

**HIGGINS AREA FIRE  
PROTECTION DISTRICT,  
CALIFORNIA**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
TOGETHER WITH  
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
JUNE 30, 2021**

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**HIGGINS AREA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Annual Financial Report**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2021**

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## **INTRODUCTORY SECTION**

- **List of Officials**

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**HIGGINS AREA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**List of Officials**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2021**

**Board of Directors**

Chuck Suszko	Chairperson
Bruce Jones	Vice Chairperson
John Boykin	Treasurer
Janice Buschman	Director
Richard Thickens	Director

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## **FINANCIAL SECTION**

- **Independent Auditor's Report**
- **Basic Financial Statements**
- **Required Supplementary Information**

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To the Board of Directors  
Higgins Area Fire Protection District  
Auburn, California

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of Higgins Area Fire Protection District, California (District), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2021, 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 the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes 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 opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit 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 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 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 believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our unmodified and qualified audit opinions.

To the Board of Directors  
Higgins Area Fire Protection District  
Auburn, California

## Summary of Opinions

<u>Opinion Unit</u>	<u>Type of Opinion</u>
Governmental Activities	Qualified
General Fund	Unmodified
Mitigation Fees	Unmodified
Capital Replacement	Unmodified

## Basis for Qualified Opinion on Governmental Activities

As discussed in Note 1H to the financial statements, management has not maintained detailed records of accumulated depreciation and current year depreciation on structures and improvements. Accumulated depreciation of structures and improvements are recorded in the accompanying financial statements at \$477,149 and depreciation expense for the year is stated at \$19,919. Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that capital assets be capitalized and depreciated. The amount by which this departure would affect the assets, net position, and expenses of the governmental activities of the District is not reasonably determinable.

## Qualified Opinion

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matters described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the governmental activities of the District as of June 30, 2021, and the changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

## Unmodified Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of each major fund of the District as of June 30, 2021, and the respective changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

## Other Matters

### *Required Supplementary Information*

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the District Pension Plan information, District OPEB Plan information and the budgetary comparison information as listed in the table of contents be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about 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 do 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.

To the Board of Directors  
Higgins Area Fire Protection District  
Auburn, California

Management has omitted the Management's Discussion and Analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic or historical context. Our opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.

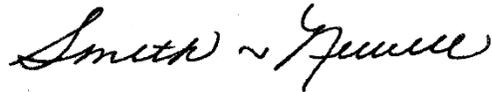
*Other Information*

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements. The introductory section is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The introductory section has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

**Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards**

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated July 18, 2024, on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's 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.



Smith & Newell CPAs  
Yuba City, California  
July 18, 2024

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## **Basic Financial Statements**

- **Government-Wide Financial Statements**

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**HIGGINS AREA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Statement of Net Position**  
**June 30, 2021**

	<b>Total Governmental Activities</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash and investments	\$ 4,297,187
Receivables:	
Taxes	1,416
Intergovernmental	31,262
Prepaid costs	5,603
Capital assets:	
Non-depreciable	862,775
Depreciable, net	1,030,409
Total capital assets	<u>1,893,184</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>6,228,652</u>
<b>DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>	
Pension adjustments	422,579
OPEB adjustments	<u>5,354</u>
<b>Total Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<u>427,933</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Accounts payable	38,331
Accrued salaries and benefits	69,446
Long-term liabilities:	
Due within one year	20,409
Due in more than one year	35,980
Net pension liability	1,487,322
Net OPEB liability	<u>73,828</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>1,725,316</u>
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>	
Pension adjustments	145,557
OPEB adjustments	<u>10,299</u>
<b>Total Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>	<u>155,856</u>
<b>NET POSITION</b>	
Investment in capital assets	1,893,184
Restricted for public protection	766,649
Unrestricted	<u>2,115,580</u>
<b>Total Net Position</b>	<u>\$ 4,775,413</u>

The notes to the basic financial statements are an integral part of this statement.



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## **Basic Financial Statements**

- **Fund Financial Statements**

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**HIGGINS AREA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**Governmental Funds**  
**June 30, 2021**

	<u>General</u>	<u>Mitigation Fees</u>	<u>Capital Replacement</u>	<u>Totals</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Cash and investments	\$ 1,986,924	\$ 761,046	\$ 1,549,217	\$ 4,297,187
Receivables:				
Taxes	1,416	-	-	1,416
Intergovernmental	31,262	-	-	31,262
Prepaid costs	5,603	-	-	5,603
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>\$ 2,025,205</u>	<u>\$ 761,046</u>	<u>\$ 1,549,217</u>	<u>\$ 4,335,468</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Accounts payable	\$ 38,331	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 38,331
Accrued salaries and benefits	69,446	-	-	69,446
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>107,777</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>107,777</u>
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>				
Unavailable revenue	22,028	-	-	22,028
<b>Total Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>	<u>22,028</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,028</u>
Nonspendable	5,603	-	-	5,603
Restricted	-	761,046	-	761,046
Committed	-	-	1,549,217	1,549,217
Unassigned	1,889,797	-	-	1,889,797
<b>Total Fund Balances</b>	<u>1,895,400</u>	<u>761,046</u>	<u>1,549,217</u>	<u>4,205,663</u>
<b>Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Fund Balances</b>	<u>\$ 2,025,205</u>	<u>\$ 761,046</u>	<u>\$ 1,549,217</u>	<u>\$ 4,335,468</u>

The notes to the basic financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**HIGGINS AREA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Reconciliation of the Governmental Funds Balance Sheet**  
**to the Government-Wide Statement of**  
**Net Position - Governmental Activities**  
**June 30, 2021**

<b>Total Fund Balances - Total Governmental Funds</b>	<b>\$ 4,205,663</b>
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position are different because:	
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore, are not reported in the funds.	1,893,184
Deferred outflows of resources related to pension and OPEB are not reported in the governmental funds.	427,933
Deferred inflows of resources related to pension and OPEB are not reported in the governmental funds.	(155,856)
Other long term assets are not available to pay current period expenditures and therefore are reported as unavailable revenues in the governmental funds.	22,028
Certain liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds.	
Compensated absences	(56,389)
Net pension liability	(1,487,322)
Net OPEB liability	(73,828)
	\$ 4,775,413
<b>Net Position of Governmental Activities</b>	<b>\$ 4,775,413</b>

The notes to the basic financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**HIGGINS AREA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Statement of Revenues, Expenditures**  
**and Changes in Fund Balances**  
**Governmental Funds**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2021**

	<u>General</u>	<u>Mitigation Fees</u>	<u>Capital Replacement</u>	<u>Totals</u>
<b>REVENUES</b>				
Taxes and assessments	\$ 1,747,985	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,747,985
Use of money and property	61,432	11,554	10,396	83,382
Intergovernmental revenues	1,161,099	-	-	1,161,099
Charges for services	-	25,486	-	25,486
Other revenues	7,677	-	-	7,677
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<u>2,978,193</u>	<u>37,040</u>	<u>10,396</u>	<u>3,025,629</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
Current public protection:				
Salaries and benefits	1,484,427	-	-	1,484,427
Clothing and uniforms	39,984	-	-	39,984
Household	8,469	-	-	8,469
Communications	14,064	-	-	14,064
Insurance	16,208	-	-	16,208
Maintenance:				
Equipment	21,265	-	-	21,265
Structures and improvements	30,206	-	-	30,206
Automobiles	126,371	-	-	126,371
Memberships	8,319	-	-	8,319
Medical supplies	6,440	-	-	6,440
Miscellaneous	492	-	-	492
Office supplies	3,499	-	-	3,499
Professional services	38,689	-	-	38,689
Publications	428	-	-	428
Small tools	22,362	-	-	22,362
Special district expense	183,433	-	-	183,433
Travel	5,994	-	-	5,994
Gasoline	13,371	-	-	13,371
Utilities	9,632	-	-	9,632
Capital outlay	67,750	20,403	69,645	157,798
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<u>2,101,403</u>	<u>20,403</u>	<u>69,645</u>	<u>2,191,451</u>
<b>Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures</b>	<u>876,790</u>	<u>16,637</u>	<u>(59,249)</u>	<u>834,178</u>
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>				
Transfers in	-	-	900,000	900,000
Transfers out	(900,000)	-	-	(900,000)
<b>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>	<u>(900,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>900,000</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net Change in Fund Balances</b>	<u>(23,210)</u>	<u>16,637</u>	<u>840,751</u>	<u>834,178</u>
<b>Fund Balances - Beginning</b>	<u>1,918,610</u>	<u>744,409</u>	<u>708,466</u>	<u>3,371,485</u>
<b>Fund Balances - Ending</b>	<u>\$ 1,895,400</u>	<u>\$ 761,046</u>	<u>\$ 1,549,217</u>	<u>\$ 4,205,663</u>

The notes to the basic financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**HIGGINS AREA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures**  
**and Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds to the**  
**Government-Wide Statement of Activities - Governmental Activities**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2021**

<b>Net Change in Fund Balances - Total Governmental Funds</b>	\$ 834,178
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities are different because:	
Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense.	
Expenditures for capital outlay	157,798
Less current year depreciation	(114,091)
Some revenues reported in the statement of activities will not be collected for several months after the District's year end and do not provide current financial resources and therefore, are not reported as revenues in the governmental funds.	
Change in unavailable revenues	722
Certain changes in deferred outflows and deferred inflows of resources reported in the statement of activities relate to long-term liabilities and are not reported in the governmental funds.	
Change in deferred outflows of resources related to pension	28,752
Change in deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB	5,354
Change in deferred inflows of resources related to pension	28,388
Change in deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB	(10,299)
Some expenses reported in the statement of activities, do not require the use of current financial resources and therefore, are not reported as expenditures in the governmental funds.	
Change in compensated absences	(1,297)
Change in net pension liability	(155,315)
Change in net OPEB liability	570
<b>Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities</b>	<u><u>\$ 774,760</u></u>

The notes to the basic financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

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## **Basic Financial Statements**

- **Notes to Basic Financial Statements**

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**HIGGINS AREA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Notes to Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2021**

**NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**A. Reporting Entity**

Higgins Area Fire Protection District is a special district within the County of Nevada governed by an independent five-member Board of Directors. The Higgins Area Fire Protection District was established in August 1977. The District was established to provide fire prevention and suppression and rescue services in the Higgins Area of Southwest Nevada County. Revenues are derived principally from the county-wide tax levy and a special assessment on improved parcels within the District. The financial transactions are recorded in the County of Nevada's accounting system.

**Component Units**

Generally accepted accounting principles require government financial statements to include the primary government and its component units. Component units of a governmental entity are legally separate entities for which the primary government is considered to be financially accountable and for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the primary government are such that exclusion would cause the combined financial statements to be misleading. The primary government is considered to be financially accountable if it appoints a majority of an organization's governing body and is able to impose its will on that organization or there is a potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to or impose specific financial burdens on the primary government.

Based on the application of the criteria set forth by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, management has determined that there are no component units of the District.

**Joint Agencies**

The District is a participant in Fire District's Association of California - Fire Agencies Self-Insurance System (FDAC-FASIS), the purpose of which is to provide workers' compensation benefits to each member agency including claims administration and program administration. FDAC-FASIS is composed of approximately 200 members and is governed by a board of directors appointed by the members. Complete financial information can be obtained from the Association office at 808 R Street, Suite 209, Sacramento, CA 95811. The District is not financially accountable for this organization and therefore, it is not a component unit under Statement Nos. 14, 39 and 61 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.

**B. Basis of Presentation**

**Government-Wide Financial Statements**

The Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities display information on all the activities of the District. Eliminations have been made to minimize the double counting of internal activities. These statements report the governmental activities of the District, which are normally supported by property taxes, intergovernmental revenues and special assessments. The District had no business-type activities at June 30, 2021.

The Statement of Activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each function of the District's governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a program or function and; therefore, are clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program revenues include 1) charges paid by the recipients of goods and services offered by the program, 2) operating grants and contributions, and 3) capital grants and contributions. Taxes and other items not properly included among program revenues are presented instead as general revenues.

**HIGGINS AREA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Notes to Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2021**

**NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**B. Basis of Presentation (Continued)**

**Fund Financial Statements**

Fund financial statements of the District are organized into three funds, each of which is considered to be a separate accounting entity. Each fund is accounted for by providing a separate set of self-balancing accounts that constitute its assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, fund equity, revenues and expenditures. The funds of the District are organized into the governmental category. The emphasis is placed on major funds, each displayed in a separate column.

The District reports the following major governmental funds:

- The General fund is used to account for all revenues and expenditures necessary to carry out basic governmental activities of the District that are not accounted for through other funds. For the District, the General fund includes such activities as fire protection.
- The Mitigation Fees fund is a special revenue fund used to accumulate mitigation fees collected for new development in the District.
- The Capital Replacement fund is a capital projects fund used to accumulate revenue for capital outlay.

**C. Basis of Accounting and Measurement Focus**

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded at the time liabilities are incurred, regardless of when the related cash flows take place. Nonexchange transactions, in which the District gives (or receives) value without directly receiving (or giving) equal value in exchange, include property tax, grants, entitlements, and donations. Under the accrual basis, revenue from property taxes is recognized in the fiscal year for which the taxes are levied. Revenues from grants, entitlements, and donations are recognized in the fiscal year in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied.

Governmental funds are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, revenues are recognized when measurable and available. Property taxes, charges for services, certain state and federal grants, and use of money and property are considered susceptible to accrual and are accrued when their receipt occurs within 60 days after the end of the fiscal year. Expenditures are generally recorded when a liability is incurred as under accrual accounting. General capital asset acquisitions are reported as expenditures in governmental funds. Proceeds of governmental long-term debt and acquisitions under capital leases are reported as other financing sources

**D. Non-Current Governmental Assets/Liabilities**

Non-current governmental assets and liabilities, such as capital assets and long-term liabilities, are reported in the governmental activities column in the government-wide Statement of Net Position.

**HIGGINS AREA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Notes to Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2021**

**NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**E. Cash and Investments**

The District pools all cash and investments, other than cash in a bank deposit account, with the County of Nevada. The Nevada County Treasury is an external investment pool for the District and the District is considered an involuntary participant. The District's share in this pool is displayed in the accompanying financial statements as cash and investments.

Participant's equity in the investment pool is determined by the dollar amount of participant deposits, adjusted for withdrawals and distributed investment income. Investment income is determined on the amortized cost basis. Amortized premiums and accreted discounts, accrued interest, and realized gains and losses, net of expenses, are apportioned to pool participants every quarter based on the participant's average daily cash balance at quarter end in relation to the total pool investments. This method differs from the fair value method used to value investments in these financial statements.

**F. Receivables**

Receivables for governmental activities consist mainly of taxes and intergovernmental revenues. Management believes its receivables are fully collectible and, accordingly, no allowance for doubtful accounts is required.

**G. Other Assets**

**Inventory**

Inventories are recorded as expenditures at the time the inventory is purchased rather than when consumed. Records are not maintained of inventory and supplies on hand, although these amounts are not considered material.

**Prepaid Costs**

Prepayments made for services that will benefit periods beyond June 30, 2021, are recorded as prepaid costs. The cost of prepaid items is recorded as expenditures/expenses when consumed rather than when purchased.

**H. Capital Assets**

Capital assets, including public domain infrastructure, are defined by the District as an asset with a cost greater than \$500 and a useful life of more than one year. Capital assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if actual is unavailable. Contributed capital assets are recorded at their estimated acquisition value at the date of donation.

Capital assets used in operations are depreciated or amortized using the straight-line method over the assets' useful lives. The range of estimated useful lives by type of asset is as follows:

<u>Depreciable Asset</u>	<u>Estimated Lives</u>
Equipment	10 to 40 years
Structures and improvements	50 years

**HIGGINS AREA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Notes to Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2021**

**NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**H. Capital Assets (Continued)**

The District has not maintained detailed historical records of accumulated depreciation and depreciation expense for structures and improvements.

Maintenance and repairs are charged to operations when incurred. Betterments and major improvements which significantly increase values, change capacities or extend useful lives are capitalized. Upon sale or retirement of capital assets, the cost and related accumulated depreciation are removed from the respective accounts and any resulting gain or loss is included in the result of operations.

**I. Property Tax**

Nevada County is responsible for the collection and allocation of property taxes. Under California law, property taxes are assessed and collected by the County of Nevada up to 1 percent of the full cash value of taxable property, plus other increases approved by the voter and distributed in accordance with statutory formulas.

The valuation/lien date for all taxes is January 1. Secured property tax is due in two installments, the first is due November 1 and delinquent with penalties after December 10; the second is due February 1 and delinquent with penalties after April 10. Unsecured property tax is due on March 1 and becomes delinquent if unpaid on August 31.

The County uses the alternative method of property tax apportionment known as the “Teeter Plan”. Under this method of property tax apportionment, the County remits the entire amount levied and handles all delinquencies, retaining interest and penalties.

**J. Interfund Transactions**

Interfund transactions are reflected as either loans, services provided or used, reimbursements or transfers.

Loans reported as receivables and payables are referred to as either “due to/from other funds” (i.e., the current portion of interfund loans) or “advances to/from other funds” (i.e., the noncurrent portion to interfund loans) as appropriate and are subject to elimination upon consolidation. Advances between funds, as reported in the fund financial statements, are offset by a nonspendable fund balance in applicable governmental funds to indicate that they are not in spendable form.

Services provided or used, deemed to be at market or near market rates, are treated as revenues and expenditures or expenses. These services provide information on the net cost of each government function and therefore are not eliminated in the process of preparing the government-wide Statement of Activities.

Reimbursements occur when the funds responsible for particular expenditures repay the funds that initially paid for them. Such reimbursements are reflected as expenditures in the reimbursing fund and reductions to expenditures in the reimbursed fund.

All other interfund transactions are treated as transfers. Transfers between funds are netted as part of the reconciliation of the government-wide presentation.

**HIGGINS AREA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Notes to Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2021**

**NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**K. Compensated Absences**

The District's policy regarding vacation is to permit employees to accumulate earned but unused vacation leave. The liability for these compensated absences is recorded as a long-term liability in the government-wide financial statements. The current portion of this liability is estimated based on historical trends. In the fund financial statements, the expenditures related to those obligations are recognized when they mature. The District includes its share of social security and medicare taxes payable on behalf of the employees in the accrual for compensated absences.

**L. Pension**

For purposes of measuring the net pension liability and deferred outflows/inflows of resources related to pension and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the District's California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) plan (Plan) and additions to/deductions from the Plan's fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by CalPERS. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

Generally accepted accounting principles require that the reported results must pertain to liability and asset information within certain defined timeframes. For this report, the following timeframes are used:

Valuation Date	June 30, 2019
Measurement Date	June 30, 2020
Measurement Period	July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

**M. Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)**

For purposes of measuring the net OPEB liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB, and OPEB expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the District's plan (OPEB Plan) and additions to/deductions from the OPEB Plan's fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis. For this purpose, benefit payments are recognized when currently due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms.

Generally accepted accounting principles require that the reported results must pertain to liability and asset information within certain defined timeframes. For this report, the following timeframes are used:

Valuation Date	June 30, 2020
Measurement Date	June 30, 2021
Measurement Period	June 30, 2020 to June 30, 2021

**N. Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources**

In addition to assets, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred outflows of resources, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. The District has two items that qualify for reporting in this category. These items relate to the outflows from changes in the net pension and net OPEB liabilities and are reportable on the Statement of Net Position.

**HIGGINS AREA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Notes to Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2021**

**NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**N. Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources (Continued)**

In addition to liabilities, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred inflows of resources, represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The District has three items that qualify for reporting in this category. One item, unavailable revenue, is reported only in the governmental funds balance sheet. The governmental funds report unavailable revenues for receivables that have not been received within the modified accrual period. The amounts are deferred and recognized as an inflow of resources in the period that the amounts become available. The other items relate to the inflows from changes in the net pension and net OPEB liabilities and are reportable on the Statement of Net Position.

**O. Grant Revenues**

Certain grant revenues are recognized when specific related expenditures have been incurred. In other grant programs, monies are virtually unrestricted as to purpose of expenditure and are only revocable for failure to comply with prescribed compliance requirements. These revenues are recognized at the time of receipt, or earlier if susceptible to accrual criteria is met.

**P. Estimates**

The preparation of basic financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

**Q. Implementation of Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statements**

The following Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement has been implemented, if applicable, in the current financial statements.

**Statement No. 84**, “Fiduciary Activities.” The requirements of this statement are effective for periods beginning after December 15, 2019. The District does not have any fiduciary activities to report for the year ended June 30, 2021.

**Statement No. 90**, “Majority Equity Interest.” In September 2018, the GASB issued Statement No. 90, an amendment of GASB Statements No. 14 and No. 61. The requirements of this statement will take effect for financial statement starting with the fiscal year that ends June 30, 2021. The District does not have any majority equity interests to report for the year ended June 30, 2021.

**R. Future Accounting Pronouncements**

The following GASB Statements will be implemented, if applicable, in future financial statements:

Statement No. 87 “Leases” The requirements of this statement are effective for periods beginning after June 15, 2021. (FY 21/22)

Statement No. 89 “Accounting for Interest Cost Incurred Before the End of a Construction Period” The requirements of this statement are effective for periods beginning after December 15, 2020. (FY 21/22)

**HIGGINS AREA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Notes to Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2021**

**NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**R. Future Accounting Pronouncements (Continued)**

- Statement No. 91 “Conduit Debt Obligations” The requirements of this statement are effective for periods beginning after December 15, 2021. (FY 22/23)
- Statement No. 92 “Omnibus 2020” The requirements of this statement are effective for periods beginning after June 15, 2021. (FY 21/22)
- Statement No. 93 “Replacement of Interbank Offered Rates” The requirements of this statement are effective for periods beginning after June 15, 2021. (FY 21/22)
- Statement No. 94 “Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements” The requirements of this statement are effective for periods beginning after June 15, 2022. (FY 22/23)
- Statement No. 96 “Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements” The requirements of this statement are effective for periods beginning after June 15, 2022. (FY 22/23)
- Statement No. 97 “Certain Component Unit Criteria, and Accounting and Financial Reporting for Internal Revenue Code Section 457 Deferred Compensation Plans” The requirements of this statement are effective for periods beginning after June 15, 2021. (FY 21/22)
- Statement No. 99 “Omnibus 2022” The requirements of this statement related to financial guarantees and the classification and reporting of derivative instruments within the scope of Statement 53 are effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2023. (FY 23/24)
- Statement No. 100 “Accounting Changes and Error Corrections – an amendment of GASB Statement No. 62” The requirements of this statement are effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2023. (FY 23/24)
- Statement No. 101 “Compensated Absences” The requirements of this statement are effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2023. (FY 24/25)

**NOTE 2: CASH AND INVESTMENTS**

**A. Financial Statement Presentation**

As of June 30, 2021, the District’s cash and investments consisted of the following:

Cash:	
Deposits (less outstanding warrants)	\$ <u>971</u>
Total Cash	<u>971</u>
Investments:	
Nevada County Treasurer’s Pool	<u>4,296,216</u>
Total Investments	<u>4,296,216</u>
Total Cash and Investments	<u>\$ 4,297,187</u>

**HIGGINS AREA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Notes to Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2021**

**NOTE 2: CASH AND INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**B. Cash**

At year end, the carrying amount of the District's cash deposits (including amounts in a checking account) was \$971 and the bank balance was \$971.

Custodial Credit Risk for Deposits - Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that, in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, the District will not be able to recover its deposits or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The District complies with the requirements of the California Government Code. Under this code, deposits of more than \$250,000 must be collateralized at 105 percent to 150 percent of the value of the deposit to guarantee the safety of the public funds. The entire amount of the District's deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

**C. Investments**

The District does not have a formal investment policy. At June 30, 2021, all investments of the District were in the County of Nevada investment pool. Under the provisions of the County's investment policy and the California Government Code the County may invest or deposit in the following:

- Bankers' Acceptances
- Commercial Paper
- Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF)
- Medium-Term Corporate Notes
- Money Market Funds
- Negotiable Certificates of Deposit
- Repurchase Agreements
- Reverse Repurchase Agreements
- Securities of the Federal Government or its Agencies
- California State Registered Warrants, Treasury Notes and Bonds
- Local Agency Obligations
- Certificates of Deposit
- Pass-Through Securities

Fair Value of Investments - The District measures and records its investments using fair value measurement guidelines established by generally accepted accounting principles. These guidelines recognize a three-tiered fair value hierarchy as follows:

- Level 1: Quoted prices for identical investments in active markets;
- Level 2: Observable inputs other than quoted market prices; and,
- Level 3: Unobservable inputs

The District's position in external investment pools is in itself regarded as a type of investment and looking through to the underlying investments of the pool is not appropriate. Therefore, the District's investment in external investment pools are not recognized in the three-tiered fair value hierarchy described above.

**HIGGINS AREA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Notes to Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2021**

**NOTE 2: CASH AND INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**C. Investments (Continued)**

At June 30, 2021, the District had the following recurring fair value measurements:

<u>Investment Type</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>Fair Value Measurements Using</u>		
		<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Level 2</u>	<u>Level 3</u>
Investments by Fair Value Level				
None	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Investments Measured at Fair Value	-	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Investments in External Investment Pool				
Nevada County Treasurer's Pool	<u>4,296,216</u>			
Total Investments	<u>\$ 4,296,216</u>			

**Interest Rate Risk** - Interest rate risk is the risk of loss due to the fair value of an investment falling due to interest rates rising. Generally, the longer the maturity of an investment, the greater the sensitivity of its fair value to changes in market interest rates. To limit exposure to fair value losses resulting from increases in interest rates, the County's investment policy limits investment maturities to a term appropriate to the need for funds so as to permit the County to meet all projected obligations. The County limits its exposure to interest rate risk inherent in its portfolio by limiting individual maturities to 5 years or less.

**Credit Risk** - Credit risk is the risk that an issuer of an investment will not fulfill its obligation to the holder of the investment. This is measured by the assignment of a rating by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization. The County's investment policy sets specific parameters by type of investment to be met at the time of purchase. As of June 30, 2021, the District's investments were all held with the County of Nevada investment pool which is not rated by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization.

**Custodial Credit Risk** - Custodial credit risk for investments is the risk that, in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, the District will not be able to recover its deposits or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. With respect to investments, custodial credit risk generally applies only to direct investments in marketable securities. Custodial credit risk does not apply to a local government's indirect investments in securities through the use of mutual funds or government investment pools.

**Concentration of Credit Risk** - Concentration of credit risk is the risk of loss attributed to the magnitude of the District's investment in a single issuer of securities. When investments are concentrated in one issuer, this concentration presents a heightened risk of potential loss. State law and the investment policy of the County contain limitations on the amount that can be invested in any one issuer. As of June 30, 2021, all investments of the District were in the Nevada County investment pool which contains a diversification of investments.

**HIGGINS AREA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Notes to Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2021**

**NOTE 3: CAPITAL ASSETS**

Capital assets activity for the year ended June 30, 2021, was as follows:

	Balance July 1, 2020	Additions	Adjustments/ Retirements	Balance June 30, 2021
Capital Assets, Not Being Depreciated				
Land	\$ 862,775	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 862,775
Total Capital Assets, Not Being Depreciated	862,775	-	-	862,775
Capital Assets, Being Depreciated				
Buildings and improvements	721,558	25,101	5	746,664
Equipment	2,198,488	132,697	-	2,331,185
Total Capital Assets, Being Depreciated	2,920,046	157,798	5	3,077,849
Less Accumulated Depreciation For:				
Buildings and improvements	( 457,225)	( 19,919)	( 5)	( 477,149)
Equipment	( 1,476,119)	( 94,172)	-	( 1,570,291)
Total Accumulated Depreciation	( 1,933,344)	( 114,091)	( 5)	( 2,047,440)
Total Capital Assets, Being Depreciated, Net	986,702	43,707	-	1,030,409
Total Capital Assets, Net	\$ 1,849,477	\$ 43,707	\$ -	\$ 1,893,184

**Depreciation**

Depreciation expense was charged to governmental activities as follows:

Public Protection	\$ 114,091
Total Depreciation Expense – Governmental Activities	<u>\$ 114,091</u>

**NOTE 4: INTERFUND TRANSACTIONS**

**Transfers**

Transfers are indicative of funding for capital projects, lease payments or debt service and re-allocations of special revenues. The following are the interfund transfer balances as of June 30, 2021:

	Transfers In	Transfers Out
General Fund	\$ -	\$ 900,000
Capital Replacement	900,000	-
Total	<u>\$ 900,000</u>	<u>\$ 900,000</u>

**HIGGINS AREA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Notes to Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2021**

**NOTE 5: LONG-TERM LIABILITIES**

The following is a summary of changes in long-term liabilities for the year ended June 30, 2021:

<u>Type of Indebtedness</u>	<u>Balance July 1, 2020</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Retirements</u>	<u>Balance June 30, 2021</u>	<u>Amounts Due Within One Year</u>
Compensated absences	\$ 55,092	\$ 20,409	(\$ 19,112)	\$ 56,389	\$ 20,409
Total	<u>\$ 55,092</u>	<u>\$ 20,409</u>	<u>(\$ 19,112)</u>	<u>\$ 56,389</u>	<u>\$ 20,409</u>

**NOTE 6: NET POSITION**

The government-wide financial statements utilize a net position presentation. Net position is categorized as net investment in capital assets, restricted and unrestricted.

- **Net investment in capital assets** - consists of capital assets including restricted capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by the outstanding balances of any bonds, mortgages, notes or other borrowings that are attributable to the acquisition, construction or improvement of those assets.
- **Restricted net position** - consists of net position with constraints placed on the use either by (1) external groups such as creditors, grantors, contributors or laws or regulations of other governments; or (2) law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.
- **Unrestricted net position** - all other net position that does not meet the definition of “restricted” or “net investment in capital assets”.

**Net Position Flow Assumption**

When a government funds outlays for a particular purpose from both restricted and unrestricted resources, a flow assumption must be made about the order in which the resources are considered to be applied. When both restricted and unrestricted net position are available, it is considered that restricted resources are used first, followed by the unrestricted resources.

**NOTE 7: FUND BALANCES**

As prescribed by GASB Statement No. 54, governmental funds report fund balance in classifications based primarily on the extent to which the District is bound to honor constraints on the specific purposes for which amounts in the funds can be spent. Fund balances for governmental funds can be made up of the following:

- **Nonspendable fund balance** - amounts that cannot be spent because they are either (a) not in spendable form, or (b) legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. The “not in spendable form” criterion includes items that are not expected to be converted to cash, for example: inventories and prepaid amounts.
- **Restricted fund balance** - amounts with constraints placed on their use that are either (a) externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or (b) imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

**HIGGINS AREA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Notes to Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2021**

**NOTE 7: FUND BALANCES (CONTINUED)**

- **Committed fund balance** - amounts that can only be used for the specific purposes determined by formal action of the District’s highest level of decision-making authority. The Board of Directors is the highest level of decision-making authority for the District that can, by Board action, commit fund balance. Once adopted, the limitation imposed remains in place until a similar action is taken to remove or revise the limitation. The underlying action that imposed the limitation needs to occur no later than the close of the reporting period.
- **Assigned fund balance** - amounts that are constrained by the District’s intent to be used for specific purposes. The intent can be established at either the highest level of decision-making authority, or by a body or an official designated for that purpose.
- **Unassigned fund balance** - the residual classification for the District’s General fund that includes all amounts not contained in the other classifications.

The fund balances for all governmental funds as of June 30, 2021, were distributed as follows:

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Mitigation Fees</u>	<u>Capital Replacement</u>	<u>Totals</u>
<b>Nonspendable:</b>				
Prepaid costs	\$ 5,603	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,603
<b>Restricted for:</b>				
Public protection	-	761,046	-	761,046
<b>Committed to:</b>				
Capital improvement	-	-	1,549,217	1,549,217
<b>Unassigned</b>	<u>1,889,797</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,889,797</u>
Total	<u>\$ 1,895,400</u>	<u>\$ 761,046</u>	<u>\$ 1,549,217</u>	<u>\$ 4,205,663</u>

**Fund Balance Flow Assumption**

When a government funds outlays for a particular purpose from both restricted and unrestricted resources (the total of committed, assigned, and unassigned fund balance), a flow assumption must be made about the order in which the resources are considered to be applied. When both restricted and unrestricted fund balance are available, it is considered that restricted fund balance is depleted before using any of the components of unrestricted fund balance. Further, when the components of unrestricted fund balance can be used for the same purpose, committed fund balance is depleted first, followed by assigned fund balance. Unassigned fund balance is applied last.

**Fund Balance Policy**

The Board of Directors adopted a fund balance policy for financial statement reporting on February 15, 2012. The policy establishes procedures for reporting fund balance classifications, establishes prudent reserve requirements and establishes a hierarchy of fund balance expenditures. The policy also provides for the District to establish and maintain a minimum unrestricted fund balance in the General fund equal to two months of annual revenue within the Discretionary Revenue category as defined in the budget.

**HIGGINS AREA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Notes to Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2021**

**NOTE 8: PENSION PLAN**

**A. General Information about the Pension Plan**

**Plan Description**

All qualified permanent and probationary employees are eligible to participate in the District’s separate Safety and Miscellaneous (all other) Employee Pension Plan, a cost-sharing multiple employer defined benefit pension plan administered by the California Public Employees’ Retirement System (CalPERS). Benefit provisions under the Plan are established by State statute and District resolution. CalPERS issues publicly available reports that include a full description of the pension plan regarding benefit provisions, assumptions and membership information that can be found on the CalPERS website.

Effective January 1, 2013, the District added retirement tiers for both the Miscellaneous and Safety Rate Tiers for new employees as required under the Public Employee Pension Reform Act (PEPRA). New employees hired on or after January 1, 2013 will be subject to new, lower pension formulas, caps on pensionable income levels and new definitions of pensionable income. In addition, new employees will be required to contribute half of the total normal cost of the pension benefit unless impaired by an existing Memorandum of Understanding. The cumulative effect of these PEPRA changes will ultimately reduce the District’s retirement costs.

**Summary of Rate Tiers and Eligible Participants**

Open for New Enrollment	
Miscellaneous PEPRA	Miscellaneous members hired on or after January 1, 2013
Safety PEPRA	Safety members hired on or after January 1, 2013
Closed to New Enrollment	
Miscellaneous	Miscellaneous members hired before January 1, 2013
Safety	Safety employees hired before January 1, 2013

**Benefits Provided**

CalPERS provides service retirement and disability benefits, annual cost of living adjustments and death benefits to plan members, who must be public employees and beneficiaries. Benefits are based on years of credited service, equal to one year of full-time employment. Members with five years of total service are eligible to retire at age 50 (age 52 for Miscellaneous plan members if the membership date is on or after January 1, 2013) with statutorily reduced benefits. Retirement benefits are paid monthly for life. All members are eligible for non-duty disability benefits after 10 years of service. The death benefit is one of the following: the Basic Death Benefit, the 1957 Survivor Benefit, or the Optional Settlement 2W Death Benefit. The cost-of-living adjustments for the plan are applied as specified by the Public Employees’ Retirement Law.

Each Rate Tier’s specific provisions and benefits in effect at June 30, 2021, are summarized as follows:

	<u>Benefit Formula</u>	<u>Retirement Age</u>	<u>Monthly Benefits as a % of Eligible Compensation</u>
Miscellaneous	2.0% @ 55	50-67	1.426 to 2.418%
Miscellaneous PEPRA	2.0% @ 62	52-67	1.000 to 2.500%
Safety	2.0% @ 50	50-55	2.000 to 2.700%
Safety PEPRA	2.7% @ 57	50-57	2.000 to 2.700%

**HIGGINS AREA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Notes to Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2021**

**NOTE 8: PENSION PLAN (CONTINUED)**

**A. General Information about the Pension Plan (Continued)**

**Contributions**

Section 20814(c) of the California Public Employees' Retirement Law requires that the employer contribution rates for all public employers be determined on an annual basis by the actuary and shall be effective on the July 1 following notice of a change in the rate. Funding contributions for all Plans are determined annually on an actuarial basis as of June 30 by CalPERS. The actuarially determined rate is the estimated amount necessary to finance the costs of benefits earned by employees during the year, with an additional amount to finance any unfunded accrued liability. The District is required to contribute the difference between the actuarially determined rate and the contribution rate of employees.

	<u>Employer Contribution Rates</u>	<u>Employee Contribution Rates</u>	<u>Employer Paid Member Contribution Rates</u>
Miscellaneous	12.361%	8.000%	0.000%
Miscellaneous PEPRA	7.732%	6.250%	0.000%
Safety	18.152%	9.000%	0.000%
Safety PEPRA	13.044%	11.500%	0.000%

**B. Pension Liability, Pension Expenses and Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources Related to Pension**

For the year ended June 30, 2021, the contributions recognized as part of pension expense were as follows:

	<u>Contributions-Employer</u>	<u>Contributions-Employee (Paid by Employer)</u>
Miscellaneous	\$ 16,384	\$ -
Safety	153,146	-

The District's net pension liability for the Plan is measured as the proportionate share of the net pension liability. The net pension liability of the Plan is measured as of June 30, 2020, and the total pension liability for the Plan used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2019 rolled forward to June 30, 2020 using standard update procedures. The District's proportion of the net pension liability was based on a projection of the District's long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating employers, actuarially determined.

The District's proportionate share of the net pension liability for the Plan as of June 30, 2020 and 2021 was as follows:

	<u>Proportion June 30, 2020</u>	<u>Proportion June 30, 2021</u>	<u>Change - Increase (Decrease)</u>
Miscellaneous	0.00370%	0.00362%	( .00008%)
Safety	0.01897%	0.02004%	.00107%

**HIGGINS AREA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Notes to Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2021**

**NOTE 8: PENSION PLAN (CONTINUED)**

**B. Pension Liability, Pension Expenses and Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources Related to Pension (Continued)**

As of June 30, 2021, the District reported a net pension liability for its proportionate share of the net pension liability of the Plan as follows:

	<u>Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability</u>
Miscellaneous	\$ 152,487
Safety	<u>1,334,835</u>
Total Net Pension Liability	<u>\$ 1,487,322</u>

For the year ended June 30, 2021, the District recognized pension expense of \$293,452. At June 30, 2021, the District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pension from the following sources:

	<u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>	<u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>
Pension contributions subsequent to measurement date	\$ 195,277	\$ -
Change in assumptions	-	( 5,534)
Difference between expected and actual experience	111,368	-
Difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	33,541	-
Difference between District contributions and proportionate share of contributions.	1,956	( 133,630)
Adjustments due to differences in proportions	<u>80,437</u>	<u>( 6,393)</u>
Total	<u>\$ 422,579</u>	<u>(\$ 145,557)</u>

\$195,277 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pension will be recognized as pension expense as follows:

<u>Fiscal Year Ended June 30</u>		
2022		\$ 2,578
2023		30,428
2024		32,030
2025		16,709
Thereafter		<u>-</u>
Total		<u>\$ 81,745</u>

**HIGGINS AREA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Notes to Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2021**

**NOTE 8: PENSION PLAN (CONTINUED)**

**B. Pension Liability, Pension Expenses and Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources Related to Pension (Continued)**

**Actuarial Assumptions**

The total pension liabilities in the June 30, 2019 actuarial valuations were determined using the following actuarial assumptions:

Valuation Date	June 30, 2019
Measurement Date	June 30, 2020
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry-Age Normal
Actuarial Assumptions:	
Discount Rate	7.15%
Inflation	2.50%
Salary Increases	Varies by Entry - Age Service
Mortality Rate Table	Derived using CalPERS' membership data for all funds
Post-Retirement Benefit Increase	Contract COLA up to 2.50% until Purchasing Power Protection Allowance Floor of Purchasing Power applies

The mortality table used was developed based on CalPERS-specific data. The table includes 15 years of mortality improvements using Society of Actuaries Scale 90 percent of scale MP 2016. For more details on this table, please refer to the December 2017 Experience Study report (based on CalPERS demographic data from 1997 to 2015) that can be found on the CalPERS website.

**Discount Rate**

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.15 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members will be made at the current member contribution rates and that contributions from employers will be made at statutorily required rates, actuarially determined. Based on those assumptions, the 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 plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

**Long-Term Expected Rate of Return**

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class.

In determining the long-term expected rate of return, CalPERS took into account both short-term and long-term market return expectations as well as the expected pension fund cash flows. Using historical returns of all the funds' asset classes, expected compound (geometric) returns were calculated over the short-term (first 10 years) and the long-term (11+ years) using a building-block approach. Using the expected nominal returns for both short-term and long-term, the present value of benefits was calculated for each fund. The expected rate of return was set by calculating the rounded single equivalent expected return that arrived at the same present value of benefits for cash flows as the one calculated using both short-term and long-term returns. The expected rate of return was then set equal to the single equivalent rate calculated above and adjusted to account for assumed administrative expenses.

**HIGGINS AREA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Notes to Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2021**

**NOTE 8: PENSION PLAN (CONTINUED)**

**B. Pension Liability, Pension Expenses and Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources Related to Pension (Continued)**

**Long-Term Expected Rate of Return (Continued)**

The table below reflects the long-term expected real rate of return by asset class. The rate of return was calculated using the capital market assumptions applied to determine the discount rate and asset allocation. These rates of return are net of administrative expenses.

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Assumed Asset Allocation</u>	<u>Real Return Years 1 – 10(a)</u>	<u>Real Return Years 11+(b)</u>
Global Equity	50.0%	4.80%	5.98%
Fixed Income	28.0%	1.00%	2.62%
Inflation Assets	0.0%	0.77%	1.81%
Private Equity	8.0%	6.30%	7.23%
Real Assets	13.0%	3.75%	4.98%
Liquidity	<u>1.0%</u>	0.00%	-0.92%
Total	<u>100.0%</u>		

(a) An expected inflation of 2.00% used for this period

(b) An expected inflation of 2.92% used for this period

**Sensitivity of the Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate**

The following presents the District's proportionate share of the net pension liability for the Plan as of the measurement date, calculated using the discount rate for the Plan, 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 1-percentage point lower or 1-percentage point higher than the current rate:

	<u>1% Decrease 6.15%</u>	<u>Discount Rate 7.15%</u>	<u>1% Increase 8.15%</u>
Miscellaneous	\$ 213,671	\$ 152,487	\$ 101,933
Safety	2,131,799	1,334,835	680,852

**Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position**

Detailed information about each pension plan's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued CalPERS financial reports.

**HIGGINS AREA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Notes to Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2021**

**NOTE 9: OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB)**

**A. Plan Description**

The District’s defined benefit OPEB plan (the Plan) provides OPEB to eligible retirees of the District. The Plan is a single-employer defined benefit plan that is self-administered by the District. Employees must retire from the District after completing at least 15 years of full-time District service. After December 31, 2018, coverage on the District’s medical plan is not available beyond that required to be provided under COBRA. Retirees find their own health coverage. No assets were accumulated in a trust that meets the criteria in paragraph 4 of Government Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 75.

For qualifying retirees, the District contributes a monthly subsidy toward medical insurance premiums during the first five years of retirement. The amount varies by employee group, as shown in the chart below. At the end of the 5 years, the District subsidy ends.

Retiree Medical Benefit as of January 1, 2021	
Employee Group	Monthly Benefit
Miscellaneous	\$200
Chief	\$400
IAFF	\$250

This benefit is not available to offset the cost of other healthcare, such as dental or vision coverage. In the event of the retiree’s death prior to the end of the 5-year period, benefits are discontinued; there are no survivor benefits payable.

**B. Funding Policy**

The District’s funding policy affects the calculation of liabilities by impacting the discount rate used to develop the plan liability and expense. “Prefunding” is the term used when an agency consistently contributes an amount based on an actuarially determined contribution (ADC) each year. GASB 75 allows prefunded plans to use a discount rate that reflects the expected earnings on trust assets. Pay-as-you-go, or “PAYGO”, is the term used when an agency only contributes the required retiree benefits when due. When an agency finances retiree benefits on a pay-as you-go basis, GASB 75 requires the use of a discount rate equal to a 20-year high grade municipal bond rate.

The District is currently financing its OPEB liability on a pay-as-you-go basis. With the District’s approval, the discount rate used in this valuation is based on the Bond Buyer General Obligation 20-Bond Municipal Bond Index. As of the Beginning and end of the Measurement Period, use of this index results in discount rates of 3.51 percent as of June 30, 2019 and 2.16 percent as of June 30, 2021.

**HIGGINS AREA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Notes to Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2021**

**NOTE 9: OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) (CONTINUED)**

**C. Net OPEB Liability**

**Actuarial Assumptions and Other Inputs**

The total OPEB liability in the June 30, 2021 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement, unless otherwise specified:

Valuation Date	June 30, 2021
Discount Rate	2.16%
Salary Increase	3.00% per year; since benefits do not depend on salary, this is used to allocate the cost of benefits between service years
Inflation Rate	2.50% per year
Mortality Improvement	MacLeod Watts Scale 2018 applied generationally from 2015

Demographic actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2021 valuation were based on the 2017 experience study of the California Public Employees Retirement System using data from 1997 to 2015, except for a different basis used to project future mortality improvements. The representative 2015 mortality rates were those published by CalPERS adjusted to backout 15 years of Scale MP 2016 to a central year 2015.

**D. Changes in the Net OPEB Liability**

	<u>Net OPEB Liability</u>
Balance at June 30, 2020	\$ 74,398
Changes for the year:	
Service costs	4,659
Interest	2,731
Difference between expected and actual experience	( 11,371)
Change of assumptions	5,911
Benefit payments	( 2,500)
Net changes	( 570)
Balance at June 30, 2021	<u>\$ 73,828</u>

Changes of assumptions reflects a change in the discount rate from 3.51 percent as of June 30, 2019 to 2.16 percent as of June 30, 2021.

**Sensitivity of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate**

The following presents the net OPEB liability of the District, as well as what the District's net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage point lower or 1-percentage point higher than the current discount rate:

	<u>1% Decrease 1.16%</u>	<u>Current Rate 2.16%</u>	<u>1% Increase 3.16%</u>
Net OPEB liability	\$ 77,975	\$ 73,828	\$ 69,923

**HIGGINS AREA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Notes to Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2021**

**NOTE 9: OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) (CONTINUED)**

**D. Changes in the Net OPEB Liability (Continued)**

**Sensitivity of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Healthcare Trend Rates**

The following presents the net OPEB liability of the District, as well as what the District's net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using healthcare cost trend rates that are 1-percentage point lower or 1-percentage point higher than the current healthcare cost trend rates:

	Current Trend -1%	Current Trend	Current Trend +1%
Net OPEB Liability	\$ 68,151	\$ 73,828	\$ 80,469

**E. Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB**

A component of the simplified accounting approved by the District and its auditors is immediate recognition of any changes to the plan liability. Therefore, no deferred resources were established, nor will any be established in the future. The simplified accounting treatment provides for the District to recognize the Total OPEB Liability each year.

**NOTE 10: RISK MANAGEMENT**

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The District purchases coverage from a commercial carrier. Settled claims resulting from these risks have not exceeded commercial insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

**NOTE 11: OTHER INFORMATION**

**A. Subsequent Events**

Management has evaluated events subsequent to June 30, 2021 through July 18, 2024, the date on which the financial statements were available for issuance. Management has determined no subsequent events requiring disclosure have occurred.

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**Required Supplementary Information  
(Unaudited)**

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**HIGGINS AREA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Required Supplementary Information**  
**District Pension Plan**  
**Schedule of Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2021**  
**Last 10 Years\***

<b>Measurement Date</b>	<b>2013/2014</b>	<b>2014/2015</b>	<b>2015/2016</b>	<b>2016/2017</b>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>				
Proportion of the net pension liability	0.00164%	0.00170%	0.00156%	0.00170%
Proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 101,885	\$ 117,643	\$ 134,655	\$ 149,779
Covered payroll	51,183	40,884	41,054	45,690
Proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of covered payroll	199.06%	287.75%	327.99%	327.82%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	73.70%	70.32%	67.41%	67.19%
<b>Safety</b>				
Proportion of the net pension liability	0.96600%	0.94000%	1.02000%	0.01210%
Proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 601,056	\$ 643,518	\$ 884,477	\$ 1,048,163
Covered payroll	649,219	751,921	789,977	603,757
Proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of covered payroll	92.58%	85.58%	111.96%	173.61%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	0.82%	81.88%	77.35%	76.78%

\* The District implemented GASB 68 for the fiscal year June 30, 2015, therefore only seven years are shown.

<u>2017/2018</u>	<u>2018/2019</u>	<u>2019/2020</u>
0.00380%	0.00370%	0.00362%
\$ 149,780 45,691	\$ 148,051 33,994	\$ 152,487 31,438
327.81%	435.52%	485.04%
68.45%	68.09%	66.83%
0.01819%	0.01897%	0.02004%
\$ 1,067,432 603,757	\$ 1,183,956 509,687	\$ 1,334,835 552,641
176.80%	232.29%	241.54%
77.52%	77.46%	77.25%

**HIGGINS AREA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Required Supplementary Information**  
**District Pension Plan**  
**Schedule of Contributions**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2021**  
**Last 10 Years\***

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<u>2014/2015</u>	<u>2015/2016</u>	<u>2016/2017</u>	<u>2017/2018</u>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>				
Contractually required contribution (actuarially determined)	\$ 13,280	\$ 14,030	\$ 9,369	\$ 11,314
Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contributions	<u>(13,280)</u>	<u>(14,030)</u>	<u>(9,369)</u>	<u>(11,314)</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Covered payroll	\$ 51,183	\$ 40,884	\$ 41,054	\$ 45,690
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	25.95%	34.32%	22.82%	24.76%
<b>Safety</b>				
Contractually required contribution (actuarially determined)	\$ 110,313	\$ 133,996	\$ 94,728	\$ 40,441
Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contributions	<u>(110,313)</u>	<u>(133,996)</u>	<u>(94,728)</u>	<u>(40,441)</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Covered payroll	\$ 649,219	\$ 751,921	\$ 789,977	\$ 603,757
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	16.99%	17.82%	11.99%	6.70%

\* The District implemented GASB 68 for the fiscal year June 30, 2015, therefore only seven years are shown.

<u>2018/2019</u>	<u>2019/2020</u>	<u>2020/2021</u>
\$ 2,307	\$ 16,384	\$ 17,742
<u>(2,307)</u>	<u>(16,384)</u>	<u>(17,742)</u>
<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
\$ 33,994 6.79%	\$ 31,438 52.12%	\$ 33,447 53.05%
\$ 76,161	\$ 153,146	\$ 177,535
<u>(76,161)</u>	<u>(153,146)</u>	<u>(177,535)</u>
<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
\$ 509,687 14.94%	\$ 552,641 27.71%	\$ 647,689 27.41%

**HIGGINS AREA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Required Supplementary Information**  
**District Pension Plan**  
**Notes to District Pension Plan**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2021**

**NOTE 1: SCHEDULE OF PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY**

**Change of Assumptions and Methods**

Benefit Changes: None

Changes of Assumptions: None

**NOTE 2: SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS**

Methods and assumptions used to determine the contribution rates were as follows:

Valuation Date	June 30, 2018
Actuarial cost method	Individual Entry Age Normal
Amortization method	Level Percentage of Payroll and Direct Rate Smoothing
Remaining Amortization Period	Differs by employer rate plan but no more than 30 years
Asset valuation method	Fair value
Discount rate	7.00%
Payroll growth	2.50%
Inflation	2.50%
Salary increases	Varies based on entry age and service
Investment rate of return	7.00%

**HIGGINS AREA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Required Supplementary Information**  
**District OPEB Plan**  
**Schedule of Changes in the Net OPEB Liability and Related Ratios**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2021**  
**Last 10 Fiscal Years\***

Fiscal Year	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
<b>Total OPEB Liability</b>				
Service cost	\$ 2,901	\$ 2,834	\$ 4,659	\$ 4,659
Interest	1,901	2,198	2,574	2,731
Differences between expected and actual experience	-	9,464	-	(11,371)
Changes of assumptions	(1,304)	2,209	-	5,911
Benefit payments	-	(1,000)	(3,000)	(2,500)
<b>Net Change in Total OPEB Liability</b>	3,498	15,705	4,233	(570)
<b>Total OPEB Liability - Beginning</b>	50,962	54,460	70,165	74,398
<b>Total OPEB Liability - Ending (a)</b>	<u>\$ 54,460</u>	<u>\$ 70,165</u>	<u>\$ 74,398</u>	<u>\$ 73,828</u>
<b>Plan Fiduciary Net Position **</b>				
Contributions - employer	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,500
Benefit payments	-	(1,000)	(3,000)	(2,500)
<b>Net Change in Plan Fiduciary Net Position</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Plan Fiduciary Net Position - Beginning</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Plan Fiduciary Net Position - Ending (b)</b>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
<b>Net OPEB Liability (Asset) - Ending (a) - (b)</b>	<u>\$ 54,460</u>	<u>\$ 70,165</u>	<u>\$ 74,398</u>	<u>\$ 73,828</u>
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Covered payroll	\$ 574,544	\$ 754,339	\$ 575,557	\$ 734,776
Net OPEB liability (asset) as a percentage of covered payroll	9.48%	9.30%	12.93%	10.05%

\* The District implemented GASB 75 for the fiscal year June 30, 2018, therefore only four years are shown.

\*\* The District's OPEB plan is not pre-funded, therefore there is no Plan Fiduciary Net Position.

**HIGGINS AREA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Required Supplementary Information**  
**District OPEB Plan**  
**Note to District OPEB Plan**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2021**

**NOTE 1: SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN THE NET OPEB LIABILITY AND RELATED RATIOS**

**Change of Assumptions**

The discount rate was changed from to 3.51 percent as of June 30, 2019 to 2.16 percent as of June 30, 2021.

**HIGGINS AREA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Required Supplementary Information**  
**Budgetary Comparison Schedule**  
**General Fund**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2021**

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)</u>
<b>REVENUES</b>				
Taxes and assessments	\$ 1,853,000	\$ 1,746,000	\$ 1,747,985	\$ 1,985
Use of money and property	24,000	20,000	61,432	41,432
Intergovernmental revenues	139,000	133,000	1,161,099	1,028,099
Other revenues	102,000	101,000	7,677	(93,323)
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<u>2,118,000</u>	<u>2,000,000</u>	<u>2,978,193</u>	<u>978,193</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
Current public protection:				
Salaries and benefits	1,513,000	1,250,000	1,484,427	(234,427)
Clothing and uniforms	33,000	28,000	39,984	(11,984)
Household	12,000	11,000	8,469	2,531
Communications	15,000	15,000	14,064	936
Insurance	18,000	16,000	16,208	(208)
Maintenance:				
Equipment	27,000	22,000	21,265	735
Structures and improvements	54,000	49,000	30,206	18,794
Automobiles	92,000	87,000	126,371	(39,371)
Memberships	4,000	4,000	8,319	(4,319)
Medical supplies	8,000	6,000	6,440	(440)
Miscellaneous	-	-	492	(492)
Office Supplies	7,000	10,000	3,499	6,501
Professional services	66,000	76,000	38,689	37,311
Publications and notices	5,000	5,000	428	4,572
Small tools	30,000	18,000	22,362	(4,362)
Special district expense	347,000	337,000	183,433	153,567
Travel	8,000	8,000	5,994	2,006
Gasoline	17,000	15,000	13,371	1,629
Utilities	12,000	12,000	9,632	2,368
Rent	4,000	4,000	-	4,000
Contingencies	54,000	150,000	-	150,000
Capital outlay	142,000	27,000	67,750	(40,750)
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<u>2,468,000</u>	<u>2,150,000</u>	<u>2,101,403</u>	<u>48,597</u>
<b>Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures</b>	<u>(350,000)</u>	<u>(150,000)</u>	<u>876,790</u>	<u>1,026,790</u>
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>				
Transfers out	(950,000)	(1,050,000)	(900,000)	150,000
<b>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>	<u>(950,000)</u>	<u>(1,050,000)</u>	<u>(900,000)</u>	<u>150,000</u>
<b>Net Change in Fund Balances</b>	(1,300,000)	(1,200,000)	(23,210)	1,176,790
<b>Fund Balances - Beginning</b>	<u>1,918,610</u>	<u>1,918,610</u>	<u>1,918,610</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Fund Balances - Ending</b>	<u>\$ 618,610</u>	<u>\$ 718,610</u>	<u>\$ 1,895,400</u>	<u>\$ 1,176,790</u>

**HIGGINS AREA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Required Supplementary Information**  
**Budgetary Comparison Schedule**  
**Mitigation Fees - Major Special Revenue Fund**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2021**

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)</u>
<b>REVENUES</b>				
Use of money and property	\$ 9,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 11,554	\$ 1,554
Charges for services	20,000	30,000	25,486	(4,514)
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<u>29,000</u>	<u>40,000</u>	<u>37,040</u>	<u>(2,960)</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
Current public protection:				
Contingencies	240,000	350,000	-	350,000
Capital outlay	55,000	55,000	20,403	34,597
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<u>295,000</u>	<u>405,000</u>	<u>20,403</u>	<u>384,597</u>
<b>Net Change in Fund Balances</b>	(266,000)	(365,000)	16,637	381,637
<b>Fund Balances - Beginning</b>	<u>744,409</u>	<u>744,409</u>	<u>744,409</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Fund Balances - Ending</b>	<u><u>\$ 478,409</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 379,409</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 761,046</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 381,637</u></u>

**HIGGINS AREA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Required Supplementary Information**  
**Note to Budgetary Comparison Schedules**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2021**

**NOTE 1: BUDGETARY BASIS OF ACCOUNTING**

Formal budgetary integration is employed as a management control device during the year. The District presents a comparison of annual budget to actual results for all governmental funds except for the Capital Replacement fund. The amounts reported on the budgetary basis are generally on a basis consistent with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

The following procedures are performed by the District in establishing the budgetary data reflected in the financial statements:

- (1) The District Fire Chief submits to the board a recommended draft budget for the fiscal year commencing the following July 1. The budget includes recommended expenditures and the means of financing them.
- (2) The Board reviews the recommended budget at regularly scheduled meetings, which are open to the public. The Board also conducts a public hearing on the recommended budget to obtain comments from interested persons.
- (3) Prior to July 1, the budget is adopted through the passage of a resolution.
- (4) From the effective date of the budget, which is adopted, the amounts stated therein, as recommended expenditures become appropriations. The Board may amend the budget by motion during the fiscal year.

The District does not use encumbrance accounting, under which purchase orders, contracts, and other commitments for the expenditure of monies are recorded in order to reserve that portion of the applicable appropriation.

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## **OTHER REPORT AND SCHEDULES**

- **Other Report**
- **Schedule of Findings and Recommendations**
- **Schedule of Prior Year Findings and Recommendations**
- **Management's Corrective Action Plan**

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL  
REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN  
AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

To the Board of Directors  
Higgins Area Fire Protection District  
Auburn, California

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of Higgins Area Fire Protection District, California (District) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated July 18, 2024.

**Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that have not been identified. However, as described in the accompanying schedule of findings and recommendations, we did identify certain deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses and significant deficiencies.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. We consider the deficiency described in the accompanying schedule of findings and recommendations as item 2021-001 to be a material weakness.

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. We consider the deficiencies described in the accompanying schedule of findings and recommendations as items 2021-002 and 2021-003 to be significant deficiencies.

To the Board of Directors  
Higgins Area Fire Protection District  
Auburn, California

### **Compliance and Other Matters**

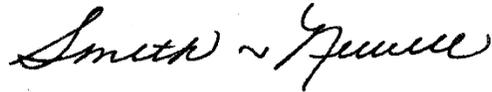
As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the District's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

### **District's Responses to Findings**

The District's responses to the findings identified in our audit are described in the accompanying management's corrective action plan. The District's responses were not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

### **Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Smith & Newell CPAs  
Yuba City, California  
July 18, 2024

**HIGGINS AREA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Schedule of Findings and Recommendations**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2021**

**2021-001 Accountability over Capital Assets – Structures (Material Weakness)**

**Criteria**

Governmental entities are required to maintain depreciation schedules on all capital assets of the District including the calculation of annual depreciation of assets and accumulated depreciation.

**Condition**

At the time of our fieldwork, we noted that the District had not maintained a depreciation schedule for structures and improvements owned by the District and estimated the depreciation based on 2016-17 assets.

**Cause**

The District could not locate the depreciation spreadsheets from prior years.

**Effect**

The accountability over capital assets may be lost and result in an auditor's qualified opinion on the financial statements.

**Questioned Cost**

No questioned costs were identified as a result of our procedures.

**Context**

We reviewed the depreciation schedules for 2020-21.

**Repeat Finding**

This is a repeat of prior year finding 2020-001.

**Recommendation**

We recommend that the District maintain a complete depreciation schedule over all structures.

**View of Responsible Officials and Planned Corrective Action**

Refer to separate Management's Corrective Action Plan for views of responsible officials and management's responses.

**HIGGINS AREA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Schedule of Findings and Recommendations**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2021**

**2021-002 Audit Adjustments (Significant Deficiency)**

**Criteria**

Government auditing standards require independent auditors to evaluate all unadjusted misstatements of financial statements. Also, producing timely audited financial statements is more difficult when adjustments are not recorded prior to the start of the annual audit.

**Condition**

At the time of our audit, we noted that the financial statements as presented to us for audit contained misstatements in accounts receivable, accounts payable, payroll liabilities, and revenues/expenditures that required adjustment.

**Cause**

The District had not reconciled and adjusted accounts as necessary.

**Effect**

The financial statements as presented to us contained misstatements that required adjustment.

**Questioned Cost**

No questioned costs were identified as a result of our procedures.

**Context**

Not applicable.

**Repeat Finding**

This is not a repeat finding.

**Recommendation**

We recommend that the District reconcile all accounts in a timely manner so that required adjustments can be recorded prior to the start of the annual audit.

**View of Responsible Officials and Planned Corrective Action**

Refer to separate Management's Corrective Action Plan for views of responsible officials and management's responses.

**HIGGINS AREA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Schedule of Findings and Recommendations**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2021**

**2021-003 Payroll Withholding (Significant Deficiency)**

**Criteria**

Good internal controls over payroll requires that employee payroll tax withholding agrees to the amount authorized on the employee completed W-4.

**Condition**

During our testing of payroll transactions, we noted that the federal withholdings for two of the six employees tested did not agree to amounts authorized per employee W-4.

**Cause**

The District did not withhold the correct amount of federal income tax for two employees.

**Effect**

The District is withholding the incorrect amount of federal income tax for two employees.

**Questioned Cost**

No questioned costs were identified as a result of our procedures.

**Context**

Not applicable.

**Repeat Finding**

This is not a repeat finding.

**Recommendation**

We recommend that the District review the withholdings entered into the payroll system to ensure that employee withholdings agree to the amount authorized on the signed employee W-4.

**View of Responsible Officials and Planned Corrective Action**

Refer to separate Management's Corrective Action Plan for views of responsible officials and management's responses.

**HIGGINS AREA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Schedule of Prior Year Findings and Recommendations**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2021**

<u>Audit Reference</u>	<u>Status of Prior Year Audit Recommendation</u>
<b>2020-001</b>	<p><b>Accountability over Capital Assets – Structures</b></p> <p><b>Recommendation</b></p> <p>We recommend that the District maintain a complete depreciation schedule over all structures.</p> <p><b>Status</b></p> <p>Not Implemented</p>

**HIGGINS AREA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Management's Corrective Action Plan**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2021**

**Finding 2021-001    Accountability over Capital Assets – Structures (Material Weakness)**

We recommend that the District maintain a complete depreciation schedule over all structures.

Management's Response:        The District concurs with the finding.

Responsible Individual:        Former Fire Chief Jerry Good and Current Fire Chief Joel Tam

Corrective Action Plan:        We will work with former Fire Captain John McIntosh to locate the schedule.

Anticipated Completion Date:    12/12/2024

**Finding 2021-002    Audit Adjustments (Significant Deficiency)**

We recommend that the District reconcile all accounts in a timely manner so that required adjustments can be recorded prior to the start of the annual audit.

Management's Response:        The District concurs with the finding.

Responsible Individual:        Jeff Van Groningen and Bethany Poppenberg

Corrective Action Plan:        We will have more timely audit preparation.

Anticipated Completion Date:    Ongoing

**Finding 2021-003    Payroll Withholdings (Significant Deficiency)**

We recommend that the District review the withholdings entered into the payroll system to ensure that employee withholdings agree to amount authorized on the signed employee W-4.

Management's Response:        The District concurs with the finding.

Responsible Individual:        Bethany Poppenberg

Corrective Action Plan:        We will have annual review of employee withholdings.

Anticipated Completion Date:    Ongoing

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