



December 18, 2025

To the Honorable Mayor and the Members of the City Council  
of the City of Hercules  
Hercules, California

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 Hercules, California (the “City”) for the year ended June 30, 2025. 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 21, 2025. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

#### Significant Audit Matters

##### *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 are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. As described in Note 1 to the basic financial statements, the City implemented the following accounting standards:

##### *New Accounting Standards*

**GASB Statement No. 101** – In June 2022, the GASB issued Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*. The objective of this Statement is to better meet the information needs of financial statement users by updating the recognition and measurement guidance for compensated absences. That objective is achieved by aligning the recognition and measurement guidance under a unified model and by amending certain previously required disclosures. The requirements of this Statement are effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2023, and all reporting periods thereafter. Implementation of this Statement resulted in a restatement of the beginning fund balance as of July 1, 2024, as presented in Note 17 to the basic financial statements.

**GASB Statement No. 102** – In December 2023, the GASB issued Statement No. 102, *Certain Risk Disclosures*. The objective of this Statement is to provide users of government financial statements with information about risks related to a government’s vulnerabilities due to certain concentrations or constraints that is essential to their analyses for making decisions or assessing accountability. The requirements of this Statement are effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2024, and all reporting periods thereafter. The City has not identified any risks requiring disclosure in the financial statements.

No other new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during 2025. We noted no transactions entered into by the City during the 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.

To the Honorable Mayor and the Members of the City Council  
of the City of Hercules  
Hercules, California  
Page 2

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 investment fair market value is based on information provided by the State of California for its investment in the Local Agency Investment Fund. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the investment fair market value in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.
- Management's estimate of the depreciation and amortization on capital assets is based on the industry standard and past experience on actual useful life of the asset groups. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the depreciation on capital assets in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.
- Management's estimate of the net pension liability is based on the actuarial valuation on total pension liability and based on financial statements on fiduciary net position for CalPERS plans. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the net pension liability in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.
- Management's estimate of the net other postemployment benefits ("OPEB") liability/(asset) is based on the actuarial valuation on total OPEB liability and financial statements on fiduciary net position. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the OPEB liability in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.
- Management's estimate of compensated absences is based on the City's adopted methodology, consistent with the provisions of GASB 101. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to estimate the compensated absences 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 disclosures affecting the financial statements were:

- Note 1 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies
- Note 8 – Retirement Plans
- Note 10 – Other Postemployment Benefits
- Note 12 – Commitments and Contingencies
- Note 14 – Stewardship, Compliance, and Accountability
- Note 17 – Restatement

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

#### *Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit*

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

To the Honorable Mayor and the Members of the City Council  
of the City of Hercules  
Hercules, California  
Page 3

*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 December 18, 2025.

*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 City'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*

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 City'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

We applied certain limited procedures to Management's Discussions and Analysis ("MD&A"), the Budgetary Comparison Schedules for the General Fund and Major Special Revenue Funds, the Schedules of the City's Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability and Related Ratios, the Schedules of the City's Contributions – Pensions, the Schedules of Changes in Net Other Postemployment Benefits Liability and Related Ratios, and the Schedule of the City's Contributions – Other Postemployment Benefits, which are required supplementary information ("RSI") that supplements the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding 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 our audit of the basic financial statements. We did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

To the Honorable Mayor and the Members of the City Council  
of the City of Hercules  
Hercules, California  
Page 3

We were engaged to report on the Combining and Individual Nonmajor Fund Financial Statements which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. With respect to this supplementary information, 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.

We were not engaged to report on the Introductory and the Statistical Sections, which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. 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.

Restriction on Use

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

Very truly yours,

*The Pen Group, LLP*

Santa Ana, California