



Washington State Auditor
Brian Sonntag

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

June 30, 2005

The Honorable Ron Sims, County Executive
King County
Seattle, Washington

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of King County, Washington, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2004, as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the County's management. Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We did not audit the financial statements of the Public Transportation Fund and the Water Quality Fund, which are both major funds and represent 91 percent, 89 percent and 88 percent, respectively, of the assets, net assets, and revenues of the County's business-type activities. We also did not audit the financial statements of the Harborview Medical Center, which statements reflect 54 percent, 53 percent, and 98 percent, respectively, of the assets, net assets and revenues of the aggregate discretely presented component unit information. These financial statements were audited by other auditors whose reports thereon have been furnished to us, and our opinion, insofar as it relates to the amounts included for the Public Transportation Fund, the Water Quality Fund, and Harborview Medical Center, is based solely on the reports of the other auditors.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit and the reports of other auditors provide a reasonable basis for our opinions.

In our opinion, based on our audit and the reports of other auditors, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of King County, Washington, as of December 31, 2004, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, where applicable, thereof, and the respective budgetary comparison for the General Fund and the Public Health Fund, for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The management's discussion and analysis on pages 3 through 21 and the infrastructure modified approach information on pages 123 through 125 are not a required part of the basic financial statements but are supplementary information required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. We and the other auditors have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and



presentation of the required supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

Our audit was performed for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise King County's basic financial statements. The accompanying information listed as combining financial statements and supplemental information on pages 127 through 249 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. The combining financial statements and supplemental information have been subjected to auditing procedures applied by us and the other auditors in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, based on our audit and the reports of other auditors, are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

The information identified in the table of contents as the Introductory and Statistical Sections is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements of the City. Such information has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied by us and the other auditors in the audit of the basic financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Sonntag". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "B" and "S".

BRIAN SONNTAG, CGFM
STATE AUDITOR