

*The Auditor's Communication With Those Charged
With Governance*

Port Authority of Guam

(A Component Unit of the Government of Guam)

Year ended September 30, 2024



June 25, 2025

The Board of Directors
Port Authority of Guam
1026 Cabras Highway Suite 201
Piti, Guam 96915

We have performed an audit of the financial statements of Port Authority of Guam (the Authority), a component unit of the Government of Guam, as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024, 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, and have issued our report thereon dated June 25, 2025.

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.

REQUIRED COMMUNICATIONS

Professional standards require the auditor to provide the Board with additional information regarding the scope and results of the audit that may assist the Board in overseeing the financial reporting and disclosure processes which the management of the Company 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 October 26, 2022 and at our audit planning meeting with management.

Auditors' Responsibilities under Auditing Standards Generally Accepted in the United States (US GAAS) and Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS)

The financial statements, required supplementary information and supplementary information are the responsibility of the Company'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 October 2024 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 Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our views about the qualitative aspects of the entity'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 1 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.

Related party relationships and transactions

We noted no significant matters regarding the Authority'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 Authority.

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 “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 October 2024 meeting and in 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. 101, *Compensated Absences*
- GASB Statement No. 102, *Certain Risk Disclosures*
- GASB Statement No. 103, *Financial Reporting Model Improvements*
- GASB Statement No. 104, *Disclosure of Certain Capital Assets*

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

We are not aware of any matters that require communication.

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

There were no difficulties encountered in dealing with management in performing the audit.

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

There are no significant matters arising from the audit that required us to subcontract portions of the Audit Services to other EY firms and that required participation of personnel from an affiliate of EY or another EY firm or any of their respective affiliates, of from independent third-party service providers.

Representations from management

We have obtained from management a representations letter related to the audit and a copy of the management representations letter is included 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.

June 25, 2025

- The preparation of the financial statements is based on the Authority's trial balance with our understanding that the Authority's underlying books and records are maintained by the Authority's accounting department and that the final trial balance prepared by the Authority is complete.
- All adjusting journal entries that Ernst & Young posted to the trial balance have been approved by management of the Authority.
- The Authority's Accounting Manager has the skill sets to oversee and review the completeness and accuracy of the financial statements and footnote disclosures.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of Directors 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

Appendix

A – Management Representations Letter

A – Management’s Representation Letter



PORT OF GUAM
ATURIDATI PUETTON GUAHAN
Jose D. Leon Guerrero Commercial Port
1026 Cabras Highway, Suite 201, Piti, Guam 96915
Telephone: 671-477-5931/35 Facsimile: 671-477-2689/4445
Website: www.portguam.com



Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
Governor of Guam
Joshua F. Tenorio
Lieutenant Governor

June 25, 2025

Ernst & Young LLP
Ernst & Young Building
231 Ypao Road, Suite 201
Tamuning, Guam 96931

In connection with your audits of the basic financial statements of Port Authority of Guam (the Authority), a component unit of the Government of Guam, as of September 30, 2024 and 2023 and for the years then ended, we recognize that obtaining representations from us concerning the information contained in this letter is a significant procedure in enabling you to form an opinion whether the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Authority and the changes in financial position and cash flows in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (US GAAP).

Certain representations in this letter are described as being limited to matters that are material. Items are considered material, regardless of size, if they involve an omission or misstatement of accounting information that, in light of surrounding circumstances, makes it probable that the judgment of a reasonable person relying on the information would be changed or influenced by the omission or misstatement.

Accordingly, we make the following representations, which are true to the best of our knowledge and belief:

Management’s responsibilities

We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set forth in the terms of the audit engagement agreement dated October 26, 2022, for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements (including disclosures) in accordance with US GAAP applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

In preparing the financial statements, we evaluated whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Authority’s ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the basic financial statement date.

We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of the system 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, documentation and other matters. This responsibility includes identifying the use of new technologies or techniques in preparing such information (e.g., the use of generative artificial intelligence), and additional details you may require regarding the use of any such technologies and techniques in order to perform your audit procedures.

Port of Guam, Jose D. Leon Guerrero Commercial Port is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to the Human Resources Division.



A – Management’s Representation Letter, continued

- Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit
- Unrestricted access to persons within the Authority 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.

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

From July 24, 2024 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

There are no uncorrected misstatements (including the effects of correcting or reversing prior period uncorrected misstatements), or uncorrected misstatements in disclosures relating to the current period financial statements for each opinion unit.

Corrected misstatements

We have reviewed and approved the adjustments, summarized in the accompanying schedule, and reflected these adjustments in the financial statements. Refer to the “Schedule of Corrected Misstatements” in Appendix A.

Internal control

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 shareholders, directors, committees of directors and important management committees from the beginning of the period covered by the financial statements to the date of this letter are as follows:

A – Management’s Representation Letter, continued

<u>Date of meeting</u>	<u>Type</u>
April 25, 2024	Regular
May 31, 2024	Regular
June 27, 2024	Regular
August 30, 2024	Regular
September 26, 2024	Regular
October 31, 2024	Regular
November 27, 2024	Regular
December 20, 2024	Regular
January 23, 2025	Regular
February 26, 2025	Regular
March 27, 2025	Regular
April 30, 2025	Regular
June 5, 2025	Regular

We have made available to you all minutes of the meetings of shareholders, 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 agreements and contracts, including amendments, and have communicated to you all significant oral agreements. We have complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that have a material effect on the financial statements.

We have also made available to you all internal audit reports (or reports from similar functions) that were issued to management during the year that address internal control over financial reporting.

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.

Environmental liabilities

We have disclosed to you all significant pollution remediation matters and have made available to you all significant relevant information related to them. The pollution remediation obligations included in the statement of net position represent our best estimate of the potential losses in accordance with GASB Statement No. 49—as amended. The disclosures of pollution remediation matters in the basic financial statements are adequate.

Ownership and pledging of assets

The Authority 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 except as

A – Management’s Representation Letter, continued

disclosed in the basic financial statements. All assets to which the Authority has satisfactory title appear in the statement of net position.

Receivables and revenues

Adequate provision has been made for any receivable as of the statement of net position date that may not be collectible, including any losses, costs and expenses that may be incurred related to the collection of those receivables.

Revenues and other governmental fund financial resources are recognized in the period in which they became both measurable and available to finance expenditures of the fiscal period.

Leases

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.

Long-lived assets (asset groups) to be held and used, including amortizable intangible assets

No events or changes in circumstances have occurred that indicate the carrying amounts of long-lived assets (asset groups) to be held and used, including intangible assets that are subject to amortization, may not be recoverable.

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.

Events of default under debt agreements

No events of default have occurred with respect to any of the Authority’s debt agreements.

A – Management’s Representation Letter, continued

Oral or written guarantees

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

Purchase commitments

At September 30, 2024 and 2023, the Authority had no purchase commitments for inventories in excess of normal requirements or at prices that were in excess of market at those dates.

There were no agreements or commitments to repurchase assets previously sold. There were no material commitments outstanding at September 30, 2024 and 2023 as a result of being a party to futures or forwards contracts, short sales or hedge transactions.

Non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud

We acknowledge that we are responsible to determine that the Authority’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 disclosed to you all known actual or suspected noncompliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.

We have no knowledge of any fraud or suspected fraud involving management or other employees who have a significant role in the Authority’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 Authority.

Independence

We have communicated to you the names of the Authority’s affiliates, as described in the AICPA Code of Professional Conduct ET section 1.224.020 *State and Local Government Client Affiliates*, officers and directors, or individuals who serve in such capacity for the Authority.

We are not aware of any business relationship between the Authority and Ernst & Young LLP or any other member firm of the global Ernst & Young organization (any of which, an “EY Firm”) other than one pursuant to which an EY Firm performs professional services. We are not aware of any reason that Ernst & Young LLP would not be independent for purposes of the Authority’s audit.

A – Management’s Representation Letter, continued

Conflicts of interest

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

Effects of new accounting standards

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) Statements, as enumerated below, as discussed in Note 2:

- GASB Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*
- GASB Statement No. 102, *Certain Risk Disclosures*
- GASB Statement No. 103, *Financial Reporting Model Improvements*
- GASB Statement No. 104, *Disclosure of Certain Capital Assets*

The Authority is therefore unable to disclose the effects that adopting the amendments in the aforementioned GASB Statements will have on its financial position and the changes in its financial position when such statement is adopted.

Pension and other postretirement benefits

We have disclosed to you all significant pension benefits promised and have made available to you all significant summary plan descriptions, benefit communications and all other relevant information, including plan changes, that constitute the plan.

We have disclosed to you all significant postemployment benefits other than pensions (OPEBs) promised and have made available to you all significant summary plan descriptions, benefit communications and all other relevant information, including plan changes, that constitute the plan.

Required supplementary information

We acknowledge our responsibility for the required supplementary information on the management’s discussion and analysis, schedule of the proportionate share of the net pension liability, the schedule of contributions, the schedule of the proportionate share of the net OPEB liability, and the notes to required supplementary information, which have been measured and presented in conformity with the guidelines established by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board in its applicable GASB Statement.

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

We are responsible for the significant assumptions and interpretations underlying the measurement and presentation of the required supplementary information. We believe that the significant assumptions and interpretations used are reasonable.

We believe that the separate presentation of the schedule of changes in total pension liability and

A – Management’s Representation Letter, continued

related ratios related to GASB statement No. 73 is not significant. The required information is combined with schedules required under GASB Statement No. 68.

Supplementary information

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

- Schedule of Details of Operating Expenses
- Schedule of Summary of Salaries and Wages
- Schedule of Employees by Department

We believe the supplementary information, including its form and content, is fairly stated in all material respects.

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 matters

We have received a draft copy of our financial statements as of and for the years ended September 30, 2024 and 2023. The accuracy and completeness of the financial statements, including footnote disclosures, are our responsibility.

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

- Our underlying books and records are maintained by our accounting department and that the final trial balance prepared by us is complete and,
- All adjusting journal entries posted to the trial balance have been approved by us, and
- We have designated a competent representative to oversee your services and that our personnel have sufficient financial competence who are able to challenge and review the completeness and accuracy of the financial statements, including footnote disclosures.

We have reviewed the draft financial statements for accuracy and completeness.

We acknowledge that we have reviewed them and taken responsibility for them.

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 basic financial statements.

A – Management’s Representation Letter, continued

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.

Components of net position (net investment in capital assets; restricted; and unrestricted), and classifications of fund balance (nonspendable fund balance, and restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned) are properly classified and, if applicable, approved.

Provisions for uncollectible receivables have been properly identified and recorded.

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

Our policy regarding whether to first apply restricted or unrestricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is available is appropriately disclosed and net position was properly recognized under the policy.

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

Subsequent events

Subsequent to September 30, 2024, no events or transactions as outlined in “Subsequent Events” in Appendix B 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 Authority’s affairs to require mention in a note to the basic financial statements in order to make them not misleading regarding the financial position, changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows of the Authority.

A – Management's Representation Letter, continued

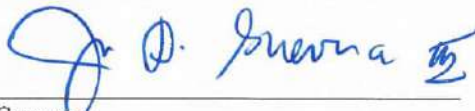
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We understand that your audit was conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America as established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the standards applicable to financial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



Rory Respicio
General Manager



Jose Guevara
Chief Financial Officer

A – Management’s Representation Letter, continued

Appendices

A – Schedule of Corrected Misstatements

B – Subsequent Events Considerations

A – Management’s Representation Letter, continued

Appendix A – Corrected Misstatements

Communication schedule for corrected misstatements

Entity:Port Authority of Guam

Period ended:30-Sep-2024

Currency:USD

Corrected misstatements			Analysis of misstatements Debit/(Credit)							
No.	WIP ref.	Account	Assets Current	Assets Non-current	Liabilities Current	Liabilities Non-current	Equity components	Effect on the current period OCI	Income statement effect of the current period	
(misstatements are recorded as journal entries with a description)			Debit/(Credit)	Debit/(Credit)	Debit/(Credit)	Debit/(Credit)	Debit/(Credit)	Debit/(Credit)	Non taxable	
AJE01	P1	To adjust the balance of pension accounts for FY 2024								
		Deferred inflows of resources from pension				1,189,343				
		Deferred outflows of resources from pension		5,062,676						
		Net Pension Liability				(3,704,192)				
		Management and administration							(1,630,161)	
		Stevedoring services							(402,455)	
		Terminal services							(337,126)	
		Transportation services							(472,624)	
		Equipment Maintenance							(488,135)	
		Facility maintenance							(208,224)	
AJE02	P2	To adjust the balance of OPEB accounts for FY 2024.								
		Deferred Outflow - OPEB		3,877,531						
		Deferred Inflow - OPEB				8,634,185				
		Other Income (expense) - OPEB Expense							5,177,745	
		Total collective OPEB liability				(17,689,461)				
Total of corrected misstatements before income tax			0	9,940,407	0	(11,570,129)	0	0	1,629,718	
Financial statement amounts			97,984,232	248,088,029	(10,014,246)	(302,744,428)	(34,311,587)		(2,773,036)	
Effect of corrected misstatements on F/S amounts			0.0%	4.0%	0.0%	3.8%	0.0%		-58.8%	

A – Management’s Representation Letter, continued

Appendix B – Subsequent Events Considerations

Port Authority of Guam

Subsequent Events Questionnaire

Coverage: For the period from October 1, 2024 to the audit report date

Questions	Response: Yes or No	If yes, please provide additional information
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 financial statements?	NO	
2. Have any new significant contingent liabilities or commitments that arisen, except as disclosed in the financial statements?	NO	
3. Have any significant changes that occurred in trends of grant revenue or expense that could affect accounting estimates (e.g. valuation of receivables, provisions for liabilities or unearned income)?	NO	
4. Have any significant changes that 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 financial statements?	NO	
5. Have 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?	NO	
6. Have any significant, unusual or nonrecurring adjustments been recorded (or are necessary)?	NO	
7. Have any communications, written or oral, that occurred with the regulatory agencies (including Federal granting agencies and the Government of Guam or any of its agencies) with which the entity files financial statements or seeks federal assistance/grants from?	NO	
8. 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?	NO	
9. Are you aware of any fraud or suspected fraud affecting Port Authority of Guam involving (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control or (3) others, when the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements?	NO	
10. 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 financial statements or otherwise affect the financial reporting of Port Authority of Guam?	NO	
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.)?	NO	