

Denali Commission

Fiscal Year 2021 Financial Statement Audit Report



FINAL REPORT

November 9, 2021

Report No. 2021.11.9

Denali Commission Office
of Inspector General



INSPECTOR GENERAL

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 9, 2021

TO: Garrett Boyle
Federal Co-Chair, Denali Commission

Tyson Gallagher
State Co-Chair, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor of Alaska

Alicia Siira
Executive Director, Associated General Contractors of Alaska

Julie E. Kitka
President, Alaska Federation of Natives

Nils Andreassen
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

Pat Pitney
Interim President, University of Alaska

Joelle Hall
Executive President, Alaska State AFL-CIO

FROM: Roderick H. Fillinger
Inspector General

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2021 Financial Statement Audit Report

I am pleased to provide you with the attached audit report in which SB & Company, LLC (SBC), an independent public accounting firm, presented an unmodified opinion on the Denali Commission's fiscal year 2021 financial statements. SBC performed the audit in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards.

In its audit of the Denali Commission, SBC

- Identified no material weaknesses in internal control over financial reporting and grant origination;
- Identified no instances of noncompliance with provisions of applicable law, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements; and
- Determined that the financial statements were fairly presented in all material respects and in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

My office oversaw the audit performance, including the review of SBC's report and related documentation and inquiries of its representatives. This review disclosed no instances where SBC did not comply, in all material respects, with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards. As differentiated from an audit in accordance with these standards, my review was not intended to enable me to express any opinion on the Denali Commission's financial statements.

Therefore, I do not express any opinion on the Denali Commission's financial statements, conclusions about the effectiveness of internal controls, or conclusions on compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements. SBC is solely responsible for the attached report, dated November 2, 2021, and the conclusions expressed in it.

We appreciate the cooperation and courtesies the Denali Commission extended to both SBC and my office during the audit. If you wish to discuss the contents of this report, please call me at (907) 271-3500.

Attachment

cc: John Whittington, General Counsel



REPORT OF INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

To the Office of the Inspector General and the Denali Commission

In our audits of the fiscal years 2021 and 2020 financial statements of the Denali Commission (the Commission), we found

- The Commission's financial statements as of and for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2021 and 2020, are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles;
- The Commission's internal control over financial reporting was effective for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2021; and
- no reportable noncompliance for fiscal year 2021 with provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements we tested.

The following sections discuss in more detail (1) our report on the financial statements, which includes the description of the material weakness in internal controls over financial reporting and required supplementary information (RSI) and other information included with the financial statements; (2) our report on internal control over financial reporting; (3) our report on compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements; and (4) agency comments.

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the Commission's financial statements. The Commission's financial statements comprise the balance sheets as of September 30, 2021 and 2020; the related statements of net cost, changes in net position, and budgetary resources for the fiscal years then ended; and the related notes to the financial statements.

We conducted our audits in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards. We believe that the audit evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Management's Responsibility

The Commission's management is responsible for (1) the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles; (2) preparing, measuring, and presenting the RSI in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles; (3) preparing and presenting other information included in documents containing the audited financial statements and auditor's report, and ensuring the consistency of that information with the audited financial statements and the RSI; and (4) maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting, including the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.



Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. We are also responsible for applying certain limited procedures to RSI and other information included with the financial statements.

An audit of financial statements involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the auditor's assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit of financial statements also involves evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. Our audits also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

Opinion on Financial Statements

In our opinion, the Commission's financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the Commission's financial position as of September 30, 2021 and 2020, and its net cost of operations, changes in net position, and budgetary resources for the fiscal years then ended in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

U.S. generally accepted accounting principles issued by the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB) require that the RSI be presented to supplement the financial statements. Although the RSI is not a part of the financial statements, FASAB considers this information to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the financial statements in appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the RSI in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the RSI and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to the auditor's inquiries, the financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during the audit of the financial statements, in order to report omissions or material departures from FASAB guidelines, if any, identified by these limited procedures. We did not audit and we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI because the limited procedures we applied do not provide sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.



Other Information

The Commission's other information contains a wide range of information, some of which is not directly related to the financial statements. This information is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements or the RSI. We read the other information included with the financial statements in order to identify material inconsistencies, if any, with the audited financial statements. Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the Commission's financial statements. We did not audit and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the other information.

Other Matter

During the year ended September 30, 2019, the former interim inspector general began an investigation into certain members of senior management of the Commission. See note 14 of the financial statements for more information. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In connection with our audits of the Commission's financial statements, we considered the Commission's internal control over financial reporting, consistent with our auditor's responsibility discussed below. We performed our procedures related to the Commission's internal control over financial reporting in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards.

Management's Responsibility

The Commission's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting, including the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

In planning and performing our audit of the Commission's financial statements as of and for the year ended September 30, 2021, in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards, we considered the Commission's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control over financial reporting.

Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the Commission's internal control over financial reporting. We are required to report all deficiencies that are considered to be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. We did not consider all internal controls relevant to operating objectives, such as those controls relevant to preparing performance information and ensuring efficient operations.



Definition and Inherent Limitations of Internal Control over Financial Reporting

An entity's internal control over financial reporting is a process effected by those charged with governance, management, and other personnel, the objectives of which are to provide reasonable assurance that (1) transactions are properly recorded, processed, and summarized to permit the preparation of financial statements in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, and assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition, and (2) transactions are executed in accordance with provisions of applicable laws, including those governing the use of budget authority, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements due to fraud or error.

Results of Our Consideration of Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Intended Purpose of Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our consideration of the Commission's internal control over financial reporting and the results of our procedures, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control over financial reporting. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards in considering internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, this report on internal control over financial reporting is not suitable for any other purpose.

Report on Compliance with Laws, Regulations, Contracts, and Grant Agreements

In connection with our audits of the Commission financial statements, we tested compliance with selected provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements consistent with our auditor's responsibility discussed below. We caution that noncompliance may occur and not be detected by these tests. We performed our tests of compliance in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards.

Management's Responsibility

The Commission's management is responsible for complying with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements applicable to the Commission.



Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to test compliance with selected provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements applicable to the Commission that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the Commission's financial statements and perform certain other limited procedures. Accordingly, we did not test compliance with all laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements applicable to the Commission.

Results of Our Tests for Compliance with Laws, Regulations, Contracts, and Grant Agreements

Our tests for compliance with selected provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements disclosed no instances of noncompliance for fiscal year 2020 that would be reportable under U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards. However, the objective of our tests was not to provide an opinion on compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements applicable to the Commission. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Intended Purpose of Report on Compliance with Laws, Regulations, Contracts, and Grant Agreements

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of compliance with selected provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards in considering compliance. Accordingly, this report on compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements is not suitable for any other purpose.

Agency Comments

In commenting on a draft of this report, the Commission commented on the results discussed within this opinion. The complete text of the Commission's response is reprinted in appendix II. We have not performed any audit procedures on the Commission's response and take no responsibility for the response. The findings stated within this opinion remain as stated.

Owings Mills, Maryland
November 2, 2021