

WILLOWS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Office of the Superintendent

Date: April 3, 2015

Request For Placement on Board Agenda:

**AGENDA TOPIC: Approve Contract with Christy White
Associates for Audit Services
Fiscal Years Ending: June 30, 2015, June 30,
2016 and June 30, 2017 with an option to
extend for 2 additional years**

PRESENTER: Debby Beymer, Director of Business Services

Information:

The current contract for audit services with Christy White Associates (CWA) has expired. It was discussed and unanimously decided by Glenn County Chief Business Officials to contact CWA to request a quote on the continuation of services for all schools in Glenn County.

They continue to be competitively priced with 2014-15 amount being \$11,000 under the cost of our prior auditor fee of \$30,000, which was in 2008-09.

Recommendation:

The administration requests that the board approve the contract with Christy White Associates for independent audit services.

March 4, 2015

Willows Unified School District
823 West Laurel Street
Willows, CA 95988

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the services we are to provide Willows Unified School District for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2015, 2016 and 2017 plus two optional renewal periods of June 30, 2018 and 2019. We will audit the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements, of Willows Unified School District as of and for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2015, 2016 and 2017 plus two optional renewal periods of June 30, 2018 and 2019. Accounting standards generally accepted in the United States provide for certain required supplementary information (RSI), such as management's discussion and analysis (MD&A), to supplement Willows Unified School District's basic financial statements. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to Willows Unified School District's RSI in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. These limited procedures will consist of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We will not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance. The following RSI is required by generally accepted accounting principles and will be subjected to certain limited procedures, but will not be audited:

1. Management's Discussion & Analysis.
2. Budgetary Comparison Schedule.
3. Schedule of Funding Progress.

We have also been engaged to report on supplementary information other than RSI that accompanies Willows Unified School District's financial statements. We will subject the following supplementary information to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and will provide an opinion on it in relation to the financial statements as a whole:

1. Schedule of expenditures of federal awards.
2. Other schedules and/or information as required by the State Controller's Office.

Christy White, CPA

Michael Ash, CPA

Tanya M. Rogers, CPA, CFE

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State Board of Accountancy*

Audit Objectives

The objective of our audit is the expression of opinions as to whether your basic financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and to report on the fairness of the supplementary information referred to above when considered in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The objective also includes reporting on—

- Internal control related to the financial statements and compliance with the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.
- Internal control related to major programs and an opinion (or disclaimer of opinion) on compliance with laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts or grant agreements that could have a direct and material effect on each major program in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*.

The reports on internal control and compliance will each include a paragraph that states that the purpose of the report is solely to describe (1) the scope of testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the result of that testing and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or on compliance, (2) the scope of testing internal control over compliance for major programs and major program compliance and the result of that testing and to provide an opinion on compliance but not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance, and (3) that the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering internal control over financial reporting and compliance and OMB Circular A-133 in considering internal control over compliance and major program compliance. The paragraph will also state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Our audit will be conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards established by the Auditing Standards Board (United States); the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996; the provisions of OMB Circular A-133; and *Standards and Procedures for Audits of California K-12 Local Educational Agencies*, published by the Education Audit Appeals Panel, and will include tests of accounting records, a determination of major program(s) in accordance with Circular A-133, and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions and to render the required reports. If our opinions on the financial statements, the Single Audit compliance opinions, or the State compliance opinions are other than unqualified, we will fully discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed opinions, we may decline to express opinions or to issue a report as a result of this engagement.

Management Responsibilities

Management is responsible for the basic financial statements and all accompanying information as well as all representations contained therein. Management is also responsible for preparation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in accordance with the requirements of OMB Circular A-133. As part of the audit, we will prepare a draft of your financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and related notes. You are responsible for making all management decisions and performing all management functions relating to the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and related notes and for accepting full responsibility for such decisions. You will be required to acknowledge in the management representation letter that you have reviewed and approved the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and related notes prior to their issuance and have accepted responsibility for them. Further, you are required to designate an individual with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience to oversee any non-audit services we provide and for evaluating the adequacy and results of those services and accepting responsibility for them. The scope of the non-audit services does not constitute an audit conducted under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls, including internal controls over compliance, and for evaluating and monitoring ongoing activities, to help ensure that appropriate goals and objectives are met and that there is reasonable assurance that government programs are administered in compliance with compliance requirements. You are also responsible for the selection and application of accounting principles; for the fair presentation in the financial statements of the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Willows Unified School District and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles; and for compliance with applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements.

Management is also responsible for making all financial records and related information available to us and for ensuring that management is reliable and financial information is reliable and properly recorded. You are also responsible for providing us with (1) access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, (2) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit, and (3) unrestricted access to persons within the government from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

Your responsibilities also include identifying significant vendor relationships in which the vendor has responsibility for program compliance and for the accuracy and completeness of that information. Your responsibilities include adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and confirming to us in the written representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

You are responsible for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud, and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud, or illegal acts affecting the District involving (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud or illegal acts could have a material effect on the financial statements. Your responsibilities include informing us of your knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the District received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors,

regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the District complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants. Additionally, as required by OMB Circular A-133, it is management's responsibility to follow up and take corrective action on reported audit findings and to prepare a summary schedule of prior audit findings and a corrective action plan.

You are responsible for preparation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in conformity with OMB Circular A-133. You agree to include our report on the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in any document that contains and indicates that we have reported on the schedule of expenditures of federal awards. You also agree to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards that includes our report thereon OR make the audited financial statements readily available to intended users of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards no later than the date the schedule of expenditures of federal awards is issued with our report thereon. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the written representation letter that (1) you are responsible for presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in accordance with OMB Circular A-133; (2) that you believe the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with OMB Circular A-133; (3) that the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (4) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the supplementary information.

You are also responsible for the preparation of the other supplementary information, which we have been engaged to report on, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. You agree to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains and indicates that we have reported on the supplementary information. You also agree to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the supplementary information that includes our report thereon OR make the audited financial statements readily available to users of the supplementary information no later than the date the supplementary information is issued with our report thereon. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the written representation letter that (1) you are responsible for presentation of the supplementary information in accordance with GAAP; (2) that you believe the supplementary information, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with GAAP; (3) that the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (4) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the supplementary information.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining a process for tracking the status of audit findings and recommendations. Management is also responsible for identifying for us previous financial audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or other studies related to the objectives discussed in the Audit Objectives section of this letter. This responsibility includes relaying to us corrective actions taken to address significant findings and recommendations resulting from those audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or studies. You are also responsible for providing management's views on our current findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as your planned corrective actions, for the report, and for the timing and format for providing that information.

Audit Procedures – General

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; therefore, our audit will involve judgment about the number of transactions to be examined and the areas to be tested. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable rather than absolute assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the District or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the District. Because the determination of abuse is subjective, *Government Auditing Standards* do not expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting abuse.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, combined with the inherent limitations of internal control, and because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, there is a risk that material misstatements or noncompliance may exist and not be detected by us, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*. In addition, an audit is not designed to detect immaterial misstatements or violations of laws or governmental regulations that do not have a direct and material effect on the financial statements or major programs. However, we will inform the appropriate level of management of any material errors or any fraudulent financial reporting or misappropriation of assets that come to our attention. We will also inform the appropriate level of management of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential, and of any material abuse that comes to our attention. We will include such matters in the reports required for a Single Audit. Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

Our procedures will include tests of documentary evidence supporting the transactions recorded in the accounts, and may include tests of the physical existence of the inventories, and direct confirmation of certain assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected individuals, funding sources, creditors, and financial institutions. We may request written representations from your attorneys as part of the engagement, and they may bill you for responding to this inquiry. At the conclusion of our audit, we will also require certain written representations from you about the financial statements and related matters.

Audit Procedures – Internal Controls

Our audit will include obtaining an understanding of the District and its environment, including internal control, sufficient to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and to design the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures. Tests of controls may be performed to test the effectiveness of certain controls that we consider relevant to preventing and detecting errors and fraud that are material to the financial statements and to preventing and detecting misstatements resulting from illegal acts and other noncompliance matters that have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. Our tests, if performed, will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on internal control and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

As required by OMB Circular A-133, we will perform tests of controls over compliance to evaluate the effectiveness of the design and operation of the controls that we consider relevant to preventing or detecting material noncompliance with compliance requirements applicable to each major federal award program. However, our tests will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on those controls and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to OMB Circular A-133.

An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. However, during the audit, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance internal control related matters that are required to be communicated under AICPA professional standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and OMB Circular A-133.

Audit Procedures – Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of Willows Unified School District's compliance with provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and agreements, including grant agreements. However, the objective of those procedures will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion in our report on compliance issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

OMB Circular A-133 requires that we also plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the auditee has complied with applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements applicable to major programs.

Our procedures will consist of tests of transactions and other applicable procedures described in the *OMB Circular A-133 Compliance Supplement* for the types of compliance requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each of Willows Unified School District's major programs. The purpose of those procedures will be to express an opinion on Willows Unified School District's compliance with requirements applicable to each of its major programs in our report on compliance issued pursuant to OMB Circular A-133.

Audit Administration, Fees, and Other

At the conclusion of the engagement, we will complete the appropriate section of the Data Collection Form that summarizes our audit findings. It is management's responsibility to submit the reporting package (including financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, summary schedule of prior audit findings, auditors' reports, and corrective action plan) along with the Data Collection Form to the federal audit clearinghouse. We will coordinate with you the electronic submission and certification. If applicable, we will provide copies of our report for you to include with the reporting package you will submit to pass-through entities. The Data Collection Form and the reporting package must be submitted within the earlier of 30 days after receipt of the auditors' reports or nine months after the audit period, unless a longer period is agreed to in advance by the cognizant or oversight agency for audits.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of Christy White Associates and constitutes confidential information. However, pursuant to authority given by law or regulation, we may be requested to make certain audit documentation available to the State Controller's Office or its designee, a federal agency providing direct or indirect funding, or the U.S. Government Accountability Office for purposes of a quality review of the audit, to resolve audit findings, or to carry out oversight responsibilities.

We will notify you of any such request. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of Christy White Associates personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to the aforementioned parties. These parties may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies or information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

The audit documentation for this engagement will be retained for a minimum of seven years after the report release or for any additional period requested by the State Controller’s Office. If we are aware that a federal awarding agency, pass-through entity, or auditee is contesting an audit finding, we will contact the parties contesting the audit finding for guidance prior to destroying the audit documentation.

We expect to begin our audit as soon as possible and to issue our reports no later than December 15. The maximum annual fee for auditing services under the terms of this agreement shall not exceed the following agreed upon amounts:

Fiscal Year Ending	Total Maximum Audit Fees
June 30, 2015	\$ 18,750
June 30, 2016	\$ 19,300
June 30, 2017	\$ 19,850
June 30, 2018	\$ 20,400
June 30, 2019	\$ 21,000

The maximum annual fee for auditing services shall not exceed the above amounts, with the exception that any auditing services provided for (1) significant changes in District audit requirements as stated in *Government Auditing Standards* or the Audit Guide issued by the Education Audit Appeals Panel, or (2) any changes in the number of funds or accounts maintained by the District during the period under this agreement, shall be in addition to the above maximum fee

Our invoices for these fees will be rendered each month as work progresses and are payable on presentation. If we elect to terminate our services for nonpayment, our engagement will be deemed to have been completed upon written notification of termination, even if we have not completed our reports. You will be obligated to compensate us for all time expended and to reimburse us for all out-of-pocket costs through the date of termination. In accordance with Education Code Section 14505 as amended, ten percent (10%) of the audit fee shall be withheld pending certification of the audit report by the Office of the State Controller and fifty percent (50%) of the audit fee shall be withheld for any subsequent year of a multi-year contract if the prior year’s audit report was not certified as conforming to the reporting provisions of the Audit Guide.

If any dispute arises among the parties hereto, the parties agree to first try in good faith to settle the dispute by mediation under Rules for Professional Accounting and Related Services Disputes before resorting to litigation. Costs of any mediation proceeding shall be shared equally by all parties.

Client and accountant both agree that any dispute over fees charged by the accountant to the client will be submitted for resolution by arbitration. Such arbitration shall be binding and final. In agreeing to arbitration, we both acknowledge that in the event of a dispute over fees charged by the accountant, each of us is giving up the right to have the dispute in a court of law before a judge or jury and instead we are accepting the use of arbitration for resolution.

This audit contract is null and void if the firm is declared ineligible to audit K-12 school districts pursuant to subdivision (c) of Education Code Section 41020.5. The above fee is based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel and the assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered during the audit. If significant additional time is necessary, we will discuss it with you and arrive at a new fee estimate before we incur the additional costs.

The first period to be audited shall be for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, and is subject to extension for up to four additional fiscal years, if agreeable to the auditors and the District. The agreement may be cancelled annually if notified by the client or auditor by February 15 of each year. Additional extensions beyond 2019 may be secured on a year by year basis, subject to the agreement of the District and the auditor.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, upon request, we will provide you with a copy of our most recent external peer review report and any letter of comment, and any subsequent peer review reports and letters of comment received during the period of the contract

Christy White Associates has non-licensee owners who may provide client services in your contract under the supervision of licensed owner.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to the District and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of our engagement. If you have any questions, please let us know. If you agree with the terms of our engagement as described in this letter, please sign the enclosed copy and return it to us.

Very truly yours,



Christy White, CPA
President
Christy White Associates

RESPONSE:

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of Willows Unified School District.

Signature Mort Geivett, Ed. D.

Superintendent
Title

Date