November 13, 2014

To the City Council of the
City of Arroyo Grande

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Arroyo Grande for the year ended June 30, 2014. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards and Government Auditing Standards as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated April 25, 2014. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Findings

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the City of Arroyo Grande are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. As discussed in note 1 to basic financial statements effective July 1, 2013, the City of Arroyo Grande adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 65, Items Previously Reported as Assets and Liabilities, GASB Statement No. 66, Technical Correction – 2012, GASB Statement No. 67, Financial Reporting for Pension Plans, and GASB Statement No. 70, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Non-exchange Financial Guarantees. We noted no transactions entered into by the governmental unit during the fiscal year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management’s knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimates affecting the City’s financial statements were:

Management’s estimate of the useful lives of capital assets is based on experience with other capital assets and on their standard table of useful lives. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the useful lives of capital assets in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Management’s estimate of the other postemployment benefits (OPEB) expense is based on the actuary’s expertise and experience. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the other postemployment benefits (OPEB) expense in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Management’s estimate of the allowance for bad debt is based on their past experience with the collectability of the billings to their customers. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the allowance for bad debt in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The most sensitive disclosure affecting the financial statements was:

The disclosure of the Long-Term Debt in Note 7.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

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Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements. In addition, none of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to each opinion unit’s financial statements taken as a whole.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor’s report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated November 13, 2014.

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a ‘second opinion’ on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the governmental unit’s financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor’s opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Other Audit Findings or Issues

Finding: The Parks and Recreation department does not communicate any year-end accruals to the City’s Finance Department. This could lead to a potential understatement of Parks and Recreation revenue.

Recommendation: Monitor cut-off dates closely at year-end to record transactions in the proper fiscal period; to correctly state balance sheet accounts, as well as revenues of the fiscal year and fully communicate it to the City’s Finance Department.

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the governmental unit’s auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

Other Matters

With respect to the supplementary information accompanying the financial statements, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, 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 compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

This information is intended solely for the use of the City Council and management of the City of Arroyo Grande and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,

Moss, Levy & Hartstein LLP

Santa Maria, California