



## Washington State Auditor Brian Sonntag

### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

June 16, 2010

Mayor and City Council  
City of Tacoma  
Tacoma, Washington

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2009, which collectively comprise the City's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the City's management. Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We did not audit the financial statements of the Power, Sewer, and Water funds, which are presented as major funds and represent 85 percent, 90 percent, and 86 percent, respectively, of all the assets, net assets and revenues of the business-type activities. We also did not audit the financial statement of the Solid Waste fund which represents 5 percent, .5 percent and 10 percent, respectively, of the assets, net assets and revenues of the business-type activities, and 8 percent, .6 percent and 11 percent, respectively, of the assets, net assets and revenues of the aggregate remaining fund information. Those financial statements were audited by other auditors whose reports thereon have been furnished to us, and our opinion, insofar as it relates to the amounts included for the Power, Sewer, Water and Solid Waste funds is based solely on the reports of other auditors.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. The financial statements of the Power, Sewer, Water and Solid Waste funds were not audited in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit and the reports of other auditors provide a reasonable basis for our opinions.

In our opinion, based on our audit and the reports of other auditors, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of

Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington, as of December 31, 2009, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we will also issue our report dated, on our consideration of the City's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. That report will be issued under separate cover in the City's Single Audit Report. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be considered in assessing the results of our audit.

The management's discussion and analysis on pages 2-3 through 2-12, pension trust information on pages 4-1 through 4-4 and budgetary comparison on pages 4-5 are not a required part of the basic financial statements but are supplementary information required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. We and the other auditors have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the required supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

Our audit was performed for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the City's basic financial statements. The accompanying information listed as combining statements and other supplementary information on pages 5-1 through 5-105 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. This information has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

The information identified in the table of contents as the Introductory and Statistical Sections is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements of the City. Such information has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Sonntag". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "S".

**BRIAN SONNTAG, CGFM**  
STATE AUDITOR