

Washington State Auditor's Office
Accountability Audit Report

King County Ferry District

Report Date
October 15, 2009

Report No. 1002565

Issue Date
December 7, 2009



WASHINGTON
BRIAN SONNTAG
STATE AUDITOR



**Washington State Auditor
Brian Sonntag**

December 7, 2009

Board of Supervisors
King County Ferry District
Seattle, Washington

Report on Accountability

We appreciate the opportunity to work in cooperation with your District to promote accountability, integrity and openness in government. The State Auditor's Office takes seriously our role to advocate for government accountability and transparency and to promote positive change.

Please find attached our report on the King County Ferry District's accountability and compliance with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures. Thank you for working with us to ensure the efficient and effective use of public resources.

Sincerely,

BRIAN SONNTAG, CGFM
STATE AUDITOR

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October 15, 2009**

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Audit Summary

**King County Ferry District
October 15, 2009**

ABOUT THE AUDIT

This report contains the results of our independent accountability audit of the King County Ferry District for January 1, 2008, through December 31, 2008.

We evaluated internal controls and performed audit procedures on the activities of the District. We also determined whether the District complied with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures.

In keeping with general auditing practices, we do not examine every transaction, activity or area. Instead, the areas examined were those representing the highest risk of noncompliance, misappropriation or misuse. The following areas were examined during this audit:

- Cash receipting
- Contracts/agreements

RESULTS

In the areas we examined, the District's internal controls were adequate to safeguard public assets. The District also complied with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures in the areas we examined.

Related Reports

**King County Ferry District
October 15, 2009**

FINANCIAL

Our opinion on the District's financial statements is provided in a separate report, which includes the District's financial statements.

Description of the District

King County Ferry District October 15, 2009

ABOUT THE DISTRICT:

On April 30, 2007, the Metropolitan King County Council adopted Ordinance 15739, which established the King County Ferry District as authorized under state law (RCW 36.54.110, County Ferry Districts). The District is a municipal corporation and taxing district with independent taxing authority. The King County Board of Supervisors serves the same role for the District. The intent of the ordinance is to provide passenger-only ferry service to various parts of the county including but not limited to Vashon Island, Southworth, west Seattle, downtown Seattle, North Bay, Lake Union, north Renton, Kirkland and the University of Washington.

The District is funded by a 5.5 cent property tax, per \$1,000 assessed value, which was levied beginning January 1, 2008. In addition to the tax levy, the District is provided additional revenue from passenger fares and advertising and other promotional activities.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Board of Supervisors:

Dow Constantine
Reagan Dunn
Bob Ferguson
Jane Hague
Larry Gossett
Kathy Lambert
Julia Patterson
Larry Phillips
Pete von Reichbauer

DISTRICT CONTACT INFORMATION

Address: King County Ferry District
516 Third Avenue, Room 1039
Seattle, WA 98104

Phone: (206) 296-1020

Web site: <http://kingcountyferries.org>

AUDIT HISTORY

This is the first audit of the District. We plan to audit the District annually.



ABOUT THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

The State Auditor's Office is established in the state's Constitution and is part of the executive branch of state government. The State Auditor is elected by the citizens of Washington and serves four-year terms.

Our mission is to work in cooperation with our audit clients and citizens as an advocate for government accountability. As an elected agency, the State Auditor's Office has the independence necessary to objectively perform audits and investigations. Our audits are designed to comply with professional standards as well as to satisfy the requirements of federal, state, and local laws.

The State Auditor's Office employees are located around the state to deliver our services effectively and efficiently.

Our audits look at financial information and compliance with state, federal and local laws on the part of all local governments, including schools, and all state agencies, including institutions of higher education. In addition, we conduct performance audits of state agencies and local governments and fraud, whistleblower and citizen hotline investigations.

The results of our work are widely distributed through a variety of reports, which are available on our Web site and through our free, electronic subscription service. We continue to refine our reporting efforts to ensure the results of our audits are useful and understandable.

We take our role as partners in accountability seriously. We provide training and technical assistance to governments and have an extensive quality assurance program.

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