

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER)  
MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
COUNTY OF WARREN  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
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INTRODUCTORY SECTION

# Warren County (Pequest River) Municipal Utilities Authority

199 Foul Rift Road, P.O. Box 159  
Belvidere, New Jersey 07823

Tel. (908) 475-5412  
Fax. (908) 475-5873

March 22, 2024

The Honorable Chairman and Members  
of the Warren County (Pequest River)  
Municipal Utilities Authority  
Belvidere, NJ

Dear Authority Members:

The annual financial report of the Warren County (Pequest River) Municipal Utilities Authority (The “Authority”) for the year ended December 31, 2023, is hereby submitted. Responsibility for both the accuracy of the data and completeness and fairness of the presentation, including all disclosures, rests with the management of the Authority. To the best of our knowledge and belief, the data presented in this report is accurate in all material respects and is reported in a manner designed to present fairly the financial position and results of operations of the Authority. All disclosures necessary to enable the reader to gain an understanding of the Authority's financial activities have been included.

The annual financial report is presented in four sections: introductory, financial, single audit, and comments and recommendations. The introductory section includes this transmittal letter, the Authority's organizational chart and a list of principal officials. The financial section includes the financial statements as well as the the auditors' report thereon. Information related to the single audit section, including the auditors' report on internal control and compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contracts and grants and findings and questioned costs, are included in the single audit section of this report.

## REPORTING ENTITY AND ITS SERVICES:

The Warren County (Pequest River) Municipal Utilities Authority is a public body corporate and politic of the State of New Jersey governed by nine members appointed by the Warren County Board of Commissioners.

The Authority was created in 1969 and reorganized in 1978 under and pursuant to the State Municipal Utilities Authorities Law (P.L. 1957, Chap. 183).

The Warren County (Pequest River) Municipal Utilities Authority was created to provide for the acquisition, construction, maintenance, operation and improvement of facilities for the collection, treatment, purification or disposal of sewage or other wastes for the purpose of relieving waters of pollution within the Authority's area of service. The Authority is authorized to collect service charges for connection with, and for use of, the Authority's services and products. The Authority bills the customers for such usage under their respective service contracts.

As a public body under existing statute, the Authority is exempt from both federal and state taxes.

The Honorable Chairman and Members  
of the Warren County (Pequest River)  
Municipal Utilities Authority  
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March 22, 2024

REPORTING ENTITY AND ITS SERVICES: (Cont'd)

Governmental Accounting Standards Board ("GASB") Codification Section 2100, "Defining the Financial Reporting Entity" establishes standards to determine whether a governmental component unit should be included in the financial reporting entity. Component units are legally separate organizations for which the elected officials of the primary government are financially accountable. In addition, component units can be other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationship with a primary government are such that exclusion would cause the reporting entity's financial statements to be misleading. The primary government is financially accountable if it appoints a voting majority of the organization's governing body and (1) it is able to impose its will on that organization or (2) there is a potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to, or impose specific financial burdens on, the primary government. A legally separate, tax-exempt organization should be reported as a component unit of a reporting entity if all of the following criteria are met: (1) The economic resources received or held by the separate organization are entirely or almost entirely for the direct benefit of the primary government, its component units, or its constituents. (2) The primary government, or its component units, is entitled to, or has the ability to otherwise access, a majority of the economic resources received or held by the separate organization. (3). The economic resources received or held by an individual organization that the specific primary government, or its component units, is entitled to, or has the ability to otherwise access, are significant to that primary government. As the financial reporting entity was established in accordance with New Jersey statutes, the requirements of GASB Codification Section 2100 were not followed and, accordingly, the reporting entity could be different from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The Commissioners of Warren County appoint the governing members of the Authority and the County has secured the payment of the Authority's bonds and loans, but the Authority is autonomous from the County in all other pertinent matters concerning oversight responsibility. Accordingly, the Authority is considered a component unit of the County of Warren.

**General Trends and Significant Events**

During 2023, the Authority experienced the following:

- Both sewer plants operated without any major breakdowns or violations.
- Each facility is considered to be well run and orderly with housekeeping and storage exceptional.
- The Authority has gone over 20 years without any lost time accidents and no lost work days.
- In 2019, the Warren County Pollution Control Financing Authority (PCFA) discontinued discharging the effluent from its facility into the Authority's Oxford Treatment plant. However, the Warren County (Pequest River) Municipal Utilities Authority continues to look for new sources of revenue.

The Honorable Chairman and Members  
of the Warren County (Pequest River)  
Municipal Utilities Authority  
Page 3  
March 22, 2024

CASH MANAGEMENT: The investment policy of the Authority is guided in large part by state statute as detailed in "Notes to the Financial Statements", Note 5. The Authority has adopted a cash management plan which requires it to deposit public funds in public depositories protected from loss under the provisions of the Governmental Unit Deposit Protection Act ("GUDPA"). GUDPA was enacted in 1970 to protect Governmental Units from a loss of funds on deposit with a failed banking institution in New Jersey. The law requires governmental units to deposit public funds only in public depositories located in New Jersey, where the funds are secured in accordance with the Act.

RISK MANAGEMENT: The Authority carries various forms of insurance, including but not limited to general liability, excess liability, automobile liability and comprehensive/collision, hazard and theft insurance on property, contents, and fidelity bonds.

OTHER INFORMATION:

Independent Audit - State statutes require an annual audit by independent certified public accountants or registered municipal accountants. The accounting firm of Nisivoccia LLP, CPAs, was selected by the Authority. The auditors' report on the financial statements is included in the financial section of this report.

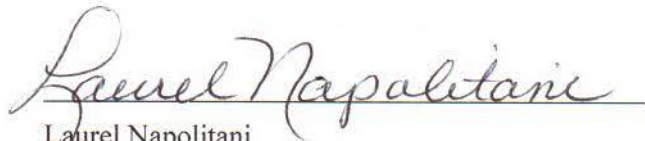
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

We would like to express our appreciation to the members of the Warren County (Pequest River) Municipal Utilities Authority for their concern in providing fiscal accountability to the citizens of Warren County and thereby contributing their full support to the development and maintenance of our financial operation. The preparation of this report could not have been accomplished without the efficient and dedicated services of our financial and accounting staff.

Respectfully submitted,



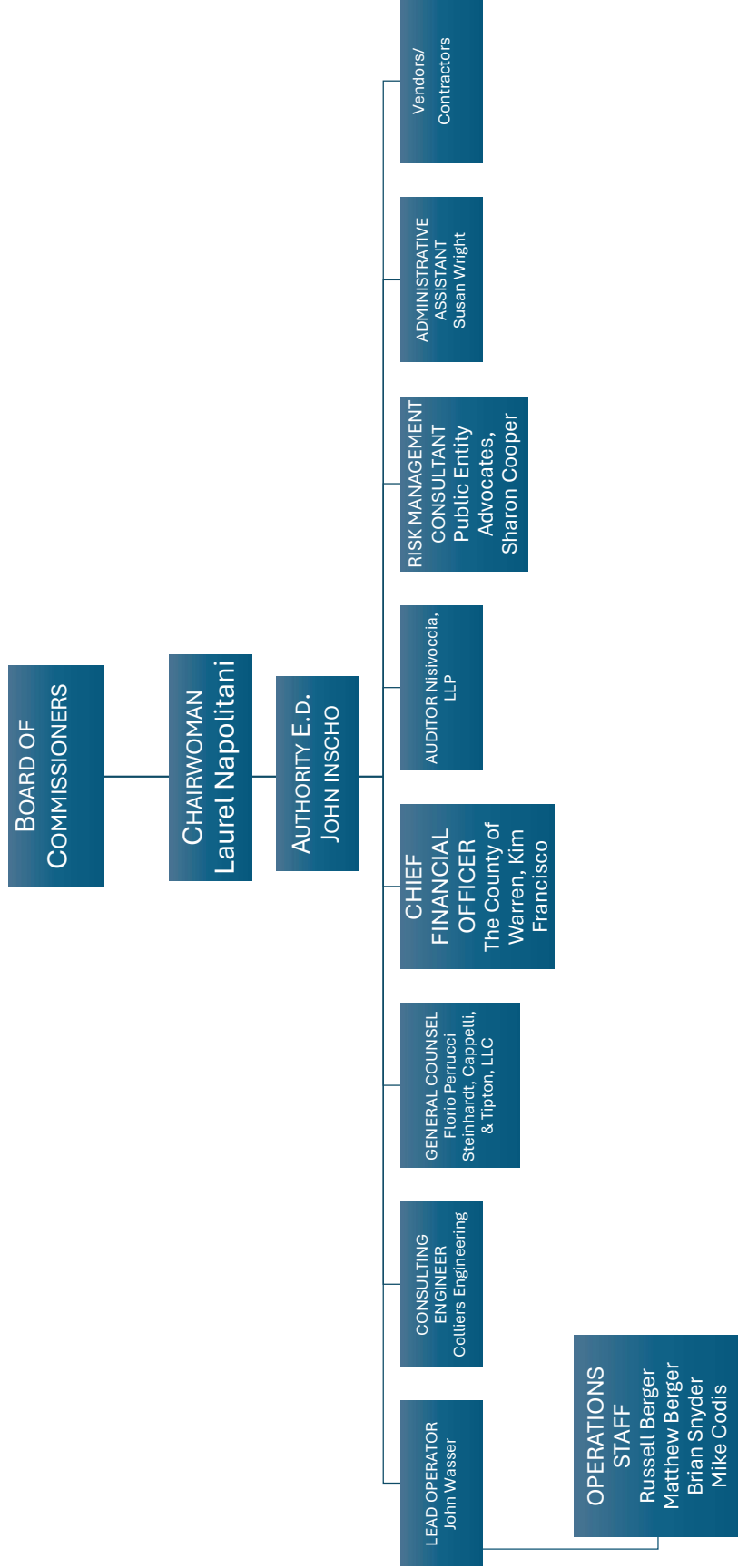
Kim Francisco  
Authority's Chief Financial Officer



Laurel Napolitani  
Chairwoman

# ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

2023





ROSTER OF OFFICIALS

DECEMBER 31, 2023

Commissioners

Laurel Napolitani

Chairperson

Joseph Roth

Vice Chairperson

Gerald Norton

Secretary

Angelo Acetturo

Treasurer

Anne Marie Skoog

Board Member

Other Officials

John Inscho

Executive Director

Kim Francisco

Authority's Chief Financial Officer

CONSULTANTS AND ADVISORS

AUDIT FIRM

Nisivoccia LLP  
Mt. Arlington, NJ

ATTORNEYS

Brian Tipton  
Florio, Perrucci, Steinhardt & Cappelli, LLC  
Easton, PA

CONSULTING ENGINEER

Colliers Engineering & Design  
Red Bank, NJ

FINANCIAL SECTION

## Independent Auditors' Report

The Honorable Chairman and Members  
of the Warren County (Pequest River)  
Municipal Utilities Authority  
Belvidere, NJ

### **Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**

#### ***Qualified Opinion***

We have audited the financial statements of the business-type activities of the Pequest River Municipal Utilities Authority, (the "Authority"), a component unit of the County of Warren, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Authority's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of our report, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Authority, as of December 31, 2023, and the changes in financial position, and cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### ***Basis for Qualified Opinion***

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS), audit requirements prescribed by the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State and New Jersey and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Authority and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the 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 qualified audit opinion.

#### ***Matter Giving Rise to Qualified Opinion***

The Authority's net pension liability and net postemployment benefits other than pensions ("OPEB") liability and the related deferred outflows and inflows of resources reported in the financial statements at December 31, 2023 are based on the June 30, 2022 Governmental Accounting Standards Board ("GASB") Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions*, report from the State of New Jersey Public Employees' Retirement System ("PERS"), and Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions*, report from the State of New Jersey State Health Benefits Local Government Retired Employees Plan ("SHBP"), respectively, from the Division of Pensions and Benefits, Department of the Treasury, State of New Jersey (the "State"). We were unable to obtain the June 30, 2023 GASB No. 68 and No. 75 reports as they have not been released by the State as of the date of this report. The amount by which this omission would affect the net pension and OPEB liabilities and the related deferred inflows and outflows of resources, net position and expenses of the Authority has not been determined.

The Honorable Chairman and Members  
of the Warren County (Pequest River)  
Municipal Utilities Authority  
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### ***Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for 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.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

### ***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. 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 audit requirements prescribed by the Division will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards* and audit requirements prescribed by the Division, we

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, 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 amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 Authority's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

### ***Required Supplementary Information***

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and the required supplementary information pension and post-retirement benefit schedules and related notes be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, are 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.

The Honorable Chairman and Members  
of the Warren County (Pequest River)  
Municipal Utilities Authority  
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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.

The Schedules of Authority's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension and Net OPEB Liabilities do not contain the Authority's proportionate share of net pension and OPEB liabilities as of June 30, 2023 as the related GASB No. 68 report for PERS and GASB No. 75 report for SHBP have not been released by the State as of the date of this report. This required supplementary information is required to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. 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.

### ***Supplementary Information***

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Authority's basic financial statements. The accompanying supplementary information schedules are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are 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 of the basic financial statements 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 accompanying supplementary information schedules are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

### ***Other Information***

Management is responsible for the other information included in the annual report. The other information comprises the introductory section but does not include the basic financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinions on the basic financial statements do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the basic financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the basic financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

The Honorable Chairman and Members  
of the Warren County (Pequest River)  
Municipal Utilities Authority  
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**Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 22, 2024 on our consideration of the Authority'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 Authority'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 Authority's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Mt. Arlington, New Jersey  
March 22, 2024

*Nisivoccia LLP*  
NISIVOCCIA LLP

*Man C Lee*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Man C. Lee  
Registered Municipal Accountant #562  
Certified Public Accountant

## MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

This section presents management's analysis of the Authority's financial condition and activities for the year. This information should be read in conjunction with the financial statements.

### Financial Highlights

Management believes the Authority's financial position to be strong for a small county utility. The Authority is functioning within its stringent financial policies and guidelines set forth by the Authority members. Following is a list of key highlights for 2023:

- The principal paid on the 2003 trust loan was \$75,848, \$4,152 was defeased due to a project credit and this paid off the balance. The principal paid on the 2014 trust loan was \$190,000 and the balance is \$2,300,000. The principal paid on the 2014 fund loan was \$449,745 and the balance is \$4,212,968.
- Sewer charges increased \$114,090 in 2023 or 5.00%.

### Overview of Annual Financial Report

The Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) serves as an introduction to and should be read in conjunction with the audited financial statements and supplementary information. The Management's Discussion and Analysis represents management's examination and analysis of the Authority's financial condition and performance. Summary financial statement data, key financial and operational indicators used in the Authority's strategic plan, budget, and other management tools were used for this analysis.

The financial statements report information about the Authority using full accrual accounting as utilized by similar government activities. The financial statements include a statement of net position; a statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position; a statement of cash flows; and notes to the financial statements. In addition, there are several supplementary information schedules.

The *statement of net position* presents the financial position of the Authority on a full accrual historical cost basis. The statement of net position presents information on all of the Authority's assets, deferred inflows and outflows, and liabilities, with the difference reported as net position. Over time, increases and decreases in net position is one indicator of whether the financial position of the Authority is improving or deteriorating.

While the statement of net position provides information about the nature and amount of resources and obligations at year-end, the *statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position* presents the results of the business activities over the course of the year and information as to how the net position changed during the year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of the related cash flows. This statement also provides certain information about the Authority's recovery of its costs. Rate setting policies use different methods of cost recovery not fully provided for by generally accepted accounting principles. The primary objectives of the rate model are to improve equity among customer classes and ensure that capital costs are allocated on the basis of long-term requirements, ensuring that growth pays for growth.

## **Overview of Annual Financial Report** (Cont'd)

The *statement of cash flows* presents changes in cash and cash equivalents, resulting from operational, financing, and investing activities. This statement presents cash receipts and cash disbursement information, without consideration of the earnings event, when an obligation arises, or depreciation of capital assets.

The *notes to the financial statements* provide required disclosures and other information that are essential to a full understanding of material data provided in the statements. The notes present information concerning the Authority's accounting policies, significant account balances and activities, material risks, obligations, commitments, contingencies and subsequent events, if any.

The *supplementary information schedules* provide detailed comparison of budget to actual expenses, as well as important debt coverage data.

### **Financial Conditions**

The Authority is in excellent shape to meet future financial demands.

The Authority's total net position increased from the prior year by \$110,566. The analysis below focuses on the Authority's net position (Table I) and changes in net position (Table II) during the year.

Table I  
**Condensed Statement of Net Position**

	December 31,		Increase/ (Decrease) from 2022	Percent of Increase/ (Decrease)
	2023	2022		
Current and Other Assets	\$ 2,149,857	\$ 2,389,916	\$ (240,059)	
Capital Assets, Net	18,071,079	18,764,269	(693,190)	
Total Assets	<u>20,220,936</u>	<u>21,154,185</u>	<u>(933,249)</u>	-4.41%
Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>641,099</u>	<u>684,629</u>	<u>(43,530)</u>	-6.36%
Current Liabilities	801,349	1,065,733	(264,384)	
Long-Term Liabilities	<u>7,885,387</u>	<u>8,659,839</u>	<u>(774,452)</u>	
Total Liabilities	<u>8,686,736</u>	<u>9,725,572</u>	<u>(1,038,836)</u>	-10.68%
Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>1,062,407</u>	<u>1,110,916</u>	<u>(48,509)</u>	-4.37%
Net Investment in Capital Assets	11,558,111	11,523,952	34,159	
Unrestricted Net Position/(Deficit)	<u>(445,219)</u>	<u>(521,626)</u>	<u>76,407</u>	
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 11,112,892</u>	<u>\$ 11,002,326</u>	<u>\$ 110,566</u>	1.00%

Total net position increased 1.00%. This was mainly a result of normal business operations, an increase in capital assets and a reduction of debt associated with capital assets, as well as changes in liabilities and deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to pensions and OPEB.



**Financial Conditions** (Cont'd)

Changes in the Authority's net position can be determined by reviewing the following condensed Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Net Position for the year.

Table II  
**Condensed Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Net Position**

	December 31,		Increase/ (Decrease) from 2022	Percent of Increase/ (Decrease)
	2023	2022		
Operating Revenue	\$ 2,413,312	\$ 2,303,964	\$ 109,348	
Nonoperating Revenue	102,126	45,103	57,023	
Total Revenue	<u>2,515,438</u>	<u>2,349,067</u>	<u>166,371</u>	7.08%
Operating Expenses:				
Cost of Providing Services	1,193,563	1,143,210	50,353	
Administrative and General Expenses	242,182	243,869	(1,687)	
	<u>1,435,745</u>	<u>1,387,079</u>	<u>48,666</u>	3.51%
Depreciation	889,100	735,551	153,549	
Nonoperating Expenses	84,179	102,542	(18,363)	
Total Expenses	<u>2,409,024</u>	<u>2,225,172</u>	<u>183,852</u>	8.26%
Other Items	4,152	3,252	900	27.68%
Change in Net Position	110,566	127,147	(16,581)	
Beginning Net Position	<u>11,002,326</u>	<u>10,875,179</u>	<u>127,147</u>	
Ending Net Position	<u>\$ 11,112,892</u>	<u>\$ 11,002,326</u>	<u>\$ 110,566</u>	1.00%

**Results of Operations**

**Revenues:** The increase in operating revenues is primarily due to an increase in sewer charges. Nonoperating revenue increased primarily due to increase in interest income.

**Expenses:** Operating expenses increased 3.51% over 2022 due to increases in the costs of certain supplies and insurance. The Authority maintains its policy of careful spending to stay within the budget.

**Budgetary Highlights:** Over the course of the year, the Authority's Board of Directors did not make any amendments to the original budget.

**Capital Assets:** As of December 31, 2023, the Authority had \$18.07 million invested in capital assets, including land, vehicles and two 500,000 gallons per day wastewater treatment plants, four pumping stations and the sewer collection system infrastructure. This amount represents a net decrease of \$693,190 from the prior year due to current year additions net of current year depreciation expense.

The following table summarizes the Authority's capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and changes therein, for the year ended December 31, 2023. These changes are presented in detail in Note 2 to the financial statements.

Table III  
**Capital Assets, Net of Accumulated Depreciation**

	December 31,		Increase from 2022	Percent of Increase/ (Decrease)
	2023	2022		
Land	\$ 52,000	\$ 52,000		
Plant, Equipment and Vehicles	37,842,394	37,463,354	\$ 379,040	
Construction in Progress		183,130	(183,130)	
Total	<u>37,894,394</u>	<u>37,698,484</u>	195,910	0.52%
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>19,823,315</u>	<u>18,934,215</u>	889,100	4.70%
Capital Assets, Net of Accumulated Depreciation	<u>\$ 18,071,079</u>	<u>\$ 18,764,269</u>	<u>\$ (693,190)</u>	-3.69%

**Long-term Liabilities:** At year-end, the Authority had \$8,530,132 in long-term liabilities outstanding – a decrease of \$857,056 from last year – as shown in Table IV. (More detailed information about the Authority's long-term liabilities is presented in Note 3 to the financial statements.)

Table IV  
**Outstanding Long-Term Liabilities**

	December 31,		Increase/ (Decrease) from 2022	Percent of Decrease
	2023	2022		
NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust Loan Payable	\$ 2,300,000	\$ 2,570,000	\$ (270,000)	
NJ Environmental Infrastructure Fund Loan Payable	4,212,968	4,662,713	(449,745)	
Unamortized Loan Premium		7,604	(7,604)	
Net Pension Liability	604,554	558,258	46,296	
Net OPEB Liability	1,367,871	1,534,841	(166,970)	
Compensated Absences	<u>44,739</u>	<u>53,772</u>	<u>(9,033)</u>	
	<u>\$ 8,530,132</u>	<u>\$ 9,387,188</u>	<u>\$ (857,056)</u>	-9.13%

**Cash Flow Activity:** The cash and cash equivalents at year-end 2023 decreased by \$240,059 from the previous year. The decrease is mostly due to capital outlay expenses. The Authority maintains an adequate cash balance to meet future emergencies and capital requirements.

**Final Comments:** In November 2021, the Authority hired John Inscho as the Executive Director to manage and supervise operations. During 2022 and 2023, Mr. Inscho implemented several new procedures and policies which improved the operation of the plants and resulted in cost savings.

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION  
DECEMBER 31, 2023

ASSETS

## Current Assets:

Unrestricted Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 2,149,857
Total Current Assets	2,149,857

## Noncurrent Assets:

Land	52,000
Depreciable Plant, Equipment and Vehicles	18,019,079
Total Noncurrent Assets	18,071,079

TOTAL ASSETS	20,220,936
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DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES

Deferred Outflows of Resources Related to Pensions	108,560
Pension Contribution Subsequent to the Measurement Date	65,629
Deferred Outflows of Resources Related to OPEB	466,910
TOTAL DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES	641,099

LIABILITIES

## Current Liabilities:

Accounts Payable	97,545
Payroll Deductions Payable	2,634
Accrued Wages Payable	11,437
Accrued Interest Payable	35,252
Developers' Escrow Payable	9,736
Long-Term Liabilities Due Within One Year:	
NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust Loan Payable	195,000
NJ Environmental Infrastructure Fund Loan Payable	449,745
Total Current Liabilities	801,349

## Noncurrent Liabilities:

Accrued Compensated Absences Payable	44,739
Net Pension Liability	604,554
Net OPEB Liability	1,367,871
Due Beyond One Year:	
NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust Loan Payable	2,105,000
NJ Environmental Infrastructure Fund Loan Payable	3,763,223
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	7,885,387

TOTAL LIABILITIES	8,686,736
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WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITYSTATEMENT OF NET POSITIONDECEMBER 31, 2023

(Continued)

DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES

Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions	\$ 202,089
Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB	860,318
	<hr/>
TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOW OF RESOURCES	1,062,407
	<hr/>

NET POSITION

Net Investment in Capital Assets	11,558,111
Unrestricted/(Deficit)	(445,219)
	<hr/>
TOTAL NET POSITION	\$ 11,112,892
	<hr/> <hr/>

THE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THIS STATEMENT

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENSES  
AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

Operating Revenue:	
Sewer Charges	\$ 2,397,570
Sewer Connection Fees	6,642
Other Revenue	9,100
Total Operating Revenue	<u>2,413,312</u>
Operating Expenses:	
Cost of Providing Services	1,193,563
Administrative and General Expenses	242,182
Depreciation	889,100
Total Operating Expenses	<u>2,324,845</u>
Operating Income	<u>88,467</u>
Nonoperating Revenue / (Expenses):	
Interest Income	102,126
Interest Expense	(84,179)
Total Nonoperating Revenue / (Expenses)	<u>17,947</u>
Change in Net Position Before Other Items	106,414
Other Items:	
NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust Loan Principal Credit	4,152
Total Other Items	<u>4,152</u>
Change in Net Position After Other Items	110,566
Net Position, Beginning of Year	<u>11,002,326</u>
Net Position, End of Year	<u><u>\$ 11,112,892</u></u>

THE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THIS STATEMENT

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

Cash Flows from Operating Activities:	
Cash Received from Customers	\$ 2,404,212
Other Receipts	9,100
Cash Paid to Suppliers and Employees	<u>(1,746,669)</u>
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	<u>666,643</u>
Cash Flows from Capital and Related Financing Activities:	
Purchase of Capital Assets	(195,910)
Principal Paid on NJ Environmental Infrastructure Fund Loan	(715,593)
Interest Expense	<u>(97,325)</u>
Net Cash Used for Capital and Related Financing Activities	<u>(1,008,828)</u>
Cash Flows from Investing Activities:	
Interest on Investments	<u>102,126</u>
Net Cash Provided by Investing Activities	<u>102,126</u>
Net Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(240,059)
Cash and Cash Equivalents - Beginning of Year	<u>2,389,916</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents - End of Year	<u>\$ 2,149,857</u>
Reconciliation of Net Operating Income to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities:	
Operating Income	\$ 88,467
Adjustments to Reconcile Operating Income to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities:	
Depreciation	889,100
Changes in Assets and Liabilities:	
(Decrease) in Accrued Compensated Absences Payable	(9,033)
(Decrease) in Accounts Payable	(192,295)
Increase in Payroll Deductions Payable	237
Increase in Accrued Wages Payable	240
Increase in Developers' Escrow Payable	468
Decrease in Deferred Outflows Related to Pensions	11,420
(Decrease) in Deferred Inflows Related to Pensions	(147,710)
Increase in Net Pension Liability	46,296
Decrease in Deferred Outflows Related to OPEB	47,222
Increase in Deferred Inflows Related to OPEB	99,201
(Decrease) in Net OPEB Liability	<u>(166,970)</u>
Total Adjustments	<u>578,176</u>
Net Cash Provided By Operating Activities	<u>\$ 666,643</u>

THE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THIS STATEMENT

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

Note 1 - Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The Warren County (Pequest River) Municipal Utilities Authority is a public body corporate and politic of the State of New Jersey governed by nine members appointed by the Warren County Board of Commissioners.

The Authority was created in 1969 and reorganized in 1978 under and pursuant to the State Municipal Utilities Authorities Law (P.L. 1957, Chap. 183).

The Warren County (Pequest River) Municipal Utilities Authority was created to provide for the acquisition, construction, maintenance, operation and improvement of facilities for the collection, treatment, purification or disposal of sewage or other wastes for the purpose of relieving waters of pollution within the Authority's area of service. The Authority is authorized to impose and to collect service charges for connection with, and for use of, the Authority services and products. The Authority bills the customers for such usage under its respective service contract.

A. Basis of Presentation and Accounting

The Authority utilizes the accrual basis of accounting whereby revenue is recorded as earned and expenses are reflected as the liability is incurred. Operating revenue, such as charges for services result from exchange transactions associated with the principal activity of the Authority. Exchange transactions are those in which each party receives and gives up essentially equal value. Nonoperating revenue, such as subsidies and investment earnings, results from nonexchange transactions or ancillary activities. Nonexchange transactions, in which the Authority gives or receives value without directly receiving or giving equal value in exchange, generally do not occur, with the exception of investment earnings.

All activities of the Authority are accounted for within a single proprietary (enterprise) fund. Proprietary funds are used to account for operations that are (a) financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises where the intent of the governing body is that the costs (expenses, including depreciation) of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges; or (b) where the governing body has decided that periodic determination of revenue earned and/or expenses incurred is appropriate for capital maintenance, public policy, management control, accountability, or other purposes.

The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to the Authority is determined by its measurement focus. The financial statements are reported using the economic measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. The transactions of the Authority are accounted for on a flow of economic resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, all assets, all deferred outflows of resources and all liabilities and deferred inflows of resources associated with the operations are included on the Statement of Net Position. Net position (i.e., total assets and deferred outflows of resources net of total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources) are segregated into "net investment in capital assets"; "restricted" and "unrestricted" components.

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023  
(Continued)

Note 1 - Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Cont'd)

A. Basis of Presentation and Accounting (Cont'd)

Reporting Entity

Governmental Accounting Standards Board ("GASB") Codification Section 2100, "Defining the Financial Reporting Entity" establishes standards to determine whether a governmental component unit should be included in the financial reporting entity. Component units are legally separate organizations for which the elected officials of the primary government are financially accountable. In addition, component units can be other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationship with a primary government are such that exclusion would cause the reporting entity's financial statements to be misleading. The primary government is financially accountable if it appoints a voting majority of the organization's governing body and (1) it is able to impose its will on that organization or (2) there is a potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to, or impose specific financial burdens on, the primary government. A legally separate, tax-exempt organization should be reported as a component unit of a reporting entity if all of the following criteria are met: (1) The economic resources received or held by the separate organization are entirely or almost entirely for the direct benefit of the primary government, its component units, or its constituents. (2) The primary government, or its component units, is entitled to, or has the ability to otherwise access, a majority of the economic resources received or held by the separate organization. (3). The economic resources received or held by an individual organization that the specific primary government, or its component units, is entitled to, or has the ability to otherwise access, are significant to that primary government. There were no additional entities required to be included in the reporting entity under the criteria as described above, in the current fiscal year. The Authority is a component unit of the County of Warren under the provisions of GASB Codification Section 2100.

B. Grants

Recognition of revenue from grants is based on the accrual basis of accounting. Grant funds received before costs are incurred are considered unearned revenue.

Grant related expenditures incurred in advance of receipt of grant funds result in the recording of receivables and revenue. Grants not externally restricted and utilized to finance operations are identified as nonoperating revenue.

C. Inventories

The cost of inventories of supplies are recorded as expenses at the time individual items are purchased, since they are immaterial to the financial position and results of operations.

D. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Amounts include petty cash, amounts on deposit, and short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less.



WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023  
 (Continued)

Note 1 - Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Cont'd)

E. Investments

The Authority generally records investments at fair value and records the unrealized gains and losses as part of investment income. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an investment in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The Authority categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by generally accepted accounting principles. The hierarchy is based on the valuation inputs used to measure the fair value of the asset. Level 1 inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical assets; Level 2 inputs are significant other observable units; Level 3 inputs are significant unobservable units. The Authority classifies certificates of deposit which have original maturity dates of more than three months but less than twelve months from the date of purchase, as investments. The Authority's investments are limited by the 1993 and 2003 Bond Resolutions to obligations of or guaranteed by the federal government and bank certificates of deposit.

F. Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from the estimates.

G. Compensated Absences

The Authority accounts for compensated absences (e.g., unused vacation, sick leave) as directed by GASB. A liability for compensated absences attributable to services already rendered and not contingent on a specific event that is outside the control of the employer and employee is accrued as employees earn the rights to the benefits.

Compensated absences are accrued and reported as a liability in the period earned. The balance as of December 31, 2023 was \$44,739, which is included on the Statement of Net Position as a non-current liability.

H. Revenue Recognition

The Authority has service agreements with several other local government agencies. Customers are billed quarterly based on estimates resulting from the prior year's actual usage. First quarter bills each year are adjusted, if necessary, for actual usage of the prior year. Revenue is recorded net of any discounts, assessments or abatements, if applicable.

I. Net Position

Net Position is the difference between (a) assets and deferred outflows of resources and (b) liabilities and deferred inflows of resources.

A deferred outflow of resources is a consumption of net position by the Authority that is applicable to a future reporting period. The Authority had deferred outflows of resources related to pensions and OPEB at December 31, 2023.

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023  
 (Continued)

Note 1 - Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Cont'd)

I. Net Position (Cont'd)

A deferred inflow of resources is an acquisition of net position by the Authority that is applicable to a future reporting period. The Authority had deferred inflows of resources related to pensions and OPEB at December 31, 2023.

Net position is displayed in three components - net investment in capital assets; restricted and unrestricted.

The net investment in capital assets component of net position consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balances of borrowings that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets. Deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets or related debt also would be included in this component of net position.

The restricted component of net position consists of restricted assets reduced by liabilities and deferred inflows of resources related to those assets.

The unrestricted component of net position is the net amount of the assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources that are not included in the determination of net investment in capital assets or the restricted component of net position.

J. Allowance for Uncollectible Accounts

All receivables are reported at their gross values and, where appropriate, are reduced by the estimated portion that is expected to be uncollectible. The allowance is established at the discretion of management of the Authority as deemed necessary based on prior collection history.

K. Pensions

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

L. Deficit Net Position

The Authority has a deficit unrestricted net position of \$445,219 which is primarily due to compensated absences payable, and deferred inflows, outflows and liabilities related to pension and OPEB. This deficit does not indicate that the Authority is in financial difficulties and is a permitted practice under generally accepted accounting principles.

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023  
(Continued)

Note 2 - Capital Assets

Capital assets are recorded at cost and consisted of the following, as of December 31, 2022 and 2023:

	<u>Balance</u> <u>Dec. 31, 2022</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Transfer</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>Dec. 31, 2023</u>
Capital Assets to be depreciated:				
Plant, Equipment and				
Vehicles	\$ 37,463,354	\$ 195,910	\$ 183,130	\$ 37,842,394
Total Capital Assets to be depreciated	<u>37,463,354</u>	<u>195,910</u>	<u>183,130</u>	<u>37,842,394</u>
Capital Assets not to be depreciated:				
Land	52,000			52,000
Construction-in-Progress	<u>183,130</u>		<u>(183,130)</u>	
Total Capital Assets	37,698,484	195,910		37,894,394
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(18,934,215)</u>	<u>(889,100)</u>		<u>(19,823,315)</u>
Capital Assets (Net)	<u>\$ 18,764,269</u>	<u>\$ (693,190)</u>	<u>\$ -0-</u>	<u>\$ 18,071,079</u>

Capital assets are recorded at cost. Depreciation is provided on the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the respective assets. Maintenance and repairs are charged to expense as incurred; major renewals and betterments are capitalized. Capital assets have been reviewed for impairments.

Major classes of property, plant and equipment and their estimated useful lives are summarized below:

	<u>Useful Life</u>
Vehicles	6 Years
Land Improvements	20 Years
Buildings and Plants	45 Years
Communications, Business and Computer Equipment	2-15 Years
Machinery and Tools	15 Years
Appliances	10 Years
Lab/Science/Engineering Equipment	10 Years
Furniture and Accessories	20 Years
Grounds and Agricultural Equipment	15 Years
Sewer/Water/Electric Equipment	30 Years

Construction-in-Progress

As of December 31, 2023, there was no construction in progress.

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023  
(Continued)

Note 3 - Long-Term Liabilities

During the year ended December 31, 2023, the following changes occurred in long-term liabilities reported in the financial statements:

	Beginning Balance	Accrued	Retired	Ending Balance
NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust Loan Payable	\$ 2,570,000		\$ 270,000	\$ 2,300,000
NJ Environmental Infrastructure Fund Loan Payable	4,662,713		449,745	4,212,968
Unamortized Loan Premium	7,604		7,604	
Net Pension Liability	558,258	\$ 46,296		604,554
Net OPEB Liability	1,534,841		166,970	1,367,871
Compensated Absences	53,772		9,033	44,739
	<u>\$ 9,387,188</u>	<u>\$ 46,296</u>	<u>\$ 903,352</u>	<u>\$ 8,530,132</u>

NJ Environmental Infrastructure Loans

On October 15, 2003, the Authority entered into two supplemental loan agreements with the State of New Jersey, acting by and through the NJ Department of Environmental Protection Fund (the "Fund"), and the NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust (the "Trust"), in the aggregate amount of \$2,054,515, which represents direct obligations of the Authority. The loan agreements were obtained to finance the additional costs of the Belvidere wastewater treatment plant upgrade.

Principal payments to the Trust amounted to \$75,848 in 2023. Additionally, \$4,152 was defeased in 2023 due to a project credit. The last payment was made on August 1, 2023.

On May 21, 2014, the Authority entered into two loan agreements with the State of New Jersey, acting by and through the NJ Department of Environmental Protection Fund (the "Fund"), and the NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust (the "Trust"), in the aggregate amount of \$11,707,882, which represents direct obligations of the Authority. The loan agreements were obtained to finance the cost of the Oxford wastewater treatment plant upgrade.

Principal payments to the Fund amounted to \$449,745 in 2023, and will continue on a semi-annual basis at zero interest until August 1, 2033. Principal payments to the Trust amounted to \$190,000 in 2023, and will continue on an annual basis until August 1, 2033.

The Trust loans were issued at a premium totaling \$159,670 which is being amortized over the life of the loan on the straight-line basis. \$7,604 was amortized in 2023. The unamortized loan premium balance was \$-0- at December 31, 2023.

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023  
(Continued)

Note 3 - Long-Term Liabilities (Cont'd)

NJ Environmental Infrastructure Loans (Cont'd)

Purpose	Final Maturity	Interest Rate	Balance Dec. 31, 2023
Trust Loan - 2014	8/1/2033	3.00% - 5.00%	\$ 2,300,000
Less: Short-Term Portion (Due within One Year)			195,000
Long-Term Portion			<u>\$ 2,105,000</u>

Purpose	Final Maturity	Interest Rate	Balance Dec. 31, 2023
Fund Loan - 2014	8/1/2033	0.00%	\$ 4,212,968
Less: Short-Term Portion (Due within One Year)			449,745
Long-Term Portion			<u>\$ 3,763,223</u>

Maturity Schedule Giving Effect to the  
"NJ Environmental Infrastructure Loans, Series 2014"

Year	Fund Loan Principal	Trust Loan Principal	Total Principal	Trust Loan Interest	Total Debt Service
2024	\$ 449,745	\$ 195,000	\$ 644,745	\$ 73,881	\$ 718,626
2025	449,745	205,000	654,745	64,131	718,876
2026	449,745	215,000	664,745	57,981	722,726
2027	449,745	220,000	669,745	51,531	721,276
2028	449,745	225,000	674,745	44,931	719,676
2029-2033	1,964,243	1,240,000	3,204,243	118,438	3,322,681
	<u>4,212,968</u>	<u>2,300,000</u>	<u>6,512,968</u>	<u>410,893</u>	<u>6,923,861</u>
Less: Short-Term Portion	449,745	195,000	644,745	73,881	718,626
Long-Term Portion	<u>\$ 3,763,223</u>	<u>\$ 2,105,000</u>	<u>\$ 5,868,223</u>	<u>\$ 337,012</u>	<u>\$ 6,205,235</u>

Net Pension Liability

The Authority's net pension liability related to Public Employees' Retirement System's (PERS) at June 30, 2022 is \$604,554. The State of New Jersey Division of Pensions has not released the June 30, 2023, information as of the date of this report. See Note 4 for further information on the PERS.

Net OPEB Liability

The Authority's net OPEB liability related to the State Health Benefit Local Government Retired Employees Plan at June 30, 2022 was calculated to be \$1,367,871. The State of New Jersey Division of Pensions has not released the June 30, 2023, information as of the date of this report. See Note 12 for further information on the OPEB liability.

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023  
(Continued)

Note 4 - Pension

Authority employees participate in a contributory, defined benefit public employee retirement system: the State of New Jersey Public Employee's Retirement System (PERS).

Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS)

Plan Description

The State of New Jersey, Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by the State of New Jersey, Division of Pensions and Benefits (the Division). For additional information about the PERS, please refer to the Division's annual financial statements which can be found at [www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/annual-reports.shtml](http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/annual-reports.shtml). As of the date of this report, the June 30, 2023 GASB No. 68 report has not been released by the Division.

Benefits Provided

The vesting and benefit provisions are set by N.J.S.A. 43:15A. PERS provides retirement, death and disability benefits. All benefits vest after ten years of service. The following represents the membership tiers for PERS:

<u>Tier</u>	<u>Definition</u>
1	Members who were enrolled prior to July 1, 2007
2	Members who were eligible to enroll on or after July 1, 2007 and prior to November 2, 2008
3	Members who were eligible to enroll on or after November 2, 2008 and prior to May 22, 2010
4	Members who were eligible to enroll on or after May 22, 2010 and prior to June 28, 2011
5	Members who were eligible to enroll on or after June 28, 2011

Service retirement benefits of 1/55<sup>th</sup> of final average salary for each year of service credit is available to Tiers 1 and 2 members upon reaching age 60 and to Tier 3 members upon reaching age 62. Service retirement benefits of 1/60<sup>th</sup> of final average salary for each year of service credit is available to Tier 4 members upon reaching age 62 and to Tier 5 members upon reaching age 65. Early retirement benefits are available to Tiers 1 and 2 members before reaching age 60, to Tiers 3 and 4 with 25 or more years of service credit before age 62 and Tier 5 with 30 or more years of service credit before age 65. Benefits are reduced by a fraction of a percent for each month that a member retires prior to the age at which a member can receive full early retirement benefits in accordance with their respective tier. Tier 1 members can receive an unreduced benefit from age 55 to age 60 if they have at least 25 years of service. Deferred retirement is available to members who have at least 10 years of service credit and have not reached the service retirement age for the respective tier.

Contributions

The contribution policy for PERS is set by N.J.S.A. 43:15A and requires contributions by active members and contributing members. State legislation has modified the amount that is contributed by the State. The State's pension contribution is based on an actuarially determined amount, which includes the employer portion of the normal cost and an amortization of the unfunded accrued liability. Funding for noncontributory group insurance benefits is based on actual claims paid.

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023  
(Continued)

Note 4 - Pension (Cont'd)

Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) (Cont'd)

Contributions (Cont'd)

The local employers' contribution amounts are based on an actuarially determined rate which includes the normal cost and unfunded accrued liability. Chapter 19, P.L. 2009 provided an option for local employers of PERS to contribute 50% of the normal and accrued liability contribution amounts certified for payments due in State fiscal year 2009. Such employers will be credited with the full payment and any such amounts will not be included in their unfunded liability. The actuaries will determine the unfunded liability of those retirement systems, by employer, for the reduced normal and accrued liability contributions provided under this law. This unfunded liability will be paid by the employer in level annual payments over a period of 15 years beginning with the payments due in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012 and will be adjusted by the rate of return on the actuarial value of assets.

Authority contributions to PERS amounted to \$50,517 for 2023. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022, the State of New Jersey contributed \$1,272 to the PERS for normal pension benefits on behalf of the Authority.

The employee contribution rate was 7.50% effective July 1, 2018.

Special Funding Situation

A special funding situation exists for certain local employers of the PERS. The State of New Jersey, as a nonemployer, is required to pay the additional costs incurred by local employers Chapter 133, P.L. 2001. The special funding situation for Chapter 133, P.L. 2001 is due to the State paying the additional normal cost related to benefit improvements from Chapter 133. Previously, this additional normal cost was paid from the Benefit Enhancement Fund (BEF). As of June 30, 2022, there is no net pension liability associated with this special funding situation and there was no accumulated difference between the annual additional normal cost under the special funding situation and the actual State contribution through the valuation date. The State special funding situation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, is the actuarially determined contribution amount that the State owes for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. The pension expense is deemed to be a State administrative expense due to the special funding situation.

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions

At June 30, 2022, the Authority's liability was \$604,554 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2022, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2021 which was rolled forward to June 30, 2022. The Authority's proportion of the net pension liability was based on a projection of the Authority's long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating members, actuarially determined. At June 30, 2022, the Authority's proportion was .0040%, which was a .0007% decrease from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2021.

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023  
(Continued)

Note 4 - Pension (Cont'd)

Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) (Cont'd)

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense and Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions (Cont'd)

For the year ended December 31, 2023, the Authority recognized actual pension benefit in the amount of \$39,477. At June 30, 2022, the Authority reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferral Year	Amortization Period in Years	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Changes in Assumptions	2018	5.63		\$ 14,532
	2019	5.21		18,160
	2020	5.16		53,402
	2021	5.13		4,432
	2022	5.04	\$ 1,873	
			<u>1,873</u>	<u>90,526</u>
Changes in Proportion	2018	5.63	2,054	
	2019	5.21	1,985	
	2020	5.16	7,631	
	2021	5.13	65,632	
	2022	5.04		107,715
			<u>77,302</u>	<u>107,715</u>
Net Difference Between Projected and Actual Investment Earnings on Pension Plan Investments	2019	5.00	598	
	2020	5.00	17,971	
	2021	5.00	(112,094)	
	2022	5.00	118,547	
			<u>25,022</u>	
Difference Between Expected and Actual Experience	2018	5.63		553
	2019	5.21	1,388	
	2020	5.16	2,975	
	2021	5.13		1,490
	2022	5.04		1,805
			<u>4,363</u>	<u>3,848</u>
Authority Contribution Subsequent to the Measurement Date	2023	1.00	65,629	
			<u>\$ 174,189</u>	<u>\$ 202,089</u>



WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023  
(Continued)

Note 4 - Pension (Cont'd)

Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) (Cont'd)

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense and Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions (Cont'd)

Amounts reported as deferred outflows and inflows of resources (excluding the Authority contribution subsequent to the measurement date) related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Year Ending June 30,	Total
2023	\$ (50,326)
2024	(28,236)
2025	(18,010)
2026	4,172
2027	(1,129)
	\$ (93,529)

Actuarial Assumptions

The total pension liability for the June 30, 2022 measurement date was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2021 which was rolled forward to June 30, 2022. This actuarial valuation used the following actuarial assumptions:

Inflation Rate:	
Price	2.75%
Wage	3.25%
Salary Increases	2.75 – 6.55% based on years of service
Investment Rate of Return	7.00%

Pre-retirement mortality rates were based on the Pub-2010 General Below-Median Income Employee Mortality Table with an 82.2% adjustment for males and 101.4% adjustment for females, and with future improvement from the base year of 2010 on a generational basis. Post-retirement mortality rates were based on the Pub-2010 General Below-Median Income Healthy Retiree mortality table with a 91.4% adjustment for males and a 99.7% adjustment for females, and with future improvement from the base year of 2010 on a generational basis. Disability retirement rates used to value disabled retirees were based on the Pub-2010 Non-Safety Disabled Retiree mortality table with a 127.7% adjustment for males and 117.2% adjustment for females, and with future improvement from the base year of 2010 on a generational basis. Mortality improvement is based on Scale MP-2021.

The actuarial assumptions used in the July 1, 2021 valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021.

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023  
(Continued)

Note 4 - Pension (Cont'd)

Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) (Cont'd)

Long Term Expected Rate of Return

In accordance with State statute, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments (7.00% at June 30, 2022) is determined by the State Treasurer, after consultation with the Directors of the Division of Investments and Division of Pensions and Benefits, the Board of Trustees and the actuaries. The long-term expected rate of return was determined using a building block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in PERS' target asset allocation as of June 30, 2022 are summarized in the following table:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
U.S. Equity	27.00%	8.12%
Non-U.S. Developed Market Equity	13.50%	8.38%
Emerging Markets Equity	5.50%	10.33%
Private Equity	13.00%	11.80%
Real Estate	8.00%	11.19%
Real Assets	3.00%	7.60%
High Yield	4.00%	4.95%
Private Credit	8.00%	8.10%
Investment Grade Credit	7.00%	3.38%
Cash Equivalents	4.00%	1.75%
U.S. Treasuries	4.00%	1.75%
Risk Mitigation Strategies	3.00%	4.91%

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.00% as of June 30, 2022. 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 based on 100% of actuarially determined contributions for the State employer and 100% of actuarially determined contributions for the local employers. 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 projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023  
(Continued)

Note 4 - Pension (Cont'd)

Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) (Cont'd)

Sensitivity of the Authority's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate

The following presents the Authority's proportionate share of the collective net pension liability as of June 30, 2022 calculated using the discount rate as disclosed below, as well as what the Authority'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:

	June 30, 2022		
	1% Decrease (6.00%)	Current Discount Rate (7.00%)	1% Increase (8.00%)
Authority's proportionate share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 776,674	\$ 604,554	\$ 458,072

Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position

Detailed information about the pension plan's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued PERS financial statements.

Note 5 - Cash and Cash Equivalents and Investments

Cash and cash equivalents include petty cash, amounts in deposits, money market accounts, and short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less.

The Authority classifies certificates of deposit which have original maturity dates of more than three months but less than twelve months from the date of purchase, as investments.

GASB, requires disclosure of the level of custodial credit risk assumed by the Authority in its cash, cash equivalents and investments, if those items are uninsured or unregistered. Custodial risk is the risk that in the event of bank failure, the government's deposits may not be returned.

Interest Rate Risk – In accordance with its cash management plan, the Authority ensures that any deposit or investments matures within the time period that approximates the prospective need for the funds, deposited or invested, so that there is not a risk to the market value of such deposits or investments.

Credit Risk – The Authority limits its investments to those authorized in its cash management plan which are permitted under state statutes as detailed in the investments section of this note.

Custodial Credit Risk – The Authority's policy with respect to custodial credit risk requires that the Authority ensures that Authority funds are only deposited in financial institutions in which NJ authorities are permitted to invest their funds.

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023  
 (Continued)

Note 5 - Cash and Cash Equivalents and Investments (Cont'd)

Deposits:

New Jersey statutes require that authorities deposit public funds in public depositories located in New Jersey which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, or by any other agency of the United States that insures deposits made in public depositories. Authorities are also permitted to deposit public funds in the State of New Jersey Cash Management Fund.

New Jersey statutes require public depositories to maintain collateral for deposits of public funds that exceed insurance limits as follows:

The market value of the collateral must equal 5% of the average daily balance of collected public funds on deposit.

In addition to the above collateral requirement, if the public funds deposited exceed 75% of the capital funds of the depository must provide collateral having market value at least equal to 100% of the amount exceeding 75%.

All collateral must be deposited with the Federal Reserve Bank, the Federal Home Loan Bank Board or a banking institution that is a member of the Federal Reserve System and has capital funds of not less than \$25,000,000.

Investments:

New Jersey statutes permit the Authority to purchase the following types of securities:

- (1) Bonds or other obligations of the United States of America or obligations guaranteed by the United States of America;
- (2) Government money market mutual funds;
- (3) Any obligation that a federal agency or a federal instrumentality has issued in accordance with an act of Congress, which security has a maturity date not greater than 397 days from the date of purchase, provided that such obligation bears a fixed rate of interest not dependent on any index or other external factor;
- (4) Bonds or other obligations of the local unit or bonds or other obligations of school districts of which the local unit is a part or within which the school district is located;
- (5) Bonds or other obligations, having a maturity date not more than 397 days from the date of purchase, issued by New Jersey school districts, municipalities, counties, and entities subject to the "Local Authorities Fiscal Control Law" P.L. 1983, c. 313 (C.40A:5A-1 et seq.) Other bonds or obligations having a maturity not more than 397 days from the date of purchase may be approved by the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs for investment by local units;
- (6) Local government investment pools;

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023  
 (Continued)

Note 5 - Cash and Cash Equivalents and Investments (Cont'd)

Investments: (Cont'd)

- (7) Deposits with the State of New Jersey Cash Management Fund established pursuant to section 1 of P.L. 1977, c.281 (C.52:18A-90.4); or
- (8) Agreements for the repurchase of fully collateralized securities if:
  - (a) the underlying securities are permitted investments pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (3) of this subsection a. or are bonds or other obligations, having a maturity date not more than 397 days from the date of purchase, issued by New Jersey school districts, municipalities, counties, and entities subject to the "Local Authorities Fiscal Control Law", P.L. 1983 c.313 (C.40A:5A-1 et seq.);
  - (b) the custody of collateral is transferred to a third party;
  - (c) the maturity of the agreement is not more than 30 days;
  - (d) the underlying securities are purchased through a public depository as defined in section 1 of P.L. 1970, c.236 (C.17:9-41); and
  - (e) a master repurchase agreement providing for the custody and security of collateral is executed.
- (9) Debt obligations of federal agencies or government corporations with maturities not to exceed 10 years from the date of purchase, excluding mortgage backed or derivative obligations, provided that the investments are purchased through the State Division of Investment and are invested consistent with the rules and regulations of the State Investment Council.

As of December 31, 2023, cash and cash equivalents of the Warren County (Pequest River) Municipal Utilities Authority consisted of the following:

<u>Account</u>	Cash and Cash Equivalents		Totals
	Checking Accounts	Petty Cash	
Unrestricted	\$ 2,149,557	\$ 300	\$ 2,149,857

The carrying amount of the Authority's cash and cash equivalents at December 31, 2023, was \$2,149,857, and the bank balance was \$2,173,440. The Authority did not hold any investments during the year other than certificates of deposit.

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023  
(Continued)

Note 6 - Risk Management

The Authority 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. Health benefits are provided to employees through the State of New Jersey health benefits plan.

Property and Liability

The Authority is currently a member of the New Jersey Utility Authorities Joint Insurance Fund (the "Fund"). The Fund is both an insured and self-administered group of local utility authorities established for the purpose of providing low-cost insurance coverage for the members in order to keep local user fees and charges at a minimum for the local utility authorities who form the membership of the joint insurance fund.

The following coverages are offered by the Fund to its members:

- a) Workers' Compensation and Employers' Liability
- b) Liability Other than Motor Vehicles
- c) Property Damage Other than Motor Vehicles
- d) Motor Vehicle
- e) Environmental

As a member of the Fund, the Authority could be subject to supplemental assessments in the event of deficiencies. If the assets of the Fund were to be exhausted, members would become responsible for their respective shares of the Fund's liabilities.

The Fund can declare and distribute dividends to members upon approval of the State of New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance. These distributions are divided amongst the members in the same ratio as their individual assessment relates to the total assessment of the membership body.

Selected, summarized financial information for the Fund as of December 31, 2023 was not available at the time of audit. Summarized financial information for the Fund as of December 31, 2022, is as follows:

Total Assets	\$ 12,649,671
Net Position	\$ 2,242,764
Total Revenue	\$ 13,260,153
Total Expenses	\$ 15,927,072
Change in Net Position	\$ (2,666,919)
Members Dividends	\$ -0-

Financial statements for the Fund are available at the offices of the Fund's Executive Director:

New Jersey Utility Authorities Joint Insurance Fund  
PERMA Risk Management Services  
9 Campus Drive, Suite 216  
Parsippany, NJ 07054-4412  
(201) 881-7632

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023  
 (Continued)

Note 6 - Risk Management (Cont'd)

New Jersey Unemployment Compensation Insurance

The Authority has elected to fund its New Jersey Unemployment Compensation Insurance under the "Contributory Method". Under this plan, the Authority is required to remit employee withholdings to the State on a quarterly basis. All of the Authority's claims are paid by the State.

Note 7 - Intrafund and Interfund Transfers

In the normal course of business, the Authority will, from time to time, authorize advances between accounts. There were no advances outstanding as of December 31, 2023.

Note 8 - Contractual Commitments

The Authority has entered into several contracts in the normal course of its business operations to provide sewer service for its customers including other local governments. Below is a summary of the significant contracts or agreements:

- On July 20, 2021, the Authority entered into a three-year contract with Spectraserv Inc. for transportation of liquid sludge for ultimate disposal. The cost for this service is \$0.0592 per gallon to PVSC or \$0.0592 per gallon to Parsippany-Troy Hills Sewer Utility.
- In 2021, the Authority entered into a five-year agreement with the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners for disposal services of residual sludge waste. The cost of this service is \$0.042 per gallon from the Belvidere plant, and \$0.045 per gallon from the Authority's Oxford plant.
- In September of 2020, the Authority entered into a 24-month agreement with Constellation NewEnergy, Inc. for the supply of electricity at a cost of \$0.0752 per kWh. The agreement with Constellation NewEnergy, Inc. expired on September 15, 2022.
- In September of 2023, the Authority entered into a 24-month agreement with APG&E for the supply of electricity at a cost of \$0.1.0431 per kWh. The agreement with APG&E will take effect on June 1, 2023.
- The Authority is a member of two wastewater cooperative pricing councils – North Jersey Wastewater Cooperative Pricing System (NJWCPS) and Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council (MCCPC), which the Authority utilizes to purchase chemicals used in the process of treating wastewater.
- The Authority has sewer service agreements with other local government agencies, namely;
  1. The Town of Belvidere
  2. The Township of Oxford
  3. The County of Warren
  4. The Township of White
- The Authority holds sewer service agreements with several private entities, namely;
  1. Country View Village
  2. Windtryst Apartments
  3. Warren Haven Nursing Home

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023  
(Continued)

Note 9 - Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses

Accounts payable and accrued expenses were as follows:

	Operating Fund	Pension Contributions Subsequent to the Measurement Date	Total
Vendors	\$ 31,916		\$ 31,916
Due to State of New Jersey		\$ 65,629	65,629
Payroll Deductions Payable	2,634		2,634
Accrued Wages Payable	11,437		11,437
Accrued Interest Payable	35,252		35,252
Developers' Escrow Payable	9,736		9,736
	<u>\$ 90,975</u>	<u>\$ 65,629</u>	<u>\$ 156,604</u>

Note 10 - Environmental Matters

The Authority's past and present daily operations include activities which are subject to extensive federal and state environmental regulations. Compliance with these regulations has not had, nor does the Authority expect such compliance to have, any material effect upon expected capital expenses, operating net income, financial condition or competitive position of the Authority. The Authority believes that its current practices and procedures comply with applicable regulations. The Authority's policy is to accrue environmental and related costs of a non-capital nature when it is both probable that a liability has been incurred and that the amount can be reasonably estimated. No such amounts have been accrued in these statements because it is believed to not be needed.

Note 11 - Contingencies

The Authority is periodically involved in various lawsuits, claims, and grievances arising in the normal course of business, including claims for personal injury and personnel practices, property damage, and disputes over eminent domain proceedings. In the opinion of the General Counsel to the Authority, payment of claims by the Authority, for amounts not covered by insurance, in the aggregate, are not expected to have a material adverse effect on the Authority's financial position.

The Authority participates in federal and state assisted grant programs. These programs are subject to financial and compliance audits by the grantors or their representatives. In the opinion of Authority Management, liabilities resulting from disallowed expenditures, if any, will not be material to the accompanying financial statements.



WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023  
(Continued)

Note 12 - Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions (OPEB)

State Health Benefit Local Government Retired Employees Plan

As of the date of this report, the Division of Pensions and Benefits, Department of the Treasury, State of New Jersey has not released the June 30, 2023 Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions* report.

General Information about the OPEB Plan

Plan Description

The State Health Benefit Local Government Retired Employees Plan (the Plan) is a cost sharing multiple employer defined benefit other postemployment benefit (OPEB) plan with a special funding situation. It covers employees of local government employers that have adopted a resolution to participate in the Plan. For additional information about the Plan, please refer to the State of New Jersey (the State), Division of Pensions and Benefits' (the Division) annual financial statements, which can be found at <https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/financial-reports.shtml>.

Benefits Provided

The Plan provides medical and prescription drug coverage to retirees and their dependents of the participating employers. Under the provisions of Chapter 88, P.L. 1974 and Chapter 48, P.L. 1999, local government employers electing to provide postretirement medical coverage to their employees must file a resolution with the Division. Under Chapter 88, local employers elect to provide benefit coverage based on the eligibility rules and regulations promulgated by the State Health Benefits Commission. Chapter 48 allows local employers to establish their own age and service eligibility for employer paid health benefits coverage for retired employees. Under Chapter 48, the employer may assume the cost of postretirement medical coverage for employees and their dependents who: 1) retired on a disability pension; or 2) retired with 25 or more years of service credit in a State or locally administered retirement system and a period of service of up to 25 years with the employer at the time of retirement as established by the employer; or 3) retired and reached the age of 65 with 25 or more years of service credit in a State or locally administered retirement system and a period of service of up to 25 years with the employer at the time of retirement as established by the employer; or 4) retired and reached age 62 with at least 15 years of service with the employer. Further, the law provides that the employer paid obligations for retiree coverage may be determined by means of a collective negotiations agreement.

Basic and major medical health benefits for employee and spouse (if applicable) shall continue to be provided by the Authority after an employee's retirement under the provisions of chapter 88, P.L. 1974, if the employee meets the following prerequisite conditions:

- A. The retired employee shall make full use of Medicare programs to mitigate cost to the Authority; and
- B. Employee is retired from full time employment with the Authority on a disability pension; or
- C. Completed twenty-five (25) years active service under an eligible pension plan as covered under N.J.S.A. 52: 14 - 17.28 et seq. NJ State Health Benefits Program and have an accumulated twenty (20) years with the Authority, and have reached the age of 55; or
- D. Completed fifteen (15) years active service with the Authority as covered under N.J.S.A. 52:14-17.28 et seq. NJ State Health Benefits Program and have attained the age of 62.

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023  
(Continued)

Note 12 - Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions (OPEB) (Cont'd)

State Health Benefit Local Government Retired Employees Plan (Cont'd)

Contributions

Pursuant to Chapter 78, P.L. 2011, future retirees eligible for postretirement medical coverage who have less than 20 years of creditable service on June 28, 2011 will be required to pay a percentage of the cost of their health care coverage in retirement provided they retire with 25 or more years of pension service credit. The percentage of the premium for which the retiree will be responsible will be determined based on the retiree's annual retirement benefit and level of coverage.

Beginning September 11, 2017, employees and their spouses eligible to receive retiree health benefits shall be required to contribute towards medical benefits pursuant to Chapter 78, P.L. 2011. Upon the death of the retired employee, the spouse's coverage shall cease but is eligible for continuation coverage under COBRA. The Authority reserves the right to change insurance carriers and the level of coverage in its sole discretion and in a manner consistent with law. Any Authority employee hired on or after September 1, 2015, shall not be provided the Basic and Major health benefits for retired employees as outlined in this section.

Allocation Methodology

GASB Statement No. 75 requires participating employers in the Plan to recognize their proportionate share of the collective net OPEB liability, collective deferred outflows of resources, collective deferred inflows of resources, and collective OPEB (benefit)/expense. The special funding situation's and nonspecial funding situation's net OPEB liability, deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources, and OPEB (benefit)/expense are based on separately calculated total OPEB liabilities. The nonspecial funding situation's net OPEB liability, deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources, and OPEB (benefit)/expense are further allocated to employers based on the ratio of the plan members of an individual employer to the total members of the Plan's nonspecial funding situation during the measurement period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Employer and nonemployer allocation percentages were rounded for presentation purposes; therefore, amounts presented in the schedule of OPEB amounts by employer and nonemployer may result in immaterial differences.

OPEB Expense and Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB

The net OPEB liability as of June 30, 2022 was determined by an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2021, which was rolled forward to June 30, 2022.

At June 30, 2022, the Authority's liability was \$1,367,871 for its proportionate share of the net OPEB liability. At June 30, 2022, the Authority's proportion was 0.00847%, which was a decrease of 0.000057% from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2021.

For the year ended June 30, 2022, the Authority's OPEB expense as determined by the State of New Jersey Division of Pensions and Benefits was \$15,068. The Authority's actual post retirement payments in 2023 for 3 retired employees were \$26,453.

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023  
(Continued)

Note 12 - Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions (OPEB) (Cont'd)

State Health Benefit Local Government Retired Employees Plan (Cont'd)

OPEB Expense and Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB (Cont'd)

At June 30, 2022, the Authority had deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	Deferral Year	Amortization Period in Years	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Changes in Assumptions	2017	8.04		\$ 55,616
	2018	8.14		75,613
	2019	8.05		69,705
	2020	7.87	\$ 161,168	
	2021	7.82	21,380	
	2022	7.82		265,894
			<u>182,548</u>	<u>466,828</u>
Changes in Proportion	2017	8.04		44,139
	2018	8.14	8,748	
	2019	8.05		65,537
	2020	7.87	204,616	
	2021	7.82		18,102
	2022	7.82		12,167
			<u>213,364</u>	<u>139,945</u>
Net Difference Between Projected and Actual Investment Earnings on OPEB Investments	2017	5.00		
	2019	5.00	109	
	2020	5.00	162	
	2021	5.00	111	
2022	5.00		(22)	
			<u>360</u>	
Difference Between Expected and Actual Experience	2018	8.14		118,485
	2019	8.05		59,655
	2020	7.87	28,382	
	2021	7.82		75,405
	2022	7.82		42,256
			<u>70,638</u>	<u>253,545</u>
			<u>\$ 466,910</u>	<u>\$ 860,318</u>

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023  
(Continued)

Note 12 - Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions (OPEB) (Cont'd)

State Health Benefit Local Government Retired Employees Plan (Cont'd)

OPEB Expense and Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB (Cont'd)

The amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30,	Total
2023	\$ (122,123)
2024	(121,872)
2025	(75,032)
2026	(22,389)
2027	21,047
Thereafter	(73,039)
	\$ (393,408)

Actuarial Assumptions and Other Inputs

The actuarial assumptions vary for each plan member depending on the pension plan the member is enrolled in. This actuarial valuation used the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods in the measurement.

Salary Increases\*:

Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS)

Rate for all future years                      2.75% to 6.55% based on years of service

\* Salary increases are based on years of service.

Mortality:

PERS      Pub-2010 General classification headcount weighted mortality with fully generational mortality improvement projections from the central year using Scale MP-2021

Actuarial assumptions used in the July 1, 2021 valuation were based on the results of the PERS experience study prepared for July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021.

100% of active members are considered to participate in the Plan upon retirement.

Health Care Trend Assumptions

For pre-Medicare medical benefits, the trend rate is 6.25% for fiscal year 2023 and decreases to a 4.50% long term trend rate in 2033 and later. For PPO post 65 medical benefits, the trend rate is -1.89% in fiscal year 2023 and increases to a 4.50% trend rate starting with fiscal year 2033 and later. For HMO Post 65 medical benefits, the trend rate is -1.99% in fiscal year 2023 and increases to a 4.50% trend rate starting with fiscal year 2033 and later. For prescription drug benefits, the trend rate is 8.00% for fiscal year 2023 and decreases to a 4.50% trend rate in 2030 and later.

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023  
(Continued)

Note 12 - Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions (OPEB) (Cont'd)

State Health Benefit Local Government Retired Employees Plan (Cont'd)

Discount Rate

The discount rate for June 30, 2022 was 3.54%. This represents the municipal bond rate as chosen by the State. The source is the Bond Buyer Go 20-Bond Municipal Bond Index, which includes tax-exempt general obligation municipal bonds with an average rating of AA/Aa or higher. As the long-term rate of return is less than the municipal bond rate, it is not considered in the calculation of the discount rate, rather the discount rate is set at the municipal bond rate.

Sensitivity of the Net OPEB Liability Attributable to the Authority to Changes in the Discount Rate

The following presents the net OPEB liability of the Authority as of June 30, 2022, calculated using the discount rate as disclosed in this note, as well as what the net OPEB liability of the Authority 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:

	June 30, 2022		
	1% Decrease (2.54%)	Current Discount Rate (3.54%)	1% Increase (4.54%)
Authority's proportionate share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$ 1,585,638	\$ 1,367,871	\$ 1,192,657

Sensitivity of the Net OPEB Liability Attributable to the Authority to Changes in the Healthcare Trend Rate

The following presents the net OPEB liability of the Authority as of June 30, 2022, calculated using the healthcare trend rate as disclosed in this note, as well as what the net OPEB liability of the Authority would be if it were calculated using a healthcare trend rate that is 1-percentage-point lower or 1-percentage-point higher than the current rate:

	June 30, 2022		
	1% Decrease	Healthcare Cost Trend Rate	1% Increase
Authority's proportionate share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$ 1,160,406	\$ 1,367,871	\$ 1,633,575

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

PEQUEST RIVER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION SCHEDULES  
SCHEDULE OF AUTHORITY'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY  
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
LAST EIGHT YEARS

	Year Ending June 30.							
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Authority's proportion of the net pension liability	0.0038515500%	0.0039370286%	0.0040192436%	0.0041005274%	0.0041382518%	0.0042192073%	0.0047124272%	0.0040059537%
Authority's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 864,596	\$ 1,166,035	\$ 935,616	\$ 807,373	\$ 745,650	\$ 688,042	\$ 558,258	\$ 604,554
Authority's covered employee payroll	\$ 268,259	\$ 274,864	\$ 283,256	\$ 290,904	\$ 297,018	\$ 302,960	\$ 329,479	\$ 317,454
Authority's proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of its covered employee payroll	322.30%	424.22%	330.31%	277.54%	251.05%	227.11%	169.44%	190.44%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	47.93%	40.14%	48.10%	36.78%	56.27%	58.32%	70.33%	62.91%

\* The NJ Division of Pensions has not released the June 30, 2023 report as of the date of this report.

Note: This schedule does not contain ten years of information as GASB No. 68 was implemented during the calendar year 2015.

PEQUEST RIVER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION SCHEDULES  
SCHEDULE OF AUTHORITY CONTRIBUTIONS  
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
LAST NINE YEARS

	Year Ending December 31,									
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Contractually required contribution	\$ 34,109	\$ 33,113	\$ 35,111	\$ 37,531	\$ 40,884	\$ 40,331	\$ 47,510	\$ 55,188	\$ 50,517	
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	(34,109)	(33,113)	(35,111)	(37,531)	(40,884)	(40,331)	(47,510)	(55,188)	(50,517)	
Contribution deficiency/(excess)	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	
District's covered employee payroll	\$ 271,238	\$ 278,719	\$ 287,808	\$ 293,716	\$ 299,960	\$ 309,452	\$ 320,627	\$ 344,716	\$ 398,260	
Contributions as a percentage of covered employee payroll	12.58%	11.88%	12.20%	12.78%	13.63%	13.03%	14.82%	16.01%	12.68%	

Note: This schedule does not contain ten years of information as GASB No. 68 was implemented during the calendar year 2015.



PEQUEST RIVER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION SCHEDULES  
SCHEDULE OF AUTHORITY'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET OPEB LIABILITY  
STATE HEALTH BENEFIT LOCAL GOVERNMENT RETIRED EMPLOYEES PLAN  
LAST FIVE YEARS

	Year Ending June 30,				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Authority's proportion of the net OPEB liability	0.007725%	0.007154%	0.008637%	0.008527%	0.008470%
Authority's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ 1,210,246	\$ 969,086	\$ 1,550,049	\$ 1,534,841	\$ 1,367,871
Authority's covered employee payroll	\$ 290,904	\$ 297,018	\$ 302,960	\$ 329,479	\$ 317,454
Authority's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability as a percentage of its covered employee payroll	416.03%	326.27%	511.64%	465.84%	430.89%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability	1.97%	1.98%	0.91%	0.28%	-0.36%

\* The June 30, 2022 GASB 68 report as the NJ Division of Pensions has not released the June 30, 2023 report as of the date of this report.

Note: This schedule does not contain ten years of information as GASB No. 75 was implemented during the year ended December 31, 2018.

PEQUEST RIVER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION SCHEDULES  
SCHEDULE OF AUTHORITY CONTRIBUTIONS  
STATE HEALTH BENEFIT LOCAL GOVERNMENT RETIRED EMPLOYEES PLAN  
LAST SIX YEARS

	Year Ending December 31,					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Contractually required contribution	\$ 12,392	\$ 7,565	\$ 5,700	\$ 17,163	\$ 24,262	\$ 26,453
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	(12,392)	(7,565)	(5,700)	(17,163)	(24,262)	(26,453)
Contribution deficiency/(excess)	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
Authority's covered employee payroll	\$ 293,716	\$ 299,960	\$ 309,452	\$ 320,627	\$ 344,716	\$ 398,260
Contributions as a percentage of covered employee payroll	4.22%	2.52%	1.84%	5.35%	7.04%	6.64%

Note: This schedule does not contain ten years of information as GASB No. 75 was implemented during the year ended December 31, 2018.

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

A. PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Benefit Changes

There were none.

Changes of Assumptions

In the July 1, 2021 actuarial valuation the salary increases were 2.75% – 6.55% based on years of service while in the July 1, 2020 actuarial valuation the salary increases were 2.00%-6.00% through 2026 and 3.00-7.00% thereafter based on years of service.

The actuarial assumptions used in the July 1, 2021 valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021. The actuarial assumptions used in the July 1, 2020 actuarial valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2018.

B. STATE HEALTH BENEFIT LOCAL GOVERNMENT RETIRED EMPLOYEES PLAN

Benefit Changes

There were none.

Changes of Assumptions

The discount rate for June 30, 2022 was 3.54 %. The discount rate for June 30, 2021 was 2.16%.

The salary increases for PERS were 2.00% - 6.00% through 2026 and 3.00% - 7.00% for thereafter in the valuation as of June 2021. The salary increases for PERS were 2.75% - 6.55% in the valuation as of June 30, 2022.

Health Care Trend Assumptions – July 1, 2021 Actuarial Valuation:

For pre-Medicare medical benefits, the trend rate is 6.25% for fiscal year 2023 and decreases to a 4.50% long term trend rate in 2033 and later. For PPO post 65 medical benefits, the trend rate is -1.89% in fiscal year 2023 and increases to a 4.50% trend rate starting with fiscal year 2033 and later. For HMO Post 65 medical benefits, the trend rate is -1.99% in fiscal year 2023 and increases to a 4.50% trend rate starting with fiscal year 2033 and later. For prescription drug benefits, the trend rate is 8.00% for fiscal year 2023 and decreases to a 4.50% trend rate in 2030 and later.

Health Care Trend Assumptions – June 30, 2020 Actuarial Valuation:

For pre-Medicare medical benefits, the trend rate is initially is 5.65% for fiscal year 2021 and decreases to 4.5% long term trend rate after seven years. For PPO post 65 medical benefits, the trend rate is initially 13.08% and decreases to a 4.5% long term trend rate starting with fiscal year 2032 and later. For HMO Post 65 medical benefits, the trend rate is initially 13.76% and decreases to 4.5% long term trend rate starting with fiscal year 2032 and later. For prescription drug benefits, the initial trend rate is 6.75% for fiscal year 2021 and decreases to a 4.5% long term rate after seven years.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
SCHEDULE OF REVENUE, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION  
RESTRICTED AND UNRESTRICTED  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023  
WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

	Unrestricted	Net Investment in Capital Assets	Memo Total	
			2023	2022
Operating Revenue:				
Sewer Charges	\$ 2,397,570		\$ 2,397,570	\$ 2,283,480
Sewer Connection Fees	6,642		6,642	13,284
Other Revenue	9,100		9,100	7,200
Total Operating Revenue	<u>2,413,312</u>		<u>2,413,312</u>	<u>2,303,964</u>
Operating Expenses:				
Costs of Providing Services	1,193,563		1,193,563	1,143,210
Administrative and General	242,182		242,182	243,869
Depreciation	889,100		889,100	735,551
Total Operating Expenses	<u>2,324,845</u>		<u>2,324,845</u>	<u>2,122,630</u>
Operating Income	88,467		88,467	181,334
Nonoperating Revenue/(Expenses):				
Interest Income	102,126		102,126	45,103
Interest Expense	(84,179)		(84,179)	(102,542)
Change in Net Position (Before Transfers and Other Items)	106,414		106,414	123,895
Transfers and Other Items:				
Capital Acquisitions	(195,910)	\$ 195,910		
Depreciation	889,100	(889,100)		
NJ Environmental Infrastructure Loan Payable	(715,593)	715,593		
NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust Loan Principal Credit		4,152	4,152	3,252
Amortization of Bond Premium	(7,604)	7,604		
Change in Net Position	<u>76,407</u>	<u>34,159</u>	<u>110,566</u>	<u>127,147</u>
Net Position, Beginning of Year	<u>(521,626)</u>	<u>11,523,952</u>	<u>11,002,326</u>	<u>10,875,179</u>
Net Position/(Deficit), End of Year	<u>\$ (445,219)</u>	<u>\$ 11,558,111</u>	<u>\$ 11,112,892</u>	<u>\$ 11,002,326</u>

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
SCHEDULE OF OPERATING REVENUE AND COSTS FUNDED BY  
OPERATING REVENUE COMPARED TO BUDGET  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023  
WITH COMPARATIVE ACTUAL AMOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

	2023 Budget	Budget After Modification	2023 Actual	Excess or (Deficit)	MEMO 2022 Actual
Operating Revenue:					
Anticipated Fund Balance	\$ 190,734	\$ 190,734	\$ 190,734		\$ 458,672
User Charges and Fees					
(Sewer Treatment Service)	2,397,570	2,397,570	2,397,570		2,283,480
Interest on Investments and Deposits	10,000	10,000	102,126	\$ 92,126	45,103
Connection Fees			6,642	6,642	13,284
Other Revenue	10,000	10,000	9,100	(900)	7,200
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>2,608,304</b>	<b>2,608,304</b>	<b>2,706,172</b>	<b>97,868</b>	<b>2,807,739</b>
Expenses:					
Operating Expenses:					
Salaries and Wages - Operations	493,451	493,451	413,650	79,801	347,022
Maintenance	120,000	152,270	152,270		164,742
Vehicle	3,000	7,894	7,894		3,659
Contracted Services		6,477	6,477		14,392
Education and Training	3,000	3,000	370	2,630	299
Uniforms	6,000	6,000	4,242	1,758	7,689
Permits	20,000	20,000	13,213	6,787	12,404
Renewal and Replacement	48,000				
Fuel and Gasoline	10,000	10,000	8,603	1,397	11,548
Electricity	195,000	195,000	188,317	6,683	188,277
Water	250	255	255		250
Telephone	10,700	14,577	14,577		13,232
Sludge Disposal	183,500	166,463	142,481	23,982	143,985
Insurance	30,000	37,201	37,201		39,032
Contingency	14,000	14,000		14,000	26,250
Lab	29,000	31,460	31,460		28,771
Alarm System	1,300	1,300	1,208	92	1,650
Chemicals	65,000	65,000	56,168	8,832	35,554
Engineering	60,000	60,000	21,612	38,388	40,922
Miscellaneous	3,200	3,200	643	2,557	3,735
Workmen's Compensation	16,850	18,622	18,622		10,725
Hospitalization Insurance	94,150	100,104	100,104		78,727
Employer Social Security and Medicare Contribution	35,450	35,450	29,681	5,769	26,116
Employer Disability Contribution	1,475	1,602	1,602		1,578
Employer PERS Contribution	44,310	44,310	(39,622)	83,932	(48,001)
Other Postemployment Benefits (Non-Budgeted)			(17,465)	17,465	(9,348)
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>1,487,636</b>	<b>1,487,636</b>	<b>1,193,563</b>	<b>294,073</b>	<b>1,143,210</b>

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
SCHEDULE OF  
OPERATING REVENUE AND COSTS FUNDED BY  
OPERATING REVENUE COMPARED TO BUDGET  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023  
WITH COMPARATIVE ACTUAL AMOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022  
(Continued)

	2023 Budget	Budget After Modification	2023 Actual	Excess or (Deficit)	MEMO 2022 Actual
Expenses: (Cont'd):					
Administrative and General Expenses:					
Salaries and Wages - General Administration	\$ 150,252	\$ 150,252	\$ 140,527	\$ 9,725	\$ 144,465
Advertising	4,500	4,500	959	3,541	881
Postage	1,500	1,500	436	1,064	479
Contracted Equipment	1,000	1,000	994	6	1,030
Legal and Accounting Services	21,500	18,914	6,415	12,499	7,360
Miscellaneous Consultant Services	33,000	33,000	28,100	4,900	28,099
Garbage Disposal	2,000	2,000	228	1,772	
Office Supplies	3,700	5,774	5,774		5,808
Education and Training	500	500		500	1,200
Employee Medical Insurance	57,000	57,000	49,915	7,085	38,717
Employer Social Security and Medicare Contribution	11,490	11,490	9,373	2,117	8,247
Employer Disability Contribution	675	675	486	189	481
Employer PERS Contribution	16,390	16,390	145	16,245	6,173
Employer DCRP Contribution	1,400	1,912	1,912		1,854
Other Postemployment Benefits (Non-Budgeted)			(3,082)	3,082	(925)
Total Administrative and General Expenses	<u>304,907</u>	<u>304,907</u>	<u>242,182</u>	<u>62,725</u>	<u>243,869</u>
Debt Service:					
Bond and Loan Principal	715,593	715,593	715,593		971,396
Interest on Bonds and Loans	100,168	100,168	84,179	15,989	102,542
Total Debt Service Expenses	<u>815,761</u>	<u>815,761</u>	<u>799,772</u>	<u>15,989</u>	<u>1,073,938</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 2,608,304</u>	<u>\$ 2,608,304</u>	<u>\$ 2,235,517</u>	<u>\$ 372,787</u>	<u>\$ 2,461,017</u>

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
SCHEDULE OF NEW JERSEY ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE LOANS PAYABLE - TRUST LOAN -  
BELVIDERE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE

Purpose	Original		Interest Rate	Maturities of Loans		Matured	Defeased	Balance Dec. 31, 2023
	Date	Amount		Outstanding Date	Dec. 31, 2023 Amount			
Issue of 2003	10/15/03	\$ 1,050,000	5.000%	8/1/24	\$ 195,000	\$ 75,848	\$ 4,152	\$ 2,300,000
Issue of 2014	8/1/14	3,575,000	3.000%	8/1/25	205,000	190,000		
			3.000%	8/1/26	215,000			
			3.000%	8/1/27	220,000			
			3.000%	8/1/28	225,000			
			3.000%	8/1/29	235,000			
			3.000%	8/1/30	240,000			
			3.000%	8/1/31	245,000			
			3.125%	8/1/32	255,000			
			3.250%	8/1/33	265,000			
						\$ 265,848	\$ 4,152	\$ 2,300,000
Balance Comprised of:								
Short-Term Portion						\$ 70,848	\$ 4,152	\$ 195,000
Long-Term Portion						195,000		2,105,000
						\$ 265,848	\$ 4,152	\$ 2,300,000





SINGLE AUDIT SECTION

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*

Independent Auditors' Report

The Honorable Chairman and Members  
of the Warren County (Pequest River)  
Municipal Utilities Authority  
Belvidere, NJ

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, audit requirements prescribed by the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey (“the Division”), 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 Pequest River Municipal Utilities Authority (the “Authority”), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Authority’s basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated March 22, 2024. That report included a qualified opinion on the financial statements as the Authority’s net pension liability and net postemployment benefits other than pensions (“OPEB”) liability and the related deferred outflows and inflows of resources reported in the financial statements at December 31, 2023 is based on the June 30, 2022 Governmental Accounting Standards Board (“GASB”) Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions*, report for the State of New Jersey Public Employees’ Retirement System (“PERS”), and Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions*, reports for the State of New Jersey State Health Benefits Local Government Retired Employees Plan (“SHBP”), respectively, from the Division of Pensions and Benefits, Department of the Treasury, State of New Jersey (the “State”). We were unable to obtain the June 30, 2023 GASB No. 68 and No. 75 reports as they have not been released by the State as of the date of this report. The amount by which this omission would affect the net pension and OPEB liabilities and the related deferred inflows and outflows of resources, net position and expenses of the Authority has not been determined.

**Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Authority’s internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing the 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 Authority’s internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority’s internal control.

*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 Authority’s financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. *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.

The Honorable Chairman and Members  
of the Warren County (Pequest River)  
Municipal Utilities Authority  
Page 2

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

### **Report on Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Authority's financial statements are free of 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*.

### **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 result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority'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 Authority's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Mount Arlington, New Jersey  
March 22, 2024

*Nisivoccia LLP*  
NISIVOCCIA LLP

*Man C Lee*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Man C. Lee  
Registered Municipal Accountant #562  
Certified Public Accountant

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

NOT APPLICABLE

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF STATE AWARDS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

NOT APPLICABLE

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE SCHEDULES OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AND STATE AWARDS

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

A. BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying schedules of expenditures of federal and state awards (the “Schedules”) includes the federal and state grant activity of the Warren County (Pequest River) Municipal Utilities Authority under programs of the federal and state governments for the year ended December 31, 2023. The information in these schedules is presented in accordance with the requirements of the Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (“Uniform Guidance”) and New Jersey's OMB Circular 15-08, *Single Audit Policy for Recipients of Federal Grants, State Grants and State Aid*. Because the schedules present only a selected portion of the operations of the Authority, they are not intended to and do not present the financial position, changes in net position or cash flows of the Authority.

B. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Expenditures reported on the accompanying schedules of expenditures of federal and state awards are reported on the cash 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, if any, shown on the Schedules represent adjustments or credits made in the normal course of business to amounts reported as expenditures in prior years. Pass-through identifying numbers are presented where available. The Authority has elected not to use the 10 percent de minimis indirect cost rate as allowed under the Uniform Guidance.

C. RELATIONSHIP TO FEDERAL AND STATE FINANCIAL REPORTS

Amounts reported in the accompanying schedules agree with the amounts reported in the related federal and state financial reports, as applicable.

D. LOANS PAYABLE

At December 31, 2023, the Authority had \$6,512,968 of NJ Environmental Infrastructure Loan Payable outstanding.

Currently, the Authority is in the process of repaying the NJ Environmental Infrastructure Loan Payable. There were no receipts or current year expenditures on the loans.

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023  
 (Continued)

Summary of Auditors' Results:

- The Independent Auditors' Report expresses a qualified opinion on the financial statements of the Authority as the Authority's net pension liability and net postemployment benefits other than pensions ("OPEB") liability and the related deferred outflows and inflows of resources reported in the financial statements at December 31, 2023 is based on the June 30, 2022 Governmental Accounting Standards Board ("GASB") Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions*, report for the State of New Jersey Public Employees' Retirement System ("PERS), and Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions*, reports for the State of New Jersey State Health Benefits Local Government Retired Employees Plan ("SHBP"), respectively, from the Division of Pensions and Benefits, Department of the Treasury, State of New Jersey (the "State"). We were unable to obtain the June 30, 2023 GASB No. 68 and No. 75 reports as they have not been released by the State as of the date of this report. The amount by which this omission would affect the net pension and OPEB liabilities and the related deferred inflows and outflows of resources, net position and expenses of the Authority has not been determined.
- There were no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies disclosed during the audit of the financial statements as reported in the *Independent Auditors' 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*.
- No instances of noncompliance material to the financial statements of the Authority which would be required to be reported in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, were disclosed during the audit.
- The Authority was not subject to the single audit provisions of the Uniform Guidance and New Jersey's OMB Circular 15-08 for the year ended December 31, 2023 as both state and federal grant expenditures were less than the single audit thresholds of \$750,000 identified in the Uniform Guidance and NJOMB 15-08.

Findings Relating to the Financial Statements which are required to be Reported in Accordance with Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards:

- The audit did not disclose any findings required to be reported under Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards.

Findings and Questioned Costs for Federal Awards:

- Not Applicable – There were no current year grant expenditures.

Findings and Questioned Costs for State Awards:

- Not Applicable – There were no current year grant expenditures.

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

The Authority had no findings during the prior year.



COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Contracts and Agreements Required to be Advertised Per N.J.S. 40A:11-4 et seq.

N.J.S. 40A:11-3 states:

a. " When the cost or price of any contract awarded by the contracting agent in the aggregate does not exceed in a contract year the total sum of \$17,500, the contract may be awarded by a purchasing agent when so authorized by ordinance or resolution, as appropriate to the contracting unit, of the governing body of the contracting unit without public advertising for bids, except that the governing body of any contracting unit may adopt an ordinance or resolution to set a lower threshold for the receipt of public bids or the solicitation of competitive quotations. If the purchasing agent is qualified pursuant to subsection b. of section 9 of P.L. 1071, c.198 (C.40A:11-9), the governing body of the contracting unit may establish that the bid threshold may be up to \$25,000. Such authorization may be granted for each contract or by a general delegation of the power to negotiate and award such contracts pursuant to this section.

b. Any contract made pursuant to this section may be awarded for a period of 24 consecutive months, except that contracts for professional services pursuant to subparagraph (i) of paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 5 of P.L. 1971, c.198 (C.40A: 11-5) may be awarded for a period not exceeding 12 consecutive months. The Division of Local Government Services shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations concerning the methods of accounting for all contracts that do not coincide with the contracting unit's fiscal year.

c. The Governor, in consultation with the Department of the Treasury, shall, no later than March 1 of every fifth year beginning in the fifth year after the year in which P.L.1999, c.440 takes effect, adjust the threshold amount and the higher threshold amount which the governing body is permitted to establish, as set forth in subsection a. of this section, or the threshold amount resulting from any adjustment under this subsection, in direct proportion to the rise or fall of the index rate as that term is defined in section 2 of P.L.1971, c.198 (C.40A11-2), and shall round the adjustment to the nearest \$1,000. The Governor shall, no later than June 1 of every fifth year, notify each governing body of the adjustment. The adjustment shall become effective on July 1 of the year in which it is made."

N.J.S. 40A: 11-4 states: "Every contract awarded by the contracting agent for the provision or performance of any goods or services, the cost of which in the aggregate exceeds the bid threshold, shall be awarded only by resolution of the governing body of the contracting unit to the lowest responsible bidder after public advertising for bids and bidding therefore, except as is provided otherwise in this act or specifically by any other law. The governing body of a contracting unit may, by resolution approved by a majority of the governing body and subject to subsections b. and c. of this section, disqualify a bidder who would otherwise be determined to be the lowest responsible bidder, if the governing body finds that it has had prior negative experience with the bidder."

Effective July 1, 2020 and thereafter, the bid thresholds in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3 are \$17,500 for a contracting unit without a qualified purchasing agent and \$44,000 for a contraction unit with a qualified purchasing agent.

The minutes indicated that resolutions were adopted authorizing the awarding of contracts or agreements for "Professional Services", per N.J.S. 40A:11-5.

Inasmuch as the system of records did provide for an accumulation of payments for categories for the performance of any work or the furnishing or hiring of any materials or supplies, the results of such an accumulation could not reasonably be ascertained. Disbursements were reviewed, however, to determine whether any clear-cut violations existed. None were noted.

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
(Continued)

Management Suggestion

Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statements

GASB Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*, is effective for the year ended December 31, 2024. This statement requires that the liability for compensated absences to be calculated for 1 – leave that has not been used and 2 – leave that has been used but not yet paid. The liability should be recognized for leave that has not been used if (a) – the leave is attributable to services already rendered, (b) the leave accumulates and (c) the leave is more likely than not to be used for time off or otherwise paid. In estimating the leave that is more likely than not to be used or otherwise paid or settled, a government should consider relevant factors such as employment policies related to compensated absences and historical information about the use or payment of compensated absences. Leave that is more likely than not to be settled through conversion to defined benefit postemployment benefits should not be included in the liability for compensated absences. The Statement directs that for leave that has not been used the calculation should generally use an employee's pay rate as of the date of the financial statements.

Status of Prior Year's Findings/Recommendations

There were no prior year audit recommendations.

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no recommendations for 2023.

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