



Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy

Accountability Audit Report

Port of Benton

Benton County

For the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2016

Published November 13, 2017

Report No. 1020184





Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy

November 13, 2017

Board of Commissioners
Port of Benton
Richland, Washington

Report on Accountability

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you to promote accountability, integrity and openness in government. The State Auditor's Office takes seriously our role of providing state and local governments with assurance and accountability as the independent auditor of public accounts. In this way, we strive to help government work better, cost less, deliver higher value and earn greater public trust.

Independent audits provide essential accountability and transparency for Port operations. This information is valuable to management, the governing body and public stakeholders when assessing the government's stewardship of public resources.

The attached comprises our report on the Port's compliance and safeguarding of public resources. Our independent audit report describes the overall results and conclusions for areas we examined. We appreciate the opportunity to work with your staff and we value your cooperation during the audit.

Sincerely,

Pat McCarthy
State Auditor
Olympia, WA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Audit Summary.....	4
Related Reports.....	5
Information About The Port.....	6
About The State Auditor’s Office.....	7

AUDIT SUMMARY

Results in brief

In the areas we audited, Port operations complied with applicable requirements and provided adequate safeguarding of public resources. The Port also complied with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures in the areas we examined.

About the audit

This report contains the results of our independent accountability audit of the Port of Benton from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2016.

Management is responsible for ensuring compliance and adequate safeguarding of public resources from fraud, loss or abuse. This includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal controls relevant to these objectives.

Our audit involved performing procedures to obtain evidence about the Port's uses of public resources, compliance with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures, and internal controls over such matters.

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 fraud, loss, abuse, or noncompliance. The following areas were examined during this audit period:

- Sale of land
- Procurement – public works
- Procurement – architectual and engineering contracts
- Allowable expenditures
- Payroll disbursements – new employees
- Allowability of state grant expenditures

RELATED REPORTS

Financial

Our opinion on the Port's financial statements is provided in a separate report, which includes the Port's financial statements. That report is available on our website, <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE PORT

The Port of Benton, located in Benton County, was established in 1957 to promote industrial development in the Columbia Basin and Yakima Valley. Major facilities owned and operated by the Port include Prosser and Richland airports, 16 miles of railroad, Prosser Wine and Food Park, Technology and Business Campus, Richland Manufacturing Mall and Richland Industrial Center, Benton City Industrial Park and Prosser Vintners Village.

An elected, three-member Board of Commissioners governs the Port. The Board appoints management to oversee the Port's daily operations as well as its 24 employees. Revenues were \$10.8 million in 2015 and \$8.8 million in 2016.

Contact information related to this report

Address:	Port of Benton 3250 Port of Benton Blvd. Richland, WA 99352
Contact:	Stuart Dezember, Finance Director
Telephone:	(509) 375-3060
Website:	www.portofbenton.com

Information current as of report publish date.

Audit history

You can find current and past audit reports for the Port of Benton at <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

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.

We work with our audit clients and citizens to achieve our vision of government that works for citizens, by helping governments work better, cost less, deliver higher value, and earn greater public trust.

In fulfilling our mission to hold state and local governments accountable for the use of public resources, we also hold ourselves accountable by continually improving our audit quality and operational efficiency and developing highly engaged and committed employees.

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.

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 as well as [fraud](#), state [whistleblower](#) and [citizen hotline](#) investigations.

The results of our work are widely distributed through a variety of reports, which are available on our [website](#) and through our free, electronic [subscription](#) service.

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

Contact information for the State Auditor's Office	
Public Records requests	PublicRecords@sao.wa.gov
Main telephone	(360) 902-0370
Toll-free Citizen Hotline	(866) 902-3900
Website	www.sao.wa.gov