



CliftonLarsonAllen LLP  
2210 East Route 66  
Glendora, CA 91740  
626.857.7300 | fax 626.857.7302  
CLAconnect.com

February 1, 2021

Board of Directors and Management  
Novato Charter  
940 C Street  
Novato, CA 94949

Dear Members of the Board and Management:

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the terms and objectives of our engagement and the nature and limitations of the audit and nonaudit services CliftonLarsonAllen LLP ("CLA," "we," "us," and "our") will provide for Novato Charter ("you," "your," or "the Organization") for the year ended June 30, 2021.

Wade McMullen is responsible for the performance of the audit engagement. Per Education Code Section 41020(f)(2), there is a limit of six consecutive year for any firm where the principal/director-in-charge of the audit and the reviewing principal/director have been the same in each of those years. This is the sixth consecutive year Wade McMullen will be the engagement principal.

#### **Audit services**

We will audit the financial statements of the Organization, which comprise the statement of financial position as of June 30, 2021, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

We will also evaluate and report on the presentation of the supplementary information accompanying the financial statements in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

#### **Nonaudit services**

We will also provide the following nonaudit services:

- Preparation of your financial statements and related notes.
- Preparation of adjusting journal entries.
- Preparation of the informational tax return.

**Audit objectives**

The objective of our audit is the expression of an opinion about whether your financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP). Our audit will be conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAS), the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the *2020-2021 Guide for Annual Audits of K-12 Local Education Agencies and State Compliance Reporting*, published by the Education Audit Appeals Panel. Our audit will include tests of your accounting records and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such an opinion. We will also perform procedures to enable us to express an opinion on whether the supplementary information (as identified above) accompanying the financial statements is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of your financial statements. We cannot provide assurance that an unmodified opinion will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinion, add an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph(s), or withdraw from the engagement. If our opinion on the financial statements is other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If circumstances occur related to the condition of your records, the availability of sufficient, appropriate audit evidence, or the existence of a significant risk of material misstatement of the financial statements caused by error, fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets, which in our professional judgment prevent us from completing the audit or forming an opinion on the financial statements, we retain the right to take any course of action permitted by professional standards, including declining to express an opinion or issue a report, or withdrawing from the engagement.

We will also provide a report (which does not include an opinion) on internal control related to the financial statements and on compliance with the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements, as required by *Government Auditing Standards*. The report on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance and other matters will include a paragraph that states (1) that the purpose of the report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance, and (2) that the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. The paragraph will also state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose. If during our audit we become aware that the entity is subject to an audit requirement that is not encompassed in the terms of this engagement, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance that an audit conducted in accordance with U.S. GAAS and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* may not satisfy the relevant legal, regulatory, or contractual requirements.

We also will issue a written report and opinion on State Compliance upon completion of our audit.

**Auditor responsibilities, procedures, and limitations**

We will conduct our audit in accordance with U.S. GAAS and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain

reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

There is an unavoidable risk, because of the inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of internal control, that some material misstatements may not be detected, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with U.S. GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*. Because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, material misstatements, whether from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the entity or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the entity, may not be detected. Because the determination of waste and abuse is subjective, Government Auditing Standards do not require auditors to perform specific procedures to detect waste or abuse in financial audits nor do they expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting waste or abuse.

In addition, an audit is not designed to detect immaterial misstatements or violations of laws or governmental regulations that do not have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, we will inform the appropriate level of management and those charged with governance of any material errors, fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets that come to our attention. We will also inform the appropriate level of management and those charged with governance of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential, and of any material abuse that comes to our attention. We will also inform the appropriate level of management and those charged with governance of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential.

In making our risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Tests of controls may be performed to test the effectiveness of certain controls that we consider relevant to preventing and detecting fraud or errors that are material to the financial statements and to preventing and detecting misstatements resulting from noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements that have a material effect on the financial statements. Our tests, if performed, will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on internal control and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*. An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify deficiencies, significant deficiencies, or material weaknesses in internal control. However, we will communicate to you in writing significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control relevant to the audit of the financial statements that we identify during the audit that are required to be communicated under AICPA professional standards and *Government Auditing Standards*.

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

We will include in our report on internal control over financial reporting and compliance relevant information about any fraud; noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, or grant agreements; or abuse that may have occurred that are required to be communicated under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

### **Management responsibilities**

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that you (management and, when appropriate, those charged with governance) acknowledge and understand that you have certain responsibilities that are fundamental to the conduct of an audit.

You are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP. Management's responsibilities include the selection and application of accounting principles; recording and reflecting all transactions in the financial statements; determining the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates included in the financial statements; adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements; and confirming to us in the management representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

You are responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control, including evaluating and monitoring ongoing activities, to help ensure that appropriate goals and objectives are met relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and that there is reasonable assurance that government programs are administered in compliance with compliance requirements. You are responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal controls to prevent and detect fraud; assessing the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud; and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud affecting the entity involving (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. Your responsibilities include informing us of your knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the entity received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for implementing systems designed to achieve compliance with applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements; identifying and ensuring that the entity complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements; and informing us of all instances of identified or suspected noncompliance whose effects on the financial statements should be considered.

You are responsible for taking timely and appropriate steps to remedy any fraud; noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, or grant agreements; or abuse that we may report.

You are responsible for ensuring that management is reliable and for providing us with (1) access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, such as records, documentation, and other matters, and for the accuracy and completeness of that information, and for ensuring the information is reliable and properly reported; (2) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit; and (3) unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence. You agree to inform us of events occurring or facts discovered subsequent to the date of the financial statements that may affect the financial statements.

Management is responsible for the preparation of the supplementary information in accordance with U.S. GAAP. You agree to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains, and indicates that we have reported on, the supplementary information. You also agree to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the supplementary information that includes our report thereon or make the audited financial statements readily available to users of the supplementary information no later than the date the supplementary information is issued with our report thereon. You agree to provide us written representations related to the presentation of the supplementary information.

Management is responsible for providing us with a written confirmation concerning representations made by you and your staff to us in connection with the audit. During our engagement, we will request information and explanations from you regarding, among other matters, the entity's activities, internal control, future plans, specific transactions, and accounting systems and procedures. The procedures we will perform during our engagement and the conclusions we reach as a basis for our report will be heavily influenced by the representations that we receive in the representation letter and otherwise from you. Accordingly, inaccurate, incomplete, or false representations could cause us to expend unnecessary effort or could cause a material fraud or error to go undetected by our procedures. In view of the foregoing, you agree that we shall not be responsible for any misstatements in the entity's financial statements that we may fail to detect as a result of misrepresentations made to us by you.

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

#### **Responsibilities and limitations related to nonaudit services**

For all nonaudit services we may provide to you, management agrees to assume all management responsibilities; oversee the services by designating an individual, preferably within senior management,

who possesses suitable skill, knowledge, and/or experience to understand and oversee the services; evaluate the adequacy and results of the services; and accept responsibility for the results of the services.

The responsibilities and limitations related to the nonaudit services performed as part of this engagement are as follows:

- We will prepare a draft of your financial statements and related notes. Since the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements is your responsibility, you will be required to acknowledge in the representation letter our assistance with preparation of the financial statements and that you have reviewed and approved the financial statements and related notes prior to their issuance and have accepted responsibility for those financial statements. You have a responsibility to be in a position in fact and appearance to make an informed judgment on those financial statements.
- We will propose adjusting journal entries as needed. You will be required to review and approve those entries and to understand the nature of the changes and their impact on the financial statements.
- We will prepare the organization's federal Form 990 and applicable state filings in accordance with the applicable tax laws. We will use our judgment in resolving questions where the law is unclear, and where there is reasonable authority, we will resolve questions in your favor whenever possible. We will not audit or independently verify the accuracy or completeness of the information we receive from you for the preparation of the returns and filings, and our engagement cannot be relied upon to uncover errors or irregularities in the underlying information.

These nonaudit services do not constitute an audit under *Government Auditing Standards* and such services will not be conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.

### **Use of financial statements**

The financial statements and our report thereon are for management's use. If you intend to reproduce and publish the financial statements and our report thereon, they must be reproduced in their entirety. Inclusion of the audited financial statements in a document, such as an annual report or an offering document, should be done only with our prior approval of the document. You are responsible to provide us the opportunity to review such documents before issuance.

If the parties (i.e., you and CLA) agree that CLA will not be involved with your official statements related to municipal securities filings or other offering documents, we will require that any official statements or other offering documents issued by you with which we are not involved clearly indicate that CLA is not involved with the contents of such documents. Such disclosure should read as follows:

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, our independent auditor, has not been engaged to perform and has not performed, since the date of its report included herein, any procedures on the financial statements addressed in that report. CliftonLarsonAllen LLP also has not performed any procedures relating to this offering document.

February 1, 2021  
Novato Charter  
Page 7

With regard to the electronic dissemination of audited financial statements, including financial statements published electronically on your website or submitted on a regulator website, you understand that electronic sites are a means to distribute information and, therefore, we are not required to read the information contained in those sites or to consider the consistency of other information in the electronic site with the original document.

We may issue preliminary draft financial statements to you for your review. Any preliminary draft financial statements should not be relied on or distributed.

### **Engagement administration and other matters**

We expect to begin our audit in May 2021.

We understand that your employees will prepare all confirmations, account analyses, and audit schedules we request and will locate any documents or invoices selected by us for testing. A list of information we expect to need for our audit and the dates required will be provided in a separate communication.

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

We are available to perform additional procedures with regard to fraud detection and prevention, at your request, as a separate engagement, subject to completion of our normal engagement acceptance procedures. The terms and fees of such an engagement would be documented in a separate engagement letter.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the sole and exclusive property of CLA and constitutes confidential and proprietary information. However, subject to applicable laws and regulations, audit documentation and appropriate individuals will be made available upon request and in a timely manner to the regulator or its designee, a federal agency providing direct or indirect funding, or the U.S. Government Accountability Office for purposes of a quality review of the audit, to resolve audit findings, or to carry out oversight responsibilities. We will notify you of any such request. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of CLA personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to the aforementioned parties. These parties may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies or information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

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

CLA will not disclose any confidential, proprietary, or privileged information of the entity to any persons without the authorization of entity management or unless required by law. This confidentiality provision does not prohibit us from disclosing your information to one or more of our affiliated companies in order to provide services that you have requested from us or from any such affiliated company. Any such

February 1, 2021  
Novato Charter  
Page 8

affiliated company shall be subject to the same restrictions on the use and disclosure of your information as apply to us.

Professional standards require us to be independent with respect to you in the performance of these services. Any discussion that you have with our personnel regarding potential employment with you could impair our independence with respect to this engagement. Therefore, we request that you inform us prior to any such discussions so that we can implement appropriate safeguards to maintain our independence and objectivity. Further, any employment offers to any staff members working on this engagement without our prior knowledge may require substantial additional procedures to ensure our independence. You will be responsible for any additional costs incurred to perform these procedures.

Our relationship with you is limited to that described in this letter. As such, you understand and agree that we are acting solely as independent accountants. We are not acting in any way as a fiduciary or assuming any fiduciary responsibilities for you. We are not responsible for the preparation of any report to any governmental agency, or any other form, return, or report or for providing advice or any other service not specifically recited in this letter.

Our engagement and responsibility end on delivery of our signed report. Any additional services that might be requested will be a separate, new engagement. The terms and conditions of that new engagement will be governed by a new, specific engagement letter for that service.

*Government Auditing Standards* require that we make our most recent external peer review report publicly available. The report is posted on our website at [www.CLAconnect.com/Aboutus/](http://www.CLAconnect.com/Aboutus/).

### **Mediation**

Any disagreement, controversy, or claim ("Dispute") that may arise out of any aspect of our services or relationship with you, including this engagement, shall be submitted to non-binding mediation by written notice ("Mediation Notice") to the other party. In mediation, we will work with you to resolve any differences voluntarily with the aid of an impartial mediator.

The mediation will be conducted as specified by the mediator and agreed upon by the parties. The parties agree to discuss their differences in good faith and to attempt, with the assistance of the mediator, to reach an amicable resolution of the Dispute.

Each party will bear its own costs in the mediation. The fees and expenses of the mediator will be shared equally by the parties.

Any Dispute will be governed by the laws of the state of Minnesota, without giving effect to choice of law principles.

### **Time limitation**

The nature of our services makes it difficult, with the passage of time, to gather and present evidence that fully and fairly establishes the facts underlying any Dispute that may arise between the parties. The parties agree that, notwithstanding any statute or law of limitations that might otherwise apply to a Dispute, including one arising out of this agreement or the services performed under this agreement, for breach of contract or fiduciary duty, tort, fraud, misrepresentation or any other cause of action or remedy, any

action or legal proceeding by you against us must be commenced within twenty-four (24) months ("Limitation Period") after the date when we deliver our final audit report under this agreement to you, regardless of whether we do other services for you relating to the audit report, or you shall be forever barred from commencing a lawsuit or obtaining any legal or equitable relief or recovery.

The Limitation Period applies and begins to run even if you have not suffered any damage or loss, or have not become aware of the existence or possible existence of a Dispute.

### Price Estimate

The price for these services will be based on the time involved and the degree of responsibility and skills required, plus expenses including internal and administrative charges. Based on our preliminary estimates, the price for the engagement is as follows:

Professional Services		Amount
Audit services*	\$	9,500
Informational tax return services	\$	1,900
Technology and client support fee	\$	570
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>11,970</b>
* Should Federal Expenditures exceed \$750,000, a change in scope and fee will be required.		

Additional attendance and instructional minutes procedures related to distance learning will be billed as out-of-scope.

The price estimate is based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel and their assistance with preparing confirmations and requested schedules. If the requested items are not available on the dates required or are not accurate, the estimated price for services will likely be higher. If unexpected circumstances require significant additional time, we will advise you before undertaking work that would require a substantial increase in the fee estimate. Our invoices for our services will be rendered each month as work progresses and are payable on presentation. In accordance with our firm policies, work may be suspended if your account becomes 60 days or more overdue and will not be resumed until your account is paid in full. If we elect to terminate our services for nonpayment, our engagement will be deemed to have been completed even if we have not issued our reports. You will be obligated to compensate us for all time expended and to reimburse us for all out-of-pocket expenditures through the date of termination. There is a ten percent withholding clause per Education Code 14505.

### Technology Support Fee

Given the rising technology costs all organizations are expending to serve and protect client information, we are adding a 5% technology and client support fee to all of our invoices. The fee combines technology

expenses with client support costs and includes technology support, printing, communications, data security and storage, indirect engagement support costs and technical resource subscriptions. This is estimated and included in the fee table above.

**Changes in engagement timing and assistance by your personnel**

The fee estimate is based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel and their assistance with timely preparation of confirmations and requested schedules. If the requested items are not available on the dates required or are not accurate, we will advise management. Additional time and costs may be necessary because of such unanticipated delays. Examples of situations that may cause our estimated fee to increase include:

- Significant delays in responding to our requests for information such as reconciling variances or providing requested supporting documentation (e.g., invoices, contracts, and other documents)
- Rescheduling our fieldwork
- Schedule disruption caused by litigation, financial challenges (going concern), loan covenants (waivers), etc.
- Identifying a significant number of proposed audit adjustments
- Schedules prepared by your personnel that do not reconcile to the general ledger
- Numerous revisions to information and schedules provided by your personnel
- Restating financial statements for accounting errors in the prior year
- Lack of availability of entity personnel during audit fieldwork

***Changes in accounting and audit standards***

Standard setters and regulators continue to evaluate and modify standards. Such changes may result in new or revised financial reporting and disclosure requirements or expand the nature, timing, and scope of the activities we are required to perform. To the extent that the amount of time required to provide the services described in the letter increases due to such changes, our fee may need to be adjusted. We will discuss such circumstances with you prior to performing the additional work.

***Changes related to COVID-19***

COVID-19 continues to have significant direct and indirect impacts on financial reporting, disclosure requirements, and the nature, timing, and scope of the activities we are required to perform. To the extent that the amount of time required to provide the services described in this letter increases due to such changes, our fee may need to be adjusted. We will discuss such circumstances with you prior to performing the additional work.

***Other fees***

You also agree to compensate us for any time and expenses, including time and expenses of legal counsel, we may incur in responding to discovery requests or participating as a witness or otherwise in any legal, regulatory, or other proceedings that we are asked to respond to on your behalf.

***Finance charges and collection expenses***

You agree that if any statement is not paid within 30 days from its billing date, the unpaid balance shall accrue interest at the monthly rate of one and one-quarter percent (1.25%), which is an annual percentage

February 1, 2021  
Novato Charter  
Page 11

rate of 15%. In the event that any collection action is required to collect unpaid balances due us, reasonable attorney fees and expenses shall be recoverable.

**Subcontractors**

CLA may, at times, use subcontractors to perform services under this agreement, and they may have access to your information and records. Any such subcontractors will be subject to the same restrictions on the use of such information and records as apply to CLA under this agreement.

**Agreement**

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to you and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of our engagement. This letter constitutes the entire agreement regarding these services and supersedes all prior agreements (whether oral or written), understandings, negotiations, and discussions between you and CLA. If you have any questions, please let us know. Please sign and date this letter to indicate your acknowledgment and understanding of, and agreement with, the arrangements for our audit of your financial statements including the terms of our engagement and the parties' respective responsibilities.

Sincerely,

**CliftonLarsonAllen LLP**

DocuSigned by:  
  
A0BC445E9A4D4E6...  
Wade McMullen, CPA  
Principal  
626-857-7300  
**Wade.McMullen@claconnect.com**

**Response:**

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of Novato Charter.

Authorized governance signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized management signature:  \_\_\_\_\_  
EF4DEC16FE2D4A4...

Title: Business Manager

Date: 3/2/2021



CliftonLarsonAllen LLP  
2210 East Route 66  
Glendora, CA 91740  
626.857.7300 | fax 626.857.7302  
CLAconnect.com

February 1, 2021

Board of Directors and Management  
Novato Charter  
940 C Street  
Novato, CA 94949

Re: June 30, 2021 Tax Exempt Returns and State Filings

Dear Board of Directors and Management:

We are pleased that Novato Charter (“you,” “your,” or “the organization”) has engaged CliftonLarsonAllen LLP (“CLA,” “we,” “us,” and “our”) to prepare the organization’s federal Form 990 and applicable state filings. This letter confirms the scope, limitations, and related terms of our engagement for the year ended June 30, 2021.

#### **Our responsibility to you**

We will prepare the organization’s federal Form 990 and applicable state filings in accordance with the applicable tax laws. We will use our judgment in resolving questions where the law is unclear, and where there is reasonable authority, we will resolve questions in your favor whenever possible. We will not audit or independently verify the accuracy or completeness of the information we receive from you for the preparation of the returns and filings, and our engagement cannot be relied upon to uncover errors or irregularities in the underlying information.

#### **Your responsibilities**

It is your responsibility to provide us with all of the information needed to prepare complete and accurate returns and filings. We will have no obligation to prepare the returns and filings until you have provided such information to us. We will prepare filings for the same states where the organization filed last year unless organization personnel notify us to the contrary or other information clearly indicates the need for an additional return or state filing. It is your responsibility to comply with all foreign jurisdiction filing requirements. We have no obligation to prepare returns for foreign jurisdictions

The United States Supreme Court ruled in *South Dakota versus Wayfair* (6/21/18) that physical presence is no longer required to establish nexus for sales tax. This ruling may have broad implications, even beyond sales tax, as to where an organization is subject to tax. Please note that if the organization had a taxable presence in more than one jurisdiction, such as an employee or agent within the jurisdiction, any tangible property owned or rented within the jurisdiction, or if the organization exceeds any applicable economic nexus thresholds, the organization or related entities may be subject to state or local income, sales, use, franchise, or gross receipts tax in that jurisdiction depending upon the particular facts. It is the organization’s responsibility, not CLA’s, to determine if assistance is needed in deciding whether the organization or related entities may be liable for income, sales, use, franchise, or gross receipts tax, or have a filing requirement in the various state or local jurisdictions.

It is important for you to identify any ownership OR signature authority over a foreign bank account or other foreign financial assets which includes but is not limited to foreign: stocks, mutual funds, partnerships, bonds, retirement accounts, estates, trusts, annuities, swaps, and derivatives. Failure to disclose penalties can be significant, starting at \$10,000 and can be upwards of 50 percent of the value of the asset. Please provide account statements if you have any foreign account ownership or signature authority. Note that these rules do not apply to foreign investments held by U.S. mutual funds. In addition, ownership in a foreign business entity (association, corporation, disregarded entity, or partnership) could trigger additional U.S. foreign informational reporting requirements. These reporting requirements require the disclosure of ownership, financial information, and related-party transactions. Failure to properly disclose ownership and the required information could trigger a \$10,000 penalty per filing. We cannot be held responsible if you fail to identify or provide such information to us.

For all nonattest services we may provide to you, including the preparation of the federal Form 990 and applicable state filings, management agrees to assume all management responsibilities; oversee the services by designating an individual, preferably within senior management, who possesses suitable skill, knowledge, and/or experience to understand and oversee the services; evaluate the adequacy and results of the services performed; and accept responsibility for the results of the services. Management is also responsible for ensuring that your data and records are complete and that you have received sufficient information to oversee the services. You are responsible to carefully review the federal Form 990 and state filings that we prepare on your behalf before signing and submitting them to tax authorities. We will advise you with regard to tax positions taken in the preparation of the federal Form 990 and state filings, but the responsibility for the federal Form 990 and state filings remains with you.

### **Tax examinations**

All returns and filings are subject to potential examination by the IRS and state authorities. In the event of an examination, we will be available, at your request, to assist or represent the organization and its directors or officers. Services in connection with tax examinations are not included in our fee for preparation of the federal Form 990 and state filings. Our fee for such services will be billed to you separately, along with any direct costs.

### **Record retention**

You are responsible for retaining all documents, records, canceled checks, receipts, or other evidence in support of information and amounts reported on the federal Form 990 and state filings. These items may be necessary in the event the taxing or other authority examines or challenges your federal Form 990 and state filings. These records should be kept for at least seven years. Your copy of the federal Form 990 and state filings should be retained indefinitely.

If carryover item(s) exist (e.g., capital loss, net operating loss, tax credits, etc.), you should retain the supporting records related to the carryover item(s) until the item has either been utilized (and the statute of limitations associated with the year of utilization has expired) or the carryforward period has expired.

In preparing the federal Form 990 and state filings, we rely on your representation that organization personnel and its directors or officers understand and have complied with these documentation requirements. The management of the organization is responsible for the proper recording of transactions in the books of accounts, for the safeguarding of assets, and for the substantial accuracy of the organization's financial records.

February 1, 2021  
Novato Charter  
Page 3

All of the records that you provide to us to prepare your federal Form 990 and state filings will be returned to you after our use. Our working papers, including any copies of your records that we chose to make, are our property and will be retained by us in accordance with our established records retention policy. This policy states, in general, that we will retain our working papers for a period of seven years. After this period expires, our working papers and files will be destroyed. Furthermore, physical deterioration or catastrophic events may shorten the time our records are available. The working papers and files of our firm are not a substitute for the records of the organization.

### **Tax consulting services**

This engagement letter also covers tax consulting services that may arise for which the organization seeks our consultation and advice, both written and oral, that are not the subject of a separate engagement letter. These additional services are not included in our fees for the preparation of the federal Form 990 and state filings.

We will base our tax analysis and conclusions on the facts you provide to us, and will not independently verify those facts. We will review the applicable tax law, tax regulations, and other tax authorities, all of which are subject to change. At your request, we will provide a memorandum of our conclusions. Written advice provided by us is for the organization's information and use only and is not to be provided to any third party without our express written consent.

Unless we are separately engaged to do so, we will not continuously monitor and update our advice for subsequent changes or modifications to the tax law and regulations, or to the related judicial and administrative interpretations.

### **Communications and confidentiality**

The Internal Revenue Code contains a limited privilege for confidentiality of tax advice between you and our firm. In addition, the laws of some states likewise recognize a confidentiality privilege for some accountant-client communications. You understand that CLA makes no representation, warranty or promise, and offers no opinion with respect to the applicability of any confidentiality privilege to any information supplied or communications you have with us, and, to the extent that we follow instructions from you to withhold such information or communications in the face of a request from a third party (including a subpoena, summons or discovery demand in litigation), you agree to hold CLA harmless should the privilege be determined not to apply to particular information or communications.

CLA will not disclose any confidential, proprietary, or privileged information of the entity to any persons without the authorization of entity management or unless required by law. This confidentiality provision does not prohibit us from disclosing your information to one or more of our affiliated companies in order to provide services that you have requested from us or from any such affiliated company. Any such affiliated company shall be subject to the same restrictions on the use and disclosure of your information as apply to us.

### **Consent to send you publications and other materials**

For your convenience, CLA produces a variety of publications, hard copy and electronic, to keep you informed about pertinent business and personal financial issues. This includes published articles, invitations to upcoming seminars, webinars and webcasts, newsletters, surveys, and press releases. To determine whether these materials may be of interest to you, CLA will need to use your federal Form 990 and state filings information. Such

February 1, 2021  
Novato Charter  
Page 4

information includes the organization name and address as well as the business and financial information you provided to us.

By signing and dating this engagement letter, you authorize CLA to use the information that you provide to CLA during the preparation of your federal Form 990 and state filings to determine whether to offer you relevant materials. Your consent is valid until further notice. If you do not wish to authorize such use, please strike out this paragraph prior to signing the engagement letter.

#### **Consent to use tax information for benchmarking analyses**

In an effort to better serve the needs of our clients, we develop a variety of benchmark, performance indicator, and predictive analysis reports, using anonymized client data obtained from our audit, tax, and other engagements. Business and financial information that you provide to us may be combined with information from other clients and included within the aggregated data that we use in these reports. While some of these analytical reports will be published and released publicly, please be assured that the separate information that we obtain from you will remain confidential, as required by the AICPA Code of Professional Conduct.

Unless authorized by law or the client consents, we cannot use a client's tax return information for purposes other than the preparation and filing of the client's tax return. By signing and dating this engagement letter, you authorize CLA to use any and all information furnished to CLA for or in connection with the preparation of the tax returns under this engagement letter, for a period of up to six (6) years from the date of this engagement letter, in connection with CLA's preparation of the types of reports described in the foregoing paragraph. If you do not wish to authorize such use, please strike out this section prior to signing the engagement letter.

#### **Limitations**

You agree that it is appropriate to limit the liability of CLA, its partners, principals, directors, officers, employees, and agents (each a "CLA party") and that this limitation of remedies provision is governed by the laws of the state of Minnesota, without giving effect to choice of law principles.

The exclusive remedy available to you shall be the right to pursue claims for actual damages that are directly caused by acts or omissions that are breaches by a CLA party of our duties owed under this engagement agreement, but any recovery on any such claim shall not exceed the portion of the total fees actually paid by you to CLA that corresponds to the particular service(s) that give(s) rise to the claim (i.e., the specific service(s) that a CLA party performed in such a manner as to cause CLA to be liable to you).

The nature of our services makes it difficult, with the passage of time, to gather and present evidence that fully and fairly establishes the facts underlying any dispute that may arise between you and any CLA party. The parties (you and CLA) agree that, notwithstanding any statute or law of limitations that might otherwise apply to a dispute, including one arising out of this agreement or the services performed under this agreement, for breach of contract or fiduciary duty, tort, fraud, misrepresentation or any other cause of action or remedy, any action or legal proceeding by you against any CLA party must be commenced as provided below, or you shall be forever barred from commencing a lawsuit or obtaining any legal or equitable relief or recovery. An action to recover on a dispute shall be commenced within the shorter of these periods ("Limitation Period"):

February 1, 2021  
Novato Charter  
Page 5

- For federal Form 990 and state filing preparation, separately within thirty-six (36) months after the date when we deliver the tax returns and filings under this agreement to you on which the dispute is based, regardless of whether any CLA party provides other services for you or relating to said returns and filings.
- For tax consulting engagements, separately within thirty-six (36) months from the date of our last billing for services on each consultation on which the dispute is based.
- For all tax return, state filing, and tax consulting engagements, within twelve (12) months from the date when you terminate this or any other engagement of our services.

The applicable Limitation Period applies and begins to run even if you have not suffered any damage or loss, or have not become aware of the existence or possible existence of a dispute.

### **Fees**

Our professional fees will be billed based on the time involved and skills required. We will also bill for expenses (including internal and administrative charges) plus a technology and client support fee of five percent (5%) of all professional fees billed. Fees and expenses for this work will be invoiced separately. Our invoices, including applicable state and local taxes, will be rendered each month as work progresses and are payable on presentation. In accordance with our firm policies, work may be suspended if your account becomes 30 days or more overdue and will not be resumed until your account is paid in full. If we elect to terminate our services for nonpayment, our engagement will be deemed to have been completed even if we have not issued the tax returns and filings. You will be obligated to compensate us for all time expended and related fees and to reimburse us for all out-of-pocket expenditures through the date of termination.

### ***Other fees***

You also agree to compensate us for any time and expenses, including time and expenses of legal counsel, we may incur in responding to discovery requests or participating as a witness or otherwise in any legal, regulatory, or other proceedings that we are asked to respond to on your behalf.

### ***Finance charges and collection expenses***

You agree that if any statement is not paid within 30 days from its billing date, the unpaid balance shall accrue interest at the monthly rate of one and one-quarter percent (1.25%), which is an annual percentage rate of 15%. In the event that any collection action is required to collect unpaid balances due us, reasonable attorney fees and expenses shall be recoverable.

### **Termination of agreement**

Either party may terminate this agreement at any time by giving written notice to the other party. In that event, the provisions of this agreement shall continue to apply to all services rendered prior to termination.

### **Agreement**

Please sign and date this letter to confirm your agreement and return it to us at your earliest convenience.

We are looking forward to working with you.

February 1, 2021  
Novato Charter  
Page 6

Sincerely,

**CliftonLarsonAllen LLP**

DocuSigned by:  
*Wade McMullen*  
A0BC445E9A4D4E6...

Wade McMullen, CPA  
Principal  
626-857-7300  
Wade.McMullen@claconnect.com

Enclosure

**Response:**

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of Novato Charter.

Authorized management signature: *John Arzizzi*  
FF4DFC18FE2D4A4...

Title: Business Manager

Date: 3/2/2021

## Certificate Of Completion

Envelope Id: D035F69BC20C4FD294E40D9E31E07CAF

Status: Completed

Subject: Please DocuSign: CLA Engagement Letters - Novato Charter/213-107010

Client Name: Novato Charter

Client Number: 213-107010

Source Envelope:

Document Pages: 17

Signatures: 4

Envelope Originator:

Certificate Pages: 5

Initials: 0

Katherine Underwood

AutoNav: Enabled

220 South 6th Street

Envelopeld Stamping: Enabled

Suite 300

Time Zone: (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)

Minneapolis, MN 55402

Katherine.Underwood@claconnect.com

IP Address: 67.78.184.86

## Record Tracking

Status: Original

Holder: Katherine Underwood

Location: DocuSign

3/2/2021 8:46:43 AM

Katherine.Underwood@claconnect.com

## Signer Events

Wade McMullen

Wade.McMullen@claconnect.com

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

## Signature

DocuSigned by:  
  
 A0BC445E9A4D4E6...

Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style

Using IP Address: 104.129.198.231

## Timestamp

Sent: 3/2/2021 9:02:52 AM

Viewed: 3/2/2021 10:58:15 AM

Signed: 3/2/2021 10:58:25 AM

## Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:

Accepted: 3/2/2021 10:58:15 AM

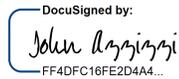
ID: b7e93dea-a350-452d-86dc-4e8e1b6ef1d1

John Azzizzi

jazzizzi@sebastopolcharter.org

Business Manager

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

DocuSigned by:  
  
 FF4DFC16FE2D4A4...

Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style

Using IP Address: 209.129.224.239

Sent: 3/2/2021 10:58:27 AM

Viewed: 3/2/2021 11:04:20 AM

Signed: 3/2/2021 11:05:38 AM

## Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:

Accepted: 3/2/2021 11:04:20 AM

ID: d9017019-94c6-4960-ac7e-b7ec73dc88da

## In Person Signer Events

Signature

Timestamp

## Editor Delivery Events

Status

Timestamp

## Agent Delivery Events

Status

Timestamp

## Intermediary Delivery Events

Status

Timestamp

## Certified Delivery Events

Status

Timestamp

## Carbon Copy Events

Status

Timestamp

## Witness Events

Signature

Timestamp

## Notary Events

Signature

Timestamp

<b>Envelope Summary Events</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Timestamps</b>
Envelope Sent	Hashed/Encrypted	3/2/2021 9:02:52 AM
Certified Delivered	Security Checked	3/2/2021 11:04:20 AM
Signing Complete	Security Checked	3/2/2021 11:05:38 AM
Completed	Security Checked	3/2/2021 11:05:38 AM

<b>Payment Events</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Timestamps</b>
-----------------------	---------------	-------------------

<b>Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure</b>
---

## **ELECTRONIC RECORD AND SIGNATURE DISCLOSURE**

From time to time, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP (we, us or Company) may be required by law to provide to you certain written notices or disclosures. Described below are the terms and conditions for providing to you such notices and disclosures electronically through the DocuSign system. Please read the information below carefully and thoroughly, and if you can access this information electronically to your satisfaction and agree to this Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure (ERSD), please confirm your agreement by selecting the check-box next to 'I agree to use electronic records and signatures' before clicking 'CONTINUE' within the DocuSign system.

### **Getting paper copies**

At any time, you may request from us a paper copy of any record provided or made available electronically to you by us. You will have the ability to download and print documents we send to you through the DocuSign system during and immediately after the signing session and, if you elect to create a DocuSign account, you may access the documents for a limited period of time (usually 30 days) after such documents are first sent to you. After such time, if you wish for us to send you paper copies of any such documents from our office to you, you will be charged a \$0.00 per-page fee. You may request delivery of such paper copies from us by following the procedure described below.

### **Withdrawing your consent**

If you decide to receive notices and disclosures from us electronically, you may at any time change your mind and tell us that thereafter you want to receive required notices and disclosures only in paper format. How you must inform us of your decision to receive future notices and disclosure in paper format and withdraw your consent to receive notices and disclosures electronically is described below.

### **Consequences of changing your mind**

If you elect to receive required notices and disclosures only in paper format, it will slow the speed at which we can complete certain steps in transactions with you and delivering services to you because we will need first to send the required notices or disclosures to you in paper format, and then wait until we receive back from you your acknowledgment of your receipt of such paper notices or disclosures. Further, you will no longer be able to use the DocuSign system to receive required notices and consents electronically from us or to sign electronically documents from us.

### **All notices and disclosures will be sent to you electronically**

Unless you tell us otherwise in accordance with the procedures described herein, we will provide electronically to you through the DocuSign system all required notices, disclosures, authorizations, acknowledgements, and other documents that are required to be provided or made available to you during the course of our relationship with you. To reduce the chance of you inadvertently not receiving any notice or disclosure, we prefer to provide all of the required notices and disclosures to you by the same method and to the same address that you have given us. Thus, you can receive all the disclosures and notices electronically or in paper format through the paper mail delivery system. If you do not agree with this process, please let us know as described below. Please also see the paragraph immediately above that describes the consequences of your electing not to receive delivery of the notices and disclosures electronically from us.

### **How to contact CliftonLarsonAllen LLP:**

You may contact us to let us know of your changes as to how we may contact you electronically, to request paper copies of certain information from us, and to withdraw your prior consent to receive notices and disclosures electronically as follows:

To contact us by email send messages to: [BusinessTechnology@CLAconnect.com](mailto:BusinessTechnology@CLAconnect.com)

### **To advise CliftonLarsonAllen LLP of your new email address**

To let us know of a change in your email address where we should send notices and disclosures electronically to you, you must send an email message to us at [BusinessTechnology@CLAconnect.com](mailto:BusinessTechnology@CLAconnect.com) and in the body of such request you must state: your previous email address, your new email address. We do not require any other information from you to change your email address.

If you created a DocuSign account, you may update it with your new email address through your account preferences.

### **To request paper copies from CliftonLarsonAllen LLP**

To request delivery from us of paper copies of the notices and disclosures previously provided by us to you electronically, you must send us an email to [BusinessTechnology@CLAconnect.com](mailto:BusinessTechnology@CLAconnect.com) and in the body of such request you must state your email address, full name, mailing address, and telephone number. We will bill you for any fees at that time, if any.

### **To withdraw your consent with CliftonLarsonAllen LLP**

To inform us that you no longer wish to receive future notices and disclosures in electronic format you may:

i. decline to sign a document from within your signing session, and on the subsequent page, select the check-box indicating you wish to withdraw your consent, or you may;

ii. send us an email to [BusinessTechnology@CLAconnect.com](mailto:BusinessTechnology@CLAconnect.com) and in the body of such request you must state your email, full name, mailing address, and telephone number. We do not need any other information from you to withdraw consent.. The consequences of your withdrawing consent for online documents will be that transactions may take a longer time to process..

### **Required hardware and software**

The minimum system requirements for using the DocuSign system may change over time. The current system requirements are found here: <https://support.docusign.com/guides/signer-guide-signing-system-requirements>.

### **Acknowledging your access and consent to receive and sign documents electronically**

To confirm to us that you can access this information electronically, which will be similar to other electronic notices and disclosures that we will provide to you, please confirm that you have read this ERSD, and (i) that you are able to print on paper or electronically save this ERSD for your future reference and access; or (ii) that you are able to email this ERSD to an email address where you will be able to print on paper or save it for your future reference and access. Further, if you consent to receiving notices and disclosures exclusively in electronic format as described herein, then select the check-box next to ‘I agree to use electronic records and signatures’ before clicking ‘CONTINUE’ within the DocuSign system.

By selecting the check-box next to ‘I agree to use electronic records and signatures’, you confirm that:

- You can access and read this Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure; and
- You can print on paper this Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure, or save or send this Electronic Record and Disclosure to a location where you can print it, for future reference and access; and
- Until or unless you notify CliftonLarsonAllen LLP as described above, you consent to receive exclusively through electronic means all notices, disclosures, authorizations, acknowledgements, and other documents that are required to be provided or made available to you by CliftonLarsonAllen LLP during the course of your relationship with CliftonLarsonAllen LLP.