



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AUDITOR

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District of Columbia Auditor
026:02:OW:vh

**Certification Review of the Sufficiency of the
Washington Convention Center Authority's Projected Revenues
and Excess Reserve to Meet Projected Operating and Debt
Service Expenditures and Reserve Requirements for Fiscal Year 2003**

September 30, 2002



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The Honorable Linda W. Cropp, Chairman
and Members of the Council of the
District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Suite 504
Washington, D.C. 20004

Certification Review of the Sufficiency of the Washington Convention Center Authority's Projected Revenues and Excess Reserve to Meet Projected Operating and Debt Service Expenditures and Reserve Requirements for Fiscal Year 2003

Dear Chairman Cropp and Members of the Council of the District of Columbia:

Pursuant to Section 305(a) of D.C. Law 10-188, as amended, entitled the "Washington Convention Center Authority Act of 1994," the District of Columbia Auditor must prepare and deliver to the Mayor, Council, Chief Financial Officer of the District of Columbia, and Chairman of the Washington Convention Center Authority (WCCA) a certification of the sufficiency of WCCA's projected revenues and excess reserve of \$138.2 million for the upcoming fiscal year to meet its projected expenditures and reserve requirements of \$80 million. This certification review sets forth the Auditor's determination of the sufficiency of WCCA's projected revenues and excess reserve to meet its projected expenditures for fiscal year 2003 from the following sources:

- taxes imposed pursuant to D.C. Code, Sections 47-2002.2 and 47.2202.1, which are estimated by the Office of Tax and Revenue (OTR) and transferred to WCCA by the Mayor;
- WCCA's projected operating revenues; and
- amounts in any reserve fund or account (other than debt service reserve fund or account for indebtedness) which exceed the required minimum balance for such fund or account, as certified by WCCA.

By letter dated September 25, 2002, OTR provided to WCCA a revised fiscal year 2003 dedicated tax revenue estimate of \$54.5 million. Additionally, by letter dated September 25, 2002, WCCA's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) provided the Auditor a revised certified "projected reserve fund excess of the required minimum balance for September 30, 2003, in the amount of \$70.8 million." The \$70.8 million reflects a reduction of \$2.7 million from the fiscal year 2002 excess reserve estimate of \$73.5 million expected to be achieved by September 30, 2002. The reduction is primarily due to a decrease in OTR's fiscal year 2003 dedicated tax revenue estimate, which reflects the national economic recession underscored by the economic fallout of the September 11, 2001 tragedy.

Based upon a comparative analysis of WCCA's projected revenues and excess reserve, the Auditor has determined that WCCA's projected revenues and excess reserve should be sufficient to cover its expenditures and reserve requirements for fiscal year 2003 barring any unforeseen events that would adversely impact revenues and expenditures. The Auditor's analysis indicated that WCCA's projected revenues and excess reserve, as of September 25, 2002, are projected to exceed expenditures by approximately \$58.2 million in fiscal year 2003. Therefore, the District of Columbia Auditor hereby certifies that WCCA's projected fiscal year 2003 total revenues and reserve balances of \$138.2 million should be sufficient to meet projected expenditures and reserve requirements of \$80 million for fiscal year 2003.

OBJECTIVE, SCOPE, AND METHODOLOGY

The objective of this analysis was to determine whether projected dedicated tax revenues, operating revenue, and the excess reserve will be sufficient to meet WCCA's projected operating and debt service expenditures and reserve requirements for fiscal year 2003.

In preparing this certification, the District of Columbia Auditor reviewed D.C. Law 10-188, entitled the "Washington Convention Center Authority Act of 1994," and D.C. Law 12-142, entitled the "Washington Convention Center Authority Financing Amendment Act of 1998," which amended certain provisions of D.C. Law 10-188.

The Auditor met with WCCA officials regarding operating revenues, excess reserve amounts, and expenditure projections for fiscal year 2003. The Auditor also held discussions with officials in the District's OTR concerning the fiscal year 2003 dedicated tax revenue estimate.

The Auditor reviewed WCCA's audited financial statements for the fiscal years ending September 30, 2000 and 2001 to determine the reasonableness of the projected dedicated tax revenues to be received by WCCA in fiscal year 2003.

In determining WCCA's projected operating and debt service expenditures and reserve requirements for fiscal year 2003, the Auditor relied upon financial information prepared by WCCA's Chief Financial Officer. In determining the sufficiency of WCCA's revenues for fiscal year 2003, the Auditor relied upon dedicated tax information provided by OTR.

BACKGROUND

The Washington Convention Center Authority Act of 1994 (the Act), D.C. Law 10-188, effective September 28, 1994, as amended, established the Washington Convention Center Authority as an independent corporate instrumentality of the District of Columbia government to facilitate the construction of a new convention center and for various other purposes. Section 202(b) of the Act provides:

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this act, the general purpose of the Authority is to acquire, construct, equip, maintain, and operate the New Convention Center, in whole or in part, directly or under contract, and engage in other activities as it deems appropriate to promote trade shows and conventions, or other events, closely related to activities of the New Convention Center, and to maintain and operate the Existing Convention Center until such time as the New Convention Center is completed and opened for operation.

WCCA is governed by a nine-member Board of Directors (Board). Currently, the Board is comprised of the Chief Financial Officer of the District of Columbia and another District government official designated by the Mayor. Both serve as ex-officio voting members with four-year terms. Additionally, seven public members (who must meet statutorily prescribed criteria) are appointed to four-year terms by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Council of the District of Columbia. According to WCCA's enabling legislation, two public Board members shall be individuals from the hospitality industry and organized labor, and the remaining five members must possess expertise in economic development, construction, tourism, municipal finance, or business finance. The daily management of WCCA is under the direction of a general manager who is appointed by WCCA's Board of Directors.

WCCA receives a portion of certain District sales and use taxes which are referred to as dedicated tax revenues. Presently, the dedicated tax revenues consist of a 4.45 percent sales and use tax on hotel room charges, and 1 percent of the District's 10 percent sales and use tax on restaurant meals, alcoholic beverages consumed on premises, and automobile rental charges.

Dedicated taxes are collected through a lockbox arrangement established by the Office of the Chief Financial Officer's Office of the Treasurer with First Union Bank. The lockbox arrangement, which is governed by a collections agreement, was established for the collection, segregation, and the immediate transfer of dedicated taxes to the Trustee for WCCA. In accordance with the collections agreement, the following four accounts were established under the lockbox arrangement: (1) Transfer Account; (2) Exceptions Account; (3) WCCA Dedicated Account; and (4) the District Account. The District is required to keep the lockbox arrangement in place for as long as WCCA has outstanding bonds.

Tax receipts deposited into the WCCA Dedicated Account are assigned to, pledged to, and received daily by a trustee bank.¹ The trustee bank then deposits these funds in the WCCA Revenue Account for WCCA's use in accordance with the Master Trust Agreement.²

In accordance with the Master Trust Agreement, WCCA was required to establish certain funds and sub-accounts, referred to as pledged funds, at the time the bonds were issued. (See Appendix I for the funds and accounts established in accordance with the Master Trust Agreement). The establishment and funding of these various funds and sub-accounts ensures that monies are available for the repayment of bond principal and interest. The flow of dedicated taxes collected through the lockbox to other funds and accounts established by the Master Trust Agreement is presented in Appendix II.

WCCA is required to maintain minimum balances in the Operating and Marketing Reserve Account, Capital Renewal and Replacement Fund, and the Revenue Stabilization Account. Any balance remaining in the Operating and Marketing Reserve Account and the Revenue Stabilization Account, after deducting the minimum balance requirements, represents WCCA's excess reserve. Several other funds, such as the Rebate Fund and the Redemption Fund, although required to be established, have not yet been activated because they are not presently needed.

¹Bank of New York is the trustee bank. It is the depository for the bond proceeds and receives daily deposits of dedicated tax revenues from the WCCA Account.

²The Master Trust Agreement provides for the deposit of dedicated tax revenue into the revenue fund and their subsequent transfer to other funds and accounts including the revenue stabilization account, operating and marketing fund, and others as outlined in the agreement.

FINDING

THE WASHINGTON CONVENTION CENTER AUTHORITY'S FISCAL YEAR 2003 PROJECTED REVENUES APPEAR SUFFICIENT TO COVER PROJECTED OPERATING AND DEBT SERVICE EXPENDITURES AND RESERVE REQUIREMENTS

WCCA's fiscal year 2003 projected revenues from dedicated taxes and operating revenue, and projected excess amounts in reserve funds, are estimated to total approximately \$138.2 million. WCCA's fiscal year 2003 projected operating expenditures, debt service expenditures, and reserve funds expenditures are estimated to total approximately \$80 million. Based upon an analysis of revenue, reserve and expenditure projections, which included a review of information from both WCCA and the Office of Tax and Revenue, WCCA's revenues and excess reserve estimate appear sufficient to cover projected operating and debt service expenditures and reserve requirements. In fact, WCCA's fiscal year 2003 revenues and excess reserve are projected to exceed expenditures by approximately \$58.2 million. The use of the \$58.2 million projected revenue and excess reserve is restricted in accordance with the terms of the Master Trust Agreement.³

Table I presents the sufficiency calculation of WCCA's projected revenues and excess reserve to projected operating and debt service expenditures and reserve requirements for fiscal year 2003. The single largest component of the sufficiency calculation in Table I is the \$70.8 million excess reserve estimate provided by WCCA. According to WCCA officials, the \$70.8 million excess reserve projection is primarily based on dedicated tax revenue estimates certified by OTR. Any future adjustments to the fiscal year 2003 dedicated tax revenue estimate will consequently result in adjustments to the fiscal year 2003 excess reserve projected by WCCA.

³In accordance with the provisions of the Master Trust Agreement, the dedicated tax receipts and all moneys and investment obligations are pledged as security for the bonds.

TABLE I
Sufficiency Calculation of WCCA's Projected Revenues and Excess Reserve to
Projected Expenditures and Reserve Requirements for Fiscal Year 2003
(in millions)

<u>Category</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Revenues	
FY 2003 Dedicated Tax Estimate	\$54.5
FY 2003 Operating Revenue Estimate	<u>12.9</u>
Subtotal Revenues	\$67.4
Reserve	
Excess Reserve Estimate	<u>70.8*</u>
Sum of Projected FY 2003 Revenues and Excess Reserve Estimate	\$138.2
Expenditures	
Debt Service	36.2
Operating Expenditures	28.9
Marketing Agencies	7.6
Equity Contribution	10.0
Reserve Requirements ⁴	-0-
Restoration of Reserves Related to Debt	<u>-0-</u>
Sum of Projected FY 2003 Expenditures	82.7
Estimated FY 2003 Decrease in Excess Reserve	<u>(2.7)**</u>
Sum of Projected FY 2003 Expenditures and Decrease in Excess Reserve	<u>80.0</u>
Projected Revenue and Excess Reserve Estimate Over Projected Expenditures	<u>\$ 58.2</u>

Sources: WCCA's FY 2003 Budget Submission and Supporting documentation, and OTR's fiscal year 2003 revised dedicated tax revenue estimate.

*WCCA's excess reserve estimate reflects amounts deposited in excess of the respective minimum reserve balances in the Operating and Marketing Reserve Account and the Revenue Stabilization Account. See Appendix II for the sources and uses of the reserve funds after debt service requirements have been satisfied.

**The \$2.7 million, if realized, will be taken from the fiscal year 2002 excess reserve estimate of \$73.5 million to fund fiscal year 2003 activities.

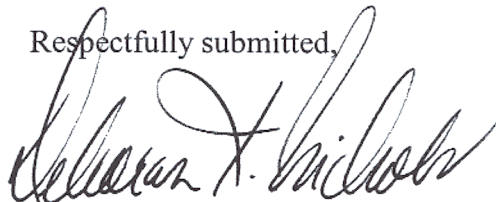
⁴D.C. Law 10-188, as amended, did not define "reserve requirements." In the absence of a definition and for purposes of this sufficiency review, the Auditor interprets "reserve requirements" as the amounts necessary to establish and fund new reserves and to restore existing reserves, excluding reserves related to indebtedness, to their required minimum balances.

CONCLUSION AND CERTIFICATION

Based upon the Auditor's analysis of information provided by WCCA and OTR, as of the date of this certification, WCCA's total projected revenues and estimated excess reserve estimate of \$138.2 million for fiscal year 2003 appeared sufficient to cover its projected operating and debt service expenditures and reserve requirements totaling \$80 million.

According to the Auditor's calculation, WCCA's fiscal year 2003 estimated revenues and excess reserve are expected to exceed its projected expenditures and reserve requirements by \$58.2 million. Therefore, the District of Columbia Auditor hereby certifies that, as of the date of this certification, WCCA's projected revenues and excess reserve should be sufficient to meet projected expenditures and reserve requirements for fiscal year 2003.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah K. Nichols", written in a cursive style.

Deborah K. Nichols
District of Columbia Auditor

APPENDICES

The Master Trust Agreement entered into requires special funds and accounts be created by the WCCA concerning 1998 Bonds. The Master Trust Agreement established the following special fund accounts.

Name of Fund	Description/ Fill Up Mechanics/ Comments	Projected Balance at September 30, 2003	Maximum Balance Permitted by Council Resolution	Required Minimum Balance
Revenue Fund 1.) Revenue Account	Dedicated taxes due the WCCA are transferred to the Revenue Account from the WCCA Pledged Account within two days of receipt.	\$0	N/A	N/A
2.) Revenue Stabilization Account	The Revenue Stabilization account is used to offset the seasonal fluctuations in revenues. The Authority may transfer funds to and from this account to the Revenue Fund, if all other funds are funded at their required levels.	\$56,823,945.68	3 times the annual operating and marketing budgets combined with the Operating & Marketing Reserve Account balance.	N/A
Senior Debt Service Fund 1.) Senior Debt Service Account	Use to pay principal and interest payments. Amounts transferred to this fund equal the annual debt service on the 1998 bonds due in that year.	\$17,862,496.03	No maximum limit stated. Funds are transferred out of this account semi-annually.	Depending on the year between \$26,000,000 - \$36,200,000.
2.) Senior Debt Service Reserve Account	Use to pay principal and interest payments. 10% percent of the 1998 bonds outstanding calculated in accordance to the internal revenue code or 125% of the average annual requirements for payment of the principal and interest on the bond during the then current and future fiscal year. The Debt Service Reserve Account requirement may be satisfied by the purchase of a credit facility. The Authority purchased a Surety Bond at the time of issuance to cover this requirement.	\$0	No maximum limit stated.	\$52,446,000 = 10% of 1998 Bonds outstanding.

Name of Fund	Description/ Fill Up Mechanics/ Comments	Projected Balance	Maximum Balance Permitted by Council Resolution	Required Minimum Balance
3.) Senior Subordinated Debt Service Account	No Senior subordinated debt issued	N/A	N/A	N/A
4.) Senior Subordinated Debt Service Reserve Account	No Senior subordinate debt issued	N/A	N/A	N/A
Junior Subordinated Debt Service Fund 1.) Junior Subordinated Debt Service	No Junior subordinated debt issued	N/A	N/A	N/A
2.) Junior Subordinated Debt Service Reserve Account	No Junior subordinated debt issues	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rebate Fund	Amount on deposit in the Rebate Fund are used to make payments to the US Treasury in the event of a rebate being due on the 1998 Bonds. Rebate Payments are due every five years.	\$0	N/A	WCCA is required to maintain an amount equal to the rebate liability in the then current fiscal year. First payment due in 2003.
Operating & Marketing Fund 1.) Operating & Marketing Reserve Account	Establish a reserve to pay Marketing expenses on the Marketing Services Contracts and to pay WCCA's annual operating deficit.	\$33,968,388.15	3 times the annual Operating and Marketing expense budgets combined with the Revenue Stabilization Account Balance.	\$20,000,000
2.) Operating Account	Used to pay operating deficit of the existing convention center. Cash transferred out monthly.	N/A	N/A	N/A
3.) Marketing Account	Used to pay monthly marketing contracts. Cash transferred out monthly.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Capital Renewal & Replacement Fund	Cash accumulates to pay the cost of capital improvements to the facility or additions as required.	\$17,580,858.67	\$37,000,000 or 5% of costs of project.	\$15,000,000 or 2% of costs of project.

Redemption Fund	Cash accumulates in the Redemption Fund for purchase, defeasance or redemption of outstanding bonds before or at maturity.	\$0	Filled only when all other buckets are full during each semi-annual period.	Follows flow of funds priority each year.
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Flow of Funds

The Master Trust Agreement provides for Revenues deposited into the Revenue Account from the Lockbox Account to be transferred to other Funds and Accounts as set forth in the chart and described in the text below.

FLOW OF FUNDS From Lockbox to Other Funds and Accounts

