The Auditor's Communication With Those Charged With Governance

Guam Ancestral Lands Commission (A Governmental Fund of the Government of Guam)

Year ended September 30, 2022





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May 24, 2024

The Board of Commissioners Guam Ancestral Lands Commission

We have performed an audit of the financial statements of Guam Ancestral Lands Commission (the "Commission"), a governmental fund of the Government of Guam, as of and for the year ended September 30, 2022, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and have issued our report thereon dated May 24, 2024.

This report summarizes our communications with those charged with governance as required by our professional standards to assist you in fulfilling your obligation to oversee the financial reporting and disclosure process.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of Commissioners and management, and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,

Ernst + Young LLP

REQUIRED COMMUNICATIONS

Professional standards require the auditor to provide the Board of Commissioners (the Board or those charged with governance) with additional information regarding the scope and results of the audit that may assist the Board (or those charged with governance) in overseeing the financial reporting and disclosure processes which the management of the Commission is responsible. We summarize these required communications as follows:

Overview of the planned scope and timing of the audit

Our audit scope and timing is consistent with the plan communicated in our engagement letter dated August 8, 2023 and at our audit planning meeting with management.

Auditor's Responsibilities under Auditing Standards Generally Accepted in the United States of America (US GAAS) and Generally Accepted *Government Auditing Standards* (GAGAS)

The financial statements and required supplementary information are the responsibility of the Commission's management as prepared with the oversight of those charged with governance. Our audit was designed in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, to obtain reasonable, rather than absolute, assurance that the financial statements are free of 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, we express no such opinion.

An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

Our responsibilities are included in our audit engagement letter.

Changes to the audit strategy, timing of the audit and significant risks identified

Our audit strategy is consistent with the plan communicated during the planning meeting.

Matters relevant to our evaluation of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern

We did not identify any events or conditions that led us to believe there was substantial doubt about the Commission's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our views about the qualitative aspects of the Commission's significant accounting practices, including:

- Accounting policies
- Accounting estimates

Management has not selected or changed any significant policies or changed the application of those policies in the current year.

We have provided a discussion of significant accounting policies and our views regarding significant accounting estimates and financial statement disclosures and related matters in Note 2 of the basic financial statements.

We determined that those charged with governance are informed about management's process for formulating particularly sensitive estimates and about the basis to our conclusions regarding the reasonableness of those estimates.

Significant findings and issues arising during the audit relating to related parties

We noted no significant matters regarding the Commission's relationships and transactions with related parties.

Changes to the terms of the audit with no reasonable justification for the change

None.

Significant unusual transactions

We are not aware of any significant unusual transactions executed by the Commission.

Difficult or contentious matters subject to consultation outside of the audit team

There were no difficult or contentious matters that required consultation outside of the audit team.

Material corrected misstatements, related to accounts and disclosures

Refer to "Management Representations Letter" in Appendix A.

Uncorrected misstatements, related to accounts and disclosures, considered by management to be immaterial

Refer to the "Management Representations Letter" in Appendix A.

Significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over financial reporting

No material weaknesses have been identified.

Fraud and noncompliance with laws and regulations (illegal acts)

We are not aware of any matters that require communication.

Obtain information relevant to the audit

Inquiries regarding matters relevant to the audit were performed during the planning meeting and at the update status meetings during the audit.

Independence matters

We are not aware of any matters that in our professional judgment would impair our independence.

New accounting pronouncements

Management is still assessing the impact of adopting the following GASB Statements:

- GASB Statement No. 91
- GASB Statement No. 94
- GASB Statement No. 96
- GASB Statement No. 99
- GASB Statement No. 100
- GASB Statement No. 101
- GASB Statement No. 102

Significant issues discussed with management in connection with the auditor's initial appointment or recurring retention

None.

Disagreements with management and significant difficulties encountered in dealing with management when performing the audit

None.

Management's consultations with other accountants

We are not aware of any consultations made by management with other accountants or specialists.

Other material written communications with management

None.

Other matters

There are no other matters arising from the audit that are significant and relevant to those charged with governance regarding the oversight of the financial reporting process.

AICPA ethics ruling regarding third-party service providers

From time to time, and depending on the circumstances, (1) we may subcontract portions of the Audit Services to other EY firms, who may deal with the Commission or its affiliates directly, although EY alone will remain responsible to you for the Audit Services and (2) personnel (including non-certified public accountants) from an affiliate of EY or another EY firm or any of their respective affiliates, or from independent third-party service providers (including independent contractors), may participate in providing the Audit Services. In addition, third-party service providers may perform services for EY in connection with the Audit Services.

Representations we are requesting from management

Refer to "Management Representations Letter" in Appendix A.

Engagement team's involvement with preparation of the financial statements

Under GAS 2018 Revision, Chapter 3 Ethics, Independence and Professional Judgment, Paragraph 3.73-74 Provision of Nonaudited Services to Audited Entities explains that the audit team should make consideration of management's ability to effectively oversee the non-audit services to be provided. The engagement team should determine that the audited entity has designated an individual who possesses suitable skill, knowledge or experience and that the individual understands the services to be performed sufficiently to oversee them. The engagement team should document consideration of management's ability to oversee non-audit services to be performed.

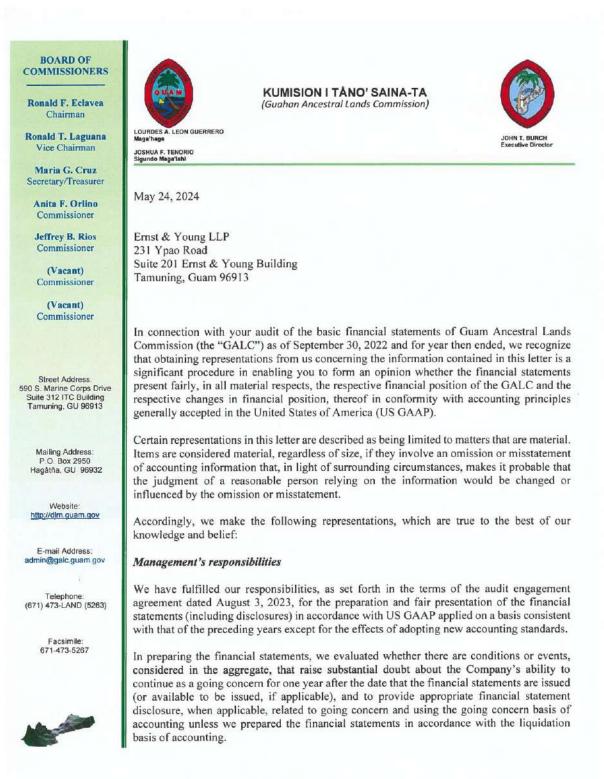
The engagement team believes that this significant threat is reduced to an acceptable level upon application of the following safeguards:

- An engagement quality control review was performed by a qualified Ernst & Young Partner who was not otherwise involved in the audit.
- The preparation of the financial statements is based on the Commission's trial balance with our understanding that the Commission's underlying books and records are maintained by the Commission's accounting department and that the final trial balance prepared by the Commission is complete.
- All adjusting journal entries that Ernst & Young posted to the trial balance have been approved by management of the Commission.
- The Commission's Accounting Manager has the skill sets to oversee and review the completeness and accuracy of the financial statements and footnote disclosures.

Appendix

A – Management Representations Letter

Appendix A - Management Representations Letter



We acknowledge our responsibility 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. We have provided you with:

- Access to all information, of which we are aware, that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements such as records, data, documentation and other matters
- · Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit
- Unrestricted access to persons within the Company from whom you determined it necessary to obtain evidence

We have no plans or intentions that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities.

From October 1, 2021 through the date of this letter we have disclosed to you, to the extent that we are aware, any (1) unauthorized access to our information technology systems that either occurred or is reasonably likely to have occurred, including of reports submitted to us by third parties (including regulatory agencies, law enforcement agencies and security consultants), to the extent that such unauthorized access to our information technology systems is reasonably likely to have a material effect on the financial statements of any opinion unit that comprises the basic financial statements, in each case or in the aggregate, and (2) ransomware attacks when we paid or are contemplating paying a ransom, regardless of the amount.

Uncorrected misstatements

We believe that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements, summarized in the accompanying schedule, accumulated by you during the current and prior audit period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole.

Refer to the "Schedule of Uncorrected Misstatement" in Appendix A.

Corrected misstatement

We have reviewed and approved the adjustment, summarized in the accompanying schedule, and reflected this adjustment in the financial statements.

Refer to the "Schedule of Corrected Misstatement" in Appendix B.

Internal control

There are no material transactions that have not been properly recorded in the accounting records underlying the financial statements.

We are not aware of any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting.

Minutes and contracts and internal audit reports

The dates of meetings of directors, committees of directors and important management committees from October 1, 2021 to May 24, 2024 are as follows:

- November 17, 2021 December 22, 2021
- March 13, 2024
- April 10, 2024
- January 12, 2022 .
 - January 26, 2022
- February 9, 2022
- February 23, 2022
- March 9, 2022

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- March 23, 2022
- April 13, 2022
- April 27, 2022
- May 11, 2022
- June 8, 2022
- July 13, 2022 .
- July 29, 2022 .
- August 10, 2022 .
- . August 24, 2022
- September 14, 2022 .
- September 29, 2022 .
- October 21, 2022 .
- November 18, 2022 .
- December 14, 2022 .
- January 11, 2023 .
- January 25, 2023 .
- February 1, 2023 .
- February 8, 2023 .
- February 22, 2023 .
- March 8, 2023 .
- March 20, 2023 .
- March 27, 2023 ٠
- April 12, 2023
- May 8, 2023 .
- . July 12, 2023
- July 26, 2023 ٠
- August 9, 2023 ٠
- October 11, 2023 .
- November 29, 2023 .
- December 11, 2023 .
- January 17, 2024
- February 13, 2024

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We have made available to you all minutes of the meetings of directors and committees of directors or summaries of actions of recent meetings for which minutes have not yet been prepared.

We also have made available to you all significant contracts, including amendments, and agreements and have communicated to you all significant oral agreements. We have complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of noncompliance, including all covenants, conditions or other requirements of all outstanding debt.

Methods, significant assumptions, and data used in making accounting estimates

The appropriateness of the methods, the consistency in application, the accuracy and completeness of data, and the reasonableness of significant assumptions used by us in developing accounting estimates and related disclosures, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable and supportable.

Ownership and pledging of assets

The GALC has satisfactory title to all assets appearing in the statement of net position. No security agreements have been executed under the provisions of the Uniform Commercial Code, and there are no liens or encumbrances on assets, nor has any asset been pledged. All assets to which the GALC has satisfactory title appear in the statement of net position.

Receivables and revenues

Receivables have been determined in accordance with all relevant GASB Statements, including GASB Statements No. 33 and 62 - as amended.

Adequate provision has been made for losses, costs and expenses that may be incurred subsequent to the statement of net position date in respect of any sales and services rendered prior to that date and for uncollectible accounts, discounts, returns and allowances, etc., that may be incurred in the collection of receivables at that date.

Leases

Our calculation of the cumulative effect of initially applying GASB Statement No. 87 - as amended that is reported as a restatement of beginning fund balance for the earliest period restated is in accordance with our accounting policies established under GASB Statement No. 87 - as amended. We have identified and accounted for all contracts that meet the criteria to be accounted for as a lease under GASB Statement No. 87 - as amended. We have appropriately considered any modifications, termination or purchase options in the contract.

Fair value measurements

We are responsible for the estimation methods and assumptions used in measuring assets and liabilities reported or disclosed at fair value, including information obtained from brokers, pricing services or other third parties. Our valuation techniques have been consistently applied from period to period. The fair value measurements reported or disclosed represent our best estimate of fair value as of the measurement date in accordance with the requirements of GASB Statement No. 72 - as amended. In addition, our disclosures related to fair value measurements are consistent with the objectives outlined in GASB Statement No. 72 - as amended.

We have evaluated the fair value information provided to us by brokers, pricing services or other parties that has been used in the financial statements and believe this information to be reliable and consistent with the requirements of GASB Statement No. 72 - as amended.

Related party relationships and transactions

We have made available to you the names of all related parties and all relationships and transactions with related parties.

The substance of transactions with related parties as defined in GASB Statement No. 56—as amended, has been considered and appropriate adjustments or disclosures are made in the basic financial statements, and information concerning these transactions and amounts have been made available to you.

Side agreements and other arrangements

There have been no side agreements or other arrangements (either written or oral) that have not been disclosed to you.

Arrangements with financial institutions

Arrangements with financial institutions involving compensating balances or other arrangements involving restrictions on cash balances and line-of-credit or similar arrangements have been properly recorded or disclosed in the financial statements.

Contingent liabilities

There are no unasserted claims or assessments, including those our lawyers have advised us of, that are probable of assertion and must be disclosed in accordance with GASB Statement No. 62 - as amended.

There have been no violations or possible violations of laws or regulations in any jurisdiction whose effects should be considered for disclosure in the financial statements or as a basis for recording a loss contingency.

There have been no internal investigations or communications from regulatory agencies or government representatives in any jurisdiction concerning investigations or allegations of

noncompliance with laws or regulations, noncompliance with or deficiencies in financial reporting practices, or other matters that could affect the financial statements.

There are no other liabilities or gain or loss contingencies considered material, individually or in the aggregate, that are required to be accrued or disclosed by GASB Statement No. 62 - as amended, *Contingencies*, nor are there any accruals for loss contingencies included in the balance sheet or gain contingencies reflected in earnings that are not in conformity with the provisions of GASB Statement No. 62 - as amended.

There are no oral or written guarantees, including guarantees of the debt of others.

Non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud

We acknowledge that we are responsible to determine that the GALC's business activities are conducted in accordance with laws and regulations and that we are responsible for identifying and addressing any non-compliance with applicable laws or regulations, including fraud.

We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of a system of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.

We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.

We have no knowledge of any fraud or suspected fraud involving management or other employees who have a significant role in the GALC's internal control over financial reporting. In addition, we have no knowledge of any fraud or suspected fraud involving other employees where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. We have no knowledge of any allegations of financial improprieties, including fraud or suspected fraud, (regardless of the source or form and including without limitation, any allegations by "whistleblowers") which could result in a misstatement of the financial statements or otherwise affect the financial reporting of the GALC.

We have disclosed to you all known actual or suspected noncompliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.

Independence

We have communicated to you the names of the GALC's affiliates, officers and directors, or individuals who serve in such capacity for the GALC.

We are not aware of any business relationship between the GALC and Ernst & Young LLP or any other member firm of the global Ernst & Young organization.

We are not aware of any reason that Ernst & Young LLP would not be independent for purposes of the GALC's audit.

Conflicts of interest

There are no instances where any officer or employee of the GALC has an interest in a company with which the GALC does business that would be considered a "conflict of interest." Such an interest would be contrary to the GALC policy.

Effects of new accounting principles

As discussed in Note 2, we have not completed the process of evaluating the effects that will result from adopting the amendments to the codification provided in Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB):

- GASB Statement No. 91
- GASB Statement No. 94
- GASB Statement No. 96
- GASB Statement No. 99

- GASB Statement No. 100
- GASB Statement No. 101
- GASB Statement No. 102

As discussed in Note 2, the GALC is therefore unable to disclose the effects that adopting the amendments in the aforementioned GASB Statements will have on its financial position and the results of its operations when such statements are adopted.

Supplementary information

We are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the following schedules (the "supplementary information"):

- · Combining Balance Sheet
- Combining Statement of Revenue, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance
- Supplemental Schedule of Employees and Salaries

We believe the supplementary information, including its form and content, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

There have been no changes in the methods of measurement or presentation of the supplementary information from those used in the prior period.

There are no significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the information.

Other representation

We have identified and disclosed to you, all provisions of laws and regulations that could have a direct and material effect on financial statement amounts, including legal and contractual provisions for reporting specific activities in separate funds. We have identified and disclosed to you, all instances of identified or suspected noncompliance with laws, regulations, and provisions

of contracts and grant agreements where the noncompliance could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements.

We have followed all applicable laws and regulations in adopting, approving and amending budgets, tax or debt limits and covenants and secondary market disclosures, deposits and investments, including collateral requirements on depository accounts and investments and tax levies and refunds.

The financial statements properly classify all funds and activities in accordance with GASB Statement No. 54 - as amended.

All funds that meet the quantitative criteria in GASB Statement No. 34, as amended and GASB Statement No. 37, for presentation as major are identified and presented as such and all other funds that are presented as major are particularly important to financial statement users.

Components of net position (net investment in capital assets; restricted; and unrestricted) are properly classified and, if applicable, approved.

Provisions for uncollectible receivables have been properly identified and recorded.

Expenses have been appropriately classified in or allocated to functions and programs in the statements of revenues and expenses, and allocations have been made on a reasonable basis.

Revenues are appropriately classified in the statement of revenues and expenses within program revenues, general revenues, or contributions to permanent fund principal.

Interfund, internal and intra-entity activity and balances have been appropriately classified and reported.

Risk disclosures associated with deposits and investment securities and derivatives transactions are presented in accordance with GASB requirements.

Subsequent events have been evaluated and classified as recognized or nonrecognized through the date of this letter.

Other matters

We have received a draft copy of the financial statements of the GALC as of and for the year ended September 30, 2022. The accuracy and completeness of the financial statements, including footnote disclosures, are the responsibility of the management of the GALC.

You have assisted in the preparation of the GALC's financial statements based on the information in the GALC's trial balance and accounting records. It is our understanding that:

• The GALC's underlying books and records are maintained by the GALC's accounting department and that the final trial balance prepared by the GALC is complete; and

 Management of the GALC has designated a competent representative to oversee our services and that there are the GALC personnel with sufficient financial competence who are able to challenge and review the completeness and accuracy of the financial statements.

We acknowledge that we have reviewed the draft financial statements for accuracy and completeness and we take responsibility for them.

Subsequent events

Subsequent to September 30, 2022, no events or transactions as outlined in "Subsequent Events" in Appendix C have occurred or are pending that would have a material effect on the basic financial statements at that date or for the period then ended, or that are of such significance in relation to the GALC's affairs to require mention in a note to the basic financial statements in order to make them not misleading regarding the financial position, and changes in financial position of the GALC.

We understand that your audit was conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America as established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States of America and was, therefore, designed primarily for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the basic financial statements of the GALC and that your tests of the accounting records and other auditing procedures were limited to those that you considered necessary for that purpose.

Very truly yours,

John T. Burch, Executive Director

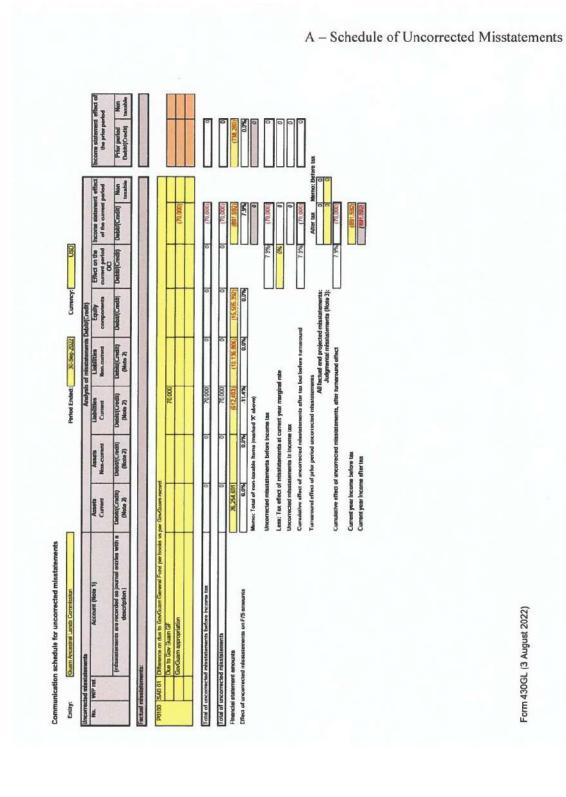
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Appendices

A - Schedule of Uncorrected Misstatements

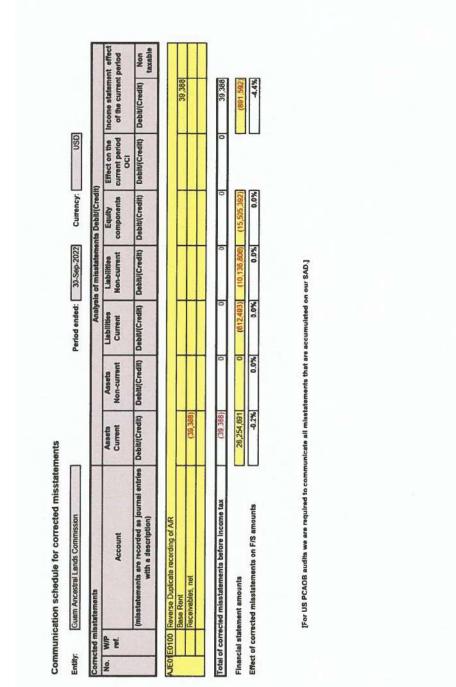
B - Schedule of Corrected Misstatements

C - Subsequent Events Questionnaire



$\label{eq:Appendix} A-Management \ Representations \ Letter, \ continued$

May 24, 2024



B - Schedule of Corrected Misstatements

Form 430GL (3 August 2022)

C – Subsequent Events Questionnaire

Guam Ancestral Lands Commission

Subsequent Events Questionnaire

Coverage:

For the period from October 1, 2022 to audit report date

	Question
1	Have there been any business combinations, acquisitions of significant assets, segment disposals, disposals of significant assets or extraordinary, unusual or infrequently occurring transactions, except as disclosed in the audited financial statements?
2	Have there been any new significant contingent liabilities or commitments that arisen, except as disclosed in the audited financial statements?
3	Have any significant changes occurred in trends in sales/revenues or costs that could affect accounting estimates (e.g., valuation of receivables or inventories, realization of deferred charges, provisions for warranties or employee benefits or unearned income)?
4	Have any significant changes occurred, or are pending, in the capital accounts, long-term debt, including debt covenants and compliance with them, or working capital, except as disclosed in the audited financial statements?
5	Have there been any significant changes that occurred in the status of items, including contingent liabilities and commitments that were accounted for on the basis of tentative, preliminary or inconclusive data?
6	Were there any significant, unusual or nonrecurring adjustments that have been recorded (or are necessary)?
7	Were there any communications, written or oral, that occurred with the SEC or other regulatory agencies (e.g Revenue and Taxation, Guam Insurance Commissioner) with which the entity files the audited financial statements?
8	Have there been any changes in the entity's related parties?
9	Have any significant new related party transactions occurred?
10	Have any other events occurred other than those disclosed in response to the previous questions or those reflected or disclosed in the financial statements that could have a material effect on the audited financial statements? This includes appropriate inquiries regarding subsequent events of material investees accounted for by the equity method.
11	Are you aware of any fraud or suspected fraud affecting Guam Ancestral Lands Commission involving (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internation control or (3) others, when the fraud could have a material effect on the audited financial statements?
12	Are you aware of any allegations of financial improprieties, including fraud or suspected fraud (regardless of the source or form and including, without limitation, allegations by "whistle- blowers"), when such allegations could result in a misstatement of the audited financial statements or otherwise affect the financial reporting of Guam Ancestral Lands Commission ?
13	Are you aware of any close relationships, or business, employment or other relationships that could bear on EY's independence (e.g. business/financial relationships, litigation with EY, family relationship, employment, loans, cooperative arrangements, etc.)?