

MARIN EMERGENCY RADIO AUTHORITY
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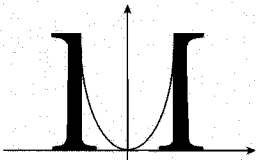
MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 27, 2008
TO: MERA Executive Committee
FROM: Maureen Cassingham, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT FOR FY 2007-08 ANNUAL AUDIT –
MAHER ACCOUNTING

Recommended Action: Recommend to the Board that the Executive Officer be authorized to execute a letter of agreement with Maher Accountancy for the audit of MERA's financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, at a cost of \$12,575.

Background: Attached is a copy of the proposed agreement for services from Maher Accountancy to conduct the FY 2007-08 MERA annual audit. The cost quoted is reasonable and within the proposed budget for this service. Maher has conducted MERA's audits since FY 03-04 and has performed well. As auditing is a professional service, a formal bid process is not required or recommended. While the general practice is to issue an RFP for auditing services every three to five years, continuation of Maher's engagement is appropriate at this transitional time.

Attachments



MAHER ACCOUNTANCY 1101 FIFTH AVENUE • SUITE 200 • SAN RAFAEL, CA 94901

Financial Plumb Line

May 7, 2008

Marin Emergency Radio Authority
371 Bel Marin Keys Boulevard, Ste. 100
Novato, CA 94949

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the services we will provide to Marin Emergency Radio Authority. We will audit the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements of Marin Emergency Radio Authority as of and for the year ended June 30, 2008. Accounting standards generally accepted in the United States provide for certain required supplementary information (RSI), such as management's discussion and analysis (MD&A), to accompany your basic financial statements. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to your RSI. These limited procedures will consist principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation, which management is responsible for affirming to us in its representation letter. Unless we encounter problems with the presentation of the RSI or with procedures relating to it, we will disclaim an opinion on it. The following RSI is required by generally accepted accounting principles and will be subjected to certain limited procedures, but will not be audited:

- 1) Management's discussion and analysis.
- 2) Budgetary comparison schedules

Audit Objective

The objective of our audit is the expression of an opinion as to whether your financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and to report on the fairness of the additional information referred to in the first paragraph when considered in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole. Our audit will be conducted in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and will include tests of the accounting records and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such an opinion. If our opinion on the financial statements is other than unqualified, we will fully discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form, or have not formed an opinion, we may decline to express an opinion or to issue a report as a result of this engagement.

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Management Responsibilities

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining internal controls, including monitoring ongoing activities; for the selection and application of accounting principles; and for the fair presentation in the financial statements of the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information and the respective changes in financial position and where applicable, cash flows, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Management is responsible for the basic financial statements and all accompanying information as well as all representations contained therein. You are also responsible for management decisions and functions; for designating an individual with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience to oversee our financial statement preparation services and any other nonattest services we provide; and for evaluating the adequacy and results of those services and accepting responsibility for them.

Management is responsible for making all financial records and related information available to us and for the accuracy and completeness of that information. Management is responsible for adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and for confirming to us in the 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.

You are responsible for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud, and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud or illegal acts affecting the government involving (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud or illegal acts could have a material effect on the financial statements. Your responsibilities include informing us of any knowledge you have of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud received in communications from employees, former employees, regulators, or others affecting the government. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the entity complies with applicable laws and regulations.

Audit Procedures—General

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; therefore, our audit will involve judgment about the number of transactions to be examined and the areas to be tested. We will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable rather than absolute assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether from errors, fraudulent financial reporting, misappropriation of assets, or 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.

Because an audit is designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance and because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, there is a risk that material misstatements may exist and not be detected by us. 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. However, we will inform you of any material errors that come to our attention, and we will inform you of any fraudulent financial reporting or misappropriation of assets that come to our attention. We will also inform you of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential. Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to matters that might arise during any later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

Our procedures will include tests of documentary evidence supporting the transactions recorded in the accounts, and may include tests of the physical existence of inventories, and direct confirmation of receivables and certain other assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected individuals, creditors, and financial institutions. We will request written representations from your attorneys as part of the engagement, and they may bill you for responding to this inquiry. At the conclusion of our audit, we will also require certain written representations from you about the financial statements and related matters.

Audit Procedures—Internal Control

Our audit will include obtaining an understanding of the entity and its environment, including internal control, sufficient to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and to design the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures. An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify deficiencies in internal control. However, during the audit, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance internal control related matters that are required to be communicated under professional standards.

Audit Procedures—Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we may perform tests of the Organization's compliance with applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of contracts and agreements. However, the objective of our audit will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion.

Audit Administration, Fees and Other

Our fees for these services will be \$12,575. This fee commitment is made under the assumption that MERA staff will prepare schedules and locate documents as requested. Should we encounter unexpected circumstances, or should you require services in addition to those described above, we will invoice you separately at our standard hourly rates.

Board of Directors
May 7, 2008
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We will also prepare the Annual Report of Financial Transactions to the California State Controller for a fee of \$850.

Our invoices for these fees will be rendered each month as work progresses and are payable on presentation. In accordance with our firm policies, work may be suspended if your account becomes 30 days or more overdue and will not be resumed until your account is paid in full.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to you, and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of our engagement. If you have any questions, please let us know. If you agree with the terms of our engagement as described in this letter, please sign the enclosed copy and return it to us. The other copy is for your records.

Very truly yours,

John W. Maher, CPA

RESPONSE:

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of the Marin Emergency Radio Authority.

By: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____