

Tobacco Settlement Permanent Trust Fund

Report on Conduct of Audit

December 31, 2015



Padgett Stratemann

March 9, 2016

To the Honorable Glenn Hegar
Comptroller of Public Accounts of the State of Texas
Austin, Texas

Dear Mr. Hegar:

We are pleased to present this report related to our audit of the basic financial statements of the Tobacco Settlement Permanent Trust Fund (“Fund”) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2015. This report summarizes certain matters required by professional standards to be communicated to you in your oversight responsibility for the Fund’s financial reporting process.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Comptroller of Public Accounts of the State of Texas, management of the Fund, and the State Auditor of Texas, and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Sincerely,

Padgett, Stratemann + Co., L.L.P.

Certified Public Accountants

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Required Communications

Area	Comments
<p><i>Our Responsibility Under Auditing Standards Generally Accepted in the United States of America</i></p>	<p>As communicated in our arrangement letter dated July 23, 2015, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to form and express an opinion about whether the financial statements that have been prepared by the Fund's management with your oversight are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or the Fund's management of your respective responsibilities.</p> <p>Our responsibility, as prescribed by professional standards, is to plan and perform our audit to obtain reasonable, rather than absolute, assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. An audit of financial statements includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, as part of our audit, we considered the internal control of the Fund solely for the purpose of determining our audit procedures and not to provide any assurance concerning such internal control.</p> <p>We are also responsible for communicating significant matters related to the audit that are, in our professional judgment, relevant to your responsibilities in overseeing the financial reporting process. However, we are not required to design procedures for the purpose of identifying other matters to communicate to you.</p>
<p><i>Other Information in Documents Containing Audited Financial Statements</i></p>	<p>We are not aware of any other documents that contain the audited financial statements. If such documents were to be published and we were associated with them, we would have a responsibility to determine such financial information was not materially inconsistent with the audited financial statements of the Fund.</p>

Area	Comments
<i>Planned Scope and Timing of the Audit</i>	We conducted our audit consistent with the planned scope and timing we previously communicated to Mr. Paul Ballard.
<i>Qualitative Aspects of Significant Accounting Practices</i>	<p data-bbox="764 443 1421 478"><i>Significant Accounting Policies</i></p> <p data-bbox="764 512 1421 779">Management has the responsibility to select and use appropriate accounting policies. A summary of the significant accounting policies adopted by the Fund is included in Note 2 to the financial statements. There has been no initial selection of accounting policies and no changes in significant accounting policies or their application during the year ended December 31, 2015.</p> <p data-bbox="764 812 1421 1045">No matters have come to our attention that would require us, under professional standards, to inform you about (1) the methods used to account for significant unusual transactions and (2) the effect of significant accounting policies in controversial or emerging areas for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus.</p> <p data-bbox="764 1079 1421 1115"><i>Significant Accounting Estimates</i></p> <p data-bbox="764 1148 1421 1518">Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's current judgments. Those judgments are normally based on knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ markedly from management's current judgments.</p> <p data-bbox="764 1551 1421 1843">The most sensitive accounting estimates affecting the financial statements are the estimated fair values of the individual securities within the investment portfolio. Management's estimates are based on information currently available, and the process used to calculate these estimates should be monitored throughout the year. These estimates were reviewed and it was determined they are reasonable in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.</p>

Area	Comments
	<p><i>Financial Statement Disclosures</i></p> <p>Certain financial statement disclosures involve significant judgment and are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The most sensitive disclosure affecting the Fund's financial statements relates to investments.</p>
<p><i>Significant Difficulties Encountered During the Audit</i></p>	<p>We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management relating to the performance of the audit.</p>
<p><i>Uncorrected and Corrected Misstatements</i></p>	<p>For purposes of this communication, professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those we believe are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management.</p> <p>In addition, professional standards require us to communicate to you all material, corrected misstatements that were brought to the attention of management as a result of our audit procedures.</p> <p>In connection with our audit of the financial statements, we did not identify any corrected or uncorrected financial statement misstatements.</p>
<p><i>Disagreements With Management</i></p>	<p>For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, concerning a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, which could be significant to the Fund's financial statements or the auditor's report. No such disagreements arose during the course of the audit.</p>
<p><i>Representations Requested From Management</i></p>	<p>We have requested and received certain written representations from management in our standard representation letter dated March 9, 2016.</p>
<p><i>Management's Consultations With Other Accountants</i></p>	<p>In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters. Management informed us that, and to our knowledge, there were no consultations with other accountants regarding auditing and accounting matters.</p>

Area	Comments
<i>Other Significant Findings or Issues</i>	In the normal course of our professional association with the Fund, we generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, business conditions affecting the Fund, and business plans and strategies that may affect the risks of material misstatement. None of the matters discussed resulted in a condition to our retention as the Fund's auditors.