



**Washington State Auditor  
Brian Sonntag**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

October 19, 2009

Council  
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 the King County, Washington, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2008, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements 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 Building Development and Management Corporations fund which represents 12 percent, -0.5 percent, and 0 percent, respectively of the assets, net assets and revenues of the governmental activities, and 6 percent, 0 percent and 1 percent, respectively, of the assets, net assets and revenues of the aggregate remaining fund information. Those financial statements were audited by other auditors whose report thereon has been furnished to us, and our opinion, insofar as it relates to the amounts included for the Building Development and Management Corporations fund, is based on the report of the other auditors.

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 of material misstatement. The financial statements of the Building Development and Management Corporations fund were not audited in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. 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 report of the other auditors provide a reasonable basis for our opinions.

In our opinion, based on our audit and the report of the 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 the King County, Washington, as of December 31, 2008, and the respective changes in financial position

and, where applicable, cash flows thereof, and the respective budgetary comparison for the General and Public Health funds, for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

As described in Note 1, during the year ended December 31, 2008, the County implemented Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement 49, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pollution Remediation Obligations.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we will also issue our report dated October 19, 2009, on our consideration of the County'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 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 internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be considered in assessing the results of our audit.

The management's discussion and analysis on pages 3 through 19, infrastructure modified approach information on pages 122 through 124 and information on postemployment benefits other than pensions on page 124 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 the County's basic financial statements. The accompanying information listed as combining financial statements and supplemental information on pages 125 through 230 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. This information has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is 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 County. 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 stylized and cursive.

**BRIAN SONNTAG, CGFM**  
STATE AUDITOR