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January 23, 2020

Elaine M. Howle
California State Auditor
621 Capitol Mall, Suite 1200
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Update Audit 2019-108

Dear Ms. Howle,

As we did on [January 13, 2020](#), this letter provides you with an additional update concerning the District's progress on matters related to the Auditor's recommendations contained in the [Audit Report of December 10, 2019](#) (Audit). We are pleased to inform you that while awaiting a determination from the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) on the District's second [request for impasse](#), the District received a [letter on January 17 from the Sacramento City Teachers Association](#) (SCTA) offering to commence negotiations with the District in March 2020 on successor contract terms. On Wednesday, the [District responded with a letter reserving SCTA's March dates and proposing to begin "around the clock" negotiations in February, rather than wait until March to begin negotiations](#).

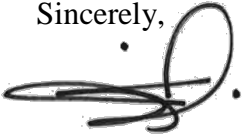
We are pleased that SCTA has offered dates to respond to the District's negotiations proposals that were shared with SCTA leaders between August 2 and December 9, 2019. As confirmed by your office and other entities, we know that solutions to our budget challenges depend on negotiated solutions. And, while solutions to our budget challenges are critical, we are laser focused on enhancing access to educational opportunities for all of our students, which requires examination and discussion of contract terms that may impact such access. We are particularly pleased that SCTA offered dates to meet since SCTA leaders had not agreed to meet to discuss the District's proposals sent between August 2 to December 9, 2019. Over the course of fourteen (14) months and despite [eighteen \(18\) letters](#) sent by SCUSD requesting negotiation, at no point prior to its January 17, 2020 letter had SCTA leaders agreed to begin bargaining on a successor contract by accepting any dates offered by the District.

The District continues to believe that together, with SCTA and our other labor partners, and through the collective bargaining process, solutions to our budget problems that are acceptable for the District and our employees will be identified and agreed to, thereby allowing the District and its employees to continue their shared goal of enhancing educational opportunities for all students. In filing for an impasse

determination from PERB on December 20, 2019, and again on January 13, 2020, the District has followed the statutory process for attempting to move negotiations forward when there is a stalemate as recognized by the Audit. And, while those impasse applications were declined by PERB we are pleased that there may be some positive developments from SCTA in regard to commencing negotiations. We will continue to follow the statutory process for collective bargaining and believe that through this process we have the best chance to ultimately resolve the District's serious budget deficit and avoid a state takeover.

Again, it is our sincere commitment to overcome our budget challenges while staying focused on our goal of providing access to high quality educational opportunities for all of our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jorge A. Aguilar', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Jorge A. Aguilar
Superintendent