Management and Compliance Report

Duluth Economic Development Authority
(A Component Unit of the City of Duluth, Minnesota)

Year Ended December 31, 2019
Description of the Office of the State Auditor

The mission of the Office of the State Auditor is to oversee local government finances for Minnesota taxpayers by helping to ensure financial integrity and accountability in local governmental financial activities.

Through financial, compliance, and special audits, the State Auditor oversees and ensures that local government funds are used for the purposes intended by law and that local governments hold themselves to the highest standards of financial accountability.

The State Auditor performs approximately 100 financial and compliance audits per year and has oversight responsibilities for over 3,300 local units of government throughout the state. The office currently maintains five divisions:

Audit Practice – conducts financial and legal compliance audits of local governments;

Government Information – collects and analyzes financial information for cities, towns, counties, and special districts;

Legal/Special Investigations – provides legal analysis and counsel to the Office and responds to outside inquiries about Minnesota local government law; as well as investigates allegations of misfeasance, malfeasance, and nonfeasance in local government;

Pension – monitors investment, financial, and actuarial reporting for Minnesota’s local public pension funds; and

Tax Increment Financing – promotes compliance and accountability in local governments’ use of tax increment financing through financial and compliance audits.

The State Auditor serves on the State Executive Council, State Board of Investment, Land Exchange Board, Public Employees Retirement Association Board, Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, and the Rural Finance Authority Board.

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REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING
AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN
AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN
ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Independent Auditor’s Report

Board of Commissioners
Duluth Economic Development Authority
Duluth, Minnesota

We have audited, 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, the financial statements of the City of Duluth, Minnesota, which include as Supplementary Information the financial statements of the Duluth Economic Development Authority, a discretely presented component unit, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2019, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the City’s basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated June 29, 2020.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Duluth Economic Development Authority’s internal control over financial reporting to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority’s internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority’s internal control over financial reporting.

A deficiency in internal control over financial reporting exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Authority’s financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit the attention of those charged with governance.
Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in
the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control
over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these
limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial
reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that
have not been identified.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Duluth Economic Development
Authority’s financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its
compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements,
noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial
statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an
objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests
disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under
Government Auditing Standards.

Minnesota Legal Compliance

In connection with our audit, nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that the Duluth
Economic Development Authority failed to comply with the provisions of the contracting and bidding,
deposits and investments, conflicts of interest, claims and disbursements, miscellaneous provisions,
and tax increment financing sections of the Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Cities,
promulgated by the State Auditor pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 6.65, insofar as they relate to accounting
matters. However, our audit was not directed primarily toward obtaining knowledge of such
noncompliance. Accordingly, had we performed additional procedures, other matters may have come
to our attention regarding the Authority’s noncompliance with the above referenced provisions, insofar
as they relate to accounting matters.

Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial
reporting, compliance, and the provisions of the Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Cities
and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority’s
internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit
performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards in considering the Authority’s internal
control over financial reporting and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for
any other purpose.

/s/Julie Blaha           /s/Greg Hierlinger
JULIE BLAHA          GREG HIERLINGER, CPA
STATE AUDITOR        DEPUTY STATE AUDITOR

June 29, 2020