SWEETWATER SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT

TO: Board of Directors **AGENDA NO. III-F**

FROM: Steve Mack, General Manager

Meeting Date: July 1, 2010

SUBJECT: Resolution 10-16, Approving a Contract for Audit Services with Moss, Levy & Hartzheim LLP for FYE 2010-13

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve Resolution 10-16, contingent on Moss, Levy's agreement to amend the term of the contract to be three years as contemplated in their response to the District's RFP, instead of the one year referenced in their letter of engagement.

FISCAL IMPACT:

$6,498 for each of three fiscal years.

DISCUSSION:

At the June Board meeting, staff was directed to send a letter of acceptance to Moss, Levy & Hartzheim to conduct the District's annual audit for FY 2009-10, FY 2010-11, and FY 2011-12. Staff sent the letter of acceptance, and Moss, Levy et al. prepared a letter of engagement for the District's signature.

Staff has reviewed the letter of engagement and finds it acceptable except that it only references a one-year contract instead of the three-year commitment requested by the District's RFP. Staff has contacted Moss Levy about this, but our contact person there is out of the office until June 28. Assuming Moss Levy will have no objection to the change, staff will update the contract attached as part of your packet before the Board meeting.

It is recommended that the Board approve Resolution 10-16 contingent on the change to a three-year term of engagement.

Resolution No. 10-16

A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Sweetwater Springs Water District Approving a Contract for Audit services with Moss, Levy & Hartzheim LLP for FYE 2010-13

WHEREAS, pursuant to District Policy 4050.15, "the District Board of Directors shall retain an independent auditor to conduct an annual review of District books, records, and financial interests; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Water Code Section 30540 (2), the Board shall retain an auditor as an independent contractor to conduct an annual audit of the District's books, records, and financial affairs; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has evaluated the proposed letter contract of Moss, Levy & Hartzheim LLP for audit services for FY 2009-10, FY 2010-11, and FY 2011-12 at the following rates;

FY ending June 30, 2010 not to exceed $6,498
FY ending June 30, 2011 not to exceed $6,498
FY ending June 30, 2012 not to exceed $6,498; and

1. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Directors of the Sweetwater Springs Water District has reviewed the letter contract presented by Moss, Levy & Hartzheim dated June 15, 2010, and finds the terms and conditions acceptable; and

2. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the General Manager is authorized to sign said Contract

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution duly and regularly adopted and passed by the Board of Directors of the SWEETWATER SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT, Sonoma County, California, at a meeting held on July 1, 2010, by the following vote.

Director	Aye	No
Sukey Robb-Wilder	_____	_____
Jim Quigley	_____	_____
Wanda Smith	_____	_____
Gaylord Schaap	_____	_____
Victoria Wikle	_____	_____

Jim Quigley
President of the Board of Directors

Attest: Julie A. Kenny
Clerk of the Board of Directors

MOSS, LEVY & HARTZHEIM LLP

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

PARTNERS:
RONALD A. LEVY, C.P.A.
CRAIG A. HARTZHEIM, C.P.A.
HADLEY Y. HUI, C.P.A.

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June 15, 2010

Sweetwater Springs Water District
P.O. Box 48
Guernevile, CA 95446

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the services we are to provide the Sweetwater Springs Water District (District) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2010. We will audit the basic financial statements of the District as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2010. Accounting standards generally accepted in the United States provide for certain required supplementary information (RSI), such as management's discussion and analysis (MD&A), to accompany District's basic financial statements. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to District's RSI. These limited procedures will consist principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation, which management is responsible for affirming to us in its representation letter. Unless we encounter problems with the presentation of the RSI or with procedures relating to it, we will disclaim an opinion on it. The following RSI is required by generally accepted accounting principles and will be subjected to certain limited procedures, but will not be audited:

1) Management's Discussion and Analysis

Audit Objectives

The objective of our audit is the expression of opinions as to whether your basic financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and to report on the fairness of the additional information referred to in the first paragraph when considered in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole. Our audit will be conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and will include tests of the accounting records of District and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions. If our opinions on the financial statements are other than unqualified, we will fully discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed opinions, we may decline to express opinions or to issue a report as a result of this engagement.

We will also provide a report (that does not include an opinion) on internal control related to the financial statements and compliance with laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts or grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements as required by *Government Auditing Standards*. The report on internal control and compliance will include a statement that the report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the body or individuals charged with governance, others within the entity, and specific legislative or regulatory bodies and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties. If during our audit we become aware that the District is subject to an audit requirement that is not encompassed in the terms of this engagement, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance that an audit in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* may not satisfy the relevant legal, regulatory, or contractual requirements.

Management Responsibilities

Management is responsible for the basic financial statements and all accompanying information as well as all representations contained therein. As part of the audit, we will assist with preparation of your financial statements and related notes. You are responsible for making all management decisions and performing all management functions relating to the financial statements and related notes and for accepting full responsibility for such decisions. You will be required to acknowledge in the management representation letter our assistance with preparation of the financial statements and that you have reviewed and approved the financial statements and related notes prior to their issuance and have accepted responsibility for them. Further, you are required to designate an individual with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience to oversee any nonaudit services we provide and for evaluating the adequacy and results of those services and accepting responsibility for them.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls, including monitoring ongoing activities, to help ensure that appropriate goals and objectives are met; for the selection and application of accounting principles; and for the fair presentation in the financial statements of the respective financial position of the District and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, where applicable, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Management is also responsible for making all financial records and related information available to us and for ensuring that management and financial information is reliable and properly recorded. Your responsibilities include adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and for confirming to us in the representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

You are responsible for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud, and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud affecting the government involving (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud or illegal acts could have a material effect on the financial statements. Your responsibilities include informing us of your knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the government received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the entity complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants for taking timely and appropriate steps to remedy any fraud, illegal acts, violations of contracts or grant agreements, or abuse that we may report.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining a process for tracking the status of audit findings and recommendations. Management is also responsible for identifying for us previous financial audits, attestation engagements, performance audits or other studies related to the objectives discussed in the Audit Objectives section of this letter. This responsibility includes relaying to us corrective actions taken to address significant findings and recommendations resulting from those audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or other studies. You are also responsible for providing management's views on our current findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as your planned corrective actions, for the report, and for the timing and format for providing that information.

Audit Procedures—General

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; therefore, our audit will involve judgment about the number of transactions to be examined and the areas to be tested. We will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable rather than absolute assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the entity or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the entity. Because the determination of abuse is subjective, *Government Auditing Standards* do not expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting abuse.

Because an audit is designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute assurance and because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, there is a risk that material misstatements may exist and not be detected by us. In addition, an audit is not designed to detect immaterial misstatements or violations of laws or governmental regulations that do not have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, we will inform you of any material errors and any fraudulent financial reporting or misappropriation of assets that come to our attention. We will also inform you of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential. Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

Our procedures will include tests of documentary evidence supporting the transactions recorded in the accounts, and may include tests of the physical existence of inventories, and direct confirmation of receivables and certain other assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected individuals, funding sources, creditors, and financial institutions. We will request written representations from your attorneys as part of the engagement, and they may bill you for responding to this inquiry. At the conclusion of our audit, we will require certain written representations from you about the financial statements and related matters.

Audit Procedures—Internal Controls

Our audit will include obtaining an understanding of the entity and its environment, including internal control, sufficient to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and to design the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures. Tests of controls may be performed to test the effectiveness of certain controls that we consider relevant to preventing and detecting errors and fraud that are material to the financial statements and to preventing and detecting misstatements resulting from illegal acts and other noncompliance matters that have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. Our tests, if performed, will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on internal control and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify significant deficiencies. However, during the audit, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance internal control related matters that are required to be communicated under AICPA professional standards and *Government Auditing Standards*.

Audit Procedures—Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of the District's compliance with the provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants. However, the objective of our audit will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion in our report on compliance issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

Engagement Administration, Fees, and Other

We understand that your employees will prepare all cash or other confirmations we request and will locate any documents selected by us for testing.

We will provide copies of our reports to the District; however, management is responsible for distribution of the reports and the financial statements. Unless restricted by law or regulation, or containing privileged and confidential information, copies of our reports are to be made available for public inspection.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of Moss, Levy & Hartzheim, LLP and constitutes confidential information. However, pursuant to authority given by law or regulation, we may be requested to make certain audit documentation available to the State Controller of California or its designee, a federal agency providing direct or indirect funding, or the U.S. Government Accountability Office for purposes of a quality review of the audit, to resolve audit findings, or to carry out oversight responsibilities. We will notify you of any such request. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of Moss, Levy & Hartzheim, LLP personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to the aforementioned parties. These parties may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies or information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

The audit documentation for this engagement will be retained for a minimum of seven years after the report release date or for any additional period requested by the State Controller of California. If we are aware that a federal awarding agency or auditee is contesting an audit finding, we will contact the party(ies) contesting the audit finding for guidance prior to destroying the audit documentation.

We expect to begin our audit on approximately September 1, 2010 and to issue our reports no later than October 29, 2010. Craig Hartzheim is the engagement partner and is responsible for supervising the engagement and signing the reports or authorizing another individual to sign them. Our fee for these services will be at our standard hourly rates plus out-of-pocket costs (such as report reproduction, word processing, postage, travel, copies, telephone, etc.) except that we agree that our gross fee, including expenses, will not exceed $6,498. Our standard hourly rates vary according to the degree of responsibility involved and the experience level of the personnel assigned to your audit. Our invoices for these fees will be rendered each month as work progresses and are payable on presentation. In accordance with our firm policies, work may be suspended if your account becomes 30 days or more overdue and may not be resumed until your account is paid in full. If we elect to

terminate our services for nonpayment, our engagement will be deemed to have been completed upon written notification of termination, even if we have not completed our report. You will be obligated to compensate us for all time expended and to reimburse us for all out-of-pocket costs through the date of termination. The above fee is based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel and the assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered during the audit. If significant additional time is necessary, we will discuss it with you and arrive at a new fee estimate before we incur the additional costs.

Government Auditing Standards require that we provide you with a copy of our most recent external peer review report and any letter of comment, and any subsequent peer review reports and letters of comment received during the period of the contract. Our 2008 peer review report is available on our website at www.mlhcpas.com.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to the District and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of our engagement. If you have any questions, please let us know. If you agree with the terms of our engagement as described in this letter, please sign the enclosed copy and return it to us.

Very truly yours,

Moss, Levy & Hartzheim

Moss, Levy & Hartzheim, LLP

RESPONSE:

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of the Sweetwater Springs Water District.

By: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____