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AUDIT/ENGAGEMENT PROCESS OVERVIEW

BACKGROUND -

The internal audit function is authorized to provide four major types of engagement services as listed below and explained in the 002 Introduction Policies and Procedures (P&P) document.

- Financial audits;
- Attestation engagements;
- Performance audits; and
- Nonaudit services/special projects/consulting.

The overall process of performing engagements that culminate in a work product from within the audit function is outlined in this procedure. The Audit Division (AD) executes its function to achieve the mission and objectives as specified in the AD Charter. This process is driven by a combination of different, but cooperative inputs and concepts.

Audit is an assurance, assessment, and consulting function that is designed to add value and, as such, operates in reaction to risk. The exercise of due professional care and the consideration of auditing standards require careful consideration and deliberation throughout the performance of audit/engagements (See Policy No. 130.00 and Procedure No. 230.00). Audit focus is generally directed at higher levels of residual risk, more sophisticated systems of internal control, intricate operations and advanced accounting systems (e.g., complex transactions involving regulatory standards, material or significant amount and/or volume).

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS for service types

GAGAS standards for each engagement type are outlined in paragraphs 1.13 to 1.26.

1. Financial Audits	GAGAS 1.17
2. Attestation Engagements	GAGAS 1.18 – 1.20
3. Performance Audits	GAGAS 1.21 – 1.26
4. Professional Services other	
than audits (Nonaudit Services)	GAGAS 3.64 – 3.84

The IIA Standards apply to all engagements regardless of service type.



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AUDIT PROCESS PERSPECTIVES

In describing the audit/engagement process, the AD identifies two perspectives as follows:

- **FUNCTIONAL PERSPECTIVE** driven by Professional Standards and requirements which focus on or emphasize function, activity and outputs;
- PHASE PERSPECTIVE common view with emphasis generally related to a timeline.

Their relationship to each other and reference to the applicable procedure is shown in the following table.

NOTE: Bold and underscored phases indicate the traditional association of the emphasis to the related function.

FUNCTIONAL PERSPECTIVE		Affected Phase/Level		P&P SECTION	
		ACTIVITY/DOCUMENT	ENGAGEMENT	Policy	PROCEDURE
Risk &	Risk (including Fraud) (ERMA, ERA & ARA)	ERM/ ERA/Audit Universe	Planning/Fieldwork /Reporting	120.00 130.00 190.00	220.30 280.00 290.00
Internal Control	Internal Control (Entity, Engagement, Process, Activity)	ERM/ERA/Internal Control	Planning/Fieldwork /Reporting	190.00	220.40 290.00
	Annual	Annual Audit Plan	Planning/Fieldwork /Reporting	120.00	220.10
Planning	Engagement	Engagement Planning Checklist/ Document	Planning/Fieldwork /Reporting	120.00	220.20
	Objectives	Annual Audit Plan	Planning/Fieldwork /Reporting	120.00 130.00	230.00
	Engagement Program & Execution of Audit Procedures	Substantive support	Planning/Fieldwork /Reporting	130.00	230.00
	Scope (Division & Engagement)	Audit Charter/ Annual Audit Plan	Planning/Fieldwork /Reporting	130.00	230.00
Execution	Documentation (Division, Administrative & Engagement)	Quality Control & Assurance	Planning/ <u>Fieldwork</u> /Reporting	170.00	240.00 270.00
	Deliverable	Assurance Services, Cost-Savings & Justification	Planning/Fieldwork / Reporting	150.00	250.00
	Communications (Accountability & Reporting)	ERM/Annual Audit Plan/Quality Control & Assurance	Planning/Fieldwork /Reporting	160.00	260.00

NOTE: The focus of this document is primarily at the engagement level (except for the Annual Audit Plan as it defines the engagements to be performed for the upcoming year).

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FUNCTIONAL PERSPECTIVE

The primary components (functional elements) of executing or performing most engagements (other than special projects or consulting activities) are as follows:

- Planning (Annual Audit Plan and audit/engagement planning);
- Risk and related assessment (enterprise, engagement/process);
- Internal control and related assessment;
- Objectives;
- Engagement program (specific procedures);
- Scope;
- Documentation;
- Engagement deliverable; and
- Communications.

THE ANNUAL AUDIT PLAN

(SEE PROCEDURE No. 220.10)

The Annual Audit Plan (Plan) is a list of audits/engagements or projects for the upcoming fiscal year prepared by the AD and approved by the City Controller (CC). The Plan results from consideration of the following:

- Risk-based methodology and an ongoing process of assessment of the City's risk management and related control structure;
- Previous audits, findings, conclusions and recommendations; and
- Input from elected officials, AD staff and other stakeholders.

AUDIT/ENGAGEMENT PLANNING

(SEE PROCEDURE No. 220.20)

It is critical to note that the engagement planning process is interactive and dynamic, rather than linear or sequential. Per GAGAS 8.05, "...Planning is a continuous process throughout the audit." Additionally, GAGAS 8.09 states "Auditors may need to refine or adjust the audit objectives, scope, and methodology as work is performed." It is commonly modified throughout the project as information and results are obtained, assessed and conclusions are rendered. Auditor judgment and engagement team communication are critical elements in the overall project. For instance, information gathered may expand the scope, which will affect the program, procedures and resources (budget), or it may be decided to refine the scope and address additional items under a separate project or follow-up.

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As indicated in Policy No. 120.00 and Procedure No. 220.20: "Information accumulated as a result of engagement planning will contribute to the following:

- Identification of the overall engagement objective;
- · Identification and refinement of scope;
- Internal control assessment;
- Defining risk and its residual;
- Setting specific audit objectives;
- Developing the audit program; and
- Determining resources needed to accomplish the overall engagement and specific audit objectives (this includes the engagement budget)."

Audit/engagement planning is a process that is included in the electronic workpapers as required engagement documentation. A checklist is used as guidance for essential elements of the planning process having been performed with reference to supporting documentation.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND RISK ASSESSMENT

(SEE PROCEDURE No. 220.30 AND RELATED DIAGRAM)

Risk is the primary driver that influences management focus for resolution and resource allocation. Identification of risk begins at the entity-wide level and is performed as an Enterprise Risk Assessment (ERA), which includes an assessment of the Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) processes. This examination begins with the mission, goals, and objectives of the City and each of the departments. The goals and strategy for achievement are a significant factor in identifying risk. More aggressive goals yield higher risk, with the expectation of higher returns (financial and non-financial). It's important to note that high or low risk is not judged as good or bad, but rather implies the control environment and its level of sophistication required to sufficiently mitigate that level of risk to a satisfactory residual.

Risk assessment takes place on two primary levels (enterprise and audit/engagement levels), containing three different views:

- An ERA, which includes an assessment of ERM, interacts with the audit universe and provides input to creating the Annual Audit Plan;
- An assessment of relevant risks associated with the particular program, process and/or function which is the focus of the engagement; and
- An assessment of the risk of incorrect audit conclusions (audit risk AR).

The last two are the key risk area focuses for the engagement level. The ERA considers the control structure put in place by management as a reaction to risks while the AR takes all these factors into account in identifying the risk of incorrect conclusion(s). As a result, the nature, extent, and timing of testing are the AD's response to the estimated risk in attempting to bring the residual to an acceptable level.

ARA is supported by documented evidence and included in the workpapers, as required in Procedure No. 240.00.

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INTERNAL CONTROL STRUCTURE & ASSESSMENT

(SEE PROCEDURE No. 220.40 AND RELATED DIAGRAM)

Because Internal Control (IC) is interrelated with risk, it also resides at the enterprise and audit/engagement levels and can be assessed from three perspectives:

- As a key element to the ERA and the assessment of ERM, IC provides a basis to
 evaluate the residual risks and impacts the ranking of auditable components for
 prioritization in audit planning;
- As a separate audit on an entity/department, component, function or process; and
- As a key element to the ARA related to the component, function, or process it
 provides a basis for a level of reliance in determining the nature, timing and
 extent of further testing.

Developing, implementing, and maintaining a system of IC is management's reaction to its perceived risk, its tolerance for risk and its available resources to address risk. The AD performs an assessment of the control structure by applying the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations (COSO) framework to gain an understanding of the five following components:

- Control environment;
- Risk:
- Internal controls;
- Information and communication; and
- Monitoring.

Process documentation is created and/or reviewed and is used to identify and assess the adequacy of the design and effectiveness of the implementation of control points. The assessment is supported by workpapers that become part of the engagement documentation.

OBJECTIVES

(SEE PROCEDURE No. 230.00)

Objectives are set and refined as necessary within four strata:

- The mission statement as outlined in the AD Charter and as defined by the IIA;
- Engagement objectives as identified in the Annual Audit Plan;
- Engagement specific objectives as refined and identified in the results of the engagement risk assessments and internal control assessments; and
- Objectives that create the need for specific procedures as outlined in the engagement program.

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Objectives interact and correlate with the procedures (audit/engagement program) and scope. They are communicated to responsible management through the engagement letter and are documented in the Plan.

They are also included in the workpapers as engagement Documentation:

- On a macro level for the project as a whole;
- Further refined as a result of the engagement risk assessment; and
- At the procedural level associated with a step from the audit/engagement program.

SCOPE

(SEE PROCEDURE No. 230.00)

Per <u>GAGAS 8.10</u>, Audit Scope is: "the boundary of the audit and is directly tied to the audit objectives. The scope defines the subject matter that the auditors will assess and report on, such as a particular program or aspect of a program, the necessary documents or records, the period of time reviewed, and the locations that will be included."

Scope is identified on three levels:

- Scope of work as identified in the AD Charter;
- Engagement scope (related to the engagement objectives); and
- Procedural scope (related to workpapers generated as a result of a specific engagement/audit procedure).

Further, the audit/engagement scope is interrelated with the objectives and procedures and is documented and communicated in the Engagement Letter, the final deliverable, and workpapers (as part of the project definition and procedure attachment and engagement documentation).

AUDIT/ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM (SEE PROCEDURE No. 230.00)

The audit/engagement program (program) is a series of specific procedures that are designed to meet audit/engagement objectives and reduce audit/engagement risk to an acceptable level. The program focuses on analyzing and evaluating information to adequately support the resulting findings, conclusions, recommendations and commendations with sufficient and appropriate evidence. As a set of defined procedures, the program is important to, and interrelated with, the stated scope and objectives. The program can include activities such as performing interviews, creating diagrams and flowcharts, reviewing documentation (industry, and client specific), identifying and testing controls, performing a risk assessment, and detail tests of account balances and transactions. It also involves, in part, obtaining and reviewing reports, account reconciliations, vendor invoices, payments, etc. The supporting information for audit procedures is part of the required audit/engagement documentation and drives other recorded evidentiary support.

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AUDIT/ENGAGEMENT DOCUMENTATION

(SEE PROCEDURE No. 240.00)

In order to serve as a basis for results, documenting is a process by which evidence is gathered, analyzed, evaluated, systematically organized and retained in a form referred to as audit/engagement documentation.

Audit/engagement documentation serves as a basis for:

- Sufficient and appropriate evidence to support findings, conclusions and recommendations;
- Recording the analysis of evidence and the conclusions reached including any issues that were difficult or contentious and the results of consultations on those issues;
- Supervisory review for proficiency and competence and the exercise of due professional care; and
- Quality review.

Per GAGAS 8.132, "Auditors must prepare audit documentation related to planning, conducting and reporting for each audit. Auditors should prepare audit documentation in sufficient detail to enable an experienced auditor, having no previous connection to the audit, to understand from the audit documentation, the nature, timing, extent, and results of audit procedures performed, the evidence obtained and its source and the conclusions reached, including evidence that supports the auditors' significant judgments and conclusions."

AUDIT/ENGAGEMENT DELIVERABLE (E.G. AUDIT REPORT)

(SEE PROCEDURE No. 250.00)

The audit/engagement deliverable is typically expressed in the form of a report. The report is drafted throughout the engagement, using a format/layout as prescribed by the AD. As issues or findings are identified and verified, they may become incorporated into the Report in detail or summary format, depending upon their overall impact, including likelihood of occurrence.

The final version of the report is issued with a transmittal letter from the CC that identifies the entity, function, transaction cycle, or process(es) which were the focus of the audit/engagement. The transmittal letter is signed by the CC. An executive summary highlights the key points identified through the course of performing the audit/engagement procedures and presents them concisely for executive management's review. The detail section of the report provides supporting information for further analysis and explanation, with references where applicable.

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COMMUNICATIONS

(SEE PROCEDURE No. 260.00)

Communications are an essential component and function of the AD and are reflected primarily in the following elements:

- Proposed and approved Annual Audit Plan between the AD, City Controller, city council and citizens;
- Status of projects, changes to the plan/budget and limitations to the scope of work based on resources:
- Notification of audit/engagement scope, objectives and methodology to the responsible management (including boundaries of responsibilities for nonaudit services);
- Requests and monitoring of information, verification, responses to specific issues and/or findings throughout the engagement and to the audit/engagement deliverable:
- Dissemination of results, including findings, conclusions, commendations, recommendations and management responses; and
- Relevant disclosures of fraud, illegal activity and/or impairments to independence.

PHASE PERSPECTIVE

It is common practice to refer to an engagement in phases, usually thought of in relationship to a timeline. Most often, the primary phases are as follows:

PLANNING AND PRELIMINARY SURVEY

This has been traditionally thought of as foundational work performed in the office, prior to beginning other procedural work at the client location(s) however this does not preclude audit work from being performed remotely. From this perspective, planning and preliminary survey generally includes, but is not limited to, reviewing previous audit/engagement workpapers, findings and conclusions, obtaining an understanding on process/entity to be audited, outlining the objectives, scope and preparing the audit/engagement program, assigning staff, sending the engagement letter and initial request for information.

FIELDWORK

Fieldwork, as a phase is usually thought of in relation to the time spent 'in the field' or at the client/auditee location. The length of fieldwork varies based on the scope, objectives, audit/engagement program and procedures. Fieldwork may be modified based upon information, analysis, and any significant event that transpires and impacts the specific audit/engagement objectives, execution of the specific audit procedures and/or overall audit/engagement objectives.

In general, fieldwork involves gathering evidence, (e.g., performing tests, data analysis, interviews, etc.) evaluating the results, and formulating conclusions. The product of this phase is reflected in the audit/engagement workpapers, which document the purpose, scope, source (sample), objectives and conclusions of the audit procedures performed. Sufficient and appropriate evidence is required to support conclusions.

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Per GAGAS, sufficient evidence is a quantitative element, while appropriate evidence is reflected as a qualitative measure. Exceptions are noted during this phase and may result in formal findings, with facts presented to and confirmed by the auditee/client. This information is entered into the workpaper software and classified appropriately. Auditor judgment is a critical part of this phase, in addition to a heightened awareness and attention to detail, while maintaining focus on the larger objectives. As information is received (or not), modifications may be made to the audit/engagement program, budget and/or scope to adapt accordingly. These variables interact and are balanced with resources and objectives to optimize audit efficiency and effectiveness.

REPORTING/WRAP-UP

As a phase, this is generally thought to begin after the last date in the field and involves the formal documentation, presentation, modification, and issuance of the final audit/engagement deliverable (commonly distributed as a report) and the parallel review process taking place on both the report and the underlying audit/engagement documentation. Communication with auditee/client management which includes verification, revision, and obtaining and assessing their responses is part of activities performed by the AD in this phase.

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND GUIDANCE

GAGAS (YELLOW BOOK)

FOUNDATION AND PRINCIPLES FOR THE USE AND APPLICATION OF GOVERNMENT

AUDITING STANDARDS CHAPTER 1 - 5

FINANCIAL AUDITS 6.01 – 6.16, 6.31 – 6.69
ATTESTATION ENGAGEMENTS 7.05 – 7.18, 7.33 – 7.69
PERFORMANCE AUDITS 8.03 – 8.86, Chapter 9

IIA STANDARDS (RED BOOK)

1000 - PURPOSE, AUTHORITY

1000.A1

1000.C1

1010 - Recognition of the Definition of

INTERNAL AUDITING, THE CODE OF

ETHICS, AND THE STANDARDS IN THE INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER

1110 - ORGANIZATIONAL INDEPENDENCE

1110.A1

1111 - DIRECT INTERACTION WITH THE BOARD (MANAGEMENT)

1220 - DUE PROFESSIONAL CARE

1320 - REPORTING ON THE QUALITY ASSURANCE AND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

2000 - Managing the Internal Audit Activity

2010 - PLANNING

2020 - COMMUNICATION AND APPROVAL

2030 - RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

2050 - COORDINATION

2060 - REPORTING TO THE BOARD AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT

2100 - NATURE OF WORK

2110 - GOVERNANCE

2120 - RISK MANAGEMENT

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2200 - ENGAGEMENT PLANNING

2201 - PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

2210 - ENGAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

2220 - ENGAGEMENT SCOPE

2230 - ENGAGEMENT RESOURCE ALLOCATION

2240 - ENGAGEMENT WORK PROGRAM

2300 - PERFORMING THE ENGAGEMENT

2310 - IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

2320 - ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

2330 - DOCUMENTING INFORMATION

2340 - ENGAGEMENT SUPERVISION

2400 - COMMUNICATING RESULTS

2410 - CRITERIA FOR COMMUNICATING

2410.A1

2410.A2

2410.A3

2410.C1

2420 - QUALITY OF COMMUNICATIONS

2421 - ERRORS AND OMISSIONS

2430 - USE OF "CONDUCTED IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR THE PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE OF INTERNAL AUDITING"

2431 - ENGAGEMENT DISCLOSURE OF NONCONFORMANCE

2440 - DISSEMINATING RESULTS

2440.A1

2440.A2

2440.C1

2440.C2

2500 - MONITORING PROGRESS

2600 - RESOLUTION OF SENIOR MANAGEMENT'S ACCEPTANCE OF RISKS

IIA IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

1000 - Purpose, Authority

1010 - RECOGNITION OF THE DEFINITION OF INTERNAL AUDITING, THE CODE OF

ETHICS, AND THE STANDARDS IN THE INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER

1110 - ORGANIZATIONAL INDEPENDENCE

1111 - DIRECT INTERACTION WITH THE BOARD (MANAGEMENT)

1220 - DUE PROFESSIONAL CARE

1320 - REPORTING ON THE QUALITY ASSURANCE AND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

2000 - Managing the Internal Audit Activity

2010 - PLANNING

2020 - COMMUNICATION AND APPROVAL

2030 - RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

2050 - COORDINATION

2060 - REPORTING TO THE BOARD AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT

2100 - NATURE OF WORK

2110 - GOVERNANCE

2120 - RISK MANAGEMENT

2130 - CONTROL

2200 - ENGAGEMENT PLANNING

2201 - PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

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2230 - ENGAGEMENT RESOURCE ALLOCATION

2240 - ENGAGEMENT WORK PROGRAM

2300 - PERFORMING THE ENGAGEMENT

2310 - IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

2320 - ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

2330 - DOCUMENTING INFORMATION

2340 - ENGAGEMENT SUPERVISION

2400 - COMMUNICATING RESULTS

2410 - CRITERIA FOR COMMUNICATING

2420 - QUALITY OF COMMUNICATIONS

2421 - ERRORS AND OMISSIONS

2430 - USE OF "CONDUCTED IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR THE PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE OF INTERNAL AUDITING"

2431 - ENGAGEMENT DISCLOSURE OF NONCONFORMANCE

2440 - DISSEMINATING RESULTS

2500 - Monitoring Progress

2600 - RESOLUTION OF SENIOR MANAGEMENT'S ACCEPTANCE OF RISKS

CHANGE HISTORY

CHG #	DATE	Section	DESCRIPTION/REASON
1	3/31/2016	All	General edits
2		Relevant Professional Standards	Updated to reflect updates to Professional Standards
3	7/18/2022	Audit/Engagement Documentation	Updated to add clarifying language resulting from peer review observations.