



Washington State Auditor Brian Sonntag

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

May 31, 2012

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, 2011, 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 83 percent, 87 percent, and 74 percent, respectively, of all the assets, net assets and revenues of the business-type activities. We also did not audit the financial statements of the Solid Waste and Tacoma Rail funds which represent 5 percent, 2 percent and 11 percent, respectively, of the assets, net assets and revenues of the business-type activities, and 9 percent, 3 percent and 22 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, Solid Waste, and Tacoma Rail 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, Solid Waste and Tacoma Rail 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, 2011, 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.

As described in Note 1, during the year ended December 31, 2011, the City has implemented the Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 54 - Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we will also issue our report dated May 31, 2012, 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.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis on pages 2-3 through 2-12, pension trust fund information on page 4-1 through page 4-2, budgetary comparison information on pages page 4-3 through 4-6 and information on postemployment benefits other than pensions on pages 4-2 through 4-3 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic or historical context. We and the other auditors have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during the audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

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 financial statements and supplementary information on pages 5-1 through 5-110 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. This information has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information 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 do not express an opinion or provide any assurance 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

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

As management of the City of Tacoma, we offer readers of the City of Tacoma's financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the City of Tacoma for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011. We encourage readers to consider the information presented here in conjunction with additional information that we have furnished in our Letter of Transmittal, which can be found on pages 1-1 to 1-4 of this report. All amounts, unless otherwise indicated, are expressed in thousands of dollars.

Financial Highlights

- Total assets exceeded the City's liabilities by \$2.5 billion. Of this amount, \$194.4 million were reported as unrestricted net assets; amounts which are available for use to meet the City's on-going obligations to citizens and creditors.
- The City's net assets decreased by \$2.1 million. This decrease is due to a decrease in current assets and an increase of liabilities for Governmental Activities.
- Tacoma Power reported a change in net assets of \$20.6 million, up \$11.5 million from 2010.
- Tacoma Water reported change in net assets of \$11.5 million, up \$6.4 million from 2010.

Overview of the Financial Statements

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the City of Tacoma's basic financial statements. The City of Tacoma's basic financial statements consist of three components: 1) the government-wide financial statements, 2) the fund financial statements, and 3) the notes to the financial statements. This report also contains other supplementary information in addition to the basic financial statements.

Government-wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of the City of Tacoma's finances, and are similar to private sector financial statements. The statements also include the discretely presented component units Tacoma Community Redevelopment Authority (TCRA), the Greater Tacoma Regional Convention Center Public Facilities District (GTRCCPF), and the Foss Waterway Development Authority (FWDA.)

The Statement of Net Assets includes information on all the assets and liabilities of the City of Tacoma's general government as well as its business-type activities. The difference between the assets and liabilities is reported as net assets. Over time, increases and decreases in net assets may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the City of Tacoma is improving or deteriorating.

The Statement of Activities presents information showing how the government's net assets changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in net assets are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of the related cash flows. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will only result in cash flows in future fiscal periods (e.g., uncollected taxes and earned but unused vacation leave).