

News Release For Immediate Release December 21, 2023

Office of the State Auditor Releases Reports Related to the Financial Practices of the Utah Inland Port Authority

Salt Lake City, UTAH -

The Office of the State Auditor (Office) today announces the release of a Review of certain Utah Inland Port Authority (Authority) procurement practices, its Financial Audit of the Authority's financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2023, and its Government Auditing Standards Report identifying certain internal control weaknesses.

The Office conducted a review of the Authority's procurement practices. The Office reviewed applicable statutes and the Authority's current purchasing policy (Policy). The Office noted weaknesses in that Policy, specifically the Authority's process for issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) and then evaluating those proposals.

Also, during the audit of the Authority's financial statements, the Office identified certain weaknesses in internal controls considered to be significant deficiencies. These include errors in preparing the financial statements and not complying with bond reporting requirements.

State Auditor John Dougall said, "Given the public's expectations for the Utah Inland Port Authority, it is critical that the Authority continue to strengthen its internal controls and its procurement policies and practices."

The news release and related information may be found on the Office's website at <u>auditor.utah.gov</u>.

The Utah Inland Port Authority Management Letter (Procurement Processes Review), Report No. UIPA24SP may be found at:

https://reporting.auditor.utah.gov/servlet/servlet.FileDownload?file=015Do0000017TpbIAE.

The Government Auditing Standards Report No. 23-11 may be found at: https://reporting.auditor.utah.gov/servlet/servlet.FileDownload?file=015Do0000017TpWIAU.

The Utah Inland Port Authority Basic Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report may be found at:

https://reporting.auditor.utah.gov/servlet/servlet.FileDownload?file=015Do0000017TpRIAU.

About the Office of the State Auditor

The Office of the State Auditor provides Utah taxpayers and government officials with an independent assessment of financial operation, statutory compliance, and performance management for state and local government.

Specific activities of the Office include performing financial audits, conducting Federal funds compliance audits, providing local government oversight, conducting agency and program performance audits, performing fraud and compliance audits, and operating the State Auditor Hotline for citizens to report suspected financial issues or improprieties. These capabilities strengthen Utah State Government and help taxpayers have confidence in the integrity of Utah's government agencies.

The Office also provides interactive graphical tools to help taxpayers and policymakers gain greater insight into governmental financial activities. These tools include the Transparent Utah Public Finance website (transparent.utah.gov) as well as the award-winning Project KIDS public education analysis dashboards (auditor.utah.gov/kids) and the Utah Health Cost Compare project (healthcost.utah.gov) to assist consumers in understanding the cost of health procedures.

The State Auditor is a Constitutional Officer of the State of Utah, elected directly by the state's citizens every four years. The role of the State Auditor is authorized in Article VII, Section 15 of the Utah Constitution. For more information, see <u>auditor.utah.gov</u>.

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