



Metro

February 24, 2012

Richard D. Thorpe, Chief Executive Officer
Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority
707 Wilshire Boulevard, 34th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017

SUBJECT: Advisory Letter to Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority (Expo)
(12-AUD-10)

Dear Mr. Thorpe:

Summarized below are observations we made during the review requested by the Metro Board of the Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority.

A. Matter Related to Travel Policy

Expo's Travel and Business Expense Policy states that travelers are responsible for making his/her own travel arrangements within the policy guidelines. This requires the traveler to take time to find the best available airfare, hotels, etc. If Expo made an agreement with Metro to have Metro's Travel Coordinator make these arrangements within the policy guidelines, the traveler would not have to take his/her time to do this.

Expo officials advised us that they use the Metro Travel Coordinator for conferences, seminars, etc. They said that only couple of Authority staff have traveled. Expo staff used the Metro Travel Coordinator in the past and felt that it was more efficient and economical to make travel arrangements themselves. Also, they have been able to negotiate government rates for hotels.

Suggestion 1: Expo should continuing working with the Metro Travel Coordinator when Expo needs assistance or it is efficient and economical to use this service.

B. Matters Related to the Public Website

As part of our review, we reviewed Expo's public website to determine whether enhancements could be made. While the website provides useful information to the public, we found areas where Expo could provide greater transparency. We believe the following areas should be considered for inclusion on the website:

- Annual budget information. Expo officials stated that budget information is contained in the annual April board item that is posted on the Expo public website.

We believe that it might be difficult for the public to find budget information that is contained in a board item. It would be helpful to the public and increase transparency if the annual approved budgets are posted in a separate tab or link within the Expo website.

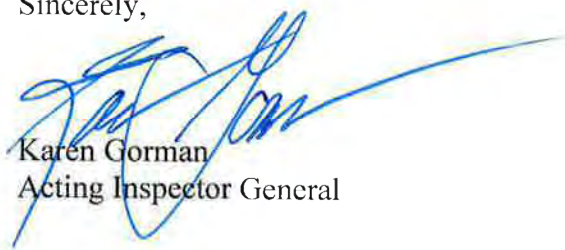
- Compensation to top staff. The website could improve transparency by including the salaries of top executives since they are paid from public funds. Metro provides this information on its top staff on the Metro web site.
- Search capability. A search capability for the public website would enable the public to quickly find information. Metro has such a capability.

In addition, the Authority's public website does not provide information of where to report fraud, waste, or abuse to an independent entity. Authority employees and the public should have information where they can report suspected fraud, waste, or abuse. Although the Authority does not have in-house investigative resources, it could provide links on its website to the Hotlines of the Metro OIG, Department of Transportation, or other appropriate entities.

Suggestion 2: Expo should consider making its public website more transparent by providing:

- Information on its annual budget, salaries of top executives,
- Website search capability or adding additional tabs or links to facilitate search for information, and
- Links to the Hotlines of the Metro OIG, Department of Transportation, or other appropriate entities, where employees and the public could report fraud, waste, or abuse.

Sincerely,



Karen Gorman
Acting Inspector General

cc: Board of Directors Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority

