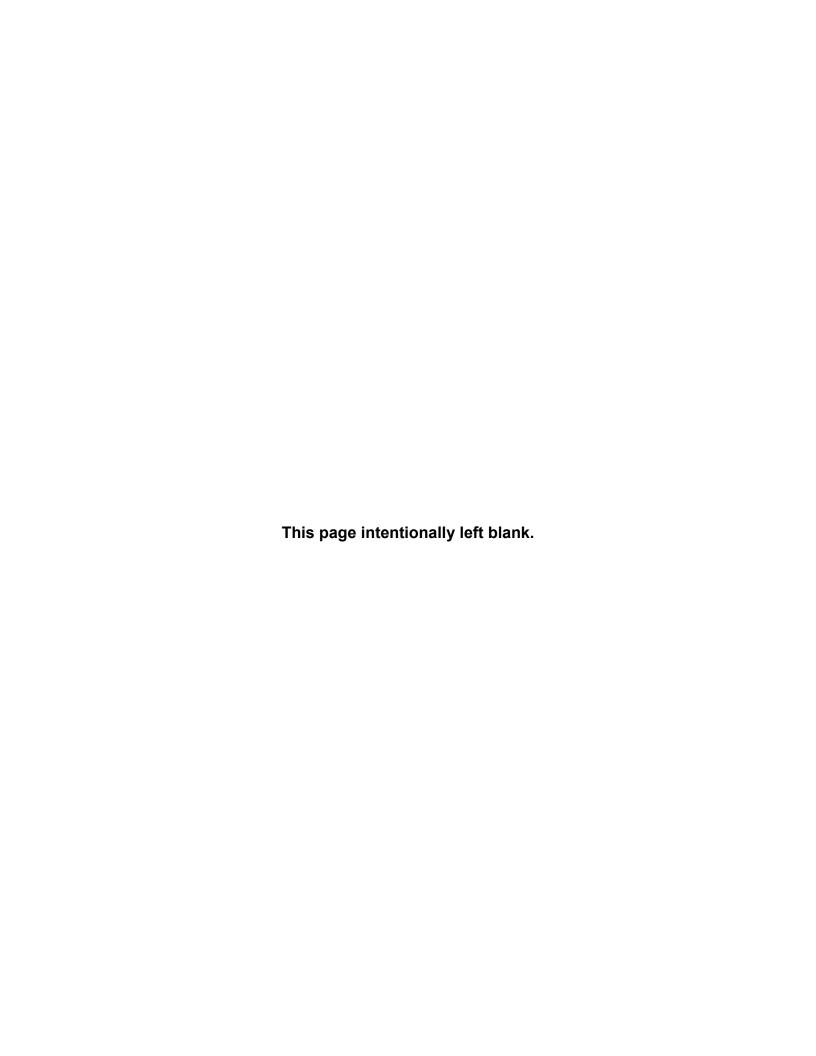




## SOUTHWEST REGIONAL WATER DISTRICT BUTLER COUNTY DECEMBER 31, 2020

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#### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Southwest Regional Water District Butler County 3640 Old Oxford Road Hamilton, Ohio 45013

To the Board of Trustees:

#### Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Southwest Regional Water District, Butler County, Ohio (the District), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2020, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

#### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for preparing and fairly presenting these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes designing, implementing, and maintaining internal control relevant to preparing and fairly presenting financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to opine on these financial statements based on our audit. We audited in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the financial audit standards in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards require us to plan and perform the audit to reasonably assure the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit requires obtaining evidence about financial statement amounts and disclosures. The procedures selected depend on our judgment, including assessing the risks of material financial statement misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In assessing those risks, we consider internal control relevant to the District's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not to the extent needed to opine on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of management's accounting policies and the reasonableness of their significant accounting estimates, as well as our evaluation of the overall financial statement presentation.

We believe the audit evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to support our audit opinion.

#### **Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the District, as of December 31, 2020, and the changes in its financial position and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Southwest Regional Water District Butler County Independent Auditor's Report Page 2

#### Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note J to the financial statements, the financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures may impact subsequent periods of the District. We did not modify our opinion regarding this matter.

#### Other Matters

#### Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require this presentation to include *management's discussion and analysis*, and schedules of net pension and other post-employment benefit liabilities and pension and other post-employment benefit contributions listed in the table of contents, to supplement the basic financial statements. Although this information is not part of the basic financial statements, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board considers it essential for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, consisting of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries to the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not opine or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to opine or provide any other assurance.

#### Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated October 11, 2021, on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. That report describes the scope of our internal control testing over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing, and does not opine on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Keith Faber Auditor of State Columbus, Ohio

October 11, 2021

# Management Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited)

Southwest Regional Water District (the "District") is providing this discussion and analysis for our customers, creditors, and others of interest, as a general overview of the District and its financial activities.

## Financial Highlights

- The total assets and deferred outflows of the District exceeded total liabilities and deferred inflows on December 31, 2020 by \$39.4 million.
- The District's net position increased approximately \$.84 million in 2020.
- The District's Operating Revenues increased by \$0.57 million and 7.0% in 2020. Operating expenses decreased \$0.13 and 1.8% million in 2020.
- Bonded and debt obligations decreased by \$0.45 million or 8.1% during 2020 as the District completed scheduled payments.

#### Overview of Basic Financial Statements

The District is a single enterprise fund using proprietary fund accounting, similar to private sector business. The Basic Financial Statements are presented using the accrual basis of accounting.

The Statement of Net Position includes all the District's assets and deferred outflows and liabilities and deferred inflows. This statement provides information about the nature and amounts of investments in resources owned by the District (assets), and obligations owed by the District (liabilities). The District's net position (equity) is the difference between assets and liabilities.

The Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position provides information on the District's operations over the past year and the success of recovering its costs through user fees, charges, and assessments, and other income.

The Statement of Cash Flows presents information about the District's cash receipts and disbursements from operating, investing, and financing activities. The statement summarizes how the cash was provided, cash uses, and changes in the balances during the year.

# Management Discussion and Analysis (Continued) (Unaudited)

Table 1 summarizes, in millions, the Net Position of the District. Capital Assets are reported less accumulated depreciation. Invested in Capital, Net of Debt are Capital Assets less outstanding debt that was used to acquire those assets.

Table 1

	 2020	 2019	Change nount	% Change
Assets				
Current and other assets	\$ 9.10	\$ 8.59	\$ 0.51	6.0%
Net capital assets	 40.89	40.63	 0.26	0.7%
Total assets	49.99	49.22	0.77	1.6%
Deferred outflows of resources	 0.84	 1.41	 (0.58)	-40.4%
Total assets and deferred				
outflows of resources	\$ 50.83	\$ 50.63	\$ 0.19	0.4%
Liabilities				
Current and other liabilities	\$ 0.88	\$ 0.95	\$ (0.07)	-7.4%
Long-term liabilities	 9.67	 11.06	 (1.39)	-12.6%
Total liabilities	10.55	12.01	(1.46)	-12.1%
Deferred inflows of resources	 0.92	 0.08	 0.83	1050.0%
Total liabilities and deferred				
inflows of resources	11.47	12.09	(0.62)	-5.1%
Net position				
Invested in capital, net of debt	35.78	35.07	0.71	2.0%
Restricted for debt service	0.58	0.61	(0.03)	-4.9%
Unrestricted	 3.00	2.85	0.15	5.4%
Total net position	 39.36	 38.53	 0.83	2.2%
Total liabilities and deferred inflows				
of resources and net position	\$ 50.83	\$ 50.62	\$ 0.21	0.4%

# **Management Discussion and Analysis (Continued) (Unaudited)**

## Other key highlights include:

- Total liabilities decreased by \$1.46 million or 12.1% due primarily to reduction in long-term debt.
- The Liquidity Ratio, otherwise known as the Current Ratio, as of the close of 2020 was 9.6.
- The District's Net Position is primarily committed to Investments in Capital Assets, Net of Debt at 90.9%. Net Position is also comprised of Restricted for Debt Service at 1.5% and Unrestricted at 7.6%.

# Management Discussion and Analysis (Continued) (Unaudited)

Table 2 summarizes, in millions, the changes in revenues, expenses and the resulting change in net position.

Table 2

				Change	
	 2020	 2019	ar	nount	% Change
Operating revenues	\$ 8.77	\$ 8.19	\$	0.57	7.0%
Operating expenses	\$ 4.72	\$ 5.16	\$	(0.44)	-8.6%
Maintenance expenses	0.95	0.88		0.07	8.0%
Depreciation expense	2.19	1.95		0.24	12.3%
Total expenses	7.86	7.99		(0.13)	-1.8%
Operating income	0.90	0.20		0.70	341.9%
Non-operating revenues	0.17	0.40		(0.23)	-57.5%
Non-operating expenses	 (0.22)	(0.23)		0.01	-4.3%
Change in net position	0.85	0.37		0.49	130.8%
Net position at beginning of year	 38.52	 38.16		0.36	0.9%
Net position at end of year	\$ 39.37	\$ 38.53	\$	0.84	2.2%

# Key highlights include:

- Total operating revenues increased \$0.57 million or 7.0% in 2020 as water sales, fees and miscellaneous revenue increased.
- The average customer paid \$41.64 per month based upon 5,176 gallons of water consumption.
- The operating ratio for 2020 was 1.11, as operating revenues exceeded operating expenses by \$0.90 million.
- Non-operating revenues include special assessments and interest income.
- Net position increased by \$.84 million or 2.2% in 2020.

# **Management Discussion and Analysis (Continued) (Unaudited)**

#### **Capital Assets**

A summary, in millions, of the District's capital assets is shown in Table 3.

#### Table 3

	 2020	 2019	hange nount	% Change
Water, production, treatments				
and distribution systems, net	\$ 35.29	\$ 35.21	\$ 0.08	0.2%
Building, office and equipment, net	1.85	1.79	0.06	3.4%
Land	1.66	1.66	-	0.0%
Construction in progress	 2.08	 1.97	 0.11	5.6%
Net capital assets	\$ 40.88	\$ 40.63	\$ 0.25	0.6%

## Key highlights include:

- Capital asset additions outweighed retirements, disposals, and depreciation by \$0.15 million during 2020.
- There was no land acquired during 2020.
- The District completed \$1.97 million of construction in progress during 2020 and has remaining construction in progress of \$2.08 million as of December 31, 2020.
- Depreciation recorded in 2020 was \$2.19 million.
- Net capital assets are comprised of 86.3% water production, treatment, and distribution systems, 5.2% construction in progress, 4.5% building, office, and equipment and 4.0% land.
- Net capital assets ratio as of December 31, 2020 was 50.3%.

Additional information can be found in Note E to the financial statements.

# Management Discussion and Analysis (Continued) (Unaudited)

#### **Debt**

Table 4, summarizes, in millions, the District's long-term bonded debt and other obligations. The District has utilized long term debt to finance major capital improvement projects. Revenue bonds are the most common financing instrument for capital improvement projects. In the past, special assessment bonds have been utilized to finance projects which extended water service into new service areas.

Table 4

Description	2	2020	,	2019		Change nount	% Change
	-				-		
USDA, rural development bonds	\$	1.50	\$	1.62	\$	(0.12)	-7.4%
Revenue bonds		2.46		2.66		(0.20)	-7.5%
Special assessment bonds		0.17		0.28		(0.11)	-39.3%
OPWC loan		0.98		1.00		(0.02)	-2.0%
Bonded debt and loan obligations		5.10		5.55		(0.45)	-8.1%
Other long-term obligations							
Bond issuance - premium and refunding		0.01		0.01		(0.00)	0.0%
Net pension liability		2.93		4.12		(1.19)	-29.0%
Net OPEB liability		1.95		1.83		0.11	6.6%
Total long-term obligations	\$	9.98	\$	11.51	\$	(1.53)	-13.3%

#### Key highlights include:

- Bonded debt and loan obligations decreased by 0.45 or 8.1% during 2020 as the District completed scheduled payments.
- Debt covenants were met in 2020 and 2019.
- The 2011 and 2013 Revenue Bonds were assigned an Aa3 rating by Moody's Investors Services.
- Net pension liability and Net OPEB liability account for approximately 48.8% of long-term obligations of the District.

Additional information can be found in Note F to the financial statements.

# **Management Discussion and Analysis (Continued) (Unaudited)**

#### **Economic Factors**

The District has budgeted an increase of \$0.75 million in net position for the year ended December 31, 2021. Additional customer revenues, and connection fees, along with continued containment of operating and maintenance expenses will contribute to this increase. Approval has been received from the Ohio Public Works Commission for Issue I grants for continued improvements of the District's water tanks and mains.

#### **Contact Information**

Questions regarding this report and requests for additional information should be forwarded to the General Manager, Southwest Regional Water District, 3640 Old Oxford Road, Hamilton, OH 45013.

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# Southwest Regional Water District Statement of Net Position December 31, 2020

#### Assets

Current assets	
Cash, cash equivalents and investments	\$ 7,123,287
Accounts receivable (net of allowance for doubtful	
accounts of \$39,565)	468,998
Special assessments receivable, current	78,419
Interest receivable	255,081
Inventory	401,948
Prepaid expenses	80,550
Total current assets	8,408,283
Capital assets	
Non-depreciable capital assets	3,744,575
Depreciable capital assets, net	37,147,975
Net capital assets	40,892,550
Other assets	
Restricted cash, cash equivalents and investments	581,726
Special assessments receivable, long-term	110,727
Total other assets	692,453
Deferred outflows of resources	
Deferred charges	47,972
Pension	477,420
OPEB	311,554
Deferred outflows of resources	836,946
Total assets and deferred outflows	\$ 50,830,232

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

# Southwest Regional Water District Statement of Net Position (Continued) December 31, 2020

# Liabilities

Current liabilities		
Current maturities of long-term obligations	\$	446,199
Accounts payable		288,692
Accrued liabilities		26,295
Tenant deposits		67,760
Accrued interest		48,473
Total current liabilities		877,419
Long-term liabilities		
Deferred revenue		136,620
Long-term obligations		4,664,416
Net pension liability		2,928,602
Net OPEB liability		1,945,047
Total long-term liabilities		9,674,685
Total liabilities	1	10,552,104
Deferred inflows of resources		
Pension		633,352
OPEB		282,230
Deferred inflows of resources		915,582
Net position		
Net investment in capital assets	3	35,781,935
Restricted for debt service		581,726
Unrestricted		2,998,885
Total net position	3	39,362,546
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of		
resources and net position	\$ 5	50,830,232

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

# Southwest Regional Water District Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position Year Ended December 31, 2020

Operating revenue	
Metered water sales to customers	\$ 7,830,215
Sale of new taps	544,575
Penalties	107,272
Miscellaneous	283,446
Total operating revenues	8,765,508
Operating expenses	
Operations	4,717,850
Maintenance	952,073
Depreciation	2,194,229
Total operating expenses	7,864,152
Operating income	901,356
Non-operating revenue (expense)	
Intergovernmental	113,879
Interest income	56,504
Interest expense and fiscal charges	(233,320)
Other non-operating revenue (expense), net	1,027
Net non-operating revenue (expense)	(61,910)
Change in net position	839,446
Net position beginning of year	38,523,100
Net position end of year	\$ 39,362,546

# Southwest Regional Water District Statement of Cash Flows Year Ended December 31, 2020

Cash flows from operating activities	
Receipts from customers	\$ 8,680,095
Receipts from others	283,446
Payments to suppliers and vendors	(2,541,781)
Payments to employees	(2,839,781)
Net cash provided by operating activities	3,581,979
Net easil provided by operating activities	3,361,979
Cash flows from capital and related financing activities	
Proceeds from capital grants	131,893
Acquisition and construction of capital assets	(2,458,448)
Payments on borrowings	(450,547)
Collections on special assessments	103,898
Interest paid	(238,500)
Net cash used in capital financing activities	(2,911,704)
Cash flows from noncapital financing activities	
Other non-operating revenue	1,027
Cash provided by noncapital financing activities	1,027
Cash flows from investing activities	
Interest received	42,152
Cash provided by investing activities	42,152
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	713,454
Cash, cash equivalents and investments January 1, 2020	6,991,559
Cash, cash equivalents and investments, December 31, 2020	\$ 7,705,013
Reconciliation to the statement of net position	
Restricted cash, cash equivalents and investments	\$ 581,726
Cash, cash equivalents and investments	7,123,287
· •	
Cash, cash equivalents and investments, December 31, 2020	\$ 7,705,013

# Southwest Regional Water District Statement of Cash Flows (Continued) Year Ended December 31, 2020

Reconciliation of change in net assets to net cash	
provided by operating activities	<b>4</b> 004.07.6
Operating income	\$ 901,356
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to	
net cash from operating activities	
Depreciation expense	2,194,229
Changes in	
Accounts receivable	107,495
Prepaid expenses	(15,663)
Inventory	958
Deferred charges	4,797
Deferred revenue	106,312
Accounts payable	(35,883)
Accrued liabilities	11,653
Tenant deposits	(15,774)
Deferred outflows - pension	739,516
Deferred outflows - OPEB	(168,348)
Net pension liability	(1,188,361)
Net OPEB liability	118,989
Deferred inflows - pension	571,411
Deferred inflows - OPEB	249,292
Total adjustments	2,680,623
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 3,581,979

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#### Note A - Nature of Organization

Southwest Regional Water District (hereafter referred to as the District) was created September 1, 1992 by the Court of Common Pleas of Butler County, Ohio to provide water services to the residents of Butler County in accordance with the provisions of Section 6119.et.seq of the Ohio Revised Code ("ORC"). The District is managed by a Board consisting of nine (9) trustees.

#### Note B - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The significant accounting policies followed in the preparation of these financial statements conform to generally accepted accounting principles for local governmental units as prescribed in the statements issued by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board ("GASB") and other recognized authoritative sources. A summary of the significant accounting policies consistently applied in preparation of the accompanying financial statements follows:

- 1. <u>Basis of Presentation Fund Accounting</u>: The accounts of the District are organized on the basis of funds, to report on its financial position and the results of its operations, each of which is considered a separate accounting entity. The District has created a single type of fund and a single fund within that fund type. The fund is accounted for by a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, retained earnings/fund balance, revenues, and expenses. This fund accounts for the governmental resources allocated to it for the purpose of carrying on specific activities in accordance with laws, regulations, or other restrictions. The fund type, which the District uses, is described below:
  - Proprietary Fund Type: This fund type accounts for operations that are organized to be self-supporting through user charges. The fund included in this category used by the District is the Enterprise Fund.
  - Enterprise Fund: This fund is established to account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises where the intent is those costs of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges.
- 2. <u>Basis of Accounting</u>: The financial statements of the District have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") as applied to local governmental units. GASB is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial principles.
- 3. <u>Budgetary Process</u>: Annually, the District adopts an operating budget. The annual budget is adopted and continues in effect until a new or amended budget is adopted. Based on the definitions for a legal adoption of a budget under both the ORC and GASB, a schedule or statement for the budget to actual results is not required to be presented for the District's basic financial statements.
- 4. <u>Operating Revenues and Expenses</u>: Operating revenues are those revenues that are generated directly from charges for metered water sales and other services. Operating expenses are necessary costs incurred to provide the goods or services that are the primary activity of the District.
- 5. <u>Accounts Receivable</u>: Accounts receivable are shown at their net realizable value. The District has set up an allowance for doubtful accounts for 2020. Amounts determined to potentially be uncollectible are set up as an allowance and a corresponding entry to an expense account is recorded during the year that the accounts are determined to be potentially uncollectible. A percentage of revenues based on the amount of accounts sent to collections is used to determine the allowance.

#### **Note B - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

- 6. <u>Restricted Assets</u>: Certain resources are set aside for the repayment of loans and as such are classified as restricted assets on the statement of net position because the use is limited by applicable security interests. The restricted assets are used for assuring payment of future principal and interest.
- 7. <u>Capital Assets</u>: Capital asset costs are stated at their historical cost and are depreciated over the estimated useful lives of the assets up to 40 years depending upon the type of asset. In addition, beginning in 1978, the District adopted the policy of including payroll costs, overhead expenses and interest costs incurred during the construction of the water system in the capital asset balance. Once construction is complete and a project is operational, depreciation begins on all planning costs, construction costs, and capitalized interest. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the following useful lives:

Water, production, treatments, and distribution systems

5 - 40 years

Building, office, and equipment

3 - 40 years

8. <u>Cash and Cash Equivalents</u>: For purposes of the statement of cash flows, the District considers all highly liquid debt instruments purchased with a maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

Except for nonparticipating investment contracts, investments are reported at fair value, which is based on quoted market prices. Nonparticipating investment contracts such as non-negotiable certificates of deposits are reported at cost.

During fiscal year 2020, the District invested in STAR Ohio. STAR Ohio ("the State Treasury Asset Reserve of Ohio"), is an investment pool managed by the State Treasurer's Office which allows governments within the State to pool their funds for investment purposes. STAR Ohio is not registered with the SEC as an investment company, but has adopted Statement No. 79, "Certain External Investment Pools and Pool Participants. "The District measures their investment in STAR Ohio at the net asset value ("NAV") per share provided by STAR Ohio. The NAV per share is calculated on an amortized cost basis that provides a NAV per share that approximates fair value.

For the fiscal year 2020, there were no limitations or restrictions on any participant withdrawals due to redemption notice periods, liquidity fees, or redemption gates. However, notice must be given 24 hours in advance of all deposits and withdrawals exceeding \$25 million. STAR Ohio reserves the right to limit the transaction to \$50 million, requiring the excess amount to be transacted the following business day(s), but only to the \$50 million limit. All accounts of the participant will be combined for these purposes.

- 9. <u>Compensated Absences</u>: The District does not have any significant compensated absences.
- 10. Net Position: Net position represents the difference between assets and deferred outflows and liabilities and deferred inflows. Net investment in capital assets consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balances of any borrowings used for the acquisition, construction, or improvements of those assets. Net position is reported as restricted when their use is limited either through legislation adopted by the District, or restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors or laws or regulations of other governments.

The District applies restricted resources when an expense is incurred for the purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted assets are available.

#### **Note B - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

11. <u>Inventories and Prepaid Items</u>: The inventories of the District are valued at the lower of cost or market. Cost, as applied to inventory valuation, represents a moving average method whereby the cost per unit is recomputed after every addition to the inventory. The cost is expensed at the time individual inventory items are consumed.

Certain payments to vendors reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepaid items and decreased over the useful benefit period.

- 12. <u>Pension/Other Postemployment Benefits</u>: For purposes of measuring the net pension/OPEB liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pension/OPEB, and pension/OPEB expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the pension/OPEB plans and additions to/deductions from their fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the pension/OPEB plan. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. The pension/OPEB plans report investments at fair value.
- 13. <u>Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources</u>: In addition to assets, the statement of net position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. Deferred outflows of resources represent a consumption of net position that applies to a future period and will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense) until then. For the District, deferred outflows of resources include a deferred charge on refunding, pension and OPEB, and are reported in the statement of net position. A deferred charge on refunding results from the difference in the carrying value of refunded debt and its reacquisition price. This amount is deferred and amortized over the shorter of the life of the refunded or refunding debt. The deferred outflows of resources related to pension and OPEB plans are explained in the pension and OPEB footnotes (see Notes G and H).

In addition to liabilities, the statement of net position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. Deferred inflows of resources represent an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period and will not be recognized as an inflow (revenues) until that time. For the District, deferred inflows of resources include pension and OPEB amounts. The details of those amounts are further explained in the pension and OPEB footnotes (See Notes G and H).

#### Note C - Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Investments

State statutes classify monies held by the District into three categories.

Active deposits are public deposits necessary to meet current demands on the treasury. Such monies must be maintained either as cash in the District Treasury, in commercial accounts payable or withdrawn on demand, including negotiable order of withdrawal ("NOW") accounts, or in money market deposit accounts.

*Inactive deposits* are public deposits that the Board of Trustees has identified as not required for use within the current two-year period of designation of depositories. Inactive deposits must be evidenced either by certificates of deposit maturing not later than the end of the current period of designation of depositories, or by savings or deposit accounts including, but not limited to, passbook accounts.

#### Note C - Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Investments (Continued)

*Interim deposits* are deposits of interim monies. Interim monies are those monies which are not needed for immediate use, but which will be needed before the end of the current period of designation of depositories. Interim monies may be deposited or invested in the following securities:

- United States treasury notes, bills, bonds, or any other obligation or security issued by the United States treasury or any other obligation guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States
- Bonds, notes, debentures, or any other obligations or securities issued by any federal government agency or instrumentality, including but not limited to, the federal national mortgage association, federal home loan bank, federal farm credit bank, federal home loan mortgage corporation, government national mortgage association, and student loan marketing association. All federal agency securities shall be direct issuances of federal government agencies or instrumentalities
- Written repurchase agreements in the securities listed above provided that the market value of the securities subject to the repurchase agreement must exceed the principal value of the agreement by at least two percent and be marked to market daily, and that the term of the agreement must not exceed thirty days
- Bonds and other obligations for the State of Ohio
- No-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations described in items (1) and (2) of this footnote and repurchase agreements secured by such obligations, provided that investments in securities described in this division are made only through eligible institutions
- The State Treasurer's investment pool (STAR Ohio & STAR Ohio Plus)
- Certain bankers' acceptances and commercial paper notes for a period not to exceed one hundred eighty
  days in an amount not to exceed twenty-five percent of the interim monies available for investment at
  any one time

Investments in stripped principal or interest obligations, reverse repurchase agreements and derivatives are prohibited. The issuance of taxable notes for the purpose of arbitrage, the use of leverage and short selling are also prohibited. An investment must mature within five years from the date of purchase unless matched to a specific obligation or debt of the District and must be purchased with the expectation that it will be held to maturity.

Protection of the District's deposits is provided by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, by eligible securities pledged by the financial institution as security for repayment, by surety company bonds deposited with the Treasurer by the financial institution or by a single collateral pool established by the financial institution to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited with the institution.

The District follows GASB Statement No. 40, Deposit, and Investment Risk Disclosures - an amendment of GASB Statement No. 3. GASB Statement No. 40 creates disclosure requirements for deposits and investments related to credit risk, interest rate risk and foreign currency risk.

#### **Deposits**

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of bank failure, the District will not be able to recover deposits or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. Although all statutory requirements for the deposit of money have been followed, noncompliance with Federal requirements could potentially subject the District to a successful claim by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC").

#### Note C - Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Investments (Continued)

## Deposits (Continued)

The District has no deposit policy for custodial risk beyond the requirements of State statute. Ohio law requires that deposits be either insured or be protected by:

- Eligible securities pledged to the District and deposited with a qualified trustee by the financial institution as security for repayment whose market value at all times shall be at least one hundred five percent of the deposits being secured; or
- Participation in the Ohio Pooled Collateral System ("OPCS"), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution. OPCS requires the total market value of the securities pledged to be 102 percent of the deposits being secured, or a rate set by the Treasurer of State.

The carrying amount of the District deposits as of December 31, 2020 was \$3,157,620 and the bank balance was \$3,395,816. Of the bank balance:

- \$500,000 as of December 31, 2020 was covered by federal depository insurance ("FDIC"); and
- \$738,209 as of December 31, 2020 was collateralized by a third-party trustee in single institution collateral pools, securing all public funds on deposit with specific depository institutions and not subject to custodial credit risk.

#### Investments

The District follows GASB Statement No. 31, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Certain Investments and for External Investment Pools and records all its investments at fair value. The District's recurring fair value measurement of its investment in Federated Treasury Obligations was valued using pricing sources and is considered a Level 1 investment. As of December 31, 2020, \$357,226 is invested and held in trust accounts in accordance with the District's Revenue and Special Assessment Bonds Trust Agreements

As of December 31, 2020, the District had the following investments which mature in less than one year:

Star Ohio	\$ 4,190,167
BNY Mellon - Federated Treasury Obligation Capital	357,226
Total investments	\$ 4,547,393

#### **Note C - Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Investments (Continued)**

#### Investments (Continued)

The following is a reconciliation of cash and investments to the Statement of Net Position as of December 31, 2020.

		Restricted assets: cash	
	Cash and cash equivalents	and cash equivalents	Total
Investments (summarized above) Carrying amount of the district's deposits	\$ 3,965,667 3,157,620	\$ 581,726	\$ 4,547,393 3,157,620
	\$ 7,123,287	\$ 581,726	\$ 7,705,013

#### **Interest Rate Risk**

Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment.

The District's policy requires that, to the extent possible, the General Manager will attempt to match investments with anticipated cash flow requirements to take best advantage of prevailing economic and market conditions.

The maximum maturity of any eligible instrument is five years from the settlement date unless the investment is matched to a specific obligation or debt of the District. Any investment made must be purchased with reasonable expectation to be held to maturity.

#### Credit Risk

Credit risk is the risk that an issuer or other counterparty to an investment will not fulfill its obligations. Star Ohio Plus carries a rating of AAA by Standard and Poor's. Ohio law requires that STAR Ohio Plus maintains the highest rating provided by at least one of the nationally recognized standard rating services. The District does not have an investment policy that addresses credit risk.

#### Concentration of Credit Risk

Concentration of credit risk is the risk of loss attributed to the magnitude of a government's investment in a single issuer. The District's investment policy does not address concentration of credit risk. The District has invested 95% of its investments in STAR Plus/STAR Ohio.

# **Note D - Special Assessments Receivables**

Special Assessment receivables are from completed construction projects and the issuance of final assessments to residents to cover those costs. The receivables are collected through property tax assessments issued by County Auditors. The receivable balance recognized at December 31, 2020 is only for current and active special assessments. The District tracks deferred agricultural property assessments and delinquent special assessments but does not recognize the value of such due to the uncertain nature and timing of collection.

Total

\$ 6,978,230

# Note D - Special Assessments Receivables (Continued)

Deferred agricultural property is not subject to special assessments. A special assessment may only be realized when a property no longer qualifies for agricultural property status, as defined in the Ohio Revised Code Chapter 929, and as certified by the County Auditor. The time frame of collection is undeterminable and therefore the value of deferred agricultural property assessments are not recognized. The balance of deferred assessments at December 31, 2020 is \$150,867.

The District may assess the final balance of any cancelled water account to the County Auditor for collection. During 2020, the District assessed \$8,073 related to the final balance of cancelled water accounts.

The special assessment accounts receivables balance at December 31, 2020 are as follows:

566,010

\$

Special assessments	receivables - cu	rrent portion	\$ 78,419			
Special assessments	receivables - no	on current	110,727			
			\$ 189,146			
			Deferred			
			assessments as a % of		Payments as	
	Total	Deferred	total		a % of total	Assessment
	assessment	assessments	assessment	Payments	assessment	receivable
1994 Assessments	\$ 227,778	\$ 73,941	32.5%	\$ 153,837	67.5%	\$ -
1994 Assessments	889,478	62,639	7.0%	826,839	93.0%	φ - -
1997 Assessments	94,579	94,579	100.0%	-	0.0%	_
1999 Assessments	4,322,014	183,984	4.3%	4,138,030	95.7%	_
2000 Assessments	579,383	11,417	2.0%	566,184	97.7%	1,782
2002 Assessments	736,635	134,580	18.3%	498,076	67.6%	103,979
2007 Assessments	116,045	4,870	4.2%	39,356	33.9%	71,819
2019 Assessments	4,245	-	0.0%	752	17.7%	3,493
2020 Assessments	8,073	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	8,073

8.1%

\$ 6,223,074

89.2%

\$

189,146

**Note E - Capital Assets** 

The following is a schedule of capital assets and related activity for the year-ended December 31, 2020:

	Balance at 12-31-19	Additions	Retirements and disposals	Balance at 12-31-20
Non-depreciable capital assets				
Land	\$ 1,664,110	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,664,110
Construction in progress	1,965,725	2,083,539	(1,968,799)	2,080,465
Total non-depreciable capital assets	3,629,835	2,083,539	(1,968,799)	3,744,575
Depreciable capital assets, net				
Water, production, treatments and				
distribution systems	70,401,682	2,075,168	-	72,476,850
Building, office and equipment	4,343,484	268,540		4,612,024
Total depreciable capital assets	74,745,166	2,343,708	-	77,088,874
Less: accumulated depreciation				
Water, production, treatments and				
distribution systems	(35,194,610)	(1,989,186)	-	(37,183,796)
Building, office and equipment	(2,552,060)	(205,043)		(2,757,103)
Total accumulated depreciation	(37,746,670)	(2,194,229)		(39,940,899)
Total depreciable capital assets, net	36,998,496	149,479		37,147,975
Capital assets, net	\$ 40,628,331	\$ 2,233,018	\$ (1,968,799)	\$ 40,892,550

Depreciation expense is allocated by functional expense as follows:

Water, production, and treatment operations	\$ 1,989,186
Management and general	205,043
Total depreciation expense	\$ 2,194,229

**Note F - Long-term Obligations** 

Long-term obligations consist of:

Description	12-31-19 Balance	Issued in 2020	Payments 2020	12-31-20 Balance	Due within one year
USDA, Rural Development Bonds	\$ 1,617,652	\$ -	\$ 120,583	\$ 1,497,069	\$ 128,270
Special Assessment Water					
Line Extension Bonds - Series 2000	50,000	-	50,000	-	-
Special Assessment Water					
Line Extension Bonds - Series 2002	160,000	-	50,000	110,000	55,000
Special Assessment Water					
Line Extension Bonds - Series 2007	66,000	-	7,000	59,000	7,000
Revenue Bonds Series 2011	2,655,000	-	195,000	2,460,000	200,000
OPWC-Loans	1,003,976		27,964	976,012	55,929
Total bonded debt and loan					
obligations before premium and					
decreased interest	5,552,628	-	450,547	5,102,081	446,199
Series 2011 Bond Issue Premium	9,388	-	854	8,534	-
Net pension liability	4,116,963	-	1,188,361	2,928,602	-
Net OPEB liability	1,826,058	118,989		1,945,047	
Total long-term debt obligations	\$ 11,505,037	\$ 118,989	\$ 1,639,762	\$ 9,984,264	\$ 446,199

#### **Note F - Long-term Obligations (Continued)**

As of December 31, 2020, the annual debt service requirements to maturity for all long-term debt issuances are as follows:

Year	Principal	Interest
2021	\$ 446,199	\$ 212,421
2022	465,377	193,074
2023	425,075	172,745
2024	449,328	154,029
2025	470,171	134,101
2026-2040	2,845,931	323,500
	5,102,081	1,189,870
2011 Bond issue premium	8,534	
Total	\$ 5,110,615	\$ 1,189,870

The majority of the District's debt is paid from revenues, excluding capital contributions. The District is required by bond trust agreements to meet a revenue to debt ratio of 1.2 for its 2011 revenue bonds and 1.0 for Rural Development Bonds and OPWC loans. These covenants were met in 2020.

#### USDA, Rural Development Bonds

The security agreements on the loans provide for annual payments to the USDA Rural Development with requirements for monthly amounts to a debt service account maintained by the District which is included in cash and cash equivalents. The agreements also provide for a reserve account by an annual appropriation of retained earnings for the estimated cost of the District's normal operations and maintenance expenses for the ensuing year.

The District has pledged future water customer revenues, net of specific operating expenses, to repay \$2,931,000 in water revenue bonds issued in 1994. Proceeds from the bonds refinanced Rural Development mortgage notes. The bonds are payable solely from water customer net revenues and are payable through 2029. Annual principal and interest payments remaining on the bonds are expected to require approximately 3 percent of revenue. The total principal outstanding on the Rural Development bonds is \$1,497,069 as of December 31, 2020.

## Special Assessment Water Line Extension Bonds - Series 2000

During 2000, \$610,000 of Water System Improvement Bonds, Special Assessment Series 2000, dated September 1, 2000 were issued. Payment of the bonds will be through property tax assessments of property owners benefiting from the water services provided. Payment of the bonds will be through the year 2020. The bonds mature at varying dates and require interest payments at rates varying between 4.50% and 5.75%. The total principal outstanding was \$0 as of December 31, 2020.

#### **Note F - Long-term Obligations (Continued)**

# Special Assessment Water Line Extension Bonds - Series 2002

During 2002, \$765,000 of Water Line Extension Bonds, Special Assessment Series 2002, dated September 1, 2002 were issued. Payment of the bonds will be through property tax assessments of property owners benefiting from the water services provided. Payment of the bonds will be through the year 2022. The bonds mature at varying dates and require interest payments at rates varying between 1.75% and 5.00%. The total principal outstanding was \$110,000 as of December 31, 2020.

#### Special Assessment Water Line Extension Bonds - Series 2007

During 2007, \$126,000 of Water line Extension, Special Assessment Series 2007, dated September 1, 2007 were issued. Payment on the bonds will be through property tax assessments of property owners benefiting from the water service provided. Payment of the bonds will be through the year 2027. The bonds mature at varying dates and require interest payments at a rate of 6%. The total principal outstanding was \$59,000 as of December 31, 2020.

## Revenue Bonds - 2011

During 2011, \$4,075,000 of Waterworks System Revenue Improvement Bonds, Series 2011 were issued. The District has pledged water customer revenues, net of specific operating expenses, to repay the waterworks system revenue improvement bonds. Proceeds from the bonds (a) refunded the 2010 Bond Anticipation Note; b) made certain improvements to the Waterworks System water tanks (c) funded a reserve, and (d) paid costs of issuance. The bonds are payable through 2030 and were issued with a premium (\$8,534 outstanding as of December 31, 2020). The bonds mature at varying dates and require interest payments at varying rates between 1.00% and 4.80%. The total principal remaining to be paid on the bonds is \$2,460,000.

#### **OPWC-Loans**

The Ohio Public Works Commission loans are for water main replacements and water tower painting These loans are 20 years in length and are interest free. Principal payments are made twice a year. The OPWC loans contain maturities extending through 2040. The total principal outstanding was \$976,012 as of December 31, 2020.

#### Note G - Defined Benefit Pension Plan

#### **Net Pension Liability**

The net pension liability reported on the statement of net position represents a liability to employees for pensions. Pensions are a component of exchange transactions between an employer and its employees of salaries and benefits for employee services. Pensions are provided to an employee on a deferred-payment basis as part of the total compensation package offered by an employer for employee services each financial period. The obligation to sacrifice resources for pensions is a present obligation because it was created as a result of employment exchanges that already have occurred.

The net pension liability represents the District's proportionate share of each pension plan's collective actuarial present value of projected benefit payments attributable to past periods of service, net of each pension plan's fiduciary net position. The net pension liability calculation is dependent on critical long-term variables, including estimated average life expectancies, earnings on investments, cost of living adjustments and others. While these estimates use the best information available, unknowable future events require adjusting this estimate annually.

#### Note G - Defined Benefit Pension Plan (Continued)

#### Net Pension Liability (Continued)

Ohio Revised Code limits the District's obligation for this liability to annually required payments. The District cannot control benefit terms or the manner in which pensions are financed; however, the District does receive the benefit of employees' services in exchange for compensation including pension.

GASB Statement No. 68 assumes the liability is solely the obligation of the employer, because (1) they benefit from employee services; and (2) State statute requires all funding to come from these employers. All contributions to date have come solely from these employers (which also includes costs paid in the form of withholdings from employees). State statute requires the pension plans to amortize unfunded liabilities within 30 years. If the amortization period exceeds 30 years, each pension plan's board must propose corrective action to the State legislature. Any resulting legislative change to benefits or funding could significantly affect the net pension liability. Resulting adjustments to net pension liability would be effective when the changes are legally enforceable.

The proportionate share of each plan's unfunded benefits is presented as a long-term *net pension liability* on the accrual basis of accounting. Any liability for the contractually required pension contribution outstanding at the end of the year is included on the Statement of Net Position.

# Plan Description - Ohio Public Employees Retirement System ("OPERS")

District employees participate in the OPERS. OPERS administers three separate pension plans. The Traditional Pension Plan is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan. The Member-Directed Plan is a defined contribution plan and the Combined Plan is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan with defined contribution features. While members (e.g., District employees) may elect the Member-Directed Plan and the Combined Plan, all of the employee members are in OPERS' Traditional Plan; therefore, the following disclosures focus on the Traditional Pension Plan.

OPERS provides retirement, disability, survivor and death benefits, and annual cost of living adjustments to members of the Traditional Plan. Authority to establish and amend benefits is provided by Chapter 145 of the Ohio Revised Code ("ORC"). OPERS issues a stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements, required supplementary information and detailed information about OPERS' fiduciary net position that may be obtained by visiting https://www.opers.org,financial/reports.shtml, by writing to Ohio Public Employees Retirement System, 277 East Town Street, Columbus, OH 43215-4642, or by calling 800.222.7377.

Group A

#### Note G - Defined Benefit Pension Plan (Continued)

## Plan Description - Ohio Public Employees Retirement System ("OPERS") (Continued)

Senate Bill ("SB") 343 was enacted into law with an effective date of January 7, 2013. In the legislation, members were categorized into three groups with varying provisions of the law applicable to each group. The following table provides age and service requirements for retirement and the retirement formula applied to final average salary ("FAS") for the three member groups under the Traditional Pension Plan as per the reduced benefits adopted by SB 343 (see OPERS' CAFR referenced above for additional information):

Group C

Eligible to retire prior to January 7, 2013 or five years after January 7, 2013	20 years of service credit prior to January 7, 2013 or eligible to retire ten years after January 7, 2013	Members not in other groups and members hired on or after January 7, 2013	
State and local	State and local	State and local	
Age and service requirements Age 60 with 60 months of service credit or Age 55 with 25 years of service credit	Age and service requirements Age 60 with 60 months of service credit or Age 55 with 25 years of service credit	Age and service requirements Age 57 with 25 years of service credit or Age 62 with 5 years of service credit	
Formula 2.2% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 30 years and 2.5% for service years in excess of 30	Formula 2.2% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 30 years and 2.5% for service years in excess of 30	Formula 2.2% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 35 years and 2.5% for service years in excess of 35	

Group B

FAS represents the average of the three highest years of earnings over a member's career for Groups A and B. Group C is based on the average of the five highest years of earnings over a member's career.

Members who retire before meeting the age and years of service credit requirement for unreduced benefits receive a percentage reduction in the benefit amount.

When a benefit recipient has received benefits for 12 months, an annual cost of living adjustment ("COLA") is provided. This COLA is calculated on the base retirement benefit at the date of retirement and is not compounded. For those retiring prior to January 7, 2013, the COLA will continue to be a 3% simple annual COLA. For those retiring subsequent to January 7, 2013, beginning in calendar year 2019, the COLA will be based on the average percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index, capped at 3%.

#### Note G - Defined Benefit Pension Plan (Continued)

## **Funding Policy**

The ORC provides statutory authority for member and employer contributions as follows:

	State and local
2020 Statutory maximum contribution rate	
Employer	14.00%
Employee	10.00%
2020 Actual contribution rate	
Employer	
Pension	14.00%
Post-employment health care benefits	0.00%
Total employer	14.00%
Employee	10.00%

Employer contribution rates are actuarially determined and are expressed as a percentage of covered payroll. The District's contractually required contribution was \$318,545 for 2020. Of this amount, \$0 was recorded as an intergovernmental payable.

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions

The net pension liability for OPERS was measured as of December 31, 2019 and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The District's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the District's share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share and pension expense:

Proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 2,928,602
Proportion of the net pension liability	
Current measurement date	0.014817%
Prior measurement date	0.015032%
Change in proportional share	-0.000215%
Pension expense	\$ 441,111

#### **Note G - Defined Benefit Pension Plan (Continued)**

<u>Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources</u> Related to Pensions (Continued)

At December 31, 2020, the District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	out	eferred flows of sources	in	Deferred aflows of desources	o (ir	et deferred outflows / oflows) of esources
Changes in District's proportion and differences between contributions and proportionate share of contributions  Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan	\$	2,453	\$	(12,134)	\$	(9,681)
investments		-		(584,190)		(584,190)
Contributions subsequent to the				, , ,		
measurement date		318,545		-		318,545
Change in assumptions		156,422		-		156,422
Differences between expected						
and actual experience				(37,028)		(37,028)
	\$	477,420	\$	(633,352)	\$	(155,932)

The \$318,545 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pension resulting from District contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ending December 31, 2020. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pension will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Year ending December 31,	
2021 2022 2023 2024	\$ (73,703) (193,000) 24,188 (231,962)
	\$ (474,477)

Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of the values of reported amounts and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future. Examples include assumptions about future employment, mortality, and cost trends. Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual review or modification as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

#### Note G - Defined Benefit Pension Plan (Continued)

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions (Continued)

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employers and plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation. The total pension liability in the December 31, 2019, actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement in accordance with the requirements of GASB 67 (Financial Reporting for Pension Plans):

Measurement and valuation date December 31, 2019

Experience study 5-year period ended December 31, 2015

Actuarial cost method Individual entry age

Actuarial assumptions

Investment rate of return 7.20% Wage inflation 3.25%

Projected salary increases 3.25% to 10.75% (including wage inflation at 3.25%)

Cost of living adjustments Pre 1/7/2013 Retiree: 3.00% simple

Post 1/7/2013 Retiree: 1.40% simple through

2020, then 2.15% simple

Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Employees' mortality table for males and females, adjusted for mortality improvement back to the observation period base year of 2006. The base year for males and females was then established to be 2015 and 2010, respectively. Post-retirement mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Healthy Annuitant mortality table for males and females, adjusted for mortality improvement back to the observation period base year of 2006. The base year for males and females was then established to be 2015 and 2010, respectively. Post-retirement mortality rates for disabled retirees are based on the RP-2014 Disabled mortality table for males and females, adjusted for mortality improvement back to the observation period base year of 2006. The base year for males and females was then established to be 2015 and 2010, respectively. Mortality rates for a particular calendar year are determined by applying the MP-2015 mortality improvement scale to all of the above-described tables.

The allocation of investment assets with the Defined Benefit portfolio is approved by the Board of Trustees as outlined in the annual investment plan. Plan assets are managed on a total return basis with a long-term objective of achieving and maintaining a fully funded status for the benefits provided through the defamed benefit pension plans. The table below displays the Board-approved asset allocation policy for 2019 and the long-term expected real rates of return:

Asset class	Target	Weighted	
Fixed income	25%	1.83%	
Domestic equities	19%	5.75%	
Real estate	10%	5.20%	
Private equity	12%	10.70%	
International equities	21%	7.66%	
Other investments	13%	4.98%	
Total	100%	5.61%	

#### **Note G - Defined Benefit Pension Plan (Continued)**

<u>Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions (Continued)</u>

The long-term rate of return on defined benefit investment assets was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected real rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage, adjusted for inflation.

During 2018, OPERS managed investments in three investment portfolios: The Defined Benefit portfolio, the Health Care portfolio, and the Defined Contribution portfolio. The Defined Benefit portfolio contains the investment assets for the Traditional Pension Plan, the defined benefit component of the Combined Plan and the annuitized accounts of the Member-Directed Plan. Within the Defined Benefit portfolio, contributions into the plan are recorded at the same time, and benefit payments all occur on the first of the month. Accordingly, the money-weighted rate of return is considered to be the same for all plans within the portfolio. The annual money-weighted rate of return expressing investment performance, net of investment expenses and adjusted for the changing amounts actually invested, for the Defined Benefit portfolio was 17.2% for 2019.

#### Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.20%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members and those of the contributing employers are made at the statutorily required rates. Based on those assumptions, the pension plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

#### Sensitivity of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate

The following table represents the District's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.20%, as well as what the District's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one-percentage point lower (6.20%) and one-percentage point higher (8.20%) than the current rate:

	1% decrease	Current	1% increase
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 4,830,342	\$ 2,928,602	\$ 1,219,143

#### **Note H - Other Post-employment Benefits**

The net OPEB liability reported on the Statement of Net Position represents a liability to employees for OPEB. OPEB is a component of exchange transactions between an employer and its employees of salaries and benefits for employee services. OPEB are provided to an employee on a deferred-payment basis as part of the total compensation package offered by an employer for employee services each financial period. The obligation to sacrifice resources for OPEB is a present obligation because it was created as a result of employment exchanges that already have occurred.

The net OPEB liability represents the District's proportionate share of each OPEB plan's collective actuarial present value of projected benefit payments attributable to past periods of service, net of each OPEB plan's fiduciary net position. The net OPEB liability calculation is dependent on critical long-term variables, including estimated average life expectancies, earnings on investments, cost of living adjustments and others. While these estimates use the best information available, unknowable future events require adjusting these estimates annually.

#### Note H - Other Post-employment Benefits (Continued)

ORC limits the District's obligation for this liability to annually required payments. The District cannot control benefit terms or the manner in which OPEB are financed; however, the District does receive the benefit of employees' services in exchange for compensation including OPEB.

GASB 75 assumes the liability is solely the obligation of the employer, because they benefit from employee services. OPEB contributions come from these employers and health care plan enrollees which pay a portion of the health care costs in the form of a monthly premium. The ORC permits but does not require the retirement systems to provide healthcare to eligible benefit recipients. Any change to benefits or funding could significantly affect the net OPEB liability. Resulting adjustments to the net OPEB liability would be effective when the changes are legally enforceable. The retirement systems may allocate a portion of the employer contributions to provide for these OPEB benefits.

The proportionate share of each plan's unfunded benefits is presented as a long-term *net OPEB liability* on the accrual basis of accounting. Any liability for the contractually required OPEB contribution outstanding at the end of the year is included on the Statement of Net Position.

#### Plan Description

OPERS administers three separate pension plans: The Traditional Pension Plan, a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan; the Member-Directed Plan, a defined contribution plan; and the Combined Plan, a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan that has elements of both a defined benefit and defined contribution plan.

OPERS maintains a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit post-employment health care trust, which funds multiple health care plans including medical coverage, prescription drug coverage and deposits to a Health Reimbursement Arrangement to qualifying benefit recipients of both the traditional pension and the combined plans. This trust is also used to fund health care for member-directed plan participants, in the form of a Retiree Medical Account ("RMA"). At retirement or refund, member directed plan participants may be eligible for reimbursement of qualified medical expenses from their vested RMA balance.

In order to qualify for postemployment health care coverage, age and service retirees under the traditional pension and combined plans must have twenty or more years of qualifying Ohio service credit. Health care coverage for disability benefit recipients and qualified survivor benefit recipients is available. The health care coverage provided by OPERS meets the definition of an OPEB as described in GASB Statement 75. See OPERS' CAFR referenced below for additional information.

The ORC permits but does not require OPERS to provide health care to its eligible benefit recipients. Authority to establish and amend health care coverage is provided to the Board in Chapter 145 of the ORC.

Disclosures for the health care plan are presented separately in the OPERS financial report. Interested parties may obtain a copy by visiting https://www.opers.org/financial/reports.shtml, by writing to OPERS, 277 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4642, or by calling 614.222.5601 or 800.222.7377.

#### **Note H - Other Post-employment Benefits (Continued)**

#### **Funding Policy**

The ORC provides the statutory authority requiring public employers to fund postemployment health care through their contributions to OPERS. When funding is approved by OPERS Board of Trustees, a portion of each employer's contribution to OPERS is set aside to fund OPERS health care plans.

Employer contribution rates are expressed as a percentage of the earnable salary of active members. In 2019, state and local employers contributed at a rate of 14.0 percent of earnable salary and public safety and law enforcement employers contributed at 18.1 percent. These are the maximum employer contribution rates permitted by the ORC. Active member contributions do not fund health care.

Each year, the OPERS Board determines the portion of the employer contribution rate that will be set aside to fund health care plans. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for members in the Traditional Pension Plan and Combined Plan was 0 percent during calendar year 2019. The OPERS Board is also authorized to establish rules for the retiree or their surviving beneficiaries to pay a portion of the health care provided. Payment amounts vary depending on the number of covered dependents and the coverage selected. The employer contribution as a percentage of covered payroll deposited into the RMA for participants in the Member-Directed Plan for 2019 was 4.0 percent.

Employer contribution rates are actuarially determined and are expressed as a percentage of covered payroll. The District's contractually required contribution was \$0 for 2020.

## OPEB Liabilities, OPEB Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB

The District's proportion of the net OPEB liability was based on the District's share of contributions to the retirement plan relative to the contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share and OPEB expense:

Proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ 1,945,047
Proportion of the net OPEB liability	
Current measurement date	0.014128%
Prior measurement date	0.014006%
Change in proportional share	0.000122%
OPEB expense	\$ 199,933

#### **Note H - Other Post-employment Benefits (Continued)**

OPEB Liabilities, OPEB Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB (Continued)

At December 31, 2020, the District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	out	eferred tflows of sources			Net deferred outflows / (inflows) of resources	
Changes in District's proportion and differences						
between contributions and proportionate						
share of contributions	\$	3,622	\$	(5,305)	\$	(1,683)
Net difference between projected						
and actual investment earnings		-		(99,041)		(99,041)
Change in assumptions		307,880		-		307,880
Differences between expected						
and actual experience		52		(177,884)		(177,832)
	\$	311,554	\$	(282,230)	\$	29,324

In 2020, \$0 will be reported as deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB resulting from District contributions subsequent to the measurement date and will be recognized as a reduction of the net OPEB liability. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

Year ending December 31,	_	
2021	\$	46,832
2022		24,735
2023		78
2024		(42,321)
	\$	29,324

#### **Actuarial Assumptions - OPEB**

Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of the values of reported amounts and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future. Examples include assumptions about future employment, mortality, and cost trends. Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual review or modification as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

#### **Note H - Other Post-employment Benefits (Continued)**

#### Actuarial Assumptions - OPEB (Continued)

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan and include the types of coverage provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing of costs between OPERS and plan members. The total OPEB liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2018, rolled forward to the measurement date of December 31, 2019. The actuarial valuation used the following actuarial assumptions applied to all prior periods included in the measurement in accordance with the requirements of GASB 74 (Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans):

Actuarial valuation date December 31, 2018 Rolled-forward measurement date December 31, 2019

Experience study 5-year period ended December 31, 2015

Wage inflation 3.25%

Projected salary increases 3.25% to 10.75% (including wage inflation at 3.25%)

Single discount rate 3.16%
Investment rate of return 6.00%
Municipal bond rate 2.75%

Health care cost trend rate 10.5% initial

3.50%, ultimate in 2030

Actuarial cost method Individual entry age

Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Employees' mortality table for males and females, adjusted for mortality improvement back to the observation period base year of 2006. The base year for males and females was then established to be 2015 and 2010, respectively. Post-retirement mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Healthy Annuitant mortality table for males and females, adjusted for mortality improvement back to the observation period base year of 2006. The base year for males and females was then established to be 2015 and 2010, respectively. Post-retirement mortality rates for disabled retirees are based on the RP-2014 Disabled mortality table for males and females, adjusted for mortality improvement back to the observation period base year of 2006. The base year for males and females was then established to be 2015 and 2010, respectively. Mortality rates for a particular calendar year are determined by applying the MP-2015 mortality improvement scale to all of the above-described tables.

The most recent experience study was completed for the five-year period ended December 31, 2015.

The long-term expected rate of return on health care investment assets was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected real rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage, adjusted for inflation.

During 2019, OPERS managed investments in three investment portfolios: The Defined Benefit portfolio, the Health Care portfolio and the Defined Contribution portfolio. The Health Care portfolio includes the assets for health care expenses for the Traditional Pension Plan, Combined Plan and Member-Directed Plan eligible members. Within the Health Care portfolio, contributions into the plans are assumed to be received continuously throughout the year based on the actual payroll payable at the time contributions are made, and health care-related payments are assumed to occur mid-year. Accordingly, the money-weighted rate of return is considered to be the same for all plans within the portfolio. The annual money-weighted rate of return expressing investment performance, net of investment expenses and adjusted for the changing amounts actually invested, for the Health Care portfolio was 19.7% for 2019.

#### **Note H - Other Post-employment Benefits (Continued)**

#### Actuarial Assumptions - OPEB (Continued)

The allocation of investment assets with the Health Care portfolio is approved by the Board of Trustees as outlined in the annual investment plan. Assets are managed on a total return basis with a long-term objective of continuing to offer a sustainable health care program for current and future retirees. OPERS' primary goal is to achieve and maintain a fully funded status for the benefits provided through the defined pension plans. Health care is a discretionary benefit. The table below displays the Board-approved asset allocation policy for 2019 and the long-term expected real rates of return:

		Weighted
		average long
		term expected
		real rate of
	Target	return
Asset class	allocation	(arithmetic)
Fixed income	36%	1.53%
Domestic equities	21%	5.75%
Real estate investment trusts	6%	5.69%
International equities	23%	7.66%
Other investments	14%	4.90%
Total	100%	4.55%

#### **Discount Rate**

A single discount rate of 3.16 percent was used to measure the OPEB liability on the measurement date of December 31, 2019. Projected benefit payments are required to be discounted to their actuarial present value using a single discount rate that reflects (1) a long-term expected rate of return on OPEB plan investments (to the extent that the health care fiduciary net position is projected to be sufficient to pay benefits), and (2) tax-exempt municipal bond rate based on an index of 20-year general obligation bonds with an average AA credit rating as of the measurement date (to the extent that the contributions for use with the long term expected rate are not met). This single discount rate was based on an expected rate of return on the health care investment portfolio of 6.00 percent and a municipal bond rate of 2.75 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine this single discount rate assumed that employer contributions will be made at rates equal to the actuarially determined contribution rate. Based on these assumptions, the health care fiduciary net position and future contributions were sufficient to finance health care costs through 2034. As a result, the long-term expected rate of return on health care investments was applied to projected costs through the year 2034, and the municipal bond rate was applied to all health care costs after that date.

#### **Note H - Other Post-employment Benefits (Continued)**

Sensitivity of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate

The following table presents the District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability calculated using the single discount rate of 3.16 percent, as well as what the District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one-percentage-point lower (2.16 percent) or one-percentage-point higher (4.16 percent) than the current rate:

	Current			
discount rate of 3.16%	1% increase (4.16%)			
	\$ 1,464,387			
	\$ 1,945,047			

Sensitivity of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Health Care Cost Trend Rate

Changes in the health care cost trend rate may also have a significant impact on the net OPEB liability. The following table presents the net OPEB liability calculated using the assumed trend rates, and the expected net OPEB liability if it were calculated using a health care cost trend rate that is 1.0 percent lower or 1.0 percent higher than the current rate.

Retiree health care valuations use a health care cost-trend assumption that changes over several years built into the assumption. The near-term rates reflect increases in the current cost of health care; the trend starting in 2020 is 10.50 percent. If this trend continues for future years, the projection indicates that years from now virtually all expenditures will be for health care. A more reasonable alternative is that in the not-too-distant future, the health plan cost trend will decrease to a level at, or near, wage inflation. On this basis, the actuaries project premium rate increases will continue to exceed wage inflation for approximately the next decade, but by less each year, until leveling off at an ultimate rate, assumed to be 3.50 percent in the most recent valuation.

		Current health	
		care cost	
	1% decrease	trend rate	1% increase
	(2.50%)	assumption of 3.50%	(4.50%)
District's proportionate share of the			
net OPEB liability	\$ 1,887,692	\$ 1,945,047	\$ 2,001,756

#### Note I - Risk Management

The District is exposed to various risks of loss to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. For the year 2020, the District contracted for the following insurance coverage:

- General Liability
- Public Officials
- Inland Marine
- Automobile
- Faithful Performance and Employee Bond
- Health
- Cyber Security

Vehicle policies include liability coverage for bodily injury and property damage.

Worker's compensation benefits are provided through the State Bureau of Worker's Compensation.

The District has not incurred significant reductions to insurance coverage from coverage in the prior years by major category of risk. Settled claims resulting from these risks have not exceeded commercial insurance coverage in any of the past three years.

#### **Note J - Contingent Liabilities**

#### Litigation

The District is not involved in any litigation seeking damages.

#### Federal and State Grants

The District participates in federally assisted programs. These programs are subject to financial and compliance audits by the grantors or their representative. As of December 31, 2020, audits of certain programs have not been completed. Accordingly, the District's compliance with applicable grant requirements will be established at some future date.

#### Pandemic

During 2020, the outbreak of the novel coronavirus disease 2019 ("COVID-19") was declared a United States and global pandemic. The District's operations have not been significantly impacted by the outbreak of COVID-19. Since the situation surrounding the pandemic is on-going, the District's operations could ultimately be adversely impacted by the outbreak of COVID-19. The duration, nature, and extent of the ultimate direct or indirect impact on the District's financial condition, liquidity, and/or future results of operations, if any, cannot be reasonably estimated at this time.

#### **Note K - Subsequent Event**

On March 23, 2021, the District's Board of Trustees approved the early optional redemption of the Series 2011 Waterworks System Revenue Improvement Bonds. The total outstanding principal of \$2,460,000 was comprised of scheduled payments from 2021 to 2030. The District paid the Trustee on April 27, 2021 and the bond redemption occurred on June 1, 2021. The bond redemption significantly reduces the outstanding debt of the District and forgoes scheduled interest payments of \$597,339 from 2021 to 2030.

Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability
Ohio Public Employees Retirement System - Pension Plan

Last Seven Years\*

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
District's proportion of the net pension liability District's proportionate share of the net pension liability District's covered payroll	0.014817% \$ 2,928,602 2,139,765	0.015032% \$ 4,116,963 2,031,541	0.015074% \$ 2,364,858 1,993,285	0.015431% \$ 3,504,161 1,996,002	0.016420% \$ 2,844,176 2,044,492	0.016531% \$ 1,993,823 2,026,867	0.016531% \$ 1,948,790 1,855,569
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of its covered payroll	136.87%	202.65%	118.64%	175.56%	139.11%	98.37%	105.02%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	82.17%	74.70%	84.66%	77.25%	81.08%	86.45%	86.36%

<sup>\*</sup>Represents employer's calendar year. Information prior to 2014 was not available. The District will continue to present information for years available until a full ten-year trend is compiled.

#### **Notes to Schedule:**

Change in assumptions. In 2018, changes in assumptions were made based upon an updated experience study that was completed for the five-year period ended December 31, 2016. Significant changes included a reduction of the discount rate from 8.25% to 8.0%, a reduction in the wage inflation rate from 3.75% to 3.25%, and transition from the RP-2000 mortality tables to the RP-2014 mortality tables.

Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of the District's Contributions
Ohio Public Employees Retirement System - Traditional Pension Plan
Last Eight Years\*

2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 Contractually required contributions 318,545 299,567 284,415 \$ 253,831 239,520 \$ 243,224 \$ 241,224 245,339 Contributions in relation to the contractually contractually required contributions (318,545)(299,567)(284,415)(253,831)(239,520)(245,339)(243,224)(241,224)Contribution deficiency (excess) District covered payroll \$ 2,275,321 \$ 2,139,765 \$ 2,031,541 \$ 1,993,285 \$ 1,996,002 \$ 2,044,492 \$ 2,026,867 \$1,855,569 Contributions as a percentage of

14.00%

12.73%

12.00%

12.00%

12.00%

13.00%

14.00%

Amounts are presented as of the District's measurement date, which is the prior year end.

14.00%

covered payroll

<sup>\*</sup>This schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. However, information prior to 2013 is not available. Additional years' information will be displayed as it becomes available.

# Required Supplementary Information Schedule of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

Last Four Years\*

	2020	2019	2018	2017
District's proportion of the net OPEB liability District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability District's covered payroll	0.014128% \$ 1,945,047 2,139,765	0.014006% \$ 1,826,058 2,031,541	0.014072% \$ 1,528,158 1,993,285	0.014443% \$1,458,817 1,996,002
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability as a percentage of its covered payroll	90.90%	89.89%	76.67%	73.09%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total net OPEB liability	47.80%	46.33%	54.04%	54.14%

<sup>\*</sup>This schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. However, information prior to 2017 is not available. Additional year's information will be displayed as it becomes available.

Amounts are presented as of the District's measurement date, which is the prior year end.

#### **Notes to Schedule:**

Change in assumptions. In 2018, the single discount rate changed from 4.23% to 3.85%.

In 2019, the single discount rate changed from 3.85% to 3.96%, the investment rate of return changed from 6.50% to 6.00%, and the health care cost trend rate changed from 7.5% initial to 10.0% initial.

In 2020, the single discount rate changed from 3.96% to 3.16% and the health care cost trend rate changed from 10.0% initial, 3.25% ultimate in 2029 to 10.5% initial, 3.50% ultimate in 2030.

Required Supplementary Information Schedule of the District's Contributions - OPEB Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

Last Five Years\*

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Contractually required contributions Contributions in relation to the contractually	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22,029	\$ 19,960
contractually required contributions				(22,029)	(19,960)
Contribution deficiency (excess)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
District covered payroll	\$ 2,275,321	\$ 2,139,765	\$ 2,031,541	\$1,993,285	\$1,996,002
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.11%	1.00%

<sup>\*</sup>This schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. However, information prior to 2016 is not available. Additional year's information will be displayed as it becomes available.



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# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Southwest Regional Water District Butler County 3640 Old Oxford Road Hamilton, Ohio 45013

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States and the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*, the financial statements of the Southwest Regional Water District, Butler County, (the District) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2020, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated October 11, 2021, wherein we noted the financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures which may impact subsequent periods of the District.

#### Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

As part of our financial statement audit, we considered the District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures appropriate in the circumstances to the extent necessary to support our opinion on the financial statements, but not to the extent necessary to opine on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, we have not opined on it.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, when performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and timely correct misstatements. A material weakness is a deficiency, or combination of internal control deficiencies resulting in a reasonable possibility that internal control will not prevent or detect and timely correct a material misstatement of the District's financial statements. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all internal control deficiencies that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider material weaknesses. However, unidentified material weaknesses may exist.

#### **Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of reasonably assuring whether the District's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could directly and materially affect the financial statements. However, opining on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Southwest Regional Water District Butler County Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by Government Auditing Standards Page 2

#### Purpose of this Report

This report only describes the scope of our internal control and compliance testing and our testing results, and does not opine on the effectiveness of the District's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed under *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the District's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Keith Faber Auditor of State Columbus, Ohio



### SOUTHWEST REGIONAL WATER DISTRICT

#### **BUTLER COUNTY**

#### **AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION**

This is a true and correct copy of the report, which is required to be filed pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in the Office of the Ohio Auditor of State in Columbus, Ohio.



Certified for Release 11/4/2021

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