TWIGGS COUNTY, GEORGIA

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT CERTIFIED
PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS IN ACCORDANCE
WITH THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE AND
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

TWIGGS COUNTY, GEORGIA
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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*

Board of Commissioners
of Twiggs County, Georgia
Jeffersonville, Georgia

We have audited, 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 (*Government Auditing Standards*), the 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 Twiggs County, Georgia (the "County") as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Twiggs County, Georgia's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated January 30, 2025. Our report includes a reference to other auditors who audited the financial statements of the Development Authority of the City of Jeffersonville and Twiggs County, Georgia and the Twiggs County Board of Health, as described in our report on Twiggs County, Georgia's financial statements. This report does not include the results of the other auditors' testing of internal control over financial reporting or compliance and other matters that are reported on separately by those auditors.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the County'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 County's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of [*Entity Name*]'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 questioned costs, we identified 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 County'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 questioned costs as item 2023-001 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 deficiency described in the accompanying *schedule of findings and questioned costs* as item 2023-002 to be a significant deficiency.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the County'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.*

Twiggs County, Georgia's Response to Findings

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the County's response to the findings identified in our audit and described in the *schedule of findings and responses*. The county's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

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 County'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 County's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Nichols, Cauley & Associates, LLC

Dublin, Georgia
January 30, 2025

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR EACH MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM AND REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE

Board of Commissioners
of Twiggs County, Georgia
Jeffersonville, Georgia

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We have audited Twiggs County, Georgia's (the "County") compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the OMB *Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of the County's major federal programs for the year ended December 31, 2023. The County's major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

In our opinion, the County complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended December 31, 2023.

Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS); the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*); and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Our responsibilities under those standards and the Uniform Guidance are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report.

We are required to be independent of the County and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion on compliance for each major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the County's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to the County's federal programs.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on the County's compliance based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and

therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the County's compliance with the requirements of each major federal program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the County's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- Obtain an understanding of the County's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

A *deficiency in internal control over compliance* exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. A *material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance may exist that were not identified.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

Report on Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards Required by the Uniform Guidance

We have audited the 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 County as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements. We issued our report thereon, dated January 30, 2025, which contained unmodified opinions on those financial statements. Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the basic financial statements. The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by the Uniform Guidance and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the schedule of expenditures of federal awards is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Nichols, Cauley & Associates, LLC

Dublin, Georgia
June 3, 2025

TWIGGS COUNTY, GEORGIA
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

Federal Grantor/Pass-Through Grantor/Program or Cluster Title	Federal Assistance Listing Number	Pass-Through Entity Identifying Number	Provided to Subrecipients	Total Federal Expenditures
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE				
Pass through Georgia Forestry Commission				
Cooperative Forestry Assistance	10.664	2023 50/50 VFA	$ -	$ 5,000
		Total U.S. Department of Agriculture	-	5,000
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE				
Pass through Criminal Justice Coordinating Council				
Crime Victim Assistance	16.575	K77-8-055	$ -	$ 34,698
		Total U.S. Department of Justice	-	34,698
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION				
Direct Programs				
Formula Grants for Rural Areas and Tribal Transit Program	20.509	GA-2022-010-00	-	69,903
Pass through Governor's Office of Highway Safety				
Highway Safety Cluster				
State and Community Highway Safety	20.600	GA-2023-405c M3DA-044	-	30,000
State and Community Highway Safety	20.600	2023-402 SC-138	-	49,509
State and Community Highway Safety	20.600	TEN-2023-402-PT-021	-	20,364
			-	99,873
		Total U.S. Department of Transportation	-	169,776
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT				
Pass through Georgia Department of Community Affairs				
CDBG - Entitlement Grants Cluster				
Community Development Block Grants / Entitlement Grants	14.218	21cv-y-143-1-6254	$ -	$ 720,456
		Total U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	-	720,456

(continued on the following page)

TWIGGS COUNTY, GEORGIA
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

Federal Grantor/Pass-Through Grantor/Program or Cluster Title	Federal Assistance Listing Number	Pass-Through Entity Identifying Number	Provided to Subrecipients	Total Federal Expenditures
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY				
Direct Programs				
COVID-19 - Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds	21.027	-	-	394,129
		Total U.S. Department of Treasury	-	394,129
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY				
Direct Programs				
Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response	97.083	EMW-2019-FF-01359	-	11,008
COVID-19 - Assistance to Firefighters Grant	97.044	EMW-2020-FG-04921	-	35,664
		Total U.S. Department of Homeland Security	-	46,672
		Total Expenditures of Federal Awards	$ -	$ 1,370,731

NOTE 1 – BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards (the "Schedule") includes the federal award activity of Twiggs County, Georgia (the “County”) under programs of the federal government for the year ended December 31, 2023. The information in this Schedule is presented in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Because the Schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of the County, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, changes in net assets, or cash flows of the County.

NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Expenditures reported on the Schedule are reported on the modified-accrual basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in the Uniform Guidance, wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowable or are limited as to reimbursement. Negative amounts shown on the Schedule represent adjustments or credits made in the normal course of business to amounts reported as expenditures in prior years.

NOTE 2 – INDIRECT COST RATES

The County has elected not to use the 10 percent *de minimis* indirect cost rate allowed under the Uniform Guidance.

Section I: Summary of Auditor's Results

Financial Statements

Type of report the auditor issued on whether the financial statements audited were prepared in accordance with GAAP: *Unmodified*

Internal control over financial reporting:		
• Material weakness(es) identified?	__X__ Yes	___ No
• Significant deficiency(ies) identified?	__X__ Yes	___ None Reported
Noncompliance material to financial statements noted?	____ Yes	__X__ No

Federal Awards

Internal control over major federal programs:		
• Material weakness(es) identified?	___ Yes	__X__ No
• Significant deficiency(ies) identified?	___ Yes	__X__ None Reported
Type of auditor's report issued on compliance for major federal programs:	Unmodified	
Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with 2 CFR 200.516(a)?	___ Yes	__X__ No
Identification of major federal programs:		

Assistance Listing Number	Name of Federal Program or Cluster
14.218	CDBG – Entitlement Grants Cluster

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between type A and type B programs:	$750,000	
Auditee qualified as a low-risk auditee?	___ Yes	__X__ No

Section II: Financial Statement Findings

Finding 2023-001

Material Weakness in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting – Control Environment/ Management Override of Controls

Criteria: Internal Controls should be in place to reduce the risk of material misstatement and fraud. They include a range of activities as diverse as approvals, authorizations, verifications, reconciliations, reviews of operating performance, security of assets, segregation of duties and internal audit. Additionally, controls should be in place to mitigate the override of controls by management or board members.

Condition: The County lacks certain internal controls to reduce the risk of material misstatement or misappropriation of assets.

Cause: The County's limited size and staffing resources have resulted in a lack of internal controls adequately designed or implemented.

Effect or Potential Effect: Failure to fully implement adequate internal controls can lead to misappropriation of assets or misstatements that are not detected during the normal course of business.

Recommendation: Management should perform a thorough review of the County's internal control processes.

Responsible Official's Response: We concur with the recommendation. The Twiggs County Board of Commissioners will continue to evaluate, develop and implement improved internal controls in order to reduce the risk of misstatement and misappropriation of assets. These controls will include proper segregation of duties between recording, processing and reconciliation of cash and other general ledger accounts in order to provide reasonable assurance that an individual cannot misappropriate funds without being detected during the normal course of business

Finding 2023-002

Significant Deficiency in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting – Budgets

Criteria: The County should use fiscal control and accountability.

Condition: In the County's General Fund, actual expenditures exceeded budget appropriations in several departments. Additionally, the County did not approve a budget for the ARPA fund.

Cause: County's expenditures exceeded appropriations in several different departments.

Effect: Fiscal control and accountability over departmental expenditures may be jeopardized.

Recommendation: The County should monitor the budget and amend it when appropriate.

Responsible Official's Response: The County will continue to review the budget as the budget year progresses to ensure that the budget is amended for changes that occur during the year.

Section III: Federal Awards Findings

None Reported.