## REPORT

## **CLERMONT COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT**

## REPORT ON COMPLIANCE AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

for the year ended December 31, 2000



STATE OF OHIO OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR

JIM PETRO, AUDITOR OF STATE

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The Honorable Board of County Commissioners of Clermont County 2379 Clermont Center Drive Batavia, Ohio 45103

We have reviewed the Independent Auditor's Report of the Clermont County Sewer District, Hamilton County, prepared by Foxx & Company, for the audit period January 1, 2000 through December 31, 2000. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

Our review was made in reference to the applicable sections of legislative criteria, as reflected by the Ohio Constitution, and the Revised Code, policies, procedures and guidelines of the Auditor of State, regulations and grant requirements. The Clermont County Sewer District is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

JIM PETRO Auditor of State

July 30, 2001

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## **CLERMONT COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT**

## REPORT ON COMPLIANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

## for the year ended December 31, 2000

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## REPORT ON COMPLIANCE AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

The Honorable Board of County Commissioners Clermont County, Ohio

We have audited the financial statements of the Clermont County Sewer District, Water and Sewer Systems, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2000, and have issued our report thereon dated March 29, 2001. We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

## Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Clermont County Sewer District's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

## **Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Clermont County Sewer District's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses.

This report is intended for the information and use of management and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Foxx & Company

Cincinnati, Ohio March 29, 2001

## REPORT

## AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for

## **CLERMONT COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT**

## SEWER SYSTEM

for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

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## **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT**

The Honorable Board of County Commissioners Clermont County, Ohio:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Clermont County Sewer District (District), Sewer System, Batavia, Ohio, as of and for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999 as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the District's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As discussed in Note 1, the financial statements present only the Sewer System and are not intended to present fairly the financial position of Clermont County, and the results of its operations and cash flows of its proprietary fund types and nonexpendable trust funds in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

As described in Note 11, the District adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statements Nos. 33 and 34 as of and for the year ended December 31, 2000. Also, as described in Note 12, the District changed its capitalization policy for fixed assets.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Clermont County Sewer District, Sewer System, as of December 31, 2000 and 1999, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 29, 2001 on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants.

The Management's Discussion on pages 3 to 6, are not a required part of the basic financial statements but are supplementary information required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquires of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

Foxx & Company

Cincinnati, Ohio March 29, 2001

## **MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

Our discussion and analysis of Clermont County Sewer District's Sewer System's financial performance provides an overview of the System's financial activities for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2000.

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- ! The Sewer System's net assets increased by \$9.1 million or 7.9% in 2000.
- ! The Board of County Commissioners adopted a change in the fixed asset policy that increased the level for a capitalized asset from \$200 to \$5,000. A net reduction of \$0.7 Million to the System's assets has been made to reflect this change.
- ! The operations of the Sewer System were turned over to a contract operator on March 1, 2000. The Board of County Commissioners adopted a 8.5% rate decrease that became effective October 1, 2000 to share, with the rate payers, some of the anticipated savings that were to accrue from the operations contract.
- ! During the year, the System generated \$1.8 million from operations and \$1.0 million from other financing activities, principally a favorable market value on held investments which resulted in \$.7 million.
- ! The operating income was up 5.8%, or \$99 thousand from 1999 as a result of a reduction in expenses of \$333 thousand.

## USING THIS ANNUAL REPORT

This annual report consists of a series of financial statements. The Statement of Net Assets (Pages 9-10) and the Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets (page 11), previously called the Balance Sheet and Income Statement, provide information about the activities of the Sewer System and present a longer-term view of the System's finances. The Statement of Net Assets includes all of the System's assets and liabilities and provides information about the nature and amounts of investment in resources (assets) and the obligations to creditors (liabilities). You will need to consider other nonfinancial factors, however, such as conditions of the capital assets, to assess the overall health of the Sewer System. All of the current years revenues and expenses are accounted for in the Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Net Assets. This statements measures the success of the System's operations over the past year and can be used to determine whether the System has successfully recovered all its costs through its user fees and other charges. These statements report all assets and liabilities using the accrual basis of accounting. All of the current years revenues and expenditures are taken into account regardless of when cash is received or paid. The final financial statement is the Statement of Cash Flow (Page 12). The primary purpose of this statement is to provide information about the System's cash receipts, cash payments and net changes

in cash resulting from operations, investing and financing activities and provides answers to such questions as where did cash come from, what was cash used for and what was the change in cash balance during the reporting period.

#### SYSTEM SUMMARY

The Sewer System's total net assets increased from \$115.9 million to \$125.0 million. Our analysis below focuses on the net assets (Table 1) and changes in net assets (Table 2) of the System.

Net assets of the System increased by 7.9%. Unrestricted net assets-the part of net assets that can be used to finance day-to-day operations without constraints established by debt covenants or other legal requirements-increased by \$7.8 million in 2000. Restricted assets-those restricted mainly for capital projects and bond covenants-increased by \$0.3 million. The investment in capital assets, net

# Table 1 Net Assets (in Millions)

Sewer System	1999	2000
Current and Other Assets	\$ 51.9	\$ 60.5
Capital Assets	\$ 117.3	\$116.7
Total Assets	\$169.2	\$177.2
Long Term Debt Outstanding	(\$ 50.5)	(\$ 48.9
Other Liabilities	(\$ 2.8)	(\$ 3.3)
Total Liabilities	(\$ 53.3)	(\$ 52.2)
Net Assets:		
Invested in capital assets, net of debt	\$ 66.8	\$ 67.8
Restricted	\$ 6.4	\$ 6.7
Unrestricted (deficit)	\$ 42.7	\$ 50.5
Total Net Assets	\$ 115.9	\$ 125.0

of debt increased by only \$1.0 million. This increase reflects capital assets financed primarily from the System's net assets of which a part (\$7.0 million) came from capital contributions in the form of system capacity fees, donated assets, assessments and grants. The change in the fixed asset policy reduced the 2000 investment by \$0.7 million.

While the Statement of Net Assets shows the change in the financial position of the net assets, the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Net Assets provides answers as to the nature and source of these changes. As seen in table 2, below, the Sewer System's income before capital contributions of \$2.2million and capital contributions of \$6.9 million were the two sources of the increase in net assets of \$9.1million in 2000. Operating revenues decreased by 2.2% (\$0.3

million) from 1999 to 2000 as a result of a reduced level of metered sales due to a wet season and a 8.5% reduction in rates effective October 1, 2001. Non-Operating revenues were up \$1.7 million as a result of a favorable market which provided for an increase in interest income of \$0.9 million.

# Table 2 Change in Net Assets (in Millions)

Sewer System	1999	2000
Operating Revenues	\$ 14.0	\$ 13.7
Non-Operating Revenues	1.9	3.6
Total Revenues	\$ 15.9	\$ 17.3
Operating Expenses	\$ 6.2	\$ 6.0
Depreciation Expense	6.1	5.9
Other Expenses	3.4	3.2
Total Expenses	\$ 15.7	\$ 15.1
Income before Capital Contributions	\$ 0.2	\$ 2.2
Capital Contributions	\$ 5.3	\$ 6.9
Increase(Decrease) in Net Assets	\$ 5.5	\$ 9.1

Total expenses reflected a reduction of 3.8% in 2000. A \$0.2 million reduction in operating expenses was due to the savings of contract operations which began March 1, 2001 and runs for a five year period. The reduction of \$0.3 million in depreciation expense was due to the change in the capital asset policy. Contributions rose by \$1.6 million as a result of assessments of two construction projects and a \$ 0.6 increase in donated assets throughout the year.

This page lists financial ratios that should be used to assess the financial stability of the System over an extended period of time. The balance of Working Capital demonstrates the continuing ability to

# Sewer System Financial Ratios (dollars in thousands)

Ratio	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Working Capital	\$22,366	\$29,455	\$33,905	\$39,887	\$48,118
Current Ratio	21.0	32.2	34.2	47.1	91.2
Days Cash & Investments	1218	1419	1698	2038	2436
Liabilities to Net Assets	57%	53%	49%	46%	42%
Return on Assets	1%	1%	2%	2%	3%
Days in Receivable	64	60	65	65	67

Working Capital is the amount by which current assets exceed current liabilities.

Current Ratio compares current assets to current liabilities and is an indicator of the ability to pay current obligations. Days Cash & Investments represents the number of days normal operations could continue with no revenue collection Liabilities to Net Assets indicated the extent of borrowings.

Return on Assets from Operations illustrates to what extent there will be sufficient funds to replace assets in the future. Days in Receivables determines haw many days it takes to collect amount billed to customers.

finance operations with cash. The growth of the Current Ratio and the reduction in the Liabilities to Net Assets ratio demonstrate the fact that the System has not financed its Working Capital with an increasing proportion of debt. The stability in Days in Receivable demonstrate that the increase in Days Cash and Investment in Reserve is not being financed by a reduction in receivables.

## CAPITAL ASSETS AND DEBT ADMINISTRATION

#### **Capital Assets**

At the end of 2000, the Sewer System had \$192.5 million invested in capital assets including sewer lines, pump stations, and treatments plants. This amount represents a net increase of \$4.0 million (including additions, deletions and adjustments for the policy change).

Capital Assets at Year End 1999 & 2000		
(Net of Depreciation, in millions)	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>
Land	\$ 2.6	\$ 2.6
Structures	φ 2.0 42.9	42.8
Machinery (Infrastructure)	136.7	138.7
Furniture	0.6	0.5
Autos/Trucks	1.4	1.2
Construction in Progress	4.3	6.7
Subtotal Capital Assets	\$ 188.5	\$192.5
Accumulated Depreciation	(71.3)	<u>(75.8)</u>
Total Capital Assets	\$ 117.2	\$ 116.7

The year's major additions included:

\$2.4 Million of sewerlines donated by developers

\$0.6 Million of effort related to Project XL

\$0.3 Million for the Systems's share of GIS System Cost

The Sewer System's 2001 capital budget anticipates a spending level of \$19.4 million for capital projects. The District has located some grants and loans (approx \$0.7 million) to help fund some of these expenditures.

#### Debt

At year end, 2000, the System had \$50.5 million in bonds and loans outstanding, a decrease of \$1.5 million or 3% from 1999.

nding Debt, at Year-End 2000		
ions)	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>
Revenue Bonds	\$ 41.8	\$ 40.7
Revenue Bonds	4.9	4.8
A Loans	2.1	2.0
C Loans	3.2	3.0
Total Outstanding Debt	\$ 52.0	\$ 50.5

One area that demonstrates the System's financial strength and future borrowing capability is seen in its debt coverage ratio, which is currently a strong 398%. The impact of this is that the System has the ability and the capacity to finance additional debt.

Debt Coverage Ratio	
(in millions)	
Income from Operations	\$ 2.9
Add Items to convert income from operations to pledged revenues:	
Interest Paid on Bonds	2.4
Depreciation Expense	5.9
System Capacity Charges	3.0
Net Pledged Revenues	<u>\$ 14.2</u>
Debt Service Requirement during 2000	<u>\$ 3.6</u>
Coverage Ratio	<u>398%</u>
Required Coverage Ratio	110%

#### CONTACTING THE SYSTEM'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

This financial report is designed to provide our customers, investors and creditors with a general overview of the Sewer System's finances. If you have any questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact the Controller, Clermont County Sewer District, 101 East Main Street, Batavia, Ohio, 45103.

## CLERMONT COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT BATAVIA, OHIO SEWER SYSTEM STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS December 31, 2000 and 1999

ASSETS		
	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>
Current assets:		
Equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents	\$ 4,637,771	\$ 4,505,098
Held by Trustees:		
Cash equivalents in segregated accounts	3,890,996	2,405,848
Investments in segregated accounts	37,539,690	31,324,964
Accounts receivable (net of allowance for doubtful		
accounts of \$48,831 for 2000; \$30,923 for 1999)	2,510,646	2,473,501
Inventory of supplies at cost	72,510	41,973
Total current assets	48,651,613	40,751,384
Noncurrent assets:		
Restricted assets:		
Equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents	1,800	-
Held by Trustees:	·	
Cash and cash equivalents	472,090	500,114
Investments	8,173,825	7,647,828
Retainage accounts	56,055	39,208
Accrued interest	673,907	162,014
Capital assets:		
Land	2,634,413	2,649,150
Structures	42,801,797	42,892,162
Machinery	138,743,199	136,718,510
Furniture	517,368	634,210
Autos and trucks	1,164,601	1,360,135
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(75,815,477)	(71,253,534)
Construction in progress	6,684,026	4,274,548
Unamortized financing costs	1,024,713	1,073,509
Loans receivable	965,836	990,760
Interfund receivable	429,436	501,009
Grants Receivable	<u> </u>	210,102
Total noncurrent assets	128,527,589	128,399,725
Total assets	177,179,202	169,151,109
(continued)		

(continued)

## CLERMONT COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT BATAVIA, OHIO SEWER SYSTEM STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS (continued) December 31, 2000 and 1999

LIABILITIES	2000	1000
Current liabilities:	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>
Accounts payable	\$ 441,555	\$ 389,603
Accrued wages and benefits	<sup>3</sup> 441,555 92,012	475,150
Accrued wages and benefits	92,012	475,150
Total current liabilities	533,567	864,753
Noncurrent liabilities:		
Payable from restricted assets:		
Current portion of long-term debt	1,551,006	1,493,802
Accounts payable	854,025	187,742
Accrued interest payable	192,290	196,595
Retainage payable	56,055	39,208
Maintenance bond payable	35,050	35,525
Long-term debt	48,949,040	50,450,508
Total noncurrent liabilities	51,637,466	52,403,380
Total liabilities	52,171,033	53,268,133
NET ASSETS		
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	67,780,887	66,824,673
Restricted for debt service	6,724,301	6,431,817
Unrestricted	50,502,981	42,626,486
Total net assets	<u>\$125,008,169</u>	<u>\$115,882,976</u>

## CLERMONT COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT BATAVIA, OHIO SEWER SYSTEM STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999

	2000	<u>1999</u>
Operating revenues:	<b>•</b> 12 7 10 0 4 1	¢ 14010 514
Charges for services	\$ 13,749,064	\$ 14,019,514
All other revenues	38,415	2,259
Total operating revenues	13,787,479	14,021,773
Operating expenses:		• • • • • • •
Personnel services	929,021	2,891,914
Contractual services	4,596,713	1,084,463
Maintenance and repair	165,036	370,364
Utilities	287,819	1,156,779
Materials and supplies	38,308	639,119
Depreciation	5,940,732	6,146,990
Other	17,908	19,146
Total operating expenses	11,975,537	12,308,775
Operating income	1,811,942	1,712,998
Nonoperating revenues (expenses):		
Interest income	2,831,247	1,920,525
Change in fair value of investments	737,399	(801,036)
Interest expense	(2,532,147)	(2,588,170)
Other expense	(6,960)	-
Gain on sale of fixed assets	9,474	
Total nonoperating revenues (expenses)	1,039,013	(1,468,681)
Income from operations	2,850,955	244,317
Cumulative effect on prior years of accounting change	(677,686)	<u>-</u>
Income before contributions	2,173,269	244,317
Capital contributions	6,951,924	5,311,613
Change in net assets	9,125,193	5,555,930
Total net assets, beginning	115,882,976	110,327,046
Total net assets, ending	<u>\$125,008,169</u>	<u>\$115,882,976</u>
Pro forma amounts assuming capitalized asset policy applied retroactively:		
Income from operations	<u>\$ 2,850,955</u>	<u>\$ 419,361</u>
Change in net assets	<u>\$ 9,802,879</u>	<u>\$ 5,730,974</u>

## CLERMONT COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT BATAVIA, OHIO SEWER SYSTEM STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999

	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:	¢ 10 511 010	¢ 10 000 100
Receipts from customers	\$ 13,711,919	\$ 13,898,199
Payments to suppliers Payments to employees	(5,084,369) (1,312,159)	(3,267,999) (3,005,068)
Other receipts	38,415	2,259
NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	7,353,806	7,627,391
CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED		
FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Proceeds from assessments	953,979	-
Maintenance bond receipts	3,900	10,325
Maintenance bond payments	(4,375)	-
OPWC grants received	743,070	-
Proceeds from OPWC loans	24,924	-
Principal and interest paid on long-term debt	(3,931,920)	(3,999,617)
Construction of capital asset	(2,956,227)	(2,545,687)
Retainage receipts Retainage payments	51,494	10,471
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	(34,647) 86,113	71,573
System capacity charges	3,002,297	3,225,579
	3,002,297	5,225,579
NET CASH USED BY CAPITAL AND RELATED		
FINANCING ACTIVITIES	(2,061,392)	(3,227,356)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Investment purchases	(37,612,073)	(36,195,984)
Investment sales	31,608,749	29,127,013
Interest received on investments	2,319,354	1,872,956
NET CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES	(3,683,970)	(5,196,015)
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	1,608,444	(795,980)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	7,450,268	8,246,248
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 9,058,712</u>	<u>\$ 7,450,268</u>
RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING INCOME TO NET CASH		
PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES:	¢1 011 040	¢1 712 000
Income from operations	\$1,811,942	\$1,712,998
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	5,940,732	6,146,990
Change in assets and liabilities:	5,940,752	0,140,990
Net change in customer accounts receivable	(37,145)	(121,315)
Net change in inventory	(30,537)	(1,762)
Net change in prepaid expenses	-	47,696
Net change in operating accounts payable	51,952	(44,062)
Net change in accrued payroll and related expenses	(383,138)	(113,154)
NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	<u>\$7,353,806</u>	\$7,627,391
NON-CASH TRANSACTIONS:		
Contributions from developers	<u>\$2,435,720</u>	<u>\$1,875,932</u>

#### for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999

#### 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### A. Organization

The Clermont County Sewer District (District), which includes a waterworks system and a sewer system, operates as a separate proprietary or individual enterprise fund under the direction of the Clermont County Board of Commissioners. The financial statements covering the waterworks system are issued separately from the sewer system. The County issues a separate Comprehensive Annual Financial Report which contains this sewer system as a separate enterprise fund of the County.

The customers serviced by the District are located primarily within Clermont County with a small portion located in Hamilton County. Customers consist of residential, industrial, and commercial accounts.

#### **B.** Basis of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements were prepared on the accrual basis of accounting, whereby revenues and expenses are recognized in the period earned or incurred. In accordance with GASB Statement No. 34, "Basic Financial Statements and Management's Discussion and Analysis for State and Local Governments," the district applies all GASB pronouncements and all FASB Statements and Interpretations, Accounting Principles Board of Opinions and Accounting Research Bulletins issued on or before November 30, 1989, unless they conflict with GASB pronouncements.

#### C. Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment are stated at historical cost and updated for the cost of additions and retirements during the year. Routine maintenance and repairs are expensed as incurred. Contributed fixed assets are recorded at their fair market values as of the date donated, and depreciation on those assets is included in the Statements of Revenue and Expenses. Interest during construction is capitalized until substantial completion of the project. Depreciation is computed on the straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the asset as follows:

#### for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999

Description	Estimated Lives (Years)
Autos and trucks	3-5
Machinery, equipment, furniture and fixtures	5-20
Sewer treatment plants and structures	20-50
Collection mains	50

#### **D.** Inventory

Supplies, materials, and fuel are stated at the lower of cost or market on a first-in, first-out (FIFO) basis.

#### E. Statement of Cash Flows

For the purpose of the Statement of Cash Flows, the District considers all highly liquid investments with maturities of less than three months (including restricted assets) to be cash equivalents.

#### F. Unamortized Financing Costs

The unamortized financing costs include bond discounts, consulting fees, and attorney's fees incurred in connection with the revenue bond obligations. These costs are capitalized and are amortized on the straight-line method over the lives of the revenue bonds and are included as interest expense. The amount amortized amounted to \$48,796 in 2000 and 1999.

#### G. Insurance

The District participates in Ohio Workers' Compensation and Ohio State Unemployment programs. The District maintains insurance coverage for liability and property damage through policies with private carriers.

#### for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999

#### H. Investments

In accordance with GASB Statement 31, investments are recorded at fair value as stated by the District's investment Trustees.

#### I. Compensated Absences

A liability is provided for accumulated unpaid sick, vacation and compensated time benefits when earned by employees. Ohio law requires that vacation time not be accumulated for more than three years. Employees with a minimum of one year of service become vested in accumulated unpaid vacation time. Unused vacation is payable upon termination of employment. Unused sick time may be accumulated until retirement. Employees eligible to retire, with a minimum of ten years of service, are paid one-fourth of accumulated sick time upon retirement. However, if employees earned sick leave prior to January 23, 1984, they are eligible for 100 percent conversion.

Such payment may not exceed the value of thirty days of accrued but unused sick leave. In general, employees are eligible to be paid for unused compensation time upon termination of employment. Sick, vacation and compensation payments are made at the employee's current wage rate.

#### J. Net Assets

Net assets are the difference between assets and liabilities. Net assets invested in capital assets, net of related debt are capital assets, less accumulated depreciation and any outstanding long-term debt related to the acquisition, construction or improvement of those assets. Net assets are reported as restricted when there are legal limitations are imposed on their use by county legislation or external restrictions by other governments, creditors or grantors.

#### K. System Capacity Charges

System capacity charges are recorded as contributed capital as they represent one-time charges to customers for the privilege of accessing the sewer system.

#### L. Loans Receivable

Loans Receivable represent OPWC loans where the District has entered into a loan agreement but has not drawn down all loan proceeds due to the interim status of the related

#### for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999

construction project. The loan terms require the District to initiate loan payments even though the project is not completed and all loan proceeds have not been drawn down.

## 2. Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments

Cash, cash equivalents and investments at December 31, 2000 are summarized below:

	Cash and Cash Equivalents	Investments	Total
Held by the Clermont County Treasurer:			
Unrestricted pooled cash, revenue account	\$4,637,771	-	\$ 4,637,771
Restricted pooled cash, construction account	1,800	-	1,800
Retainage accounts	56,055	-	56,055
Amounts held by trustees:			
Construction account	250,030	1,087,563	1,337,593
Bond account	164,821	3,646,630	3,811,451
Replacement and improvement account	57,239	3,439,632	3,496,871
Surplus account	3,890,996	37,539,690	41,430,686
Total	<u>\$9,058,712</u>	<u>\$45,713,515</u>	<u>\$54,772,227</u>

Cash, cash equivalents and investments at December 31, 1999 are summarized below:

	Cash and Cash		
	Equivalents	Investments	Total
Held by the Clermont County Treasurer:			
Unrestricted pooled cash, revenue account	\$4,505,098	\$ -	\$ 4,505,098
Retainage accounts	39,208	-	39,208
Amounts held by trustees:			
Construction account	275,570	976,628	1,252,198
Bond account	137,475	3,535,813	3,673,288
Replacement and improvement account	87,069	3,135,387	3,222,456
Surplus account	2,405,848	31,324,964	33,730,812
Total	<u>\$7,450,268</u>	<u>\$38,972,792</u>	\$46,423,060

#### Pooled Cash held by Clermont County Treasurer

Operating and construction account funds, except for trustee funds described below, are controlled on the District's behalf by the Clermont County Treasurer's Office (County). Cash is deposited into bank accounts of the County for which the County Treasurer maintains accountability. The pooled cash of the County includes the proportionate share belonging to

#### for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999

the District. The County is responsible for the collateralization of pooled cash balances belonging to the District. The collateralization of County funds is discussed in the County's 2000 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

#### **Retainage Accounts**

Retainage accounts represent bank deposit accounts controlled by the District. All of these accounts represent cash retained from construction contractor payments until satisfactory completion of projects. The District's and the contractor's approval are required before funds can be released. Individual retainage accounts are collateralized by insurance provided by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation up to \$100,000. Any excess is collateralized through the use of the Federal Reserve book entry system to hold U.S. Government securities as collateral. The securities are registered in the name of the financial institution, not in the name of the District. As of December 31, 2000 retainage accounts totaled \$56,055, all of which was covered by FDIC Insurance.

#### Amounts Held by Trustees

Bond legislation requires the establishment of various accounts to be held by trustees. The District may invest these funds in direct obligations of the United States of America or highest rated bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness having maturity dates no longer than five years from the date of such investment.

Trustee account investments at December 31, 2000 are categorized according to credit risk into the following categories: (1) insured or registered, or securities held by the District's or its agent (bank trust department) in the District's name; or (2) uninsured and unregistered, with securities held by the counterparty's trust department or agent in the District's name; or (3) uninsured, unregistered securities held by the counterparty, or its trust department or agent but not in the District's name. Money market funds are unclassified investments since they are not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book entry form.

	Category 2	Reported <u>Amount</u>	Fair <u>Value</u>
Categorized Investments:			
U.S. Treasury Notes	\$38,210,187	\$38,210,187	\$ 38,210,187
U.S. Treasury Bills	7,503,328	7,503,328	7,503,328
Money Market Funds	<u> </u>	4,363,086	4,363,086
Total	<u>\$45,713,515</u>	\$50,076,601	<u>\$50,076,601</u>

#### for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999

## **3. Restrictions on Assets**

The Trust Agreement for the Revenue Bonds requires the establishment of certain trust accounts, including a Bond Account, Bond Reserve Account, Replacement and Improvement Account, Construction Account, and a Surplus Account. Cash and investments in the accounts are held by trustee financial institutions.

The Bond Account is used to accumulate periodic principal and interest payments. The Bond Reserve Account is to be funded in an amount equal to the maximum annual bond principal and interest requirement. The Replacement and Improvement Account is to be maintained with a balance equal to the greater of five percent of the amount of bonds outstanding or \$2,000,000. The Surplus Account accumulates any remaining net revenues which are available for several purposes at the direction of the County Commissioners. The Construction Account is established to pay for project costs.

## 4. Property, Plant and Equipment

	Balance January 1, 2000*	Additions	<u>Deletions</u>	Balance December 31, 2000
Land	\$ 2,634,413	\$-	\$ -	\$ 2,634,413
Structure	42,801,797	-	-	42,801,797
Machinery	135,074,447	3,668,752	-	138,743,199
Furniture	517,368	-	-	517,368
Autos and trucks	1,284,152		119,551	1,164,601
	<u>\$182,312,177</u>	<u>\$3,668,752</u>	<u>\$119,551</u>	185,861,378
Accumulated depreciation		(75,815,477)		
Net property, plant and equip	<u>\$110,045,901</u>			
Construction in progress as of Additions Construction projects closed		\$ 4,274,548 3,531,793 (1,122,315)		
Construction in progress as o	f December 31, 200			<u>\$ 6,684,026</u>

The following summarizes the changes to property plant and equipment during 2000.

\* January 1, 2000 balances reflect the District's new capitalization policy (see Note 12).

Assets contributed by developers and others in 2000 amounted to \$2,435,720.

#### for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999

## 5. Long-Term Debt

For the year ended December 31, 2000, changes in long-term debt consisted of the following:

	Interest Rate	Maturity	Balance January 1, 2000	Additions	Deletions	Balance December 31, 2000	Interest Paid During 2000
Notes payable:		-					
Ohio Water Develop	pment						
Authority Notes	5.20-6.5%	2014	\$ 2,087,808	\$-	\$ 113,929	\$ 1,973,879	\$ 111,243
Loans payable:							
OPWC	0-2.00%	2019	3,156,502	-	120,335	3,036,167	17,273
Revenue bonds:							
1984	5%	2024	4,925,000	-	105,000	4,820,000	246,250
1993	2.6-5.2%	2021	41,775,000		1,105,000	40,670,000	2,112,890
Total			<u>\$51,944,310</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$1,444,264</u>	50,500,046	<u>\$2,487,656</u>
Less current portion	l					(1,551,006)	
Long-term portion						<u>\$48,949,040</u>	

Principal payments on long-term debt for the next five years and thereafter are as follows:

		OWDA		OPWC		Revenue	
	OWDA	Note	OPWC	Loans	Revenue	Bond	
Year	Notes	Interest	Loans	Interest	Bonds	Interest	<u>Total</u>
2001	120,115	105,056	170,891	16,256	1,260,000	2,307,480	3,979,798
2002	126,639	98,532	171,929	15,217	1,315,000	2,252,530	3,979,847
2003	133,519	91,652	172,988	14,158	1,370,000	2,193,980	3,976,297
2004	140,776	84,396	174,069	13,078	1,435,000	2,131,730	3,979,049
2005	148,428	76,744	175,171	11,976	1,500,000	2,065,220	3,977,539
Thereafter	1,304,402	285,858	2,171,119	54,385	38,610,000	19,495,530	61,921,294
	<u>\$1,973,879</u>	\$742,238	\$3,036,167	\$125,070	\$45,490,000	\$30,446,470	\$81,813,824

Notes payable at December 31, 2000, consist of \$1,973,879 due to the Ohio Water Development Authority. Payments of principal and interest are payable semi-annually through 2014 and include interest at rates ranging from 5.20 percent to 6.50 percent per annum.

#### for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999

OPWC loans payable at December 31, 2000, consist of \$3,036,167 due to the Ohio Public Works Commission. Payments of principal and interest are payable semi-annually through 2019 and include interest at rates ranging from 0 to 2 percent per annum.

The District issued Sewer System Refunding Revenue Bonds, Series 1993, dated September 1, 1993, to advance refund the outstanding Series 1977, Series 1979, Series 1989 (maturing after 1995), Series 1990 and Series 1991 sewer revenue bonds of the County. The Series 1993 bonds mature on December 1 in various amounts ranging from \$1,150,000 in 2001 to \$18,480,000 in 2021, subject to prior mandatory sinking fund redemptions. Interest, at rates varying from 2.6 percent to 5.2 percent per annum, is payable semi-annually on June 1 and December 1. The District is to provide funding for the retirement of principal amounts when they mature by funding the Bond Account in varying amounts ranging from \$1,150,000 in 2001 to \$3,060,000 in 2021.

The Series 1984 bonds mature on December 1 in various amounts ranging from \$110,000 in 2001 to \$335,000 in 2024. Interest, at 5 percent per annum, is payable semi-annually on June 1 and December 1. The District provides funding for the retirement of principal amounts when they mature by funding the trustee Bond account on a monthly basis.

The revenue bond issues are subject to optional redemption in whole or in part at various redemption prices plus accrued interest for portions maturing at various times in the future. In addition, portions of these issues are subject to mandatory sinking fund redemption prior to maturing, from funds in the bond account created by the Bond Legislation through by the Trustee without action by the County.

Bond Legislation provides that the County will charge rates for the services and facilities of the system sufficient for the excess of revenues over expenditures to equal not less than 110 percent of the aggregate amount of principal and interest requirements on the bonds payable during the year (coverage ratio).

#### for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999

The coverage ratio computed under the Bond Legislation utilizing the 110 percent level is as follows:

Income from operations Add items to convert income from	\$ 2,850,955
operations to pledged revenues: Interest bonds (accrual basis)	2,354,835
Deferred debt amortization	48,796
Depreciation expense	5,940,732
System capacity charges	3,002,297
Net pledged revenues	<u>\$14,197,615</u>
Debt service requirement during 2000	<u>\$ 3,569,140</u>
Coverage ratio	<u>398</u> %
Required coverage ratio	<u>110</u> %

## 6. Defeased Debt

The District defeased various general obligation serial bonds and revenue serial bonds through refinancing and operations. Separate irrevocable trust funds were established and funded to fully service the defeased debt until the debt is called or matures. For financial reporting purposes, the debt has been considered defeased and is not included in the financial statements.

At December 31, 2000 and 1999, the total amount of defeased debt outstanding amounted to \$14,650,000 and \$25,405,000, respectively.

## 7. Other Contingent Liabilities

#### Consent Order Dated November 7, 1989

The Office of the Ohio Attorney General brought suit on behalf of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency relating to violations of the NPDES permits issued to the County. A consent order was placed on record on November 7, 1989 establishing certain time frames for construction of improvements to the facilities and establishing certain landmark dates for the completion of interim work.

Management of the District currently believes that the Sewer District is in compliance with the consent order.

#### for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999

#### Special Assessment Bonds

The Ohio Revised Code provides for the issuance of special assessment bonds for sewer improvements. Under the Code, such special assessment obligations are issued by the Board of County Commissioners. As general obligation debt, the full faith, credit and revenue of the County has been pledged as security for the outstanding special assessment obligations. These bonds are reflected on the County's financial statements as general obligation bonds of the County.

If the special assessments are not paid by the taxpayers or prove to be insufficient to pay the debt service, it is the obligation of the County to pay the debt from whatever source of funds is available to it, including, but not limited to, the funds of the Sewer District. During 2000 and 1999 no payments were made by the District to the County's debt service fund.

#### 8. Pension and Retirement

All District full-time employees participate in the Public Employees' Retirement System administered by the State of Ohio (State PERS). The plan is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer, public employee retirement system administered by the Public Employees Retirement Board. PERS provides basic retirement and disability benefits, annual cost of living adjustments, and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. Benefits are established by Chapter 145 of the Ohio Revised Code. PERS issues a stand-alone report which may be obtained by writing to the Public Employees Retirement System, 277 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4642 or by calling (614) 466-2085..

Plan members are required to contribute 8.5 percent of their annual covered salary to fund pension obligations. For calendar year 2000, PERS instituted a temporary employer rate rollback for state and local governments. The 2000 employer pension contribution rate for the District was 6.54 percent of covered payroll, reduced from 9.35 percent in 1999. Contributions are authorized by State statute. The contribution rates are determined actuarially.

The District's required contributions to PERS for the years ending December 31, 2000, 1999 and 1998 were \$132,275, \$291,658 and \$365,964, respectively; 83 percent has been contributed for 2000 and 100 percent for 1999 and 1998. The unpaid contribution for 2000 is recorded as a liability.

#### for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999

*Other Post-Employment Benefits* The Public Employees Retirement System of Ohio (PERS) provides post retirement health care coverage to age and service retirees with ten or more years of qualifying Ohio service credit. Health care coverage for disability recipients and primary survivor recipients is available. The health care coverage provided by the retirement system is considered an Other Post employment Benefit (OPEB) as described in GASB Statement No. 12. A portion of each employer's contribution to PERS is set aside for the funding of post retirement health care based on authority granted by State statute. The 2000 employer contribution rate was 10.84 percent of covered payroll; 4.3 percent was the portion that was used to fund health care for 2000. For 1999, the contribution rate was 13.55 percent of covered payroll; 4.20 percent was the portion that was used to fund health care.

Benefits are advance-funded using the entry age normal cost method. Significant actuarial assumptions, based on PERS's latest actuarial review performed as of December 31, 1999, include a rate of return on investments of 7.75 percent, an annual increase in active employee total payroll of 4.75 percent compounded annually (assuming no change in the number of active employees) and an additional increase in total payroll of between .54 percent and 5.1 percent based on additional annual pay increases. Health care premiums were assumed to increase 4.75 percent annually

All investments are carried at market. For actuarial valuation purposes, a smoothed market approach is used. Assets are adjusted to reflect 25 percent of unrealized market appreciation or depreciation on investment assets.

The number of active contributing participants was 401,339. The District's actual contributions for 2000 which were used to fund post employment benefits were \$52,471. The actual contribution and the actuarially required contribution amounts are the same. PERS's net assets available for payment of benefits at December 31, 1999, (the latest information available) were \$10,805.5 million. The actuarially accrued liability and the unfunded actuarial accrued liability were \$12,473.6 million and \$1,668.1 million, respectively.

For 2000, PERS elected to return to an actuarially pre-funded type of disclosure because it is a better presentation of PERS's actual funding methodology. Since 1997, disclosures had been based on a pay-as-you-go funding basis.

#### for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999

## 9. Interfund Transactions

The District is charged by other County funds for administrative services based on a cost allocation plan. The charges for 2000 and 1999 were \$210,737 and \$203,672 respectively, and are classified as contractual services.

During 1997 the Board of County Commissioners approved the sale of certain fixed assets of the District to the general fund of the County. Payments for the assets are to be made over 10 years. The sale of the assets results in the District recognizing amounts due from other funds totalling \$429,436 and \$501,009 at December 31, 2000 and 1999, respectively.

#### **10.** Plant Operations

On February 10, 2000, the Board of County Commissioners approved contracts with vendors for the operations of both the water and sewer systems. The vendors are responsible for the daily operations of treatment plants, storage and distribution systems as well as customer billing and collections. Vendors will collect operating revenues on behalf of the District and will be paid a monthly lump sum amount for operating expenses.

### **11. Prior Year Restatements**

In 2000, the District implemented GASB Statement No. 33, "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Nonexchange Transactions" and GASB Statement No. 34 "Basic Financial Statements - Management's Discussion and Analysis - for State and Local Governments." Statement No. 34 established new financial reporting requirements for all state and local governments. The effect of implementing Statement No. 34 for the District is the addition of management's discussion and analysis and revising the presentation of the District's financial statements.

## 12. Change in Accounting Principles

During 2000, the District changed its policy for capitalizing fixed assets by raising the capitalization threshold to \$5,000. The District has removed all items previously recorded with a value less than \$5,000 from fixed asset records and eliminated those items, and related accumulated depreciation, for reporting purposes. The effect of this change is to reduce

#### for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999

amounts reported as fixed assets and accumulated depreciation at January 1, 2000 by a net amount totaling \$677,686.

The Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets reflects this new policy for the year ended December 31, 2000. The cumulative effect on prior years for this accounting change and pro forma amounts have been presented to provide comparative data as though the change had been applied to amounts previously reported.

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# REPORT

# AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for

# **CLERMONT COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT**

# WATER SYSTEM

for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

Independent Auditors' Report 1
Management's Discussion and Analysis
Statements of Net Assets
Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets
Statements of Cash Flows 12
Notes to Financial Statements

# Page

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# **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT**

The Honorable Board of County Commissioners Clermont County, Ohio:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Clermont County Sewer District (District), Water System, Batavia, Ohio, as of and for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999 as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the District's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As discussed in Note 1, the financial statements present only the Water System and are not intended to present fairly the financial position of Clermont County, and the results of its operations and cash flows of its proprietary fund types and nonexpendable trust funds in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

As described in Note 11, the District adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statements Nos. 33 and 34 as of and for the year ended December 31, 2000. Also, as described in Note 12, the District changed its capitalization policy for fixed assets.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Clermont County Sewer District, Water System, as of December 31, 2000 and 1999, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 29, 2001 on our consideration of the Districts' internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provision of laws, regulations, contracts and grants.

The Management's Discussion on pages 3 to 6, are not a required part of the basic financial statements but are supplementary information required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquires of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

Foxx & Company

Cincinnati, Ohio March 29, 2001

# **MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

Our discussion and analysis of Clermont County Sewer District's Water System's financial performance provides an overview of the System's financial activities for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2000.

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- ! The Water System's net assets increased by \$5.6 million or 8.4% in 2000.
- ! The Board of County Commissioners adopted a change in the fixed asset policy that increased the level for a capitalized asset from \$200 to \$5,000. A net reduction of \$0.5 million to the systems assets has been made to reflect this change.
- ! The operations of the Water System were turned over to a contract operator on March 1, 2000. The Board of County Commissioners adopted a 5% rate decrease that became effective October 1, 2000 to share, with the rate payers, some of the anticipated savings that were to accrue from the operations contract.
- ! During the year, the System generated \$2.4 million from operations and used \$0.5 million for other financing activities, principally interest expense.
- ! The operating income was down 32%, or \$1.1 million from 1999 as a result of lower revenues (\$1.3 million).

#### USING THIS ANNUAL REPORT

This annual report consists of a series of financial statements. The Statement of Net Assets (Pages 9-10) and the Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets (page 11), previously called the Balance Sheet and Income Statement, provide information about the activities of the Water System and present a short and long-term view of the System's finances. The Statement of Net Assets includes all of the System's assets and liabilities and provides information about the nature and amounts of investment in resources (assets) and the obligations to creditors (liabilities). You will need to consider other nonfinancial factors, however, such as conditions of the capital assets, to assess the overall health of the Water System. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are accounted for in the Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Net Assets. This statement measures the success of the System's operations over the past year and can be used to determine whether the System has successfully recovered all its costs through its user fees and other charges. These statements report assets and liabilities using the accrual basis of accounting. All of the current years revenues and expenditures are taken into account regardless of when cash is received or paid. The final financial statement is the Statement of Cash Flow (Page 12). The primary purpose of this statement is to provide information about the System's cash receipts, cash payments, and net changes in cash resulting from operations, investing and financing activities and provides answers to such questions as where did cash come from, what was cash used for, and what was the change in cash balance during the reporting period.

#### SYSTEM SUMMARY

The Water System's total net assets increased from \$66.5 million to \$72.1 million. Our analysis below focuses on the net assets (Table 1) and changes in net assets (Table 2) of the System.

Net assets of the System increased by 8.4%. Unrestricted net assets-the part of net assets that can be used to finance day-to-day operations without constraints established by debt covenants or other legal requirements-increased by \$ 2.9 million in 2000. Restricted assets-those restricted mainly for capital projects and bond covenants-increased by \$0.2 million. The investment in capital assets, net of debt increased, \$2.6 million. This increase reflects capital assets financed primarily from the

# Table 1Net Assets (in Millions)

Water System	1999	2000
Current and Other Assets	\$ 37.1	\$ 40.1
Capital Assets	\$ 77.9	\$ 78.9
Total Assets	\$ 115.0	\$ 119.0
Long Term Debt Outstanding	(\$ 46.1)	(\$ 44.5
Other Liabilities	(\$ 2.4)	(\$ 2.4
Total Liabilities	(\$ 48.5)	(\$ 46.9
Net Assets:		
Invested in capital assets, net of debt	\$ 31.8	\$ 34.4
Restricted	\$ 5.5	\$ 5.7
Unrestricted (deficit)	\$ 29.1	\$ 32.0
Total Net Assets	\$ 66.5	\$ 72.

System's net assets of which a part (\$4.2 million) came from capital contributions in the form of system capacity fees, donated assets, assessments and grants. The change in the fixed asset policy reduced the 2000 investment by \$0.5 million.

# Table 2Change in Net Assets (in Millions)

Water System	1999	2000
Operating Revenues	\$ 12.2	\$ 10.9
Non Operating Revenues	1.2	2.2
Total Revenues	\$ 13.4	\$ 13.1
Operating Expenses	\$ 5.5	\$ 5.2
Depreciation Expense	3.2	3.3
Other Expenses	2.8	3.2
Total Expenses	\$ 11.5	\$ 11.7
Income Before Capital Contributions	\$ 1.9	\$ 1.4
Capital Contributions	3.5	4.2
Increase(Decrease) in Net Assets	\$ 5.4	\$ 5.6

While the Statement of Net Assets shows the change in the financial position of the net assets, the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets provides answers as to the nature and source of these changes. As seen in table 2, above, the Water System's income before capital contributions of \$1.4 million and capital contributions of \$4.2 million were the two sources of the increase in net assets of \$5.6 million in 2000. Operating revenues decreased by 11% (\$ 1.3 million) from 1999 to 2000 as a result of both a 5% rate reduction that became effective October1, 2000 and a wet season that kept water consumption down. Contributions rose by \$ 0.7 million as a result of an assessment of a construction project and a \$ 0.5 million increase in donated assets in 2000. Other revenues increased \$ 1.0 million due to a favorable market for held securities.

The contract operations period began March 1, 2000 and runs for a five-year term. The reduction of \$0.3 million in operating expenses is due in large part to this contract. \$0.4 million additional other expenses in 2000 reflects the adjustment for the new fixed asset policy.

The above financial ratios should be used to assess the financial stability of the System over and extended period of time. The balance of Working Capital demonstrates the continuing ability to finance operations with cash. The growth of the Current Ratio and the reduction in the Liabilities

# Sewer System Financial Ratios (dollars in thousands)

Ratio	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Working Capital	\$18,963	\$21,085	\$24,497	\$28,044	\$31,022
Current Ratio	21.1	34.5	35.7	48.3	161.7
Days Cash & Investments	1253	1326	1458	1586	1764
Liabilities to Net Assets	104%	93%	82%	73%	65%
Return on Assets	3%	4%	4%	4%	4%
Days in Receivable	60	54	57	54	62

Working Capital is the amount by which current assets exceed current liabilities.

Current Ratio compares current assets to current liabilities and is an indicator of the ability to pay current obligations.

Return on Assets from Operations illustrates to what extent there will be sufficient funds to replace assets in the future.

Days in Receivables determines haw many days it takes to collect amount billed to customers.

to Net Assets ratio demonstrates the fact that the System has not financed its Working Capital with an increasing proportion of debt. The stability in Days in Receivable demonstrates that the increase in Days Cash and Investment in Reserve is not being financed by a reduction in receivables.

# CAPITAL ASSETS AND DEBT ADMINISTRATION

#### **Capital Assets**

At the end of 2000, the Water System had \$118.0 million invested in capital assets including water lines, booster stations, storage tanks and treatments plants. This amount represents a net increase in 2000 of \$3.4million.

Days Cash & Investments represents the number of days normal operations could continue with no revenue collection Liabilities to Net Assets indicated the extent of borrowings.

Capital Assets at Year-End 1999 & 2000 (Net of Depreciation, in millions)	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>
Land Structures Machinery (infrastructure) Furniture Autos/Trucks Construction in Progress Subtotal Capital Assets Accumulated Depreciation	\$ 0.6 35.3 76.0 0.5 0.9 <u>1.3</u> 114.6 ( <u>36.7)</u>	
Total Capital Assets	\$ 77.9	\$ 78.9

The year's major additions included:

\$2.0 Million of waterlines donated from developers

\$0.9 Million to complete the Water Scada System

\$0.6 Million to efforts related to Project XL

\$0.3 Million for Tank Repainting

\$0.3 Million for the System's share of GIS System Cost

The Water System's 2001 capital budget anticipates a spending level of \$ 9.7 million for capital projects. The District has located some grants and loans (approx \$ 0.4 million) to help fund some of these expenditures.

# Debt

At year end, 2000, the System had \$46.1 million in bonds and loans outstanding, a decrease of \$1.5 million or 3% from 1999.

1999 <u>\$</u> 4	
	<u>46.1</u>
	<u>46.1</u>

One area that demonstrates the System's financial strength and future borrowing capability is seen in its debt coverage ratio, which is currently a strong 235%. The impact of this is that the System has the ability and the capacity to finance additional debt.

Debt Coverage Ratio	
(in millions)	
Income from Operations	\$1.9
Add Items to covert income from operations to pledged revenues:	
Interest Paid on Bonds	2.7
Depreciation Expense	3.3
System Capacity Charges	1.9
Net Pledged Revenues	<u>\$9.8</u>
Debt Service requirement during 2000	<u>\$4.2</u>
Coverage Ratio	<u>235%</u>
Required Coverage Ratio	<u>110%</u>

### CONTACTING THE SYSTEM'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

This financial report is designed to provide our customers, investors and creditors with a general overview of the Water System's finances. If you have any questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact the Controller, Clermont County Sewer District, 101 East Main Street, Batavia, Ohio, 45103.

# CLERMONT COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT BATAVIA, OHIO WATER SYSTEM STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS December 31, 2000 and 1999

ASSETS		
	2000	<u>1999</u>
Current assets:		
Equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,604,574	\$ 3,174,125
Held by Trustees:		
Cash equivalents in segregated accounts	871,803	694,253
Investments in segregated accounts	24,867,324	22,961,550
Accounts receivable (net of allowance for doubtful		
accounts of \$25,100 for 2000; \$15,013 for 1999)	1,679,066	1,635,130
Inventory of supplies at cost	193,106	172,533
Total current assets	31,215,873	28,637,591
Noncurrent assets:		
Restricted assets:		
Equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents	-	600
Held by Trustees:		
Cash and cash equivalents	228,460	219,615
Investments	7,186,813	7,008,372
Accrued interest	435,909	133,639
Retainage accounts	68,433	13,694
Capital assets:		
Land	523,269	586,736
Structures	35,267,642	35,357,688
Machinery	79,548,112	76,005,954
Furniture	407,999	496,124
Autos and trucks	789,956	889,722
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(39,127,750)	(36,715,045)
Construction in progress	1,504,915	1,278,456
Unamortized financing costs	778,869	822,139
Interfund receivable	220,983	257,814
Grant receivable	14,004	14,886
Total noncurrent assets	87,847,614	86,370,394
Total assets (continued)	119,063,487	115,007,985
(continued)		

(continued)

# CLERMONT COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT BATAVIA, OHIO WATER SYSTEM STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS (continued) December 31, 2000 and 1999

LIABILITIES		
	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>
Current liabilities:	*	*
Accounts payable	\$ 103,013	\$ 195,181
Accrued wages and benefits	90,071	398,240
Total current liabilities	193,084	593,421
Noncurrent liabilities:		
Payable from restricted assets:		
Current portion of long-term debt	1,580,000	1,510,000
Accounts payable	339,613	60,625
Accrued interest payable	214,701	220,615
Retainage payable	68,433	13,694
Maintenance bond payable	35,049	35,525
Long-term debt	44,495,000	46,075,000
Total noncurrent liabilities	46,732,796	47,915,459
Total liabilities	46,925,880	48,508,880
NET ASSETS		
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	34,419,143	31,824,635
Restricted for debt service	5,716,868	5,570,986
Unrestricted	32,001,596	29,103,484
Total net assets	<u>\$72,137,607</u>	<u>\$66,499,105</u>

# CLERMONT COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT BATAVIA, OHIO WATER SYSTEM STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999

	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>
Operating revenues:	¢10 707 907	¢11.000.550
Charges for services	\$10,707,807	\$11,998,558
All other revenues	203,749	216,912
Total operating revenues	10,911,556	12,215,470
Operating expenses:	1 014 50	0 (10 001
Personnel services	1,011,539	2,612,301
Contractual services	3,350,811	550,128
Maintenance and repair	100,919	234,114
Utilities	178,347	855,397
Materials and supplies	615,606	1,188,868
Depreciation	3,259,818	3,228,240
Other	10,087	21,820
Total operating expenses	8,527,127	8,690,868
Operating income	2,384,429	3,524,602
Nonoperating revenues (expenses):		
Interest income	1,945,743	1,508,642
Change in fair value of investments	247,474	(287,367)
Interest expense	(2,684,738)	(2,750,259)
Other expense	(2,085)	(2,750,257)
Gain on sale of fixed assets	4,953	_
Guill on sule of fixed assets	<u> </u>	
Total nonoperating revenues (expenses)	(488,653)	(1,528,984)
Income from operations	1,895,776	1,995,618
Cumulative effect on prior years of accounting change	(455,998)	<u> </u>
Income before contributions	1,439,778	1,995,618
Capital contributions	4,198,724	3,463,343
Change in net assets	5,638,502	5,458,961
Total net assets, beginning	66,499,105	61,040,144
Total net assets, ending	<u>\$72,137,607</u>	<u>\$66,499,105</u>
Pro forma amounts assuming capitalized asset policy applied retroactively:		
Income from operations	<u>\$ 1,895,776</u>	<u>\$ 2,078,595</u>
Change in net assets	<u>\$ 6,094,500</u>	<u>\$ 5,541,938</u>

# CLERMONT COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT BATAVIA, OHIO WATER SYSTEM STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999

CASH ELONG EDOM ODED ATING ACTIVITIES.	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES: Receipts from customers	\$10,663,871	\$ 11,945,765
Payments to suppliers	(4,368,511)	(2,870,067)
Payments to employees	(1,319,708)	(2,657,368)
Other receipts	203,749	216,912
NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	5,179,401	6,635,242
CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Principle and interest paid on long-term debt	(4,157,382)	(4,157,408)
Construction of capital assets	(2,448,683)	(2,440,818)
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	(2,448,083) 41,784	36,830
Retainage receipts	54,739	
Retainage payments	-	(26,546)
Maintenance bond receipts	3,900	10,326
Maintenance bond payments	(4,376)	
Proceeds from grants	14,966	-
Proceeds from assessments	233,605	15,461
System capacity charges	1,946,300	1,996,085
NET CASH USED BY CAPITAL AND RELATED	(4.215.147)	$(A \in C \cap D = 0)$
FINANCING ACTIVITIES	(4,315,147)	(4,566,070)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Investment purchases	(25,446,000)	(26,403,600)
Investment sales	23,609,255	22,378,088
Interest received on investments	1,643,474	1,465,090
NET CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES	(193,271)	(2,560,422)
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	670,983	(491,250)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	4,102,287	4,593,537
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF YEAR	4,773,270	<u>\$ 4,102,287</u>
RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING INCOME TO NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Income from operations	\$2,384,429	\$3,524,602
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash provided by	φ2,304,427	\$5,524,002
operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	3,259,818	3,228,240
Change in assets and liabilities:	-,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	-,,_,_
Net change in customer accounts receivable	(43,936)	(52,793)
Net change in inventory	(20,573)	6,774
Net change in prepaid expenses	-	41,264
Net change in operating accounts payable	(92,168)	(67,778)
Net change in accrued payroll and related expenses	(308,169)	(45,067)
NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	<u>\$5,179,401</u>	<u>\$6,635,242</u>
NON-CASH TRANSACTIONS:		
Contributions from developers	<u>\$2,002,650</u>	<u>\$1,451,797</u>

#### for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999

#### **1.** Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### A. Organization

The Clermont County Sewer District (District), which includes a waterworks system and a sewer system, operates as a separate proprietary or individual enterprise fund under the direction of the Clermont County Board of Commissioners. The financial statements covering the sewer system are issued separately from the waterworks system. The County issues a separate Comprehensive Annual Financial Report which contains this waterworks system as a separate enterprise fund of the County.

The customers serviced by the District are located primarily within Clermont County with a small portion located in Hamilton County. Customers consist of residential, industrial, and commercial accounts.

#### **B.** Basis of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements were prepared on the accrual basis of accounting, whereby revenues and expenses are recognized in the period earned or incurred. In accordance with GASB Statement No. 34, "Basic Financial Statements and Management's Discussion and Analysis for State and Local Governments", the district applies all GASB pronouncements and all FASB Statements and Interpretations, Accounting Principles Board of Opinions and Accounting Research Bulletins issued on or before November 30, 1989, unless they conflict with GASB pronouncements.

#### C. Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment are stated at historical cost and updated for the cost of additions and retirements during the year. Routine maintenance and repairs are expensed as incurred. Contributed fixed assets are recorded at their fair market values as of the date donated, and depreciation on those assets is included in the Statements of Revenues and Expenses. Interest during construction is capitalized until substantial completion of the project. Depreciation is computed on the straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the asset as follows:

#### for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999

Description	Estimated Lives (Years)
Autos and trucks	3-5
Machinery, equipment, furniture and fixtures	5-20
Water treatment plants and structures	20-50
Distribution mains	50

#### **D.** Inventory

Supplies, materials, and fuel are stated at the lower of cost or market on a first-in, first-out (FIFO) basis.

#### E. Statement of Cash Flows

For the purpose of the Statement of Cash Flows, the District considers all highly liquid investments with maturities of less than three months (including restricted assets) to be cash equivalents.

#### F. Unamortized Financing Costs

The unamortized financing costs include bond discounts, consulting fees, and attorneys' fees incurred in connection with the revenue bond obligations. These costs are capitalized and are amortized on the straight-line method over the lives of the revenue bonds and are included as interest expense. The amount amortized amounted to \$43,270 in 2000 and 1999.

#### G. Insurance

The District participates in Ohio Workers' Compensation and Ohio State Unemployment programs. The District maintains insurance coverage for liability and property damage through policies with private carriers.

#### for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999

#### H. Investments

In accordance with GASB Statement 31, investments are recorded at fair value as stated by the District's investment Trustees.

#### I. Compensated Absences

A liability is provided for accumulated unpaid sick, vacation and compensated time benefits when earned by employees. Ohio law requires that vacation time not be accumulated for more than three years. Employees with a minimum of one year of service become vested in accumulated unpaid vacation time. Unused vacation is payable upon termination of employment. Unused sick time may be accumulated until retirement. Employees eligible to retire, with a minimum of ten years of service, are paid one-fourth of accumulated sick time upon retirement. However, if employees earned sick leave prior to January 23, 1984, they are eligible for 100 percent conversion.

Such payment may not exceed the value of thirty days of accrued but unused sick leave. In general, employees are eligible to be paid for unused compensation time upon termination of employment. Sick, vacation and compensation payments are made at the employee's current wage rate.

#### J. Net Assets

Net assets are the difference between assets and liabilities. Net assets invested in capital assets, net of related debt are capital assets, less accumulated depreciation and any outstanding long-term debt related to the acquisition, construction or improvement of those assets. Net assets are reported as restricted when there are legal limitations are imposed on their use by county legislation or external restrictions by other governments, creditors or grantors.

#### K. System Capacity Charges

System capacity charges are recorded as capital contributions as they represent one-time charges to customers for the privilege of accessing the water system.

#### for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999

# 2. Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments

Cash, cash equivalents and investments at December 31, 2000 are summarized below:

	Cash and Cash		
	Equivalents	Investments	Total
Held by the Clermont County Treasurer:	-		
Unrestricted pooled cash, revenue account	\$3,604,574	\$ -	\$ 3,604,574
Retainage accounts	68,433	-	68,433
Amounts held by trustees:			
Bond account	216,682	4,257,344	4,474,026
Replacement and improvement account	11,778	2,929,469	2,941,247
Surplus account	871,803	24,867,324	25,739,127
<b>T</b>			
Total	<u>\$4,773,270</u>	<u>\$32,054,137</u>	<u>\$36,827,407</u>

Cash, cash equivalents and investments at December 31, 1999 are summarized below:

	Cash and Cash Equivalents	Investments	Total
Held by the Clermont County Treasurer:	<u> </u>		
Unrestricted pooled cash, revenue account	\$3,174,125	\$ -	\$ 3,174,125
Restricted pooled cash, construction account	600	-	600
Retainage accounts	13,694	-	13,694
Amounts held by trustees:			
Bond account	182,549	4,142,810	4,325,359
Replacement and improvement account	37,066	2,865,562	2,902,628
Surplus account	694,253	22,961,550	23,655,803
Total	<u>\$4,102,287</u>	<u>\$29,969,922</u>	<u>\$34,072,209</u>

#### Pooled Cash held by Clermont County Treasurer

Operating and construction account funds, except for trustee funds described below, are controlled on the District's behalf by the Clermont County Treasurer's Office (County). Cash is deposited into bank accounts of the County for which the County Treasurer maintains accountability. The pooled cash of the County includes the proportionate share belonging to the District. The County is responsible for the collateralization of pooled cash balances belonging to the District. The collateralization of County funds is discussed in the County's 2000 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

#### for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999

#### **Retainage Accounts**

Retainage accounts represent bank deposit accounts controlled by the District. All of these accounts represent cash retained from construction contractor payments until satisfactory completion of projects. The District's and the contractor's approval are required before funds can be released. Individual retainage accounts are collateralized by insurance provided by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation up to \$100,000. Any excess is collateralized through the use of the Federal Reserve book entry system to hold U.S. Government securities as collateral. The securities are registered in the name of the financial institution, not in the name of the District. As of December 31, 2000 retainage accounts totaled \$68,433, all of which was covered by FDIC Insurance.

#### Amounts Held by Trustees

Bond legislation requires the establishment of various accounts to be held by trustees. The District may invest these funds in direct obligations of the United States of America or highest rated bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness having maturity dates no longer than five years from the date of such investment.

Trustee account investments at December 31, 2000 are categorized according to credit risk into the following categories: (1) insured or registered, or securities held by the District's or its agent (bank trust department) in the District's name; or (2) uninsured and unregistered, with securities held by the counterparty's trust department or agent in the District's name; or (3) uninsured, unregistered securities held by the counterparty, or its trust department or agent but not in the District's name. Money market funds are unclassified investments since they are not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book entry form.

	Category 2	Reported Amount	Fair <u>Value</u>
Categorized Investments:			
U.S. Treasury Notes	\$24,267,569	\$24,267,569	\$24,267,569
U.S. Treasury Bills	7,786,568	7,786,568	7,786,568
Money Market Funds		1,100,263	1,100,263
Total	\$32,054,137	<u>\$33,154,400</u>	<u>\$33,154,400</u>

#### for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999

## **3. Restrictions on Assets**

The Trust Agreement for the Revenue Bonds requires the establishment of certain trust accounts, including a Bond Account, Bond Reserve Account, Replacement and Improvement Account, Construction Account, and a Surplus Account. Cash and investments in the accounts are held by trustee financial institutions.

The Bond Account is used to accumulate periodic principal and interest payments. The Bond Reserve Account is to be funded in an amount equal to the maximum annual bond principal and interest requirement. The Replacement and Improvement Account is to be maintained with a balance equal to the greater of five percent of the amount of bonds outstanding or \$2,000,000. The Surplus Account accumulates any remaining net revenues which are available for several purposes at the direction of the County Commissioners. The Construction Account is established to pay for project costs.

# 4. Property, Plant and Equipment

		alance nuary 1, 2000*	Addi	tions	Dele	<u>tions</u>		Balance cember 31, 2000
Land	\$	523,269	\$	-	\$	-	\$	523,269
Structure	35	5,225,921	4	1,721		-	3	5,267,642
Machinery	75	5,086,171	4,46	1,941		-	7	9,548,112
Furniture		407,999		-		-		407,999
Autos and trucks		831,569		_	41	<u>,613</u>		789,956
	<u>\$112</u>	2,074,929	<u>\$4,50.</u>	3,662	<u>\$41</u>	<u>,613</u>	11	6,536,978
Accumulated depreciation						(3	<u>9,127,750</u> )	
Net property, plant and equipment						<u>\$ 7</u>	7,409,228	
Construction in progress as of January 1, 2000 Additions Construction projects closed							1,278,456 2,774,270 <u>2,547,811</u> )	
Construction in progress as of December 31, 2000						\$	<u>1,504,915</u>	

The following summarizes the changes to property plant and equipment during 2000.

<sup>4</sup> January 1, 2000 balances reflect the District's new capitalization policy (see Note 12).

Assets contributed by developers and others in 2000 amounted to \$2,002,650.

#### for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999

# 5. Long-Term Debt

For the year ended December 31, 2000, changes in long-term debt consisted of the following:

		Interest <u>Rate</u>	<u>Maturity</u>	Balance January 1, 2000	Additions	<u>Deletions</u>	Balance December 31, 2000	Interest Paid During 2000
Reven	ue bonds:	:						
	1993	2.6-5.8%	2018	<u>\$47,585,000</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$(1,510,000</u> )	<u>\$46,075,000</u>	<u>\$2,647,382</u>
Total				<u>\$47,585,000</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$(1,510,000</u> )	46,075,000	\$2,647,382
Less c	urrent po	rtion					(1,580,000)	
Long-	term porti	ion					<u>\$44,495,000</u>	

Principal and interest payments on long-term debt for the next five years and thereafter are as follows:

Year	Principal	Interest	<u>Total</u>
2001	\$ 1,580,000	\$ 2,576,413	\$ 4,156,413
2002 2003	1,660,000 1,740,000	2,498,993 2,415,993	4,158,993 4,155,993
2004 2005	1,830,000 1,925,000	2,327,253 2,232,092	4,157,253 4,157,092
Thereafter	37,340,000	16,701,970	54,041,970
	<u>\$46,075,000</u>	<u>\$28,752,714</u>	<u>\$74,827,714</u>

The District issued Waterworks System Revenue Improvement and Refunding Bonds, Series 1993, dated May 1, 1993 to advance refund the outstanding Series 1977, Series 1987, Series 1989 and Series 1991 water revenue bonds of the County and to finance a portion of the costs of the 1993 Project as defined by the Official Statement.

The remaining balance of the Series 1993 bonds will mature on December 1 in various amounts ranging from \$1,580,000 in 2001 to \$17,610,000 in 2018, subject to prior mandatory sinking fund redemptions. Interest, at rates varying from 2.6 percent to 5.8 percent per annum, is payable semi-annually on June 1 and December 1. The District is to provide funding for the

#### for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999

retirement of principal amounts when they mature, by funding the Bond Account in varying amounts ranging from \$1,580,000 in 2001 to \$3,930,000 in 2018.

The revenue bond issues are subject to optional redemption in whole or in part at various redemption prices plus accrued interest for portions maturing at various times in the future. In addition, portions of these issues are subject to mandatory sinking fund redemption prior to maturing, from funds in the bond account created by the Bond Legislation through the Trustee without action by the County.

Bond Legislation provides that if the surplus account is funded in excess of 10 percent of the aggregate principal amount outstanding on all bonds and other obligations and the reserve account and replacement and improvement accounts are at the required balances, the County will charge rates for the services and facilities of the system sufficient for the excess of revenues over expenditures to equal not less than 110 percent of the aggregate amount of principal and interest requirements on the bonds payable during the year (coverage ratio).

The coverage ratio computed under the Bond Legislation utilizing the 110 percent level is as follows:

Income from operations Add items to convert income from operations to pledged revenues:	\$	1,895,776
Interest on bonds (accrual basis) Deferred debt amortization		2,641,468 43,270
Depreciation expense System capacity charges		3,259,818 1,946,300
Net pledged revenues	\$	9,786,632
Debt service requirement during 2000	<u>\$</u>	4,159,467
Coverage ratio		<u>235</u> %
Required coverage ratio		<u>110</u> %

#### for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999

#### 6. Defeased Debt

The District defeased various general obligation serial bonds and revenue serial bonds through refinancing and operations. Separate irrevocable trust funds were established and funded to fully service the defeased debt until the debt is called or matures. For financial reporting purposes, the debt has been considered defeased and is not included in the financial statements.

At December 31, 2000, and 1999, the total amount of defeased debt outstanding amounted to \$14,965,000 and \$15,175,000, respectively.

# 7. Other Contingent Liabilities

The Ohio Revised Code provides for the issuance of special assessment bonds for water improvements. Under the Code, such special assessment obligations are issued by the Board of County Commissioners. As general obligation debt, the full faith, credit and revenue of the County has been pledged as security for the outstanding special assessment obligations. These bonds are reflected on the County's financial statements as general obligation bonds of the County.

If the special assessments are not paid by the taxpayers or prove to be insufficient to pay the debt service, it is the obligation of the County to pay the debt from whatever source of funds is available to it, including, but not limited to, the funds of the District. During 2000 and 1999, no payments were made by the District to the County's debt service fund.

# 8. Pension and Retirement

All District full-time employees participate in the Public Employees' Retirement System administered by the State of Ohio (State PERS). The plan is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer, public employee retirement system administered by the Public Employees Retirement Board. PERS provides basic retirement and disability benefits, annual cost of living adjustments, and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. Benefits are established by Chapter 145 of the Ohio Revised Code. PERS issues a stand-alone report which may be obtained by writing to the Public Employees Retirement System, 277 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4642 or by calling (614) 466-2085..

Plan members are required to contribute 8.5 percent of their annual covered salary to fund pension obligations. For calendar year 2000, PERS instituted a temporary employer rate

#### for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999

rollback for state and local governments. The 2000 employer pension contribution rate for the District was 6.54 percent of covered payroll, reduced from 9.35 percent in 1999. Contributions are authorized by State statute. The contribution rates are determined actuarially.

The District's required contributions to PERS for the years ending December 31, 2000, 1999 and 1998 were \$116,168, \$270,422 and \$279,545, respectively; 83 percent has been contributed for 2000 and 100 percent for 1999 and 1998. The unpaid contribution for 2000 is recorded as a liability.

*Other Post-Employment Benefits* The Public Employees Retirement System of Ohio (PERS) provides post retirement health care coverage to age and service retirees with ten or more years of qualifying Ohio service credit. Health care coverage for disability recipients and primary survivor recipients is available. The health care coverage provided by the retirement system is considered an Other Post employment Benefit (OPEB) as described in GASB Statement No. 12. A portion of each employer's contribution to PERS is set aside for the funding of post retirement health care based on authority granted by State statute. The 2000 employer contribution rate was 10.84 percent of covered payroll; 4.3 percent was the portion that was used to fund health care for 2000. For 1999, the contribution rate was 13.55 percent of covered payroll; 4.20 percent was the portion that was used to fund health care.

Benefits are advance-funded using the entry age normal cost method. Significant actuarial assumptions, based on PERS's latest actuarial review performed as of December 31, 1999, include a rate of return on investments of 7.75 percent, an annual increase in active employee total payroll of 4.75 percent compounded annually (assuming no change in the number of active employees) and an additional increase in total payroll of between .54 percent and 5.1 percent based on additional annual pay increases. Health care premiums were assumed to increase 4.75 percent annually

All investments are carried at market. For actuarial valuation purposes, a smoothed market approach is used. Assets are adjusted to reflect 25 percent of unrealized market appreciation or depreciation on investment assets.

The number of active contributing participants was 401,339. The District's actual contributions for 2000 which were used to fund post employment benefits were \$46,081. The actual contribution and the actuarially required contribution amounts are the same. PERS's net assets available for payment of benefits at December 31, 1999, (the latest information

#### for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999

available) were \$10,805.5 million. The actuarially accrued liability and the unfunded actuarial accrued liability were \$12,473.6 million and \$1,668.1 million, respectively.

For 2000, PERS elected to return to an actuarially pre-funded type of disclosure because it is a better presentation of PERS's actual funding methodology. Since 1997, disclosures had been based on a pay-as-you-go funding basis.

# 9. Interfund Transactions

The District is charged by other County funds for administrative services based on a cost allocation plan. The charges for 2000 and 1999 were \$97,939 and \$128,952 respectively and are classified as contractual services.

During 1997, the Board of County Commissioners approved the sale of certain fixed assets of the District to the general fund of the County. Payments for the assets are to be made over 10 years. The sale of the assets results in the District recognizing amounts due from other funds totaling \$220,983 and \$257,814 at December 31, 2000 and 1999, respectively.

# **10.** Plant Operations

On February 10, 2000, the Board of County Commissioners approved contracts with vendors for the operations of both the water and sewer systems. The vendors are responsible for the daily operations of treatment plants, storage and distribution systems as well as customer billing and collections. Vendors will collect operating revenues on behalf of the District and will be paid a monthly lump sum amount for operating expenses.

# **11. Prior Year Restatements**

In 2000, the District implemented GASB Statement No. 33, "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Nonexchange Transactions" and GASB Statement No. 34 "Basic Financial Statements - Management's Discussion and Analysis - for State and Local Governments." Statement No. 34 established new financial reporting requirements for all state and local governments. The effect of implementing Statement No. 34 for the District is the addition of management's discussion and analysis and revising the presentation of the District's financial statements.

#### for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999

# 12. Change in Accounting Principles

During 2000, the District changed its policy for capitalizing fixed assets by raising the capitalization threshold to \$5,000. The District has removed all items previously recorded with a value less than \$5,000 from fixed asset records and eliminated those items, and related accumulated depreciation, for reporting purposes. The effect of this change is to reduce amounts reported as fixed assets and accumulated depreciation at January 1, 2000 by a net amount totaling \$455,998.

The Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets reflects this new policy for the year ended December 31, 2000. The cumulative effect on prior years for this accounting change and pro forma amounts have been presented to provide comparative data as though the change had been applied to amounts previously reported.



STATE OF OHIO OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR

JIM PETRO, AUDITOR OF STATE

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# **CLERMONT COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT**

# **CLERMONT COUNTY**

# **CLERK'S CERTIFICATION**

This is a true and correct copy of the report which is required to be filed in the Office of the Auditor of State pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in Columbus, Ohio.

Susan Babbitt

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

CERTIFIED AUGUST 9, 2001