMENT C

_____ County Initials

Contractor Initials _____

ATTACHMENT C

CONTRACTOR’s services cannot be relied upon to disclose all errors, fraud, or noncompliance with laws and regulations. Except as described in this Agreement or any applicable SOW, CONTRACTOR has no responsibility to identify and communicate deficiencies in COUNTY’S internal controls as part of any services.

Time limitations

The nature of CONTRACTOR’s services makes it difficult, with the passage of time, to gather and present evidence that fully and fairly establishes the facts underlying any dispute that may arise between COUNTY and CONTRACTOR. The parties agree that, notwithstanding any statute or law of limitations that might otherwise apply to a dispute, including one arising out of this Agreement or the services performed under an SOW, for breach of contract or fiduciary duty, tort, fraud, misrepresentation or any other cause of action or remedy, any action or legal proceeding by COUNTY against CONTRACTOR must be commenced as provided below, or COUNTY shall be forever barred from commencing a lawsuit or obtaining any legal or equitable relief or recovery. An action to recover on a dispute shall be commenced within these periods (“Limitation Period”), which vary based on the services provided, and may be modified as described in the following paragraph:

Service	Time after the date CONTRACTOR delivers the services or work product*
Tax Consulting Services	36 months
Tax Return Preparation	36 months
Examination, compilation, and preparation services related to prospective financial countyments	12 months
Audit, review, examination, agreed-upon procedures, compilation, and preparation services other than those related to prospective financial information	24 months
All Other Services	12 months

* pursuant to the SOW on which the dispute is based

CONTRACTOR will not disclose any of COUNTY’S confidential, proprietary, or privileged information to any person or party, unless COUNTY authorizes CONTRACTOR to do so, it is published or released by COUNTY, it becomes publicly known or available other than through disclosure by CONTRACTOR, or disclosure is required by law, regulation or professional standard. This confidentiality provision does not prohibit CONTRACTOR from disclosing COUNTY’S information to one or more of CONTRACTOR’s affiliated companies in order to provide services that COUNTY has requested from CONTRACTOR or from any such affiliated company. Any such affiliated company shall be subject to the same restrictions on the use and disclosure of COUNTY’S information as apply to CONTRACTOR. COUNTY also consents to CONTRACTOR’s disclosure of information regarding the nature of services CONTRACTOR provide to COUNTY to another independent network member of CLA Global, for the limited

purpose of complying with professional obligations regarding independence and conflicts of interest.

The workpapers and files supporting the services CONTRACTOR performs are the sole and exclusive property of CONTRACTOR and constitute confidential and proprietary information. CONTRACTOR does not provide access to its workpapers and files to COUNTY or anyone else in the normal course of Contractor. Unless required by law or regulation to the contrary, CONTRACTOR retain its workpapers and files in accordance with its record retention policy that typically provides for a retention period of seven years. After this period expires, CONTRACTOR's workpapers and files will be destroyed. Furthermore, physical deterioration or catastrophic events may shorten the time CONTRACTOR's records are available. The workpapers and files of CONTRACTOR are not a substitute for COUNTY's records.

Pursuant to authority given by law, regulation or professional standards CONTRACTOR may be requested to make certain workpapers and files available to a regulator for its regulatory oversight purposes. CONTRACTOR will notify COUNTY of any such request, if permitted by law. Access to the requested workpapers and files will be provided to the regulator under the supervision of CONTRACTOR personnel and at a location designated by CONTRACTOR. Furthermore, upon request, CONTRACTOR may provide copies of selected workpapers and files to such regulator. The regulator may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies or information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

CONTRACTOR may, at times, utilize external web applications to receive and process information from its clients; however, any sensitive data, including protected health information and personally identifiable information, must be redacted by COUNTY to the maximum extent possible prior to uploading the document or file. In the event that COUNTY is unable to remove or obscure all sensitive data, please contact CONTRACTOR to discuss other potential options for transmitting the document or file.

CONTRACTOR and certain owners of CONTRACTOR are licensed by the California County Board of Accountancy. However, CONTRACTOR has owners not licensed by the California County Board of Accountancy who may provide services under this Agreement. If COUNTY has any questions regarding licensure of the personnel performing services under this Agreement, please do not hesitate to contact CONTRACTOR.

CONTRACTOR regularly aggregates anonymized client data and perform a variety of analyses using that aggregated data. Some of these analyses are published to clients or released publicly. However, CONTRACTOR is always careful to preserve the confidentiality of the separate information that CONTRACTOR obtains from each client, as required by the AICPA Code of Professional Conduct and various laws. COUNTY's acceptance of this Agreement will serve as COUNTY's consent to CONTRACTOR's use of anonymized data in performing and reporting on these cost comparison, performance indicator and/or benchmarking analyses.

CONTRACTOR may, at times, use third-party software applications to perform services under this Agreement. COUNTY acknowledges the software CONTRACTOR may have access to its data.

END OF ATTACHMENT "C"

ATTACHMENT D

GENERAL PROVISIONS

D.1. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR. For all purposes arising out of this Agreement, CONTRACTOR shall be: an independent contractor and CONTRACTOR and each and every employee, agent, servant, partner, and shareholder of CONTRACTOR (collectively referred to as "The Contractor") shall not be, for any purpose of this Agreement, an employee of COUNTY. Furthermore, this Agreement shall not under any circumstance be construed or considered to be a joint powers agreement as described in California Government Code sections 6000, et seq., or otherwise. As an independent contractor, the following shall apply:

D.1.1 CONTRACTOR shall determine the method, details and means of performing the services to be provided by CONTRACTOR as described in this Agreement.

D.1.2 CONTRACTOR shall be responsible to COUNTY only for the requirements and results specified by this Agreement and, except as specifically provided in this Agreement, shall not be subject to COUNTY's control with respect to the physical actions or activities of CONTRACTOR in fulfillment of the requirements of this Agreement.

D.1.3 CONTRACTOR shall be responsible for its own operating costs and expenses, property and income taxes, workers' compensation insurance and any other costs and expenses in connection with performance of services under this Agreement.

D.1.4 CONTRACTOR is not, and shall not be, entitled to receive from or through COUNTY, and COUNTY shall not provide or be obligated to provide the CONTRACTOR with workers' compensation coverage, unemployment insurance coverage or any other type of employee or worker insurance or benefit coverage required or provided by any federal, state or local law or regulation for, or normally afforded to, any employee of COUNTY.

D.1.5 The CONTRACTOR shall not be entitled to have COUNTY withhold or pay, and COUNTY shall not withhold or pay, on behalf of the CONTRACTOR any tax or money relating to the Social Security Old Age Pension Program, Social Security Disability Program or any other type of pension, annuity or disability program required or provided by any federal, state or local law or regulation for, or normally afforded to, an employee of COUNTY.

D.1.6 The CONTRACTOR shall not be entitled to participate in, or receive any benefit from, or make any claim against any COUNTY fringe benefit program including, but not limited to, COUNTY's pension plan, medical and health care plan, dental plan, life insurance plan, or other type of benefit program, plan or coverage designated for, provided to, or offered to COUNTY's employees.

D.1.7 COUNTY shall not withhold or pay on behalf of CONTRACTOR any federal, state or local tax including, but not limited to, any personal income tax owed by CONTRACTOR.

D.1.8. The CONTRACTOR is, and at all times during the term of this Agreement shall represent and conduct itself as, an independent contractor and not as an employee of COUNTY.

D.1.9 CONTRACTOR shall not have the authority, express or implied, to act on behalf of, bind or obligate the COUNTY any way without the written consent of the COUNTY.

D.2 LICENSES, PERMITS, ETC. CONTRACTOR represents and warrants to COUNTY that it has all

____ County Initials

ATTACHMENT D Page 1

Contractor Initials _____

licenses, permits, qualifications, and approvals of whatsoever nature which are legally required for CONTRACTOR to practice its profession. CONTRACTOR represents and warrants to COUNTY that CONTRACTOR shall, at its sole cost and expense, keep in effect or obtain at all times during the term of this Agreement any licenses, permits, and approvals which are legally required for CONTRACTOR to practice its profession at the time the services are performed.

D.3 CHANGE IN STATUTES OR REGULATIONS. If there is a change of statutes or regulations applicable to the subject matter of this Agreement, both parties agree to be governed by the new provisions, unless either party gives notice to terminate pursuant to the terms of this Agreement.

D.4 TIME. CONTRACTOR shall devote such time to the performance of services pursuant to this Agreement as may be reasonably necessary for the satisfactory performance of CONTRACTOR's obligations pursuant to this Agreement. Neither party shall be considered in default of this Agreement to the extent performance is prevented or delayed by any cause, present or future, which is beyond the reasonable control of the party.

D.5 INSURANCE.

D.5.1 Prior to rendering services provided by the terms and conditions of this Agreement, CONTRACTOR shall acquire and maintain during the term of this Agreement insurance coverage (hereinafter referred to as "the insurance") through and with an insurer acceptable to COUNTY. The insurance shall contain the following coverages:

D.5.1.1 Comprehensive general liability insurance including comprehensive public liability insurance with minimum coverage of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence and with not less than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) aggregate; CONTRACTOR shall insure both COUNTY and CONTRACTOR against any liability arising under or related to this Agreement.

D.5.1.2 During the term of this Agreement, CONTRACTOR shall maintain in full force and effect a policy of professional errors and omissions insurance with policy limits of not less than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) per incident and One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) annual aggregate, with deductible or self-insured portion not to exceed Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500).

D.5.1.3 Comprehensive automobile liability insurance with minimum coverage of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) per occurrence and with not less than Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) on reserve in the aggregate, with combined single limit including owned, non-owned and hired vehicles.

D.5.1.4 Workers' Compensation Insurance coverage for all of CONTRACTOR's employees and other persons for whom CONTRACTOR is responsible to provide such insurance coverage, as provided by Division 4 and 4.5 of the California Labor Code.

D.5.2 The limits of insurance herein shall not limit the liability of the CONTRACTOR hereunder.

D.5.3 In respect to any insurance herein, if the aggregate limit available becomes less than that required above, other excess insurance shall be acquired and maintained immediately. For the purpose of any insurance term of this Agreement, "aggregate limit available" is defined as the total policy limits available for all claims made during the policy period.

D.5.4 Except for automobile liability insurance, the insurance shall name the COUNTY and COUNTY's officers, employees, agents and independent contractors as additional insureds and shall

____ County Initials ATTACHMENT D Page 2 Contractor Initials _____

include an endorsement that no cancellation or material change adversely affecting any coverage provided by the insurance may be made until twenty (20) days after written notice is delivered to COUNTY.

D.5.5 The insurance policy forms, endorsements and insurer(s) issuing the insurance shall be satisfactory to COUNTY at its sole and absolute discretion. The amount of any deductible payable by the insured shall be subject to the prior approval of the COUNTY and the COUNTY, as a condition of its approval, may require such proof of the adequacy of CONTRACTOR's financial resources as it may see fit.

D.5.6 Prior to CONTRACTOR rendering services provided by this Agreement, and immediately upon acquiring additional insurance, CONTRACTOR shall deliver a certificate of insurance describing the insurance coverages and endorsements to:

Nancy Cardenas, Lassen County Auditor
220 S. Lassen St St 3
Susanville CA 96130

Upon COUNTY's request, CONTRACTOR shall deliver certified copies of any insurance policies to COUNTY.

D.5.7 CONTRACTOR shall not render services under the terms and conditions of this Agreement unless each type of insurance coverage and endorsement is in effect and CONTRACTOR has delivered the certificate(s) of insurance to COUNTY as previously described. If CONTRACTOR shall fail to procure and maintain said insurance, COUNTY may, but shall not be required to, procure and maintain the same, and the premiums of such insurance shall be paid by CONTRACTOR to COUNTY upon demand. The policies of insurance provided herein which are to be provided by CONTRACTOR shall be for a period of not less than one year, it being understood and agreed that twenty (20) days prior to the expiration of any policy of insurance, CONTRACTOR will deliver to COUNTY a renewal or new policy to take the place of the policy expiring.

D.5.8 COUNTY shall have the right to request such further coverages and/or endorsements on the insurance as COUNTY deems necessary, at CONTRACTOR's expense. The amounts, insurance policy forms, endorsements and insurer(s) issuing the insurance shall be satisfactory to COUNTY in its sole and absolute discretion.

D.5.9 Any subcontractor(s), independent contractor(s) or any type of agent(s) performing or hired to perform any term or condition of this Agreement on behalf of CONTRACTOR, as may be allowed by this Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the "SECONDARY PARTIES"), shall comply with each term and condition of this Section D.5 entitled "INSURANCE". Furthermore, CONTRACTOR shall be responsible for the SECONDARY PARTIES' acts and satisfactory performance of the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

D.6 INDEMNITY.

COUNTY shall not be liable for, and CONTRACTOR shall defend, indemnify and hold COUNTY and its officers, agents, employees, and volunteers (collectively "County Parties"), harmless against any and all claims, deductibles, self-insured retentions, demands, liability, judgments, awards, fines, mechanics; liens or other liens, labor disputes, losses, damages, expenses, charges or costs of any kind or character, including attorney's fees and court costs (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Claims"), which directly arise out of the work covered by this Agreement arising either directly or indirectly from any act, error, omission or negligence of CONTRACTOR or its officers, employees, agents, contractors, licensees or servants, including, without limitation, Claims caused by the concurrent negligent act, error or omission, whether active or passive of County Parties. CONTRACTOR shall have no obligation, however, to defend or indemnify County Parties

_____ County Initials

Contractor Initials _____

from a Claim if it is determined by a court of competent jurisdiction that such Claim was caused by the sole negligence or willful misconduct of County Parties.

D.7 CONTRACTOR NOT AGENT. Except as COUNTY may specify in writing, CONTRACTOR shall have no authority, express or implied, to act on behalf of COUNTY in any capacity whatsoever as an agent. CONTRACTOR shall have no authority, express or implied, pursuant to this Agreement to bind COUNTY to any obligation whatsoever.

D.8 ASSIGNMENT PROHIBITED. CONTRACTOR may not assign any right or obligation pursuant to this Agreement. Any attempted or purported assignment of any right or obligation pursuant to this Agreement shall be void and of no legal effect.

D.9 PERSONNEL. CONTRACTOR shall assign only competent personnel to perform services pursuant to this Agreement. In the event that COUNTY, in its sole discretion at any time during the term of this Agreement, desires the removal of any person or persons assigned by CONTRACTOR to perform services pursuant to this Agreement, CONTRACTOR shall remove any such person immediately upon receiving written notice from COUNTY of its desire for removal of such person or persons.

D.10 STANDARD OF PERFORMANCE. CONTRACTOR shall perform all services required pursuant to this agreement.

D.11 POSSESSORY INTEREST. The parties to this Agreement recognize that certain rights to property may create a "possessory interest", as those words are used in the California Revenue and Taxation Code section 107. For all purposes of compliance by COUNTY with Section 107.6 of the California Revenue and Taxation Code, this recital shall be deemed full compliance by the COUNTY. All questions of initial determination of possessory interest and valuation of such interest, if any, shall be the responsibility of the County Assessor and the contracting parties hereto. A taxable possessory interest may be created by this, if created, and the party in whom such an interest is vested will be subject to the payment of property taxes levied on such an interest.

D.12 TAXES. CONTRACTOR hereby grants to the COUNTY the authority to deduct from any payments to CONTRACTOR any COUNTY imposed taxes, fines, penalties and related charges which are delinquent at the time such payments under this Agreement are due to CONTRACTOR.

D.13 TERMINATION.

D.13.1 COUNTY shall have the right to terminate this Agreement at any time by giving notice in writing of such termination to CONTRACTOR. In the event COUNTY gives notice of termination, CONTRACTOR shall immediately cease rendering service upon receipt of such written notice and the following shall apply:

D.13.1.1 CONTRACTOR shall deliver to COUNTY all copies of all writings prepared by it pursuant to this agreement which have been paid for in full. The term "writings" shall be construed to mean and include: handwriting, typewriting, printing, photocopying, photographing computer storage medium (tapes, disks, diskettes, etc.) and every other means of recording upon and tangible things, and form of communication or representation, including letters, pictures, sounds, or symbols, or combinations thereof. For the avoidance doubt, writings does not include CONTRACTOR'S workpapers which are proprietary information and access is restricted.

_____ County Initials

Contractor Initials _____

D.13.1.2 COUNTY shall pay CONTRACTOR the reasonable value of services rendered by CONTRACTOR to the date of termination pursuant to this Agreement not to exceed the amount documented by CONTRACTOR and approved by COUNTY as work accomplished to date; provided, however, that in no event shall any payment hereunder exceed One Hundred Eighty Eight Thousand Dollars (\$188,000.00). Further provided, however, COUNTY shall not in any manner be liable for lost profits which might have been made by CONTRACTOR had CONTRACTOR completed the services required by this Agreement. In this regard, CONTRACTOR shall furnish to COUNTY such financial information as in the judgment of the COUNTY is necessary to determine the reasonable value of the services rendered by CONTRACTOR. In the event of a dispute as to the reasonable value of the services rendered by CONTRACTOR, the decision of the COUNTY shall be final. The foregoing is cumulative and does not affect any right or remedy which COUNTY may have in law or equity.

D.13.2 CONTRACTOR may terminate its services under this Agreement upon thirty (30) days written notice to the COUNTY, without liability for damages, if CONTRACTOR is not compensated according to the provisions of the Agreement or upon any other material breach of the Agreement by COUNTY, provided that CONTRACTOR has first provided COUNTY with a written notice of any alleged breach, specifying the nature of the alleged breach and providing not less than ten (10) working days within which the COUNTY may cure the alleged breach.

D.14 OWNERSHIP OF INFORMATION. All professional and technical information developed under this Agreement and all work sheets, reports, and related data ("Data") shall become and/or remain the property of COUNTY, and CONTRACTOR agrees to deliver reproducible copies of such documents to COUNTY on completion of the services hereunder. The COUNTY agrees to indemnify and hold CONTRACTOR harmless from any claim arising out of reuse of the information for other than this project. For the avoidance of doubt, Data does not include CONTRACTOR's workpapers which are proprietary information and access is restricted.

D.15 WAIVER. A waiver by any party of any breach of any term, covenant or condition herein contained or a waiver of any right or remedy of such party available hereunder at law or in equity shall not be deemed to be a waiver of any subsequent breach of the same or any other term, covenant or condition herein contained or of any continued or subsequent right to the same right or remedy. No party shall be deemed to have made any such waiver unless it is in writing and signed by the party so waiving.

D.16 COMPLETENESS OF INSTRUMENT. This Agreement, together with its specific references and attachments, constitutes all of the agreements, understandings, representations, conditions, warranties and covenants made by and between the parties hereto. Unless set forth herein, neither party shall be liable for any representations made, express or implied.

D.17 SUPERSEDES PRIOR AGREEMENTS. It is the intention of the parties hereto that this Agreement shall supersede any prior agreements, discussions, commitments, representations, or agreements, written or oral, between the parties hereto.

_____ County Initials

ATTACHMENT D Page 5

Contractor Initials _____

D.18 ATTORNEY'S FEES. If any action at law or in equity, including an action for declaratory relief, is brought to enforce or interpret provisions of this Agreement, the prevailing party shall be entitled to reasonable attorney's fees, which may be set by the Court in the same action or in a separate action brought for that purpose, in addition to any other relief to which such party may be entitled.

_____ County Initials ATTACHMENT D Page 6 Contractor Initials _____

D.19 MINOR AUDITOR REVISION. In the event the Lassen County Auditor's office finds a mathematical discrepancy between the terms of the Agreement and actual invoices or payments, provided that such discrepancy does not exceed one percent (1%) of the Agreement amount, the Auditor's office may make the adjustment in any payment or payments without requiring an amendment to the Agreement to provide for such adjustment. Should the COUNTY or the CONTRACTOR disagree with such adjustment, they reserve the right to contest such adjustment and/or to request corrective amendment.

D.20 CAPTIONS. The captions of this Agreement are for convenience in reference only and the words contained therein shall in no way be held to explain, modify, amplify or aid in the interpretation, construction or meaning of the provisions of this Agreement.

D.21 DEFINITIONS. Unless otherwise provided in this Agreement, or unless the context otherwise requires, the following definitions and rules of construction shall apply herein.

D.21.1 **Number and Gender.** In this Agreement, the neuter gender includes the feminine and masculine, the singular includes the plural, and the word "person" includes corporations, partnerships, firms or associations, wherever the context so requires.

D.21.2 **Mandatory and Permissive.** "Shall" and "will" and "agrees" are mandatory. "May" is permissive.

D.22 TERM INCLUDES EXTENSIONS. All references to the term of this Agreement or the Agreement Term shall include any extensions of such term.

D.23 SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS. All representations, covenants and warranties specifically set forth in this Agreement, by or on behalf of, or for the benefit of any or all of the parties hereto, shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of such party, its successors and assigns.

D.24 MODIFICATION. No modification or waiver of any provisions of this Agreement or its attachments shall be effective unless such waiver or modification shall be in writing, signed by all parties, and then shall be effective only for the period and on the condition, and for the specific instance for which given.

D.25 COUNTERPARTS. This Agreement may be executed simultaneously and in several counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

D.26 OTHER DOCUMENTS. The parties agree that they shall cooperate in good faith to accomplish the object of this Agreement and, to that end, agree to execute and deliver such other and further instruments and documents as may be necessary and convenient to the fulfillment of these purposes.

D.27 PARTIAL INVALIDITY. If any term, covenant, condition or provision of this Agreement is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void or unenforceable, the remainder of the provision and/or provisions shall remain in full force and effect and shall in no way be affected, impaired or invalidated.

D.28 VENUE. It is agreed by the parties hereto that unless otherwise expressly waived by them, any action brought to enforce any of the provisions hereof or for declaratory relief hereunder shall be filed and remain in a court of competent jurisdiction in the County of Lassen, State of California.

D.29 CONTROLLING LAW. The validity, interpretation and performance of this Agreement shall be controlled by and construed under the laws of the State of California.

D.30 CALIFORNIA TORT CLAIMS ACT. Notwithstanding any term or condition of the Agreement, the provisions, and related provisions, of the California Tort Claims Act, Division 3.6 of the Government Code, are not waived by COUNTY and shall apply to any claim against COUNTY arising out of any acts or conduct under

____ County Initials

Contractor Initials _____

the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

D.31 TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. Time is of the essence of this Agreement and each covenant and term herein.

D.32 AUTHORITY. All parties to this Agreement warrant and represent that they have the power and authority to enter into this Agreement in the names, titles and capacities herein stated and on behalf of any entities, persons, estates or firms represented or purported to be represented by such entity(s), person(s), estate(s) or firm(s) and that all formal requirements necessary or required by any state and/or federal law in order to enter into this Agreement are in full compliance. Further, by entering into this Agreement, neither party hereto shall have breached the terms or conditions of any other contract or agreement to which such party is obligated, which such breach would have a material effect hereon.

D.33 CORPORATE AUTHORITY. If CONTRACTOR is a corporation or public agency, each individual executing this Agreement on behalf of said corporation or public agency represents and warrants that he or she is duly authorized to execute and deliver this Agreement on behalf of said corporation, in accordance with a duly adopted resolution of the Board of Directors of said corporation or in accordance with the bylaws of said corporation or Board or Commission of said public agency, and that this Agreement is binding upon said corporation or public entity in accordance with its terms. If CONTRACTOR is a corporation, CONTRACTOR shall, within thirty (30) days after execution of this Agreement, deliver to COUNTY a certified copy of a resolution of the Board of Directors of said corporation authorizing or ratifying the execution of this Agreement.

D.34 CONFLICT OF INTEREST.

D.34.1 Legal Compliance. CONTRACTOR agrees at all times in performance of this Agreement to comply with the law of the State of California regarding conflicts of interest, including, but not limited to, Article 4 of Chapter 1, Division 4, Title 1 of the California Government Code, commencing with Section 1090 and Chapter 7 of Title 9 of said Code, commencing with Section 87100, including regulations promulgated by the California Fair Political Practices Commission.

D.34.2 Advisement. CONTRACTOR agrees that if any facts come to its attention which raise any questions as to the applicability of this law, it will immediately inform the COUNTY designated representative and provide all information needed for resolution of the question.

D.34.3 Admonition. Without limitation of the covenants in subparagraphs D.34.1 and D.34.2, CONTRACTOR is admonished hereby as follows:

The statutes, regulations and laws referenced in this provision D.34 include, but are not limited to, a prohibition against any public officer, including CONTRACTOR for this purpose, from making any decision on behalf of COUNTY in which such officer has a direct or indirect financial interest. A violation occurs if the public officer influences or participates in any COUNTY decision which has the potential to confer any pecuniary benefit on CONTRACTOR or any business firm in which CONTRACTOR has an interest of any type, with certain narrow exceptions.

D.35 NONDISCRIMINATION. During the performance of this Agreement, CONTRACTOR shall not unlawfully discriminate against any employee of the CONTRACTOR or of the COUNTY or applicant for employment or for services or any member of the public because of race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, physical handicap, medical condition, marital status, age or sex. CONTRACTOR shall ensure that in the provision of services under this Agreement, its employees and applicants for employment and any member of the public are free from such discrimination. CONTRACTOR shall comply with the provisions of the Fair Employment and Housing Act (Government Code Section 12900 et seq.). The applicable regulations of the Fair Employment Housing Commission implementing Government Code Section 12900, set forth in

_____ County Initials ATTACHMENT D Page 8 Contractor Initials _____

Chapter 5, Division 4 of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations are incorporated into this Agreement by reference and made a part hereof as if set forth in full. CONTRACTOR shall also abide by the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 and all amendments thereto, and all administrative rules and regulation issued pursuant to said Act CONTRACTOR shall give written notice of its obligations under this clause to any labor agreement. CONTRACTOR shall include the non-discrimination and compliance provision of this paragraph in all subcontracts to perform work under this Agreement.

D.36 JOINT AND SEVERAL LIABILITY. If any party consists of more than one person or entity, the liability of each person or entity signing this Agreement shall be joint and several.

D.37 TAXPAYER I.D. NUMBER. The COUNTY shall not disburse any payments to CONTRACTOR pursuant to this Agreement until CONTRACTOR supplies the latter's Taxpayer Identification Number or Social Security Number by providing COUNTY with a completed IRS Form W-9.

D.38 NOTICES. All notices and demands of any kind which either party may require or desire to serve on the other in connection with this Agreement must be served in writing either by personal service or by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, and shall be deposited in the United States Mail, with postage thereon fully prepaid, and addressed to the party so to be served as follows:

If to "COUNTY":
Nancy CardenasLassen County
Auditor/ Controller
220 S. Lassen St. Ste 3
Susanville, CA 96130

If to "CONTRACTOR":
Brianna Wiese Principal
Clifton Larson Allen LLP
220 South Sixth St, Ste, 300
Minneapolis, MN 55402-1436

END OF ATTACHMENT "D".

_____ County Initials

Contractor Initials _____

ATTACHMENT E

NO THIRD-PARTY BENEFICIARIES

This Agreement is made solely and specifically among and for the benefit of the parties to it, the COUNTY and the CONTRACTOR, and their respective successors and assigns, subject to the express provision of the agreement relating to successors and assigns, and no other person, has or will have any rights, interest, or claims under this Agreement as a third-party beneficiary or otherwise. This Agreement shall not establish any actionable duty of the County or County personnel inuring to any third party or to anyone claiming under or on behalf of such a third party.

END OF ATTACHMENT "E"

_____ County Initials Contractor Initials _____