



December 3, 2020

To the Board of Directors  
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments  
Washington, D.C.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) for the year ended June 30, 2020, we have the following comments and suggestions for your consideration.

***New GASB Pronouncements***

As of June 30, 2020, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) had issued several statement not yet implemented by MWCOG. The statements which might impact MWCOG are as follows:

***GASB Statement No. 87, Leases***

The objective of this Statement is to better meet the information needs of financial statement users by improving accounting and financial reporting for leases by governments. This Statement increases the usefulness of governments' financial statements by requiring recognition of certain lease assets and liabilities for leases that previously were classified as operating leases and recognized as inflows of resources or outflows of resources based on the payment provisions of the contract. It establishes a single model for lease accounting based on the foundational principle that leases are financings of the right to use an underlying asset. Under this Statement, a lessee is required to recognize a lease liability and an intangible right-to-use lease asset, and a lessor is required to recognize a lease receivable and a deferred inflow of resources, thereby enhancing the relevance and consistency of information about governments' leasing activities. A lease is defined as a contract that conveys control of the right to use another entity's nonfinancial asset as specified in the contract for a period of time in an exchange or exchange-like transaction. Examples of nonfinancial assets include buildings, land, vehicles, and equipment. Any contract that meets this definition should be accounted for under the leases guidance, unless specifically excluded in this Statement.

The requirements of Statement No. 87 are effective for financial statements for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2021.

***GASB Statement No. 90, Majority Equity Interests – an Amendment of GASB Statements No. 14 and No. 61***

The objective of this Statement is to improve the consistency and comparability of reporting a government's majority equity interest in a legally separate organization and to improve the relevance of financial statement information for certain component units.

The requirements of Statement No. 90 are effective for financial statements for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2019.

### **GASB Statement No. 92, *Omnibus 2020***

The objectives of this Statement are to enhance comparability in accounting and financial reporting and to improve the consistency of authoritative literature by addressing practice issues that have been identified during implementation and application of certain GASB Statements. This Statement addresses a variety of topics, including intra-entity transfers, the effective date of No. 87, *Leases*, the applicability of Statements No. 73, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions and Related Assets That Are Not within the Scope of GASB Statement 68*, and *Amendments to Certain Provisions of GASB Statements 67 and 68*, as amended, and No. 74, *Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans*, as amended, to reporting assets accumulated for postemployment benefits, the applicability of certain requirements of Statement No. 84, *Fiduciary Activities*, to postemployment benefit arrangements, measurement of liabilities (and assets, if any) related to asset retirement obligations (AROs) in a government acquisition, reporting by public entity risk pools for amounts that are recoverable from reinsurers or excess insurers, reference to nonrecurring fair value measurements of assets or liabilities in authoritative literature, terminology used to refer to derivative instruments.

Statement No. 92 will be effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2021.

### **GASB Statement No. 93, *Replacement of Interbank Offered Rates***

The objective of this statement is to address accounting and financial reporting implications that result from the replacement of an interbank offered rate—most notably, the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR), which is expected to cease to exist in its current form at the end of 2021, prompting governments to amend or replace financial instruments for the purpose of replacing LIBOR with other reference rates, by either changing the reference rate or adding or changing fallback provisions related to the reference rate.

Portions of Statement No. 93 will be effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2020, June 15, 2021, and December 31, 2021.

### **GASB Statement No. 94, *Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements***

The primary objective of this Statement is to improve financial reporting by addressing issues related to public-private and public-public partnership arrangements (PPPs). As used in this Statement, a PPP is an arrangement in which a government (the transferor) contracts with an operator (a governmental or nongovernmental entity) to provide public services by conveying control of the right to operate or use a nonfinancial asset, such as infrastructure or other capital asset (the underlying PPP asset), for a period of time in an exchange or exchange-like transaction. Some PPPs meet the definition of a service concession arrangement (SCA), which the Board defines in this Statement as a PPP in which (1) the operator collects and is compensated by fees from third parties; (2) the transferor determines or has the ability to modify or approve which services the operator is required to provide, to whom the operator is required to provide the services, and the prices or rates that can be charged for the services; and (3) the transferor is entitled to significant residual interest in the service utility of the underlying PPP asset at the end of the arrangement.

This Statement also provides guidance for accounting and financial reporting for availability payment arrangements (APAs). As defined in this Statement, an APA is an arrangement in which a government compensates an operator for services that may include designing, constructing, financing, maintaining, or operating an underlying nonfinancial asset for a period of time in an exchange or exchange-like transaction.

The requirements of this Statement are effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2022, and all reporting periods thereafter.

**GASB Statement No. 96, *Subscription-Based information Technology Arrangements***

This Statement provides guidance on the accounting and financial reporting for subscription-based information technology arrangements (SBITAs) for government end users (governments). This Statement (1) defines a SBITA; (2) establishes that a SBITA results in a right-to-use subscription asset—an intangible asset—and a corresponding subscription liability; (3) provides the capitalization criteria for outlays other than subscription payments, including implementation costs of a SBITA; and (4) requires note disclosures regarding a SBITA. To the extent relevant, the standards for SBITAs are based on the standards established in Statement No. 87, *Leases*, as amended.

The requirements of this Statement are effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2022, and all reporting periods thereafter.

**GASB Statement No. 97, *Certain Component Unit Criteria, and Accounting and Financial Reporting for Internal Revenue Code Section 457 Deferred Compensation Plans—an Amendment of GASB Statements No. 14 and No. 84, and a Supersession of GASB Statement No. 32***

The primary objectives of this Statement are to (1) increase consistency and comparability related to the reporting of fiduciary component units in circumstances in which a potential component unit does not have a governing board and the primary government performs the duties that a governing board typically would perform; (2) mitigate costs associated with the reporting of certain defined contribution pension plans, defined contribution other postemployment benefit (OPEB) plans, and employee benefit plans other than pension plans or OPEB plans (other employee benefit plans) as fiduciary component units in fiduciary fund financial statements; and (3) enhance the relevance, consistency, and comparability of the accounting and financial reporting for Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 457 deferred compensation plans (Section 457 plans) that meet the definition of a pension plan and for benefits provided through those plans.

The requirements of this Statement will be effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2021.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Board of Directors of MWCOG, and others within the organization and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

If you have any questions concerning any of these items or if we can be of further assistance, please contact us. We thank you for the opportunity to conduct your audit for the year ended June 30, 2020 and express our appreciation to everyone for their cooperation during this engagement.

*PBMares, LLP*

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