



OCEAN COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY

HELPING TO PRESERVE THE WATER RESOURCES OF OCEAN AND SOUTHERN MONMOUTH COUNTIES...

OCEAN COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY
Financial Statements and Supplementary Information
December 31, 2024 and 2023
With Independent Auditor's Reports

Ocean County Utilities Authority
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December 31, 2024 and 2023

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Commissioners
of the Ocean County Utilities Authority

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the business-type activities of Ocean County Utilities Authority, a component unit of the County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, (hereafter referred to as the "Authority"), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Authority's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the business-type activities of the Authority, as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the respective changes in financial position and where applicable, cash flows thereof for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and in compliance with audit standards prescribed by the Local Finance Board and by the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Authority, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Emphasis of Matter

Prior Period Restatement of Prior Year Financial Statements

We draw attention to Note 15 of the financial statements, which explains that the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2023, have been restated to correct compensated absences balances and expenses due to the implementation of GASB 101, *Compensated Absences*. As a result, compensated absences, operating expenses and the respective changes in financial position have been restated to reflect the activity in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Our opinion is not modified in respect to this matter.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards* and audit standards prescribed by the Local Finance Board and by the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards* and audit standards prescribed by the Local Finance Board and by the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 Authority's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and other required supplementary information as listed in the table of contents, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Authority's basic financial statements. The accompanying schedules of expenditures of federal awards and state financial assistance, as required by Title 2 U.S. *Code of Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost-Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance) and New Jersey OMB's Circular 15-08, *Single Audit Policy for Recipients of Federal Grants, State Grants and State Aid* and the other supplementary information as listed in the table of contents are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the schedules of expenditures of federal awards and state financial assistance and other supplementary information are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

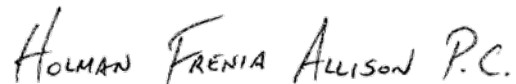
Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information included in the annual report. The other information comprises the Board of Commissioners (Schedule 8) but does not include the basic financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinions on the basic financial statements do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the basic financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the basic financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated November 23, 2025 on our consideration of the Authority's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Authority's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Holman Frenia Allison P.C." in a cursive, flowing script.

HOLMAN FRENIA ALLISON, P.C.
Certified Public Accountants

November 23, 2025
Lakewood, New Jersey



OCEAN COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY

HELPING TO PRESERVE THE WATER RESOURCES OF OCEAN AND SOUTHERN MONMOUTH COUNTIES...

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS (UNAUDITED)



OCEAN COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY

HELPING TO PRESERVE THE WATER RESOURCES OF OCEAN AND SOUTHERN MONMOUTH COUNTIES...

This section presents management's analysis of the Ocean County Utilities Authority's (the "Authority") financial condition and activities for the year ended December 31, 2024. Management's Discussion and Analysis ("MD&A") serves as an introduction to, and should be read in conjunction with, the basic audited financial statements and supplementary information.

Authority Overview

The Authority was founded for the purpose of protecting and preserving the area's vital environment for current and future generations and by so doing ensure a healthy ecology, a robust economy, and a high quality of life for our citizens.

The skilled and dedicated men and women at the Authority accomplish this by effectively collecting and treating wastewater from our service areas' thirty-seven participants and then recycling safe, clean water back into the natural ecosystem.

Our philosophy is never to lose sight of those who we are committed to serve: residents, businesses, public institutions, and the millions of seasonal visitors to the many attractions located within our service region.

All the plans, improvements and system changes are made to ensure that we continue to meet or surpass all mandated federal and state regulations and standards, and to operate the Authority at as low a cost to our customers as possible.

Summary of Organization and Business

The Authority, a public body corporate and politic of the State of New Jersey was created pursuant to a resolution adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of Ocean County on July 8, 1970, and the Sewerage Authorities Law, constituting Chapter 38 of the Pamphlet Laws of 1946 of the State as amended (the "Original Act"). On December 6, 1978, the Ocean County Sewerage Authority was reorganized as the Ocean County Utilities Authority pursuant to the Act.

The Authority has the statutory power to acquire, to construct, to maintain and to operate sewerage facilities for the relief of waters in, bordering, or entering the areas within the territorial boundaries of the County from pollution or threatened pollution and for the improvement of conditions affecting the public health.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Act, the Authority presently consists of twelve Commissioners, eleven of whom are appointed by the Ocean County Board of Commissioners and one of whom is appointed by the Monmouth County Board of Commissioners. All members of the Authority are appointed to five-year terms. The Authority is administered by an Executive Director appointed by the members and directly responsible to them. The Authority has approximately 260 employees who are organized into four activities: Finance and Administration, Engineering and Construction, Operations and Maintenance, and Technical Services.

The Authority's Service Area includes portions of the Atlantic Coastal Drainage Basin in Ocean County, the Metedeconk River Drainage Basin, which is located in Ocean and Monmouth Counties, and the Manasquan River Drainage Basin, which is located in Monmouth County. The Authority currently has Service Contracts with 36 contracting customers, including 20 municipalities, 13 municipal authorities, 3 private corporations and the Department of the Navy for the Naval Air Warfare Center at Lakehurst.

The System encompasses trunk and interceptor sewer lines, metering stations, pump stations and three treatment plants. The Northern Service Area treatment facility ("NWPCF") commenced initial operations in September 1976, the Southern Service Area treatment facility ("SWPCF") commenced initial operations in August 1977, and the Central Service Area treatment facility ("CWPCF") was the last to come on-line, commencing initial operations in December 1979. The Authority's three regional treatment facilities provide secondary treatment and disinfection of the wastewater collected in the service areas. The treatment processes at each of the plants are essentially the same. The primary treatment process consists of influent pumping, screening to remove large objects, aerated grit chambers for grit removal, and primary settling to remove suspended and organic matter. The secondary treatment for biological reduction of pollutants includes diffused air aeration and final settling. Disinfection is provided with the effluent conveyed through outfall lines equipped with diffuser systems to the Atlantic Ocean. In addition, the Authority has constructed septage-receiving facilities at the Central Treatment Facility to allow for septage treatment as a result of a 1980 State law prohibiting certain landfills from receiving septage.

In 1997, The Authority completed construction and testing of a new centralized sludge drying facility located at the CWPCF in Bayville. The system utilizes Andritz, Inc. rotary drum sludge dryers fueled by natural gas to produce a final pelletized product that is approved for use as fertilizer and is marketed under the product name Oceangro. In accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Wastewater Treatment Public-Private Contracting Act, N.J.S.A. 58:27-1.9 et seq., the Authority entered into a contract with Andritz, Inc. to operate the facility. The current contract has been extended to December 31, 2027.

The County of Ocean has agreed, pursuant to the County Agreement dated September 15, 1971 ("Deficiency Advance Contract"), to pay the Authority amounts ("Deficiency Advances"), if any, equal to any excess of the Authority's expenses (including debt service) over its receipts. In the opinion of Bond Counsel to the Authority, the obligation of the County to make Deficiency Advances is a valid and binding general obligation of the County.

Hurricane Sandy

In 2012, the Authority was affected by Hurricane Sandy's storm surge as it hit the New Jersey coastline. The storm primarily impacted the Authority's collection and conveyance systems. The three treatment plants remained relatively unscathed. Damages were sustained to 27 pump stations, 23 metering chamber facilities and 16 cathodic protection stations. The three ocean outfalls were inspected via marine divers and no damage was reported. Within one week following the storm, the Authority was able to restore adequate sewerage services to each participant in the regional system affected by the storm. Long-term mitigation projects have been completed to strengthen facilities with the goal of reducing or eliminating future losses from similar storm events.

GASB 68 - Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions

During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015, the Authority was required to adopt GASB Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions - an amendment of GASB Statement No. 27*, and GASB Statement No. 71, *Pension Transition for Contributions Made Subsequent to the Measurement Date - an amendment of GASB Statement No. 68*, relative to its participation in the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS).

Historically, the Authority has recorded its contributions to the plan as expenses in the year these contributions were required by the State of New Jersey Division of Pensions and Benefits. With the adoption of GASB 68, the Authority is required to record a liability in its financial statements for its proportionate share of the PERS plan liability and expenses. The Authority's December 31, 2024 net pension liability decreased to \$31,521,725, deferred outflows of resources decreased to \$972,956, and deferred inflows of resources decreased to \$3,215,602. All employers who participate in the PERS are required to record a proportionate share of the June 30, 2024 and 2023 net pension liability in their respective financial statements which total \$13,702,423,985 and \$14,606,486,066, respectively. Management intends to fund this liability through annual required contributions determined by the actuary, and it is unlikely that this liability would be callable in full.

GASB 75 – Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pension

In June 2015, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board issued GASB Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting of Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pension* (“OPEB”), which was effective for fiscal years beginning after June 12, 2017. Similar to GASB Statement No. 68, the Authority is required to record a liability in its financial statements for its proportionate share of the OPEB plan liability and expenses. As a result of implementing this statement during fiscal year ended December 31, 2018, the beginning unrestricted net position decreased by \$93,299,548.

Historically, the Authority has recorded its OPEB payment as an expense in the year these contributions were paid to the State of New Jersey Division of Pensions and Benefits. With the adoption of GASB 75, the Authority is required to record a liability in its financial statements for its proportionate share of the OPEB liability and expenses. The Authority’s December 31, 2024 net OPEB liability increased to \$79,329,002, deferred outflows of resources increased to \$32,236,885 and deferred inflows of resources decreased to \$29,134,832. Management intends to fund this liability through annual required contributions determined by the actuary, and it is unlikely that this liability would be callable in full.

Financial Highlights

Management believes the Authority’s financial condition is strong. The stringent financial policies and guidelines set by the Board of Commissioners and Management, with the adoption of the Cash Management and Investment Policy and the Seven-Year Capital Improvement Plan in particular, add to the financial strength of the Authority. The following are key financial highlights for 2024 and 2023:

- For fiscal years 2024 and 2023, the Authority treated 18.845 and 18.305 billion gallons of wastewater, respectively.
- User charges and fees revenues and product sales were \$80.50 million, an increase from 2023 in the amount of \$3.60 million or 4.7% more.
- Operating expenses excluding depreciation increased approximately \$4.04 million or 7.8% from 2023. The bulk of this increase was attributable to increases in chemical, supplies, and insurance costs.
- Operating income after depreciation for the year 2024 was approximately 8.47 million.
- Total net position increased by \$13.719 million from 2023.

The Authority budgets on a cash basis and does not fund depreciation. The Authority’s 2024 operating revenues exceeded operating expenses. The Authority appropriated \$7.3 million to its capital budget from operations during 2024.

Audit Assurance

The unmodified opinion of our independent external auditors, HFA, is included in this report.

Financial Analysis

The following comparative condensed financial statements and other selected information serve as the key financial data and indicators for management, monitoring, and planning.

Comments regarding budget-to-actual variances and year-to-year variances are included in each section by the name of the statement or account.

Condensed Statements of Net Position

	December 31		
	2024	2023-Restated	2022
Assets and deferred outflows of resources			
Current assets	\$ 22,656,457	\$ 22,356,272	\$ 23,034,665
Non-current assets	42,262,658	44,747,574	46,769,511
Restricted assets	32,359,219	30,046,165	27,881,998
Capital assets	275,900,647	267,943,915	258,236,986
Deferred outflows of resources	37,639,270	36,355,246	27,980,842
Total assets and deferred outflows of resources	<u>\$ 410,818,251</u>	<u>\$ 401,449,172</u>	<u>\$ 383,904,002</u>
Liabilities and deferred inflows of resources			
Current liabilities	25,761,934	29,192,784	26,117,205
Non-current liabilities	204,273,186	194,567,280	189,208,226
Deferred inflows of resources	37,001,187	47,626,015	49,036,908
Total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources	<u>267,036,307</u>	<u>271,386,079</u>	<u>264,362,339</u>
Net position			
Net investment in capital assets	188,053,786	179,364,124	170,259,399
Restricted	12,874,831	12,881,944	12,888,819
Unrestricted	(57,146,673)	(62,182,975)	(63,606,555)
Total net position	<u>143,781,944</u>	<u>130,063,093</u>	<u>119,541,663</u>
Total liabilities, deferred inflows, and net position	<u>\$ 410,818,251</u>	<u>\$ 401,449,172</u>	<u>\$ 383,904,002</u>

Condensed Statements of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position

	December 31		
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023-Restated</u>	<u>2022</u>
Operating revenues			
Charges for services	\$ 80,015,930	\$ 76,416,380	\$ 74,579,567
Product sales	483,502	483,799	378,922
Total operating revenues	<u>80,499,432</u>	<u>76,900,179</u>	<u>74,958,489</u>
Operating expenses			
Operations and maintenance	49,251,829	45,640,017	41,471,009
Depreciation	16,477,178	16,064,181	17,663,860
Administration and general	6,296,246	5,869,434	5,413,197
Total operating expenses	<u>72,025,253</u>	<u>67,573,632</u>	<u>64,548,066</u>
Operating income	8,474,179	9,326,547	10,410,423
Non operating revenues (expenses)	<u>5,244,672</u>	<u>2,010,622</u>	<u>(5,939,960)</u>
Changes in net position	13,718,851	11,337,169	4,470,463
Net position - beginning of year	<u>130,063,093</u>	<u>119,541,663</u>	<u>115,071,200</u>
Prior period adjustment (See Note 15)	-	(815,739)	-
Beginning of year (restated)	<u>130,063,093</u>	<u>118,725,924</u>	<u>115,071,200</u>
Net position - end of period	<u>\$ 143,781,944</u>	<u>\$ 130,063,093</u>	<u>\$ 119,541,663</u>

Other Selected Information

	Year		
	2024	2023-Restated	2022
Selected data for analysis			
Employees at year-end	265	265	265
Sewer customers at year-end	37	37	37
Septage haulers at year-end	20	20	21
Fertilizer customers at year-end	71	69	66
Annual sewage flow in million gallons	18,845	18,305	17,942
User rates			
Sewer use per million gallons	\$ 4,120	\$ 4,039	\$ 4,039
Septage disposal per thousand gallons	69.27	68.30	68.30
Graywater disposal per thousand gallons	32.35	31.72	31.72
BOD surcharge per pound	0.42	0.41	0.41
Suspended solids surcharge per pound	0.40	0.39	0.39
Ratio of operating revenue to			
Operating expenses including depreciation	1.12	1.14	1.16
Operating expenses exclusive of depreciation	1.45	1.49	1.60
Total assets	0.22	0.21	0.21
Total net position	0.56	0.59	0.63
Debt related ratios			
Equity to long-term debt	1.58	1.44	1.33
Current ratio	0.88	0.77	0.88
Operating ratio	0.69	0.67	0.63
Debt service coverage	1.54	1.54	1.64
General fund to operating expenses	0.97	1.14	1.32

Results of Operations

Operating Revenues: Revenues from operations fall into two general categories: charges for services and product sales. Charges for services include sewer use income, septage, application fees, sales of plans and specifications, scrap metal sales, assessments, and miscellaneous income. Product sales are sales of fertilizer produced by converting sludge generated from the treatment process at all three facilities into fertilizer pellets. This organic fertilizer product is registered with the N. J. Department of Agriculture and is marketed under the name "Oceangro".

Operating Expenses: The Authority's operating expenses consist of the following categories: employment costs, repairs and maintenance, supplies and materials, utilities, bad debt expense, depreciation and administration. Operating expenses increased by approximately \$4,451,621 or 7% from 2023.

Rates and Billing and Collection Process

The rate of charge per million gallons of sewage treated, known as the Bulk Rate, is set by the Authority on an annual basis in accordance with the Municipal and County Utilities Authorities Law and the Bond Resolution. The rate per million gallons for 2024 was \$4,120 and rate per million gallons for 2023 was \$4,039. The Bulk Rate for 2025 will be \$4,202.

Customers, known as Participants, are required to pay estimated Annual Charges to the Authority in equal quarterly installments. These Annual Charge payments are based on the estimated wastewater flows and the current Bulk Rate. The amount of this estimated Annual Charge is stated in a certificate delivered to each Participant no later than January 31 of each year. The Participants are required to make Annual Charge payments on the first days of March, June, September, and December, except for the Manasquan River Regional Sewerage Authority whose payments are due on the last days of March, June, September, and December. There are two exceptions to the above-described process – Long Beach Township and the Naval Air Warfare Center, both which make quarterly payments based on actual metered flows.

At the end of each calendar year, the estimated Annual Charge billings are adjusted to reflect the actual wastewater discharged by the Participant during the year. This process is referred to as a “Deficiency Notification” and can result in an additional amount due to the Authority or a credit due to the Participant. All additional payments or refunds due are billed in the first quarter of the following fiscal year.

Pursuant to the service contracts, the Participants are required to pay interest at the rate of eight percent (8%) per annum on any Annual Charge payment or part thereof due to the Authority that shall remain unpaid for 30 days following its due date.

Capital Improvement Program

As part of the annual budget process, the Authority updates its Capital Improvement Plan. This Plan generally updates the projected capital expenditures for the current year, the upcoming budget year as well as for an additional six-year planning period. The 2024 capital budget projection was \$49,925,000. Actual capital expenditures for 2024 were \$24,474,713.

The Authority currently has approximately 150 discreet projects listed on the Capital Improvement Plan – 5 of these projects are under construction, 32 are in various phases of evaluation and design, and the balance will be addressed in the coming years. All proposed projects on the Plan have been, or will be, evaluated for economic feasibility. As the Authority moves forward with each major project, it is submitted for review by all agencies having jurisdiction.

The Authority’s Capital Improvement Program is financed from a combination of sources. The current Capital Improvement Plan projects total expenditures for the six-year period of 2025 through 2030 of \$253,180,000. Funding is expected from the following sources:

Operating Appropriation/General Fund	\$ 69,480,000
NJIB Loans	\$157,300,000
Grants	\$26,400,000

It is the Authority’s policy to utilize the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank (“NJIB”) to the greatest extent possible. For eligible projects, three quarters of the cost is funded by an interest-free “Fund” loan, and quarter of the cost is funded by a “Trust” loan which bears market-rate interest. NJIB loans are on a reimbursement basis whereby the Authority receives loan payments upon submission of a reimbursement voucher to the Trust. Interest is credited to the Authority’s account for funds held by the Trust.

Final Comments

The Authority has adopted appropriate strategic operating, finance and capital improvement plans that ensure the Authority will continue to provide the residents of Ocean County with an exemplary level of service while maintaining reasonable and stable rates



OCEAN COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY

HELPING TO PRESERVE THE WATER RESOURCES OF OCEAN AND SOUTHERN MONMOUTH COUNTIES...

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Ocean County Utilities Authority
Statements of Net Position
December 31, 2024 and 2023

	2024	Restated 2023
Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 11,629,632	\$ 13,902,892
Accounts receivable, less allowance for doubtful accounts	5,236,317	2,923,897
Inventories	4,127,103	3,879,762
Prepaid expenses	1,663,405	1,649,721
Total current assets	<u>22,656,457</u>	<u>22,356,272</u>
Non-current assets		
Investments	<u>42,262,658</u>	<u>44,747,574</u>
Restricted assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	6,861,697	7,102,694
NJIB and ERB loan funds receivable	2,102,959	-
Investments	23,034,042	22,521,015
Interest receivable	360,521	422,456
Total restricted assets	<u>32,359,219</u>	<u>30,046,165</u>
Capital assets		
Property, plant, and equipment	961,766,924	941,650,246
Construction in progress	51,797,906	47,699,269
	1,013,564,830	989,349,515
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>737,664,183</u>	<u>721,405,600</u>
Net capital assets	<u>275,900,647</u>	<u>267,943,915</u>
Total assets	<u>373,178,981</u>	<u>365,093,926</u>
Deferred outflows of resources		
Pension related	972,956	1,076,524
OPEB related	36,666,314	35,278,722
Total deferred outflows of resources	<u>37,639,270</u>	<u>36,355,246</u>
Total assets and deferred outflows of resources	<u><u>\$ 410,818,251</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 401,449,172</u></u>

See Independent Auditor's Report.

The Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of these statements.

Ocean County Utilities Authority
Statements of Net Position (continued)
December 31, 2024 and 2023

	2024	Restated 2023
Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Net Position		
Current liabilities payable from current assets		
Accounts payable	\$ 3,212,820	\$ 4,120,006
Accrued expenses	4,063,334	4,037,210
Unearned revenue	1,575,298	2,658,696
Total current liabilities payable from current assets	<u>8,851,452</u>	<u>10,815,912</u>
Current liabilities payable from restricted assets		
Accounts payable	945,943	2,182,126
Retainage payable and other	996,215	748,099
Revenue bonds, due within one year	4,045,000	3,845,000
Loans payable, due within one year	10,294,502	10,857,948
Accrued interest payable	628,822	743,699
Total current liabilities payable from restricted assets	<u>16,910,482</u>	<u>18,376,872</u>
Total current liabilities	<u>25,761,934</u>	<u>29,192,784</u>
Non-current liabilities		
Compensated absences payable	2,086,342	2,146,849
Long-term portion of revenue bonds payable, net	4,374,977	8,531,157
Long-term portion of loans payable, net	72,252,619	66,835,492
Net pension liability	31,521,725	34,460,251
Net OPEB liability	94,037,523	82,593,531
Total non-current liabilities	<u>204,273,186</u>	<u>194,567,280</u>
Total liabilities	<u>230,035,120</u>	<u>223,760,064</u>
Deferred inflows of resources		
Pension related	3,215,602	3,426,048
OPEB related	33,785,585	44,199,967
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>37,001,187</u>	<u>47,626,015</u>
Net position		
Net investment in capital assets	188,053,786	179,364,124
Restricted for		
Bond reserve	4,374,831	4,381,944
Renewal and replacement	5,000,000	5,000,000
Revenue reserve	3,500,000	3,500,000
Unrestricted net deficit	(57,146,673)	(62,182,975)
Total net position	<u>143,781,944</u>	<u>130,063,093</u>
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and net position	<u>\$ 410,818,251</u>	<u>\$ 401,449,172</u>

See Independent Auditor's Report.

The Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of these statements.

Ocean County Utilities Authority
Statements of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position
Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

	<u>2024</u>	<u>Restated 2023</u>
Operating revenues		
User charges and fees	\$ 79,490,000	\$ 75,868,642
Product sales	483,502	483,799
Other	<u>525,930</u>	<u>547,738</u>
Total operating revenues	<u>80,499,432</u>	<u>76,900,179</u>
 Operating expenses exclusive of depreciation		
Employment costs	32,381,605	31,430,149
Pension benefit, net	(3,045,404)	(3,631,468)
OPEB expense, net	(245,977)	(1,364,229)
Repairs and maintenance	2,956,606	2,878,343
Supplies and materials	10,348,830	9,461,192
Utilities	6,856,169	6,866,030
Administration	<u>6,296,246</u>	<u>5,869,434</u>
Total operating expenses exclusive of depreciation	<u>55,548,075</u>	<u>51,509,451</u>
 Operating income before depreciation	24,951,357	25,390,728
Depreciation	<u>16,477,178</u>	<u>16,064,181</u>
Operating income	<u>8,474,179</u>	<u>9,326,547</u>
 Non-operating revenues (expenses and losses)		
Insurance recoveries	692,687	-
FEMA reimbursements	2,721,383	-
Pension revenue - special funding	101,626	107,469
Pension expense - special funding	(101,626)	(107,469)
Grant revenue for capital projects	-	204,863
Interest and investment income (loss)	2,590,704	3,229,252
Interest expense	(746,732)	(1,103,252)
Gain (loss) on disposal of assets	<u>(13,370)</u>	<u>(320,241)</u>
Total non-operating revenues (expenses and losses)	<u>5,244,672</u>	<u>2,010,622</u>
 Changes in net position	13,718,851	11,337,169
 Net position		
Beginning of year	<u>130,063,093</u>	<u>119,541,663</u>
Prior period adjustment (see Note 15)	-	(815,739)
Beginning of year (restated)	<u>130,063,093</u>	<u>118,725,924</u>
End of year	<u>\$ 143,781,944</u>	<u>\$ 130,063,093</u>

See Independent Auditor's Report.

The Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of these statements.

Ocean County Utilities Authority
Statements of Cash Flows
Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

	<u>2024</u>	<u>Restated 2023</u>
Operating activities		
Receipts from customers and users	\$ 77,103,614	\$ 75,313,913
Payments to employees	(32,527,993)	(31,296,340)
Payments to suppliers	<u>(28,614,130)</u>	<u>(21,863,782)</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>15,961,491</u>	<u>22,153,791</u>
Capital and related financing activities		
Purchases of capital assets	(24,474,713)	(26,119,871)
Proceeds from sale of capital assets	27,433	28,520
Insurance recoveries/FEMA Reimbursements	3,414,070	335,260
Proceeds from NJIB and ERB loan/grant funds	14,181,722	15,534,194
Principal paid on debt	(14,730,386)	(14,515,139)
Interest paid on debt, net of savings credits	<u>(1,518,402)</u>	<u>(1,932,491)</u>
Net cash provided by capital and related financing activities	<u>(23,100,276)</u>	<u>(26,669,527)</u>
Investing activities		
Proceeds from investment maturities	33,632,421	23,713,287
Proceeds from sales of investments	4,063,250	11,813,639
Purchases of investments	(35,798,724)	(37,557,005)
Interest and investment income received	<u>2,727,581</u>	<u>2,488,483</u>
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>4,624,528</u>	<u>458,404</u>
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	(2,514,257)	(4,057,332)
Cash and cash equivalents		
Beginning of year	<u>21,005,586</u>	<u>25,062,918</u>
End of year	<u>\$ 18,491,329</u>	<u>\$ 21,005,586</u>
Cash and cash equivalents - statements of net position		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 11,629,632	\$ 13,902,892
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	<u>6,861,697</u>	<u>7,102,694</u>
Total cash and cash equivalents - statements of net position	<u>\$ 18,491,329</u>	<u>\$ 21,005,586</u>

See Independent Auditor's Report.

The Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of these statements.

Ocean County Utilities Authority
Statements of Cash Flows (continued)
Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Reconciliation of operating income to net cash provided by operating activities		
Operating income	\$ 8,474,179	\$ 9,326,547
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash provided by operating activities		
Depreciation expense	16,477,177	16,064,181
Bad debt expense	-	16,017
Changes in operating assets and liabilities		
Accounts receivable	(2,312,421)	(533,351)
Inventories	(247,341)	(284,551)
Prepaid expenses	(13,684)	(283,696)
Deferred outflows of resources	(1,284,023)	(8,374,405)
Accounts payable	(2,143,370)	3,524,038
Accrued expenses and compensated absences	(34,383)	308,416
Unearned revenue	(1,083,397)	(1,052,915)
Retainage payable and other	248,116	239,409
Net pension liability	(2,938,526)	(1,538,324)
Net OPEB liability	11,443,992	6,153,318
Deferred inflows of resources	<u>(10,624,828)</u>	<u>(1,410,893)</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>\$ 15,961,491</u>	<u>\$ 22,153,791</u>

See Independent Auditor's Report.

The Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of these statements.

Ocean County Utilities Authority
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2024 and 2023

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Ocean County Utilities Authority (the "Authority"), a public body, was created to construct and operate a wastewater collection and treatment system to serve Ocean County and portions of Monmouth County. The Authority has entered into a service contract agreement with its participants, obligating each user to make payments to the Authority for its proportionate share of the Authority's operating expenses, debt service, and required reserves.

The Authority was created pursuant to a resolution adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of Ocean County on July 8, 1970 and the Sewerage Authorities Law, constituting Chapter 138 of the Pamphlet Laws of 1946 of the State as amended ("Original Act"). On December 6, 1978, the Ocean County Sewerage Authority was reorganized as the Ocean County Utilities Authority pursuant to the Original Act.

New Jersey statutes provide for the creation, dissolution, and operations of separate bodies, corporate and politic, for the purpose of fostering the provision and distribution of an adequate supply of water and the collection, treatment, disposal, and recycling of wastewater and sewage sludge. The statutes, enacted as the "Municipal and Counties Utilities Authorities Act," are codified in New Jersey Statutes Annotated as NJSA 40:14B-1 et seq. Additional statutory requirements relating to the financial operations of independent local authorities were established as the "Local Authorities Fiscal Control Law," which is codified as NJSA 40A:5A-1 et seq. The provisions of the Local Authorities Fiscal Control Law established the Local Finance Board and the Division of Local Government Services, in the Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey, as oversight agencies for the creation, project financing, budgeting, and overall financial condition of local authorities.

The Board of Commissioners of the Authority consists of ten members and two alternates, eleven of whom are appointed by the Ocean County Board of Commissioners and one of whom is appointed by Monmouth County Board of Commissioners. All members of the Authority are appointed to five-year terms.

As a public body, under the existing statute, the Authority is exempt from both federal and state taxes.

Reporting Entity

The Authority is considered to be a "Component Unit" of the County of Ocean ("County") under accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP"). This determination is based on (1) the oversight responsibility of the County, which is carried out primarily in the selection of Commissioners of the Authority, and (2) the accountability for fiscal matters, as evidenced by the Deficiency Advance Contract dated September 15, 1971, that obligates the County to provide for any deficits of the Authority, where such advances are to be refunded to the County through subsequent collection of user fees.

The County does not follow GAAP for accounting and financial reporting purposes. Rather, it follows a regulatory basis, utilizing accounting principles that differ, in some cases significantly, from GAAP. The financial statements of the County do not include the financial statements of the Authority, based on the separate legal status of the Authority.

Ocean County Utilities Authority
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
December 31, 2024 and 2023

Basis of Presentation

The financial statements of the Authority have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting and in accordance with GAAP applicable to enterprise funds of state and local governments.

All activities of the Authority are accounted for within a single, proprietary (enterprise) fund. Enterprise funds are used to account for operations that (a) are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises, where the intent of the governing body is that costs of providing services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges, and where (b) the governing body has decided that periodic determination of revenues earned, expenses incurred, and/or net income is appropriate for capital maintenance, public policy, accountability, or other purposes.

Accounting Pronouncements Adopted in the Current Year

Compensated Absences

Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*. This Statement requires that liabilities for compensated absences be recognized for (1) leave that *has not been used* if the leave is attributable to services already rendered, the leave accumulates and the leave is more likely than not to be used for time off or otherwise paid in cash or settled through non-cash means, and (2) leave that *has been used* but not yet paid in cash or settled through non-cash means. The Statement establishes guidance for measuring a liability for leave that has not been used, generally by using an employee's pay rate as of the date of the financial statements. A liability for leave that has been used but not yet paid or settled should be measured at the amount of the cash payment or non-cash settlement to be made.

This Statement also amends the existing requirement to disclose the gross increases and decreases in the liability for compensated absences to allow governments to disclose only the net change in the liability (if they identify it as a net change). In addition, governments are no longer required to disclose which governmental funds typically have been used to liquidate the liability for compensated absences. The requirements of this Statement are effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2023, and all reporting periods thereafter. The Authority adopted this statement in the current year, and the effect of this change is detailed in Notes 4 and 7.

Accounting Changes and Error Corrections

Statement No. 100, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections – an amendment of GASB Statement No. 62*. This Statement defines accounting changes as changes in accounting principles, changes in accounting estimates, and changes to or within the financial reporting entity and describes the transactions or other events that constitute those changes. This Statement also addresses corrections of errors in previously issued financial statements. The effective date is for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2023 and all reporting periods thereafter. The Authority adopted this statement in the current year. The implementation of this statement resulted in the restatement of the 2023 financial statements due to the change in accounting principle from the adoption of Statement 101 referenced above.

A. Basis of Accounting

The accounting policies of the Authority conform to GAAP as applicable to government entities. The GASB is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The Authority's financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues from operations, investments, and other sources are recorded when earned, and expenses are recorded when liabilities are incurred.

The Authority classifies charges to provide services to users and product sales as operating revenue and all other income as non-operating revenue. Non-exchange transactions in which the Authority receives value without directly giving equal value in return include grants. Unearned revenue arises when assets are received before revenue recognition criteria have been satisfied. Revenue from grants is recognized in the

Ocean County Utilities Authority
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
December 31, 2024 and 2023

year in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied. Eligibility requirements include timing requirements, which specify the year when the resources are required to be used or the fiscal year when use is first permitted; matching requirements, where the Authority must provide local resources to be used for a specific purpose; and expenditure requirements, where the Authority is provided resources on a reimbursement basis.

B. Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Significant estimates include the useful lives of capital assets and depreciation expense, the net pension liability, and net other postemployment benefits ("OPEB") liability.

C. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include interest-bearing accounts and short-term investments with an original maturity of three months or less, carried at cost which approximates market.

D. Investments

Investments consist of U.S. Treasury obligations, money market funds, U.S. Treasury notes, and securities insured by the U.S. government. Investments are reported at fair value with changes in fair value being reported within non-operating revenues/expenses in the Statements of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position.

E. Accounts Receivable

The Authority bills its participants for sewer usage in equal, quarterly installments, according to their estimated, projected annual usage determined at the beginning of each fiscal year. An annual adjustment for the difference between estimated and actual flows is billed to the participant as a charge or credit in the first quarter of the subsequent fiscal year. For financial statement presentation, these adjustments are reflected in revenue for the year earned. Certain participants are billed quarterly according to their actual usage. Pursuant to the service contracts, customers are required to pay interest at the rate of 8% per annum on any annual charge payment or part thereof due to the Authority that shall remain unpaid for 30 days following its due date. As of December 31, 2024, and 2023, an allowance for doubtful accounts of approximately \$15,942 has been established based on accounts that may be uncollectible.

F. Inventories

Inventories of spare parts, chemicals, and supplies are expensed when consumed. Inventories are stated at cost, as determined by the average cost valuation method, which approximates the first-in, first-out method. No determinations have been made, and no allowances have been recorded with respect to obsolete or surplus inventories, as management believes all inventory items are unique to the Authority's system and will be used in future years.

G. Net Position

Net position is identified as the residual of all other elements presented in the statements of net position. Net position is classified in the following three components:

Net Investment in Capital Assets - This component consists of capital assets (including restricted capital assets), net of accumulated depreciation, and any funds receivable from the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank ("NJIB") for capital expenditures, reduced by the outstanding balances of any bonds, notes, or other borrowings and deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets or related debt. If there are significant, unspent

Ocean County Utilities Authority
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
December 31, 2024 and 2023

debt-related proceeds or deferred inflows of resources at year-end, the portion of the debt or deferred inflows of resources attributable to the unspent amount should not be included in the calculation of net investment in capital assets. Instead, that portion of the debt or deferred inflows of resources should be included in the same net position component as the unspent amount.

Restricted - This component of net position consists of (1) constraints imposed by external groups such as creditors, grantors, contributors, laws or regulations of other governments, or (2) constraints imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. Certain components of net position are restricted for specific use as required by the Authority's bond resolutions. The purpose of each is indicated on the face of the Statements of Net Position. The Authority's policy is to apply restricted resources first when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net assets are available.

Unrestricted - This component of net position is the net amount of the assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources that are not included in the determination of either Net Investment in Capital Assets or the Restricted component of net position.

H. Bond Resolution Requirements

The Authority is operating under a Bond Resolution adopted December 20, 1985, and various related subsequently adopted supplemental resolutions.

Pursuant to the Bond Resolution, the Authority established the following funds:

Revenue Fund – assets held by the trustee consisting of all revenues received by the Authority and deficiency deposits, government grants, or other contributions. Withdrawals are made for payment to the Authority's other funds for authorized operating expenses and, as of the first day of each month, transfers to the other funds subject to limitations.

Operating Fund – assets held by the Authority for the operation, maintenance, and repair of the system. The trustee transfers necessary funds from the Revenue Fund to meet the Operating Fund requirement.

Bond Service Fund – assets held by the trustee for payment of matured principal and interest on outstanding bonds plus principal and interest due on or before the following January 1. The trustee transfers necessary funds from the Revenue Fund to meet the Bond Service Fund requirement.

Sinking Fund – assets held by the trustee to meet the Sinking Fund requirements on outstanding bonds, as required by the applicable bond resolutions.

Bond Reserve Fund – assets held by the trustee in an amount equal to maximum bond service, as defined by the applicable bond resolutions. As of December 31, 2024 and 2023, maximum bond service was \$4,374,831 and \$4,381,944, respectively.

Renewal and Replacement Fund – assets held to be used for major repairs, replacement, and renovation of the sewage system. Asset size is the greater of:

- (a) \$1,500,000; or
- (b) an amount as may be required by the Authority.

Revenue Reserve Fund – assets held to be used to meet deficiencies in the Operating Fund or other accounts. The assets in the Revenue Reserve Fund shall be the greater of:

- (a) \$3,500,000; or
- (b) 10% of the maximum bond service (excluding junior lien bonds); or

Ocean County Utilities Authority
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
December 31, 2024 and 2023

(c) a larger amount as the Authority may require.

General Fund – assets held, which, if free and clear of any lien or pledge created by the Bond Resolution, may be spent for any lawful purpose.

Construction Fund – assets held subject to the restricted use from which they were raised by debt or by grant. Monies are used to pay for capital additions and improvements to the system.

Since the activity of the Authority is financed with debt that is secured solely by a pledge of the net revenues from fees and charges of the Authority, these funds are all combined into a single enterprise fund for GAAP presentation.

Balances previously mentioned for the funds and accounts, excluding the general fund, are reflected in restricted cash and cash equivalents for their related money market portions and restricted investments on the statements of net position.

I. Property, Plant, and Equipment

Property, plant, and equipment are stated at cost and include direct construction costs, other expenditures related to construction, and certain professional and administrative costs. System construction costs are charged to construction in progress until such time as each segment of the system is completed and put into operation.

Depreciation is determined on a straight-line basis for all plant and equipment. Present policy is to begin depreciation in the first month of the year following purchase or transfer from construction in progress.

Depreciation is provided over the following estimated lives:

Description	Estimated Life (Years)
Lab equipment	7
Site improvements	20
Buildings and structures	40
Computers	3
Process electrical	15
Pipe (process), mechanical and electrical	20
Plant control system	7
Interceptors	40
Furniture	15
Vehicles	5
Preoperating costs and capitalized interest	20

Construction in progress includes costs incurred for various additions, improvements, and modifications to existing capital assets during the year for which the project was incomplete at year-end. Depreciation is not provided until the project is completed and placed in service.

The Authority assesses capital assets for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the service utility of the capital asset has both significantly and unexpectedly declined. For the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, management has determined that there was no impairment of capital assets.

Ocean County Utilities Authority
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
December 31, 2024 and 2023

J. Capitalized Interest

During the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, the Authority incurred \$746,732 and \$1,103,252, respectively, of net interest expense. No interest has been capitalized to construction projects during the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023.

K. Income Taxes

No provision for income taxes has been made as the Authority is exempt from federal and state income taxes.

L. Debt Issue Costs

Debt issue costs have been expensed in accordance with *Governmental Accounting Standards*.

M. Budgetary Procedures

The Authority follows these procedures in establishing the operating fund budget:

The annual budget for each fiscal year of the Authority is introduced by resolution passed by not less than a majority of the governing body. Copies are submitted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services (the "Director") prior to the beginning of the Authority's fiscal year for approval prior to its adoption.

The budget must comply with the terms and provisions of any security agreements and is to be in such form and detail as to items of revenue, expenses, and other contents as required by law or by rules and regulations of the Local Finance Board.

No authority budget can be finally adopted until the Director has approved the budget.

Public hearings are conducted to obtain citizen comments on the proposed budget.

Operating expense appropriations lapse at the close of the fiscal year to the extent that they have not been expended. The level at which expenditures cannot exceed the budget is at the total budget level.

The budget may be increased after adoption when an item of revenue has been made available after the adoption date.

N. Deferred Inflows/Outflows

GASB Statement No. 63, *Financial Reporting of Deferred Outflows of Resources, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Net Position*, establishes standards for reporting deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources, and net position. Deferred outflows of resources represent a consumption of net position that applies to a future period(s) and will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. Deferred inflows of resources represent an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period(s) and will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until then. The Authority's deferred outflows and deferred inflows are a result of its participation in the pension plan (see Note 11) and OPEB plans (see Note 10).

O. Reclassifications

Certain line items in prior year financial statements were reclassified to conform to the current year presentation. Reclassifications had no effect on prior year's change in net position or net position.

P. Subsequent Events

Management has evaluated events occurring after December 31, 2024 for possible adjustment to or disclosure in the financial statements through November 23, 2025, the date on which the financial statements were available to be issued.

Ocean County Utilities Authority
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
December 31, 2024 and 2023

2. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AND INVESTMENTS

The Authority's investment practices are governed by New Jersey State Statute 40A:5-15.

Deposits

New Jersey statutes permit the deposit of public funds in institutions located in New Jersey, that are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC"), or by any other agency of the United States that insures deposits or the State of New Jersey Cash Management Fund. NJSA 17:9-42 requires New Jersey governmental units to deposit public funds only in public depositories located in New Jersey, where the funds are protected from loss under the provisions of the Governmental Unit Deposit Protection Act ("GUDPA"). New Jersey statutes require public depositories to maintain collateral for deposit of public funds that exceed insurance limits based on specific criteria outlined in the statutes.

Investments

New Jersey statutes establish the following securities as eligible for the investment of Authority funds:

- (a) Bonds or other obligations of the United States or obligations guaranteed by the United States.
- (b) Government Money Market Mutual Funds.
- (c) Any obligation that a federal agency or a federal instrumentality has issued in accordance with an Act of Congress, which security has a maturity date not greater than 397 days from the date of purchase, provided that such obligation bears a fixed rate of interest not dependent on any index or other external factor.
- (d) Bonds or other obligations of the local unit, or bonds or other obligations of school districts of which the local unit is a part or within which the school district is located.
- (e) Bonds or other obligations, having a maturity date not more than 397 days from the date of purchase, approved by the Division of Investment of the Department of the Treasury for investment by local units.
- (f) Local government investment pools.
- (g) Deposits with the State of New Jersey Cash Management Fund established pursuant to Section 1 of P.L. 1977, C. 281 (C.52:18A-90.4).
- (h) Agreements for the repurchase of fully collateralized securities.

Repurchase agreements (15.1(a)(8)) must comply with the following conditions:

- (a) The underlying securities are permitted investments, pursuant to the list contained in (B) above;
- (b) The custody of the collateral is transferred to a third party. This means the bank must contract with a trusted third party to hold the collateral to ensure it is not pledged against any other investments;
- (c) The maturity of the agreement is not more than 30 days;
- (d) The underlying securities are purchased through a GUDPA bank; and
- (e) A master repurchase agreement providing for the custody and security of collateral is executed.

Local Government Investment Pools ("LGIP") (15.1(e)(2)) are subject to the following requirements:

- (a) It is managed in accordance with the Securities and Exchange Commission's government money market rules (2a7); and
- (b) It is rated in the highest category by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization.

Ocean County Utilities Authority
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
December 31, 2024 and 2023

- (c) Have their portfolio limited to U.S. government securities as defined in (2a7) and repurchase agreements that are collateralized by such U.S. government securities.

Every local unit must have a Cash Management Plan ("CM Plan"); the CM Plan is subject to audit as part of the Authority's annual audit. In addition, when the CM Plan permits investments for more than one year, the investment maturity must approximate the prospective use of funds. This primarily relates to U.S. securities and local bond issue purchases. The law also requires that cash management plans provide for the Chief Financial Officer to give the governing body a monthly report that summarizes:

- (a) All investments made or redeemed over the past month;
- (b) Each organization holding local unit funds;
- (c) The amount of securities purchased and sold, class or type of securities purchased, book value, earned income, fees incurred, and market value of all investments as of the report date; and
- (d) Other information that may be required by the governing body.

During the year, the Authority had none of its idle funds invested in repurchase agreements collateralized by eligible securities. At the close of the year, no such investments were held by the Authority.

Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the market value of securities in the portfolio will fall due to changes in market interest rates. The Authority will minimize interest rate risk by structuring the investment portfolio so that securities mature to meet cash requirements for ongoing operations, thereby avoiding the need to sell securities on the open market prior to maturity. By investing operating funds primarily in shorter-term securities, money market mutual funds, or similar investment pools and limiting the average maturity of the portfolio in accordance with this policy the Authority will also minimize interest rate risk. The Authority's formal investment policy states the portfolio shall remain sufficiently liquid to meet all operating costs which may be reasonably anticipated. Portfolios are structured so that securities mature concurrent with cash needs to meet anticipated demands (static liquidity). The portfolio should consist largely of securities with active secondary or resale markets (dynamic liquidity). A portion of the portfolio may be placed in money market mutual funds or local government investment pools which offer same-day liquidity for short-term funds.

Credit Risk

Credit risk is the risk that an issuer or other counter party to an investment will not fulfill its obligation. The standard of prudence to be used by the Authority shall be the "prudent person" standard which states:

Investments shall be made with judgment and care, under circumstances then prevailing, which persons of prudence, discretion, and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs, not for speculation, but for investment, considering the probable safety of their capital as well as the possible income to be derived.

Ocean County Utilities Authority
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
December 31, 2024 and 2023

The above standard is established as the standard for professional responsibility and shall be applied in the context of managing the Authority's overall portfolio. At December 31, 2024 and 2023, the Authority's investments representing greater than 5% of their portfolio were U.S. treasury notes, which totaled \$24,510,455 and \$29,927,466, respectively.

Custodial Credit Risk

Custodial credit risk is the risk that a government will not be able to cover deposits if the depository financial institution fails or will not be able to recover collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. It is the policy of the Authority to require that demand and time deposits that exceed the FDIC or other federal insurable limits be secured by some form of collateral to protect public deposits in a single situation if it were to default due to poor management or economic factors. As of December 31, 2024 and 2023, the Authority's bank deposits were fully insured or collateralized.

The carrying amount of the Authority's cash and cash equivalents as of December 31, 2024 and 2023 was \$18,491,329 and \$21,005,586 respectively, and the bank balances were \$22,766,319 and \$26,212,818, respectively. Of the bank balance, \$500,000 was covered by federal depository insurance each year, \$15,048,474 and \$24,401,694, respectively, were covered by a collateral pool maintained by the banks as required by New Jersey statutes, and \$7,217,845 and \$1,311,124 respectively, were invested in Government Money Market Mutual Funds.

Fair Value Measurements

The Authority uses a fair value hierarchy established by GAAP that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 measurement) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are:

Level 1 - Valuation is based upon quoted prices for identical assets.

Level 2 - Valuation is based upon quoted prices for similar instruments in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are not active, and inputs other than quoted prices that are observable instruments in the market.

Level 3 - Valuation is generated from model-based techniques that use significant unobservable inputs.

The Authority's investments, stated at fair value, as of December 31, 2024 and 2023 are as follows:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>Hierarchy</u>
Unrestricted			
Obligations guaranteed by the			
United States of America	\$ 19,698,466	\$ 20,810,365	Level 2
U.S. Treasury notes	<u>22,564,192</u>	<u>23,937,209</u>	Level 2
	<u>42,262,658</u>	<u>44,747,574</u>	
Restricted			
Obligations guaranteed by the			
United States of America	7,511,789	7,625,969	Level 2
U.S. Treasury notes	<u>15,522,253</u>	<u>14,895,046</u>	Level 2
	<u>23,034,042</u>	<u>22,521,015</u>	
	<u>\$ 65,296,700</u>	<u>\$ 67,268,589</u>	

Ocean County Utilities Authority
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
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All investments are valued based on quoted market prices and are held by the Authority's agent in the Authority's name.

The Authority's investments mature as follows:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
< 1 year	\$ 5,052,238	\$ 11,890,694
1-5 years	22,274,769	19,589,683
> 5 years	37,969,693	35,788,212
	<u>\$ 65,296,700</u>	<u>\$ 67,268,589</u>

At December 31, 2024 and 2023, \$42,262,658 and \$44,737,574, respectively, of the investments belonged to the General Fund and are unrestricted, and \$23,034,042 and \$22,521,015, respectively, are restricted investments held in the reserve.

3. CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital asset activity for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023 was as follows:

	<u>Balance 1/1/2024</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Retirements/ Reclassifications</u>	<u>Balance 12/31/2024</u>
Capital assets not being depreciated				
Land	\$ 9,025,863	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,025,863
Construction in progress	47,699,269	24,474,713	(20,376,076)	51,797,906
Total capital assets not being depreciated	<u>56,725,132</u>	<u>24,474,713</u>	<u>(20,376,076)</u>	<u>60,823,769</u>
Capital assets being depreciated				
Site improvements	10,151,358	60,383	(3,048)	10,208,693
Building and building improvements	284,936,736	1,377,779	-	286,314,515
Machinery and equipment	527,161,436	18,897,111	(215,547)	545,843,000
Preoperating costs	110,374,853	-	-	110,374,853
Totals at historical cost	932,624,383	20,335,273	(218,595)	952,741,061
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>(721,405,600)</u>	<u>(16,477,178)</u>	<u>218,595</u>	<u>(737,664,183)</u>
Total capital assets being depreciated				
net of accumulated depreciation	211,218,783	3,858,095	-	215,076,878
Net capital assets	<u>\$ 267,943,915</u>	<u>\$ 28,332,808</u>	<u>\$ (20,376,076)</u>	<u>\$ 275,900,647</u>

Ocean County Utilities Authority
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
December 31, 2024 and 2023

	<u>Balance</u> <u>1/1/2023</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Retirements/ Reclassifications</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>12/31/2023</u>
Capital assets not being depreciated				
Land	\$ 9,025,863	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,025,863
Construction in progress	30,026,067	26,119,871	(8,446,669)	47,699,269
Total capital assets not being depreciated	39,051,930	26,119,871	(8,446,669)	56,725,132
Capital assets being depreciated				
Site improvements	10,151,358	-	-	10,151,358
Building and building improvements	281,249,979	4,052,367	(365,610)	284,936,736
Machinery and equipment	523,298,997	4,394,302	(531,863)	527,161,436
Preoperating costs	110,374,853	-	-	110,374,853
Totals at historical cost	925,075,187	8,446,669	(897,473)	932,624,383
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(705,890,131)	(16,064,181)	548,712	(721,405,600)
Total capital assets being depreciated				
net of accumulated depreciation	219,185,056	(7,617,512)	(348,761)	211,218,783
Net capital assets	<u>\$ 258,236,986</u>	<u>\$ 18,502,359</u>	<u>\$ (8,795,430)</u>	<u>\$ 267,943,915</u>

4. ACCRUED SICK AND VACATION BENEFITS

The Authority allows employees to accumulate unused benefits as follows:

Sick Leave – Sick leave for permanent employees accumulates at the rate of one day per month. Unused sick leave may be bought back for those days accumulated in excess of 45 days, but under the provisions of Chapter 3, P.L. 2010, employees hired on or after May 21, 2010 are not entitled to supplemental compensation for sick leave before retirement and are therefore not entitled to “buy back” their sick leave. Upon retirement, an employee is entitled to receive only half of the accumulated days, up to 45 days and 100% of days accumulated over 45 days.

Vacations – Vacation benefits for permanent employees accumulate based on length of continuous employment. Vacation days may accrue up to a maximum of twenty-four (24) months’ worth of vacation, but under the provisions of Chapter 3, P.L. 2010, any employee hired on or after May 21, 2010 may accrue up to a maximum of twelve (12) months’ worth of vacation unless the Authority requests an employee to forgo vacation time due to work-related emergencies.

At December 31, 2024, there are \$2,086,342 of compensated absences payable, a net decrease of \$60,507 over the prior year restated balance of \$2,146,849. For the purpose of establishing the accrued liability, the Authority recognizes the full value of current accumulations. The Authority has followed the provisions of GASB Statement No. 101 in the calculation of the accrued liability for compensated absences at December 31, 2024 and 2023.

5. NEW JERSEY INFRASTRUCTURE BANK LOANS

The Authority has received several loans from the State of New Jersey Infrastructure Bank (“NJIB”) under the Wastewater Treatment Trust Program/Environmental Infrastructure Trust Program (“NJIB Trust”) for improvements to the Authority’s wastewater system. The NJIB Trust has issued bonds for loans to various entities. The loan is on the reimbursement basis whereby the Authority receives loan payments upon submission of a reimbursement voucher to the trust fund. Interest and an administrative fee are charged on the trust loan, and interest is credited to the Authority’s account on funds not yet received. The funds on hand

Ocean County Utilities Authority
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at the NJIB Trust for loans committed to the Authority are drawn down subject to the approval of the NJIB Trust. The NJIB Trust loans have interest rates ranging from 2.0% to 5.0% and mature in various increments through 2041.

Under the Wastewater Treatment Fund Program/Environmental Infrastructure Fund Program ("NJIB Fund"), the State of New Jersey extended several noninterest-bearing loans. When a project is completed, the final expenditures report is submitted to the NJIB and the loan is converted to permanent financing. If the total project cost is less than the loan amount, the State of New Jersey will make an adjustment to the final loan payment and reduce the liability accordingly. In addition, the NJIB Fund provides earnings credits by which earnings on investments in all bond funds are distributed to borrowers as credits toward debt service payments. These credits are recognized as a liability in the year issued and amortized as they are charged against future debt service payments.

During the year ended December 31, 2021, the Authority received grant funding and loans from The New Jersey Energy Resilience Bank ("ERB"). The ERB was created to minimize the impact of future major power outages, increase energy resiliency, and support the development of distributed energy resources and critical facilities throughout the state that will enable it to remain operational during future outages.

As of December 31, 2024 and 2023, there was \$2,102,959 and \$0, respectively of loan funds receivable from the NJIB Trust, NJIB Fund, and ERB.

As of December 31, 2024 and 2023, net loan premiums related to the NJIB loans in the amount of \$4,128,540 are being amortized using the bonds outstanding method which approximates the effective interest method. Net accumulated amortization as of December 31, 2024 and 2023 is \$3,474,233 and \$3,360,145, respectively. The annual amortization is recorded against interest expense. The unamortized balance of the net loan premiums of \$654,307 and \$768,395, respectively, has been offset against the long-term portion of loans payable at December 31, 2024 and 2023.

The NJIB Trust, NJIB Fund loans, and ERB loans are subordinate to the revenue bonds issued under the Bond Resolution of the Authority. In the event of any insolvency or bankruptcy proceedings, holders of the revenue bonds shall be entitled to receive payment in full of all payments due before the holders of outstanding authority subordinate bonds are entitled to receive any payment from the gross revenues (as defined in the General Bond Resolution).

Ocean County Utilities Authority
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
December 31, 2024 and 2023

NJIB and ERB loans outstanding at December 31, 2024 are as follows:

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Trust</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Total</u>
Series 2005	\$ 2,103,572	\$ 1,602,019	\$ 3,705,591
Series 2006	1,017,806	756,062	1,773,868
Series 2007	2,655,000	2,118,914	4,773,914
Series 2008	253,000	-	253,000
Series 2009	381,000	688,766	1,069,766
Series 2010A	280,000	458,828	738,828
Series 2010B	522,000	-	522,000
Series 2012	1,689,641	1,617,541	3,307,182
Series 2013	805,000	1,535,578	2,340,578
Series 2014	2,185,000	5,422,881	7,607,881
Series 2016	1,030,000	1,997,970	3,027,970
Series 2017	1,440,000	3,390,842	4,830,842
Series 2020	460,000	1,306,877	1,766,877
Series 2021	1,290,000	3,872,375	5,162,375
Series 2022	3,075,000	2,969,905	6,044,905
	<u>\$ 19,187,019</u>	<u>\$ 27,738,558</u>	<u>\$ 46,925,577</u>
	Future savings credits		807,981
	Unamortized net premium - loans		654,307
	NJIB construction loans not yet converted to		
	permanent financing		31,491,057
	ERB loans payable		2,668,199
	Less loans payable, due within one year		<u>(10,294,502)</u>
	Long-term portion of loans payable, net		<u>\$ 72,252,619</u>

6. REVENUE BONDS PAYABLE

In December 2006, the Authority issued Series 2006 refunding bonds in the amount of \$79,360,000. The bonds mature on January 1, 2026 and bear interest at 5.25% per annum. As of December 31, 2024 and 2023, bond premiums in the amount of \$7,242,091 are being amortized using the bonds outstanding method which approximates the effective interest method. Net accumulated amortization as of December 31, 2024 and 2023 is \$7,127,114 and \$7,015,934, respectively. The unamortized balances of \$114,977 and \$226,157, respectively, have been offset against the long-term portion of bonds payable at December 31, 2024 and 2023.

Refunding Series 2006

The 2006 Bonds are not subject to redemption prior to their respective stated maturity dates.

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Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
December 31, 2024 and 2023

7. DEBT SERVICE ON BONDS AND LOANS AND LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

The following summarizes net activity in long-term liabilities for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023:

	<u>Balance 1/1/2024</u>	<u>Increases</u>	<u>Decreases</u>	<u>Non-Cash Project Credits/ Deobligations</u>	<u>Balance 12/31/2024</u>	<u>Amount Due Within One Year</u>
Revenue bonds	\$ 12,150,000	\$ -	\$ (3,845,000)	\$ -	\$ 8,305,000	\$ 4,045,000
Revenue bond premiums, net	<u>226,157</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(111,180)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>114,977</u>	<u>-</u>
Total revenue bonds	<u>12,376,157</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(3,956,180)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,419,977</u>	<u>4,045,000</u>
NJIB loans	57,783,525		(10,857,948)	-	46,925,577	10,183,496
NJIB future savings credits	1,239,506	-	(431,525)	-	807,981	-
Unamortized net premium - loans	768,395		(114,088)	-	654,307	-
NJIB construction loans not yet converted to permanent financing	15,206,376	16,284,681	-	-	31,491,057	-
ERB loans payable	<u>2,695,638</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(27,439)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,668,199</u>	<u>111,006</u>
Total loans payable	<u>77,693,440</u>	<u>16,284,681</u>	<u>(11,431,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>82,547,121</u>	<u>10,294,502</u>
Net pension liability	<u>34,460,251</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,938,526)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>31,521,725</u>	<u>-</u>
Net OPEB liability - SHBP	67,775,835	12,313,987	(760,820)	-	79,329,002	-
Total OPEB liability - Medicare Part B	<u>14,817,696</u>	<u>1,256,361</u>	<u>(1,365,536)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,708,521</u>	<u>-</u>
Total net OPEB liability	<u>82,593,531</u>	<u>13,570,348</u>	<u>(2,126,356)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>94,037,523</u>	<u>-</u>
Compensated absences*	<u>2,146,849</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(60,507)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,086,342</u>	<u>-</u>
Total long-term debt	<u>\$ 209,270,228</u>	<u>\$ 29,855,029</u>	<u>\$ (20,512,569)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 218,612,688</u>	<u>\$ 14,339,502</u>

*Net change reported

Ocean County Utilities Authority
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	<u>Balance 1/1/2023</u>	<u>Increases</u>	<u>Decreases</u>	<u>Non-Cash Project Credits/ Deobligations</u>	<u>Balance 12/31/2023</u>	<u>Amount Due Within One Year</u>
Revenue bonds	\$ 15,805,000	\$ -	\$ (3,655,000)	\$ -	\$ 12,150,000	\$ 3,845,000
Revenue bond premiums, net	<u>370,781</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(144,624)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>226,157</u>	<u>-</u>
Total revenue bonds	<u>16,175,781</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(3,799,624)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,376,157</u>	<u>3,845,000</u>
NJIB loans	68,643,664		(10,860,139)	-	57,783,525	10,857,948
NJIB future savings credits	1,626,760	-	(387,254)	-	1,239,506	-
Unamortized net premium - loans	894,651		(126,256)	-	768,395	-
NJIB construction loans not yet converted to permanent financing	-	15,206,376		-	15,206,376	-
ERB loans payable	<u>2,572,683</u>	<u>122,955</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,695,638</u>	<u>-</u>
Total loans payable	<u>73,737,758</u>	<u>15,329,331</u>	<u>(11,373,649)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>77,693,440</u>	<u>10,857,948</u>
Net pension liability	<u>35,998,575</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,538,324)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34,460,251</u>	<u>-</u>
Net OPEB liability - SHBP	62,923,669	10,165,166	(5,313,000)	-	67,775,835	-
Total OPEB liability - Medicare Part B	<u>13,516,544</u>	<u>1,583,054</u>	<u>(281,902)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,817,696</u>	<u>-</u>
Total net OPEB liability	<u>76,440,213</u>	<u>11,748,220</u>	<u>(5,594,902)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>82,593,531</u>	<u>-</u>
Compensated absences*	<u>2,186,771</u>	<u>(39,922)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,146,849</u>	<u>-</u>
Total long-term debt	<u>\$ 204,539,098</u>	<u>\$ 27,037,629</u>	<u>\$ (22,306,499)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 209,270,228</u>	<u>\$ 14,702,948</u>

*Net change reported

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Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
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Debt service requirements on outstanding bonds and loans during the next five years and thereafter are as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2025	\$ 14,339,502	\$ 1,113,765	15,453,267
2026	10,615,956	674,404	11,290,360
2027	5,220,560	438,536	5,659,096
2028	3,491,247	351,552	3,842,799
2029	3,390,528	312,511	3,703,039
2030-2034	13,208,502	994,425	14,202,927
2035-2039	5,724,661	384,123	6,108,784
2040-2044	1,908,820	64,191	1,973,011
	<u>\$ 57,899,776</u>	<u>\$ 4,333,507</u>	<u>\$ 62,233,283</u>

The Authority has additional outstanding loan principals of \$31,491,057, due in future years for NJIB loans and draws on projects still in process. Repayment schedules for these loans have not been finalized.

8. DEFERRED COMPENSATION PROGRAM

The Authority offers its employees a Deferred Compensation Plan created in accordance with Internal Revenue Code Section 457. The Deferred Compensation Plan, available to all Authority employees, permits them to defer a portion of their salary until future years.

During December 1998, the Authority, in accordance with Internal Revenue Code 457, amended the Deferred Compensation Plan to establish an exclusive benefit trust whereby all plan investments are held for the exclusive benefit of the Deferred Compensation Plan's participants and beneficiaries and are not subject to the claims of the Authority's general creditors. As such, the Deferred Compensation Plan amounts as of December 31, 2024 and 2023 are not reflected on the Authority's statements of net position.

9. STATE HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM

The Authority is enrolled in the State Health Benefits Program ("SHBP"). Premiums paid into the SHBP provide health and dental insurance benefits to full-time employees and commissioners. Employees may elect to enroll eligible dependents for coverage. Employees who are receiving SHBP health benefits through another employer are entitled to waive their coverage and receive 25% of the premium to which they were eligible or \$5,000, whichever is less. In addition to the SHBP, the Authority establishes a medical expense bank of \$750 per year for blue collar, white collar, and exempt employees.

10. POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OTHER THAN PENSIONS

State Health Benefits Local Government Retired Employees Plan

The Authority participates and contributes to the State Health Benefits Local Government Retired Employees Plan (the "Plan"), which is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit other postemployment benefit (OPEB) plan with a special funding situation. It covers employees of local government employers that have adopted a resolution to participate in the Plan. For additional information about the Plan, please refer to the State of New Jersey (the State), Division of Pensions and Benefits' (the Division) annual financial statements, which can be found at <https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/financial-reports.shtml>.

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The Plan provides medical and prescription drug coverage to retirees and their covered dependents of the participating employers. Under the provisions of Chapter 88, P.L. 1974 and Chapter 48, P.L. 1999, local government employers electing to provide postretirement medical coverage to their employees must file a resolution with the Division. Under Chapter 88, local employers elect to provide benefit coverage based on the eligibility rules and regulations promulgated by the State Health Benefits Commission. Chapter 48 allows local employers to establish their own age and service eligibility for employer paid health benefits coverage for retired employees. Under Chapter 48, the employer may assume the cost of postretirement medical coverage for employees and their dependents who: 1) retired on a disability pension; or 2) retired with 25 or more years of service credit in a State or locally administered retirement system and a period of service of up to 25 years with the employer at the time of retirement as established by the employer; or 3) retired and reached the age of 65 with 25 or more years of service credit in a State or locally administered retirement system and a period of service of up to 25 years with the employer at the time of retirement as established by the employer; or 4) retired and reached age 62 with at least 15 years of service with the employer. Further, the law provides that the employer paid obligations for retiree coverage may be determined by means of a collective negotiations agreement.

In accordance with Chapter 330, P.L. 1997, which is codified in N.J.S.A 52:14-17.32i, the State provides medical and prescription coverage to local police officers and firefighters, who retire with 25 years of service or on a disability from an employer who does not provide postretirement medical coverage.

Local employers were required to file a resolution with the Division in order for their employees to qualify for State-paid retiree health benefits coverage under Chapter 330. The State also provides funding for retiree health benefits to survivors of local police officers and firefighters who die in the line of duty under Chapter 271, P.L.1989.

Contributions and Funding Policy

Pursuant to Chapter 78, P.L. 2011, future retirees eligible for postretirement medical coverage who have less than 20 years of creditable service on June 28, 2011 will be required to pay a percentage of the cost of their health care coverage in retirement provided they retire with 25 or more years of pension service credit. The percentage of the premium for which the retiree will be responsible will be determined based on the retiree's annual retirement benefit and level of coverage.

The funding policy for the OPEB plan is on a pay-as-you-go basis, where the Authority is billed monthly by the Plan. The Plan received employer and employee contributions as follows:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Employer contributions (fiscal year)	\$ 2,678,569	\$ 2,378,753
Salary basis for contributions	\$ 18,037,761	\$ 18,039,966
Percent of base wages	14.85%	13.19%

Proportionate Share of the OPEB Liability, OPEB Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources

The net OPEB liability was measured as of June 30, 2024, and the total OPEB liability to calculate the net OPEB liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2023, which was rolled forward to June 30, 2024. The Authority's proportion of the net OPEB liability is based on the ratio of the plan members of an individual employer to the total members of the Plan during the measurement period July 1,2023 through June 30, 2024. At December 31, 2024 and 2023, the Authority's proportionate share and net OPEB liability was as follows:

Ocean County Utilities Authority
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	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Authority net OPEB liability	\$ 79,329,002	\$ 67,775,835
Authority's proportion	0.443044000%	0.451642000%

OPEB expense, net is composed of the following at December 31:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Proportionate share of allocable plan OPEB benefit	\$ (924,489)	\$ (2,185,444)
Net amortization of deferral amounts from changes in proportion	<u>2,211,699</u>	<u>2,437,167</u>
Total employer OPEB expense excluding that attributable to employer-paid member contributions	<u>\$ 1,287,210</u>	<u>\$ 251,723</u>

At December 31, 2024 and 2023, the Authority reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB as follows:

	<u>2024</u>		<u>2023</u>	
	<u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>	<u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>	<u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>	<u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>
Changes of assumptions	\$ 13,262,307	\$ 13,168,114	\$ 8,779,514	\$ 19,158,059
Differences between expected and actual experience	4,017,453	13,441,062	3,125,472	18,405,702
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on OPEB plan investments	-	35,910	-	11,183
Changes in proportion and differences between Authority contributions and proportionate share of contributions	14,957,125	2,489,746	18,466,008	2,007,984
Authority contributions subsequent to the measurement date	<u>1,401,179</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,289,174</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 33,638,064</u>	<u>\$ 29,134,832</u>	<u>\$ 31,660,168</u>	<u>\$ 39,582,928</u>

\$1,401,179 and \$1,289,174 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB resulting from Authority contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net OPEB liability in the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB as of December 31, 2024 will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

Ocean County Utilities Authority
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
December 31, 2024 and 2023

Years Ended December 31:

	<u>OPEB Expense</u>
2025	\$ 1,650,197
2026	708,988
2027	122,088
2028	650,895
2029	414,684
Thereafter	(444,799)
	<u>3,102,053</u>

Actuarial Assumptions

The total OPEB liability for the June 30, 2024 and 2023 measurement date was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2023 and 2022, which was rolled forward to June 30, 2024 and 2023.

This actuarial valuation used the following actuarial assumptions applied to all periods in the measurement:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Salary increases for all future years	2.75% - 6.55%	2.75% - 6.55%

*Salary increases are based on years of service within the respective plan.

For June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2023, the following assumptions were used:

Pre-retirement healthy mortality rates were based on the PUB-2010 General classification headcount-weighted mortality table with fully generational mortality improvement projections from the central year using the MP-2021 scale. Post-retirement health mortality rates were based on the PUB-2010 General classification headcount-weighted mortality table with fully generational mortality improvement projections from the central year using MP-2021 scale. Disabled retiree mortality was based on the PUB-2010 General classification headcount-weighted disabled mortality table with fully generational mortality improvement projections from the central year using the MP-2021 scale.

100% of active members are considered to participate in the Plan upon retirement.

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability at June 30, 2024 and 2023 was 3.93% and 3.65%, respectively. This represents the municipal bond return rate as chosen by the State. The source is the Bond Buyer Go 20-Bond Municipal Bond Index, which includes tax-exempt general obligation municipal bonds with an average rating of AA/Aa or higher. As the long-term rate of return is less than the municipal bond rate, it is not considered in the calculation of the discount rate, rather the discount rate is set at the municipal bond rate.

Healthcare Trend Assumptionss

For pre-Medicare medical benefits, the trend rate is initially 7.50% and decreases to a 4.5% long-term trend rate after nine years. For post-65 medical benefits PPO, the trend is increasing to 22.62% in fiscal year 2027 and decreases to 4.5% in fiscal year 2034. For HMO, the trend is increasing to 23.58% in fiscal year 2027 and decreases to 4.50% in fiscal year 2034. For prescription drug benefits, the initial trend rate is 12.75% and decreases to a 4.50% long-term trend rate after nine years. For the Medicare Part B reimbursement, the trend rate is 5.00%.

Ocean County Utilities Authority
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
December 31, 2024 and 2023

Sensitivity of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate

The following presents the Authority's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability measured as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, calculated using the discount rate as disclosed above as well as what the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current rate:

2024			
	At 1% decrease (2.93%)	At current discount rate (3.93%)	At 1% increase (4.93%)
Net OPEB liability	<u>\$20,857,914,273</u>	<u>\$17,905,445,505</u>	<u>\$15,540,780,410</u>
Authority's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	<u>\$ 92,409,738</u>	<u>\$ 79,329,002</u>	<u>\$ 68,852,495</u>
2023			
	At 1% decrease (2.65%)	At current discount rate (3.65%)	At 1% increase (4.65%)
Net OPEB liability	<u>\$17,382,355,978</u>	<u>\$15,006,539,477</u>	<u>\$13,095,561,553</u>
Authority's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	<u>\$ 78,506,020</u>	<u>\$ 67,775,835</u>	<u>\$ 59,145,056</u>

Sensitivity of Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Healthcare Cost Trend Rate

The following presents the Authority's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability measured as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, calculated using the healthcare cost trend rate as disclosed above as well as what the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a healthcare cost trend rate that is one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current rate:

2024			
	At 1% decrease	Healthcare cost trend rate	At 1% increase
Net OPEB liability	<u>\$15,144,352,142</u>	<u>\$17,905,445,505</u>	<u>\$21,455,435,620</u>
Authority's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	<u>\$ 67,096,144</u>	<u>\$ 79,329,002</u>	<u>\$ 95,057,020</u>
2023			
	At 1 % decrease	Healthcare cost trend rate	At 1% increase
Net OPEB liability	<u>\$12,753,792,805</u>	<u>\$15,006,539,477</u>	<u>\$17,890,743,651</u>
Authority's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	<u>\$ 57,601,485</u>	<u>\$ 67,775,835</u>	<u>\$ 80,802,112</u>

Ocean County Utilities Authority
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
December 31, 2024 and 2023

OPEB Plan Fiduciary Net Position

Detailed information about the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued Division financial report which can be found at the following link: www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/financial-reports.shtml.

Medical Part B Reimbursement Plan

In addition to the OPEB plan, the Authority established Medicare Part B Reimbursement Plan (the "Part B Plan"), a single-employer defined benefit OPEB plan that is not administered through a trust. The Part B Plan reimburses the monthly Medicare Part B premium for eligible retirees and their spouses to assist in paying for medical coverage. The reimbursement starts when an eligible retiree (or spouse) begins paying Medicare Part B premiums. The reimbursement lasts for the life of the retiree. Surviving spouses continue to receive Medicare Part B reimbursement for life. To receive benefits under this plan, an employee must either retire on disability pension or retire with 25 years of service. The service must be in one or more State or locally administered retirement systems.

At December 31, 2024 and 2023, the following employees were covered by the benefit terms:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Retirees and beneficiaries currently receiving benefits	108	100
Active plan members	265	265
	<u>373</u>	<u>365</u>

Contributions and Funding Policy

Employees are not required to contribute to the Plan. The Plan is entirely funded by the Authority on a pay-as-you-go basis. For the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, the Authority paid \$319,942 and \$281,902 to eligible retirees, respectively.

Total OPEB Liability, OPEB Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Medicare Part B Reimbursement Plan

The Authority's total OPEB liability, measured as of December 31, 2024 and 2023 was \$14,708,521 and \$14,817,696, respectively. The total OPEB liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of January 1, 2025 and January 1, 2023, respectively. For 2024, the Plan's liability was rolled forward to the measurement date of December 31, 2024. Certain assumptions such as retirement, termination, disability, and salary scale follow those developed in an experience study for NJ PERS performed in 2022. The methods and assumptions used in the valuation are those that have been proscribed. The discount rate was updated from 3.77% to 4.16% based on the Fidelity 20-Year Municipal General Obligation AA Bond (Municipal GO AA) index as of December 31, 2024, as required by GASB 75. The actuarial valuation used the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods in the measurement:

Ocean County Utilities Authority
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
December 31, 2024 and 2023

	2024	2023
Election rate	100.00%	100.00%
Discount rate	4.16%	3.77%
Medical trend rate	4.00%	4.00%
Salary increases	2.75% - 6.55%	2.75% - 6.55%

100% of eligible participants, including employees who are currently waiving medical coverage, are assumed to receive the Medicare Part B reimbursement upon retirement. The discount rate is based on the Fidelity 20-year Municipal General Obligation AA bond (Municipal GO AA) index rate as of December 31, 2024 and December 31, 2023, respectively. The medical trend rate for the Medicare Part B premium is assumed to increase 4.0% annually. This is approximately equal to the observed annual increase in Medicare Part B premium over the last 15 years. Mortality rates were based on 2018 mortality projection scale MP-2021 for the December 31, 2024 and December 31, 2023 measurement dates.

The following table shows the changes in the total OPEB liability for the years ended December 31:

	2024	2023
Balance at beginning of year	\$ 14,817,696	\$ 13,516,544
Changes for the year		
Service cost	344,533	300,561
Interest	553,193	541,964
Changes of benefit terms	-	-
Experience losses	358,635	12,444
Changes in assumptions	(1,045,594)	728,085
Benefits payments	(319,942)	(281,902)
Balance at end of year	<u>\$ 14,708,521</u>	<u>\$ 14,817,696</u>

For the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, the Authority recognized OPEB expense of \$834,785 and \$865,454, respectively. At December 31, 2024 and 2023, the Authority reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB Medicare Part B Reimbursement Plan from the following sources:

	2024		2023	
	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Changes of assumptions	\$ 1,447,976	\$ 4,650,753	\$ 1,949,990	\$ 4,617,039
Differences between expected and actual experience	1,580,274	-	1,668,564	-
	<u>\$ 3,028,250</u>	<u>\$ 4,650,753</u>	<u>\$ 3,618,554</u>	<u>\$ 4,617,039</u>

Amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to the OPEB Medicare Part B Reimbursement Plan will be recognized in the expense for the years ending December 31 as follows:

Ocean County Utilities Authority
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
December 31, 2024 and 2023

Years Ended December 31:

	<u>OPEB Expense</u>
2025	\$ (62,941)
2026	65,945
2027	(461,553)
2028	(542,389)
2029	(542,386)
Thereafter	(79,179)
	<u>\$ (1,622,503)</u>

Sensitivity of Total OPEB Liability to Changes in Medical Trend Rate Related to Medicare Part B Reimbursement Plan

The following presents the Authority's total OPEB liability measured as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, calculated using the discount rate as well as if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current rate:

	<u>2024</u>		
	<u>At 1% decrease</u>	<u>At current</u>	<u>At 1% increase</u>
	<u>(3.16%)</u>	<u>discount rate</u>	<u>(5.16%)</u>
	<u>(4.16%)</u>		
Total OPEB liability	<u>\$ 17,604,499</u>	<u>\$ 14,708,521</u>	<u>\$ 12,434,844</u>

	<u>2023</u>		
	<u>At 1% decrease</u>	<u>At current</u>	<u>At 1% increase</u>
	<u>(2.77%)</u>	<u>discount rate</u>	<u>(4.77%)</u>
	<u>(3.77%)</u>		
Total OPEB liability	<u>\$ 17,873,224</u>	<u>\$ 14,817,696</u>	<u>\$ 12,429,439</u>

Sensitivity of Total OPEB Liability to Changes in Medical Trend Rate Related to Medicare Part B Reimbursement Plan

The following presents the Authority's total OPEB liability measured as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, calculated using the medical trend rate as disclosed above as well as if it were calculated using the medical trend rate that is one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current rate:

Ocean County Utilities Authority
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
December 31, 2024 and 2023

	2024		
	At 1% decrease (3.00%)	Medical trend rate (4.00%)	At 1% increase (5.00%)
Total OPEB liability	\$ 12,270,482	\$ 14,708,521	\$ 17,913,518

	2023		
	At 1% decrease (3.00%)	Medical trend rate (4.00%)	At 1% increase (5.00%)
Total OPEB liability	\$ 12,131,163	\$ 14,817,696	\$ 18,388,052

OPEB Summary

For the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, aggregate data for the Authority's two OPEB plans is summarized by the following table.

	2024		
	State of NJ	Medicare Part B	Total
Net OPEB liability	\$ 79,329,002	\$ 14,708,521	\$ 94,037,523
Deferred outflow of resources	33,638,064	3,028,250	36,666,314
Deferred inflows of resources	29,134,832	4,650,753	33,785,585
OPEB expense	1,287,210	834,785	2,121,995

	2023		
	State of NJ	Medicare Part B	Total
Net OPEB liability	\$ 67,775,835	\$ 14,817,696	\$ 82,593,531
Deferred outflow of resources	31,660,168	3,618,554	35,278,722
Deferred inflows of resources	39,582,928	4,617,039	44,199,967
OPEB expense	251,723	865,454	1,117,177

Ocean County Utilities Authority
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
December 31, 2024 and 2023

11. PENSION PLAN

Employees of the Authority that are eligible participate in the State of New Jersey Public Employees' Retirement System ("PERS"). PERS is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by the Division. For additional information about PERS, please refer to the Division's annual financial statements, which can be found at <https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/annual-reports.shtml>.

The vesting and benefit provisions are set by NJSA 43:15A. PERS provides retirement, death, and disability benefits. All benefits vest after 10 years of service, except for medical benefits, which vest after 25 years of service or under the disability provisions of PERS. The following represents the membership tiers for PERS:

<u>Tier</u>	<u>Definition</u>
1	Members who were enrolled prior to July 1, 2007
2	Members who were eligible to enroll on or after July 1, 2007 and prior to November 2, 2008
3	Members who were eligible to enroll on or after November 2, 2008 and prior to May 22, 2010
4	Members who were eligible to enroll on or after May 22, 2010 and prior to June 28, 2011
5	Members who were eligible to enroll on or after June 28, 2011

Service retirement benefits of 1/55th of final average salary for each year of service credit is available to tiers 1 and 2 members upon reaching age 60 and to tier 3 members upon reaching age 62. Service retirement benefits of 1/60th of final average salary for each year of service credit is available to tier 4 members upon reaching age 62 and tier 5 members upon reaching age 65. Early retirement benefits are available to tiers 1 and 2 members before reaching age 60, tiers 3 and 4 before age 62 and 25 or more years of service credit, and tier 5 with 30 or more years of service credit before age 65. Benefits are reduced by a fraction of a percent for each month that a member retires prior to the age at which a member can receive full early retirement benefits in accordance with their respective tier. Tier 1 members can receive an unreduced benefit from age 55 to age 60 if they have at least 25 years of service. Deferred retirement is available to members who have at least 10 years of service credit and have not reached the service retirement age for the respective tier.

Employer and Employee Contributions

The contribution policy for PERS is set by N.J.S.A. 43: 15A and requires contributions by active members and contributing employers. State legislation has modified the amount that is contributed by the State. The State's pension contribution is based on an actuarially determined amount which includes the employer portion of the normal cost and an amortization of the unfunded accrued liability. The local employer's contribution amounts are based on an actuarially determined rate which includes the normal cost and unfunded accrued liability. Chapter 19, P.L. 2009 provided an option for local employers of PERS to contribute 50% of the normal and accrued liability contribution amounts certified for payments due in State fiscal year 2009. Such employers were credited with the full payment, and any such amounts were not to be included in their unfunded liability. The unfunded liability is being paid by the employer in level annual payments over a period of 15 years, which began with the payments due in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012 and are adjusted by the rate of return on the actuarial value of assets.

During the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, the PERS received employer and employee contributions as follows:

Ocean County Utilities Authority
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
December 31, 2024 and 2023

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Employer contributions	\$ 3,156,617	\$ 3,179,776
Employee contributions	\$ 1,352,834	\$ 1,353,000
Salary basis for contributions	\$ 18,037,761	\$ 18,039,966
Percent of base wages	7.50%	7.50%

Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources, and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the PERS and contributions to/deductions from PERS fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by PERS. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

Although the Division administers one cost-sharing multiple-employer plan, separate (sub) actuarial valuations are prepared to determine the actuarially determined contribution rate by group. Following this method, the measurement of the collective net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources, and pension expense are determined separately for each individual employer of the State and local groups of the plan.

Proportionate Share of Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions

The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2024 and 2023, and the total pension liability to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2023 and 2022. In accordance with GASB Statement No. 68, the measurement date shall not be earlier than one year from the statement of net position date; therefore, the Authority has elected to utilize June 30, 2024 and 2023 as the measurement dates, respectively.

The Authority's proportion of the net pension liability is based on the ratio of the contributions as an individual employer to total contributions to the Local Group in the PERS during the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023.

At December 31, the Authority's proportionate share and net pension liability was as follows:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Authority net pension liability	\$ 31,521,725	\$ 34,460,251
Authority's proportion	0.231981297%	0.237913292%

Total pension expense is comprised of the following at December 31:

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Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
December 31, 2024 and 2023

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Proportionate share of allocable plan pension expense	\$ 686,949	\$ (347,343)
Pension expense related to specific liabilities of individual employers	-	16,472
Net amortization of deferral amounts from changes in proportion	<u>(575,737)</u>	<u>(104,350)</u>
Total employer pension expense excluding that attributable to employer-paid member contributions	<u>\$ 111,212</u>	<u>\$ (435,221)</u>

At December 31, 2024 and 2023, the Authority reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to PERS as follows:

	<u>2024</u>	
	<u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>	<u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>
Changes of assumptions	\$ 39,160	\$ 358,645
Differences between expected and actual experience	631,438	83,920
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	-	1,461,576
Changes in proportion and differences between Authority contributions and proportionate share of contributions	<u>302,358</u>	<u>1,311,461</u>
	<u>\$ 972,956</u>	<u>\$ 3,215,602</u>

	<u>2023</u>	
	<u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>	<u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>
Changes of assumptions	\$ 75,702	\$ 2,088,439
Differences between expected and actual experience	329,484	140,862
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	158,694	-
Changes in proportion and differences between Authority contributions and proportionate share of contributions	<u>512,644</u>	<u>1,196,747</u>
	<u>\$ 1,076,524</u>	<u>\$ 3,426,048</u>

Ocean County Utilities Authority
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
December 31, 2024 and 2023

Amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources (excluding employer specific amounts) related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense for the years ending December 31 as follows:

Years Ended December 31:

	Deferred Outflows (Inflows), Net
2025	\$ (2,433,166)
2026	1,882,711
2027	(1,083,164)
2028	(625,301)
2029	16,274
	<u>\$ (2,242,646)</u>

Special Funding Situation

Under *N.J.S.A. 43:15A-15*, local participating employers are responsible for their own contributions based on actuarially determined amounts, except where legislation was passed which legally obligated the State if certain circumstances occurred. The legislations which legally obligate the State, are Chapter 366, P.L. 2001 and Chapter 133, P.L. 2001. The amounts contributed on behalf of the local participating employers under this legislation is considered to be a special funding situation as defined by GASB Statement No. 68 and the State is treated as a non-employer contributing entity. Since the local participating employers do not contribute under this legislation directly to the plan (except for employer specific financed amounts), there is no net pension liability to report in the financial statements of the local participating employers related to this legislation. At December 31, 2024 and 2023, the State's proportionate share of the PERS expense, associated with the Authority, calculated by the plan as of the June 30, 2024 and 2023 measurement date was \$101,626 and \$107,469, respectively.

Actuarial Assumptions

The collective total pension liability for the June 30, 2024 and 2023 measurement dates was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2023 and 2022, respectively, which was rolled forward to June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively. This actuarial valuation uses the following actuarial assumptions:

	2024	2023
Inflation rate	2.75% - 3.25%	2.75% - 3.25%
Salary increases	2.75 - 6.55%	2.75 - 6.55%
	based on years of service	based on years of service
Investment rate of return	7.00%	7.00%

For June 30, 2024 and 2023, the following assumptions were used:

Pre-retirement mortality rates were based on the Pub-2010 General Below-Median Income Employee mortality table with an 82.2% adjustment for males and 101.4% adjustment for females, and with future improvement from the base year of 2010 on a generational basis.

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Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
December 31, 2024 and 2023

Post-retirement mortality rates were based on the Pub-2010 General Below-Median Income Healthy Retiree mortality table with a 91.4% adjustment for males and 99.7% adjustment for females, and with future improvement from the base year of 2010 on a generational basis. Disability retirement rates used to value disabled retirees were based on the Pub-2010 Non-Safety Disabled Retiree mortality table with a 127.7% adjustment for males and 117.2% adjustment for females, and with future improvement from the base year of 2010 on a generational basis. Mortality improvement is based on Scale MP-2021.

Long-Term Expected Rate of Return

In accordance with State statute, the long-term expected rate of return on plan investments (7.00% at June 30, 2024 and 2023) is determined by the State Treasurer, after consultation with the Directors of the Division of Investments and Division of Pensions and Benefits, the board of trustees, and the actuaries. The long-term expected rate of return was determined using a building block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. Best estimates of arithmetic rates of return for each major asset class included in PERS's target asset allocation as of June 30, 2024 are summarized in the following table:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Risk mitigation strategies	3.00%	7.10%
Cash equivalents	2.00%	3.57%
U.S. Treasuries	4.00%	3.57%
Investment grade credit	7.00%	5.37%
High yield	4.50%	6.74%
Private credit	8.00%	8.90%
Real assets	3.00%	8.20%
Real estate	8.00%	10.95%
U.S. equity	28.00%	8.63%
Non-U.S. developed markets equity	12.75%	8.85%
Emerging markets equity	5.50%	10.66%
Private equity	13.00%	12.40%
International small cap equity	1.25%	8.85%

Best estimates of arithmetic rates of return for each major asset class included in PERS's target asset allocation as of June 30, 2023 are summarized in the following table:

Ocean County Utilities Authority
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
December 31, 2024 and 2023

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Risk mitigation strategies	3.00%	6.21%
Cash equivalents	2.00%	3.31%
U.S. Treasuries	4.00%	3.31%
Investment grade credit	7.00%	5.19%
High yield	4.50%	6.97%
Private credit	8.00%	9.20%
Real assets	3.00%	8.40%
Real estate	8.00%	8.58%
U.S. equity	28.00%	8.98%
Non-U.S. developed markets equity	12.75%	9.22%
Emerging markets equity	5.50%	11.13%
Private equity	13.00%	12.50%
International small cap equity	1.25%	9.22%

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.00% as of June 30, 2024 and 2023. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members will be made at the current member contribution rates and that contributions from employers will be based on 100% of the actuarially determined contributions for the State employer and 100% of actuarially determined contributions for the local employers for both years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023.

Sensitivity of the Authority's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate

The following presents the collective net pension liability of the participating employers as of June 30, 2024 and 2023, calculated using the discount rate as disclosed above, as well as what the collective net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current rate:

	<u>2024</u>		
	<u>At 1% decrease (6.00%)</u>	<u>At current discount rate (7.00%)</u>	<u>At 1% increase (8.00%)</u>
Authority's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ <u>41,884,623</u>	\$ <u>31,521,725</u>	\$ <u>22,702,956</u>

Ocean County Utilities Authority
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
December 31, 2024 and 2023

	2023		
	At 1% decrease (6.00%)	At current discount rate (7.00%)	At 1% increase (8.00%)
Authority's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 44,859,915	\$ 34,460,251	\$ 25,608,762

Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position

Detailed information about the pension plan's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued State of New Jersey Division of Pensions and Benefits financial report which can be found at the following link: www.nj.gov/treasury/pensions/financial-reports.shtml.

12. NET DEFICIT

At December 31, 2024 and 2023, the Authority had an unrestricted net deficit of \$57,146,273 and \$62,182,975, respectively. The reason for the deficit is the recognition of the Authority's proportionate share of the net pension and OPEB liabilities and related deferred inflows and outflows of resources for financial reporting purposes. The recognition of the Authority's proportionate share of the net pension and OPEB liabilities (net of deferred inflows and outflows of resources) resulted in a reduction of the Authority's net position of \$124,921,165 and \$128,324,551 as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

13. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Authority is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts, theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets, error and omission, injuries to employees, and natural disaster. The Authority has purchased insurance to mitigate these risks. Settled claims have not exceeded this coverage in any of the past three years.

14. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Commitments

The Authority has committed design and construction contracts outstanding at December 31 as follows:

	2024	2023
Construction	\$ 29,987,569	\$ 28,256,181
Engineering	1,789,344	2,178,311
	<u>\$ 31,776,913</u>	<u>\$ 30,434,492</u>

Litigation

The Authority may be the subject of, or a party to, various pending or threatened legal actions. The Authority believes that any ultimate liability arising from these legal actions should not have a material effect on its financial position or operations.

15. PRIOR PERIOD RESTATEMENT / ADJUSTMENT

During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024, the Authority implemented GASB Statement No. 101, Compensated Absences, which requires governments to recognize a liability for compensated absences when the leave is earned, rather than when it becomes payable.

Ocean County Utilities Authority
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
December 31, 2024 and 2023

The standard also expands the types of compensated absences that must be recognized, including certain non-vesting leave such as parental, military, and jury duty leave.

Impact of the Restatement

As a result of implementing GASB 101, compensated absences and unrestricted net position were restated to reflect the updated liability for compensated absences, expense accounts and the related cash flow activities. During the year ended December 31, 2023, the restatement affects the following accounts:

- **Statements of Net Position:** Compensated Absences Payable have been increased by \$806,458 to reflect the increase in the liability as result of implementation of GASB 101.
- **Statements of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Net Position:** Total Operating expenses decrease by \$9,281 to reflect the decrease in compensated absences related to GASB 101. Net income increased by \$9,281 to reflect the implementation of GASB 101
- **Unrestricted Net Position:** The net impact on net position at the beginning of the earliest comparative period is a decrease of \$815,734 reflecting the cumulative effect of the adjustments.

A summary of the restatement's effect on the relevant financial statement line items is presented below:

	2023 As Previously Reported	Adjustment	2023 As Restated
Statement of Net Position			
Compensated absences	\$ 1,340,391	\$ 806,458	\$ 2,146,849
Unrestricted net position	(61,376,517)	(806,458)	(62,182,975)
Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position			
Total operating expenses exclusive of depreciation	51,518,732	(9,281)	51,509,451
Change in net position	11,327,888	9,281	11,337,169
Statement of Cash Flows			
Increase/(decrease) in accrued expenses and compensated absences	317,697	(9,281)	308,416



OCEAN COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY

HELPING TO PRESERVE THE WATER RESOURCES OF OCEAN AND SOUTHERN MONMOUTH COUNTIES...

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Ocean County Utilities Authority
Schedule of the Authority's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability –
Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS)
Years Ended December 31, 2024 through 2015

Schedule 1

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Authority's proportion (percentage) of the collective net pension liability	0.231981297%	0.237913292%	0.238537387%	0.234610105%	0.243145867%	0.246643739%	0.241560950%	0.239161189%	0.232062938%	0.235468898%
Authority's proportionate share (amount) of the collective net pension liability	\$ 31,521,725	\$ 34,460,251	\$ 35,998,575	\$ 27,793,084	\$ 39,962,522	\$ 44,750,626	\$ 47,562,147	\$ 55,672,902	\$ 68,730,386	\$ 52,858,049
Authority's covered-employee payroll	\$ 18,037,761	\$ 18,039,966	\$ 17,826,620	\$ 17,366,931	\$ 17,328,403	\$ 17,490,869	\$ 17,503,041	\$ 16,779,714	\$ 16,369,807	\$ 15,879,556
Authority's proportionate share (amount) of the collective net pension liability as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	174.8%	191.0%	201.9%	160.0%	230.6%	255.9%	271.7%	331.8%	419.9%	332.9%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total collective pension liability (local only)	68.22%	65.23%	62.91%	70.33%	58.32%	56.27%	53.60%	48.10%	40.14%	47.93%

Notes to Schedule

Benefit changes

None

Changes of assumptions

The discount rate changed as follows as of June 30:

7.00%	7.00%	7.00%	7.00%	7.00%	7.00%	6.28%	5.66%	5.00%	3.98%	4.90%
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Ocean County Utilities Authority
Schedule of the Authority's Contribution – Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS)
Years Ended December 31, 2024 through 2015

Schedule 2

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Contractually required contribution	\$ 3,156,617	\$ 3,179,776	\$ 3,008,071	\$ 2,747,557	\$ 2,680,809	\$ 2,415,819	\$ 2,402,751	\$ 2,215,573	\$ 2,061,614	\$ 2,024,401
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	(3,156,617)	(3,179,776)	(3,008,071)	(2,747,557)	(2,680,809)	(2,415,819)	(2,402,751)	(2,215,573)	(2,061,614)	(2,024,401)
Contribution deficiency (excess)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Percent of base wages	7.50%	7.50%	7.50%	7.50%	7.50%	7.50%	7.34 - 7.50%	7.20 - 7.34%	7.06 - 7.20%	6.92 - 7.06%
Authority's covered-employee payroll	\$ 18,037,761	\$ 18,039,966	\$ 17,826,620	\$ 17,366,931	\$ 17,328,403	\$ 17,490,869	\$ 17,503,041	\$ 16,779,714	\$ 16,369,807	\$ 15,879,556
Contributions as a percentage of Authority's covered-employee payroll	17.50%	17.63%	16.87%	15.82%	15.47%	13.81%	13.73%	13.20%	12.59%	12.75%

Ocean County Utilities Authority

Schedule 3

Schedule of the Authority's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability – State Health Benefits Local Government Retired Employees Plan (SHBP) Years Ended December 31, 2024 through 2018

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Authority's proportion (percentage) of the collective net OPEB liability	0.443044000%	0.451642000%	0.389630001%	0.382762002%	0.375241001%	0.341585997%	0.357270002%
Authority's proportionate share (amount) of the collective net OPEB liability	<u>\$ 79,329,002</u>	<u>\$ 67,775,835</u>	<u>\$ 62,923,669</u>	<u>\$ 68,896,323</u>	<u>\$ 67,343,050</u>	<u>\$ 46,271,482</u>	<u>\$ 55,972,127</u>
Authority's covered-employee payroll	<u>\$ 18,037,761</u>	<u>\$ 18,039,966</u>	<u>\$ 17,826,620</u>	<u>\$ 17,366,931</u>	<u>\$ 17,328,403</u>	<u>\$ 17,490,869</u>	<u>\$ 17,503,041</u>
Authority's proportionate share (amount) of the collective net OPEB liability as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	439.8%	375.7%	353.0%	396.7%	388.6%	264.5%	319.8%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total collective OPEB liability	(.89%)	(.79%)	(.36%)	.28%	.91%	1.98%	1.97%

Note: This schedule is presented to illustrate the requirement to show information for 10 years. However, until a full 10-year trend is compiled, this presentation will only include information for those years for which information is available.

Notes to Schedule

Benefit changes

None

Changes of assumptions

The discount rate changed as follows as of June 30:	3.93%	3.65%	3.54%	2.16%	2.21%	3.50%	3.87%
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Ocean County Utilities Authority
Schedule of the Authority's OPEB Contribution –
State Health Benefits Local Government Retired Employees Plan (SHBP)
Years Ended December 31, 2024 through 2018

Schedule 4

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Authority's required contribution	\$ 2,678,569	\$ 2,379,753	\$ 1,975,533	\$ 1,637,349	\$ 1,308,454	\$ 1,476,253	\$ 1,720,835
Authority's contributions in relation to required contribution	<u>(2,678,569)</u>	<u>(2,379,753)</u>	<u>(1,975,533)</u>	<u>(1,637,349)</u>	<u>(1,308,454)</u>	<u>(1,476,253)</u>	<u>(1,720,835)</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Authority's covered-employee payroll	\$ 18,037,761	\$ 18,039,966	\$ 17,826,620	\$ 17,366,931	\$ 17,328,403	\$ 17,490,869	\$ 17,503,041
Contributions as a percentage of authority's covered-employee payroll	14.85%	13.19%	11.08%	9.43%	7.55%	8.44%	9.83%

Note: This schedule is presented to illustrate the requirement to show information for 10 years. However, until a full 10-year trend is compiled, this presentation will only include information for those years for which information is available.

Ocean County Utilities Authority
Schedule of Changes in Total OPEB Liability –
Medicare Part B Reimbursement Plan
Years Ended December 31, 2024 through 2018

Schedule 5

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Total OPEB Liability							
Service cost	\$ 344,533	\$ 300,561	\$ 510,857	\$ 465,940	\$ 428,067	\$ 285,150	\$ 319,199
Interest cost	553,193	541,964	316,895	321,837	387,822	409,201	378,296
Differences between actual and expected experience	358,635	12,444	1,213,681	6,470	1,735,341	-	-
Changes of assumptions	(1,045,594)	728,085	(5,606,366)	559,388	(360,459)	2,648,717	(1,031,128)
Benefit payments	(319,942)	(281,902)	(254,979)	(211,559)	(198,021)	(165,293)	(142,818)
Net change in total OPEB liability	(109,175)	1,301,152	(3,819,912)	1,142,076	1,992,750	3,177,775	(476,451)
Total OPEB liability - beginning	14,817,696	13,516,544	17,336,456	16,194,380	14,201,630	11,023,855	11,500,306
Total OPEB liability - ending	<u>\$ 14,708,521</u>	<u>\$ 14,817,696</u>	<u>\$ 13,516,544</u>	<u>\$ 17,336,456</u>	<u>\$ 16,194,380</u>	<u>\$ 14,201,630</u>	<u>\$ 11,023,855</u>
Covered-employee payroll	<u>\$ 18,037,761</u>	<u>\$ 18,039,966</u>	<u>\$ 17,826,620</u>	<u>\$ 17,366,931</u>	<u>\$ 17,328,403</u>	<u>\$ 17,490,869</u>	<u>\$ 17,503,041</u>
Total OPEB liability as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	81.54%	82.14%	75.82%	99.82%	93.46%	81.19%	62.98%

Note: This schedule is presented to illustrate the requirement to show information for 10 years. However, until a full 10-year trend is compiled, this presentation will only include information for those years for which information is available.

Notes to Schedule

Benefit changes

None

Changes of assumptions

The discount rate changed as follows: 4.16% 3.77% 4.05% 1.84% 2.00% 2.75% 3.74%



OCEAN COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY

HELPING TO PRESERVE THE WATER RESOURCES OF OCEAN AND SOUTHERN MONMOUTH COUNTIES...

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Ocean County Utilities Authority
Schedule of Revenues and Costs (Budgetary Basis)
Year Ended December 31, 2024 (with Summarized 2023 Actual Information)

Schedule 6

	2024 Adopted Budget	2024 Modified Budget	2024 Actual	2023 Actual
Revenues				
User fees	\$ 77,798,000	\$ 77,798,000	\$ 80,015,930	\$ 76,416,380
Other	380,000	380,000	483,502	483,799
Interest and investment income	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,727,581	2,526,455
Total revenues	<u>80,178,000</u>	<u>80,178,000</u>	<u>83,227,013</u>	<u>79,426,634</u>
Costs of providing services				
Operations and maintenance				
Salaries	16,508,000	16,300,400	15,891,683	15,306,390
Fringe benefits	8,774,000	8,497,400	8,232,232	8,227,838
Chemicals	5,504,000	5,652,300	5,446,376	5,011,761
Buildings and grounds	124,000	130,700	116,127	121,657
Fees	834,000	780,800	746,048	708,880
Fuel	598,000	574,000	395,092	424,763
General	202,000	220,400	200,443	209,580
Instrumentation	114,000	110,000	50,774	93,945
Laboratory equipment	90,000	93,600	88,055	86,258
Legal fees	1,000	1,000	-	-
Lines maintenance	67,000	68,000	60,025	22,503
Outside services	1,107,000	1,157,800	921,307	857,398
Personnel equipment	185,000	229,900	195,452	196,567
Supplies and consumables	2,918,000	3,288,500	3,209,902	2,718,962
Tools and safety equipment	190,000	208,000	184,973	151,347
Utilities	5,778,000	5,651,200	5,353,070	5,294,189
Vehicle maintenance	275,000	305,000	304,776	268,680
	<u>43,269,000</u>	<u>43,269,000</u>	<u>41,396,335</u>	<u>39,700,717</u>
Fertilizer manufacturing division				
Salaries	270,000	263,000	247,908	262,774
Fringe benefits	191,000	200,400	199,066	190,065
Chemicals	480,000	490,000	482,697	554,862
Buildings and grounds	10,000	21,300	21,006	9,508
Fees	17,000	17,000	13,208	13,027
Fuel oil	20,000	7,000	-	-
General	57,000	59,200	53,394	60,166
Instrumentation	5,000	9,000	8,493	6,338
Legal	3,000	4,000	983	833
Outside services	2,925,000	2,937,000	2,806,009	2,598,179
Personnel equipment	2,000	2,600	1,460	1,989
Supplies and consumables	195,000	222,210	220,884	250,358
Tools and safety equipment	25,000	30,290	30,104	26,426
Utilities	1,450,000	1,387,000	1,375,405	1,473,093
	<u>5,650,000</u>	<u>5,650,000</u>	<u>5,460,617</u>	<u>5,447,618</u>

See Independent Auditors' Report.

Ocean County Utilities Authority
Schedule of Revenues and Costs (Budgetary Basis)
Year Ended December 31, 2024 (with Summarized 2023 Actual Information)

Schedule 6

	2024	2024	2024	2023
	Adopted	Modified	Actual	Actual
	Budget	Budget		
Engineering and construction				
Salaries	930,000	930,000	959,334	950,148
Fringe benefits	482,000	476,000	500,919	514,350
General	24,000	20,000	13,693	30,564
Legal fees	4,000	2,000	-	-
Outside services	63,000	75,700	67,960	33,500
Personnel equipment	5,000	5,000	1,635	2,748
Tools and equipment	5,000	4,300	-	923
	<u>1,513,000</u>	<u>1,513,000</u>	<u>1,543,541</u>	<u>1,532,234</u>
Total costs of providing services	<u>50,432,000</u>	<u>50,432,000</u>	<u>48,400,493</u>	<u>46,680,569</u>
General and administrative				
Salaries	\$ 2,250,000	\$ 2,261,000	\$ 2,256,181	\$ 2,185,736
Fringe benefits	4,220,000	4,192,000	4,147,267	3,789,881
General	256,000	299,600	280,275	223,814
Information systems	80,000	65,100	64,345	85,507
Insurance premiums	2,475,000	2,457,300	2,444,426	2,231,226
Legal fees	150,000	113,000	94,791	140,672
Outside services	1,123,000	1,146,000	1,070,360	1,055,684
Personnel equipment	2,000	2,000	230	1,059
Supplies and consumables	7,000	19,000	18,908	7,992
Telecommunications	120,000	128,000	127,695	112,289
Total general and administrative	<u>10,683,000</u>	<u>10,683,000</u>	<u>10,504,478</u>	<u>9,833,860</u>
Interest expense	<u>1,287,000</u>	<u>1,287,000</u>	<u>746,732</u>	<u>1,103,252</u>
Other costs funded by revenues				
Principal maturity	14,744,000	14,744,000	14,730,386	14,515,139
Capital budget appropriation	518,000	518,000	8,330,924	4,524,814
Other reserves	2,514,000	2,514,000	514,000	2,769,000
Total costs funded by operating revenues	<u>17,776,000</u>	<u>17,776,000</u>	<u>23,575,310</u>	<u>21,808,953</u>
Budgetary revenues over expenses	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>\$ 80,178,000</u>	<u>\$ 80,178,000</u>	<u>\$ 83,227,013</u>	<u>\$ 79,426,634</u>
			2024	2023
			Actual	Actual
Reconciliation of budgetary basis to change in net position GAAP basis				
Budgetary revenues over expenses			\$ -	\$ -
Adjustments to budgetary basis				
GASB Statement No. 101 Adjustment				9,281
Depreciation expense			(16,477,178)	(16,064,181)
Principal Payment			14,730,386	14,515,139
Operating, Capital, and Other reserves			8,808,813	7,293,814
Pension Revenue - Special Funding			101,626	107,469
Grant Revenue				204,863
Change in fair value of investments			(136,877)	702,797
Insurance recoveries			3,414,070	-
Gain (loss) on asset disposals			(13,370)	(320,241)
Pension benefit			3,045,404	3,523,999
OPEB contributions subsequent to measurement date			245,977	1,364,229
Total adjustments			<u>13,718,851</u>	<u>11,337,169</u>
Change in net position GAAP basis			<u>\$ 13,718,851</u>	<u>\$ 11,337,169</u>

See Independent Auditors' Report.

Ocean County Utilities Authority
Schedule of Wastewater Revenue Bonds Payable Year Ended
December 31, 2024

Schedule 7

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Date of Issue</u>	<u>Amount Issued</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Maturities</u>		Balance December 31, <u>2024</u>
				<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>	
Refunding series 2006:						
Serial bonds	12/05/06	\$ 79,360,000	5.250%	01/01/25	4,045,000	
			5.250%	01/01/26	4,260,000	
						<u>\$ 8,305,000</u>



OCEAN COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY

HELPING TO PRESERVE THE WATER RESOURCES OF OCEAN AND SOUTHERN MONMOUTH COUNTIES...

OTHER INFORMATION

**Ocean County Utilities Authority
Board of Commissioners
December 31, 2024**

Schedule 8

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
Alan W. Avery Jr.	Chairman
Samuel Ellenbogen	Treasurer
Carol A. Scull	Secretary
Robert Toscan	Commissioner
Carmen F. Amato, Jr.	Commissioner
Watson F. Pharo	Commissioner
Reverend Oscar L. Cradle	Commissioner
James A. Daly	Commissioner
Menashe Miller	Commissioner
Helen Fayad	Commissioner
Steven C. Kennis	Alternate

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

To the Board of Commissioners
Ocean County Utilities Authority

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and audit requirements as prescribed by the Local Finance Board and by the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey, the financial statements of the business-type activities of Ocean County Utilities Authority (hereafter referred to as the "Authority"), a component unit of the County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Authority's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated November 23, 2025.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Authority's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Authority's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Authority's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements, on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

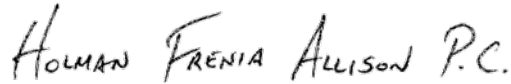
Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or, significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Authority's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, 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 or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and audit requirements as prescribed by the Local Finance Board and by the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey.

Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Audit Standards* and audit requirements as prescribed by the Local Finance Board and by the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "HOLMAN FRENIA ALLISON P.C." in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

HOLMAN FRENIA ALLISON, P.C.
Certified Public Accountants

November 23, 2025
Lakewood, New Jersey

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR EACH MAJOR PROGRAM AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE REQUIRED BY THE NEW JERSEY OMB CIRCULAR 15-08

To the Board of Commissioners
Ocean County Utilities Authority
County of Ocean
Bayville, New Jersey

Report on Compliance for Each Major State Program

Opinion on Each Major Federal and State Program

We have audited Ocean County Utilities Authority (hereafter referred to as the "Authority") a component unit of the County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the *New Jersey State Aid/Grant Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of the Authority's major state programs for the year ended December 31, 2024. The Authority's major state programs are identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

In our opinion, the Authority complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major state programs for the year ended December 31, 2024.

Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal and State Program

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; the audit requirements of New Jersey OMB's Circular 15-08, *Single Audit Policy for Recipients of Federal Grants, State Grants and State Aid*; and audit requirements prescribed by the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey. Our responsibilities under the standards of New Jersey OMB's Circular 15-08 are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report.

We are required to be independent of the Authority and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion on compliance for each major state program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the Authority's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules, and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to the Authority's state programs.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on the Authority's compliance based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards* and New Jersey

OMB's Circular 15-08, *Single Audit Policy for Recipients of Federal Grants, State Grants, and State Aid*; and the audit requirements prescribed by the Local Finance Board and the Division of Local Government Services will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the Authority's compliance with the requirements of each major state program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards* and New Jersey OMB's Circular 15-08, *Single Audit Policy for Recipients of Federal Grants, State Grants, and State Aid*; and the requirements prescribed by the Local Finance Board and by the Division of Local Government Services, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the Authority's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- Obtain an understanding of the Authority's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with New Jersey OMB's Circular 15-08, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

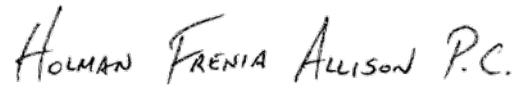
Report on Internal Control over Compliance

A *deficiency in internal control over compliance* exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal or state program on a timely basis. A *material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal or state program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal or state program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance may exist that were not identified.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the New Jersey OMB's Circular 15-08. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Holman Frenia Allison P.C." in a cursive, slightly slanted script.

HOLMAN FRENIA ALLISON, P.C.
Certified Public Accountants

November 23, 2025
Lakewood, New Jersey

Ocean County Utilities Authority
Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards
Year Ended December 31, 2024

Pass-Through Grantor/Program Title	Federal Assistance Number	Award Period		Current Fiscal Year Expenditures	Cumulative Total Expenditures	Passed through to Subrecipients
		To	From			
United States Department of Homeland Security						
Pass-Through NJ Department of Law and Public Safety:						
Disaster Grants - Public Assistance (Presidentially Declared Disasters)						
Public Assistance - Hurricane Sandy	97.036	1/1/2024	12/31/2024	\$ 2,721,383	\$ 2,721,383	\$ -
Total Federal Awards				\$ 2,721,383	\$ 2,721,383	\$ -

*Denotes major program

Ocean County Utilities Authority
Schedule of Expenditures of State Financial Assistance
Year Ended December 31, 2024

State Grantor/Pass Through Grantor/Program Title	State Appropriation Number	Award Period		Current Fiscal Year Expenditures	Cumulative Total Expenditures	Passed through to Subrecipients
		From	To			
<u>State of New Jersey, Infrastructure Bank:</u>						
New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust Program:						
New Jersey Infrastructure Bank Construction Loan*	S340 372-64	1/1/2023	12/31/2024	\$ 15,098,465	\$ 30,304,841	\$ -
<u>State of New Jersey, Infrastructure Bank:</u>						
New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust Program:						
New Jersey Infrastructure Bank Construction Loan*	S340 372-65	12/31/2018	12/31/2024	1,186,216	1,186,216	-
Total state financial assistance				\$ 16,284,681	\$ 31,491,057	\$ -

*Denotes major program

Ocean County Utilities Authority
Notes to Expenditures of Federal Awards and State Financial Assistance
December 31, 2024 and 2023

1. BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying schedules of expenditures of federal awards and state financial assistance present the activity of all federal awards and state financial assistance programs of the Authority. The Authority is defined in Note 1 of the basic financial statements. The information in these schedules is presented in accordance with the requirements of *Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance)* and New Jersey OMB's Circular 15-08, *Single Audit Policy for Recipients of Federal Grants, State Grants and State Aid*. All federal and state awards received directly from federal and state agencies, as well as federal awards and state financial assistance passed through other government agencies is included on the schedule of expenditures of federal awards and state financial assistance.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ESTIMATES

The accompanying schedules of expenditures of federal awards and state financial assistance are presented using the accrual basis of accounting. The information in the schedules are presented in accordance with the requirements of *Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance)* and New Jersey OMB's Circular 15-08, *Single Audit Policy for Recipients of Federal Grants, State Grants and State Aid*. Wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowed or are limited as to reimbursement.

3. SUB-RECIPIENTS

The Authority provided no federal awards or state financial assistance to sub-recipients for the year ended December 31, 2024.

4. INDIRECT COSTS

The Authority does not have negotiated indirect cost rate, nor has it elected to use the 10% de minimis indirect cost rate.

5. RELATIONSHIP TO FEDERAL AND STATE FINANCIAL REPORTS

Amounts reported in the accompanying schedules agree with the amounts reported in the related federal and state financial reports.

6. FEDERAL AND STATE LOANS OUTSTANDING

As of December 31, 2024, the Authority is not the guarantor of any loans outstanding.

Ocean County Utilities Authority
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
Year Ended December 31, 2024

Section I - Summary of Auditor's Results

Financial Statements:

Type of auditor's report issued: Unmodified

Internal control over financial reporting:

Material weakness(es) identified? ☐ yes ☒ no

Significant deficiencies identified that are not considered to be material weaknesses? ☐ yes ☒ none reported

Noncompliance material to financial statements noted? ☐ yes ☒ no

Federal Awards

Type of auditor's report issued on compliance for major programs: Unmodified

Internal control over major programs:

Material weakness(es) identified? ☐ yes ☒ no

Significant deficiencies identified that are not considered to be material weakness(es)? ☐ yes ☒ none reported

Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with 2 CFR 200 Section .516(a) of Uniform Guidance? ☐ yes ☒ no

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between Type A and Type B programs: \$ 750,000

Auditee qualified as low-risk auditee? ☐ yes ☒ no

Identification of major state programs:

97.036 Disaster Grants - Public Assistance (Presidentially Declared Disasters)

Ocean County Utilities Authority
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs (continued)
Year Ended December 31, 2024

State Financial Assistance

Type of auditor's report issued on compliance
for major programs:

Unmodified

Internal control over major programs:

Material weakness(es) identified?

☐ yes ☒ no

Significant deficiencies identified that are not
considered to be material weakness(es)?

☐ yes ☒ none reported

Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be
reported in accordance with New Jersey
OMB's Circular 15-08?

☐ yes ☒ no

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between
Type A and Type B programs:

\$ 750,000

Auditee qualified as low-risk auditee?

☒ yes ☐ no

Identification of major state programs:

State:

State of New Jersey Infrastructure Bank

Section II – Financial Statement Findings

There are no financial statement findings reported.

Section III – Federal Awards and State Financial Assistance Findings and Questioned Costs

There are no federal or state award findings or questioned costs reported.

**Ocean County Utilities Authority
Schedule of Prior Year Findings and Questioned Costs
Year Ended December 31, 2024**

Schedule of Prior Year Financial Statement Findings

This section identifies the status of prior year findings related to the financial statements that are required to be reported in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.

Material Weaknesses

None

Comments and Recommendations

None

To the Board of Commissioners
Ocean County Utilities Authority

We have audited the financial accounts and transactions of the Ocean County Utilities Authority (hereafter referred to as the "Authority"), a component unit of the County of Ocean, State of New Jersey for the year ended December 31, 2024. In accordance with requirements prescribed by the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey, the following are the *General Comments and Recommendations* for the year then ended.

GENERAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Contracts and Agreements Required to be Advertised by *N.J.S.A.40A:11-4*

N.J.S.A.40A:11-4 - Every contract or agreement, for the performance of any work or furnishing or hiring of any materials or supplies, the cost or the contract price whereof is to be paid with or out of public funds not included within the terms of Section 3 of this act, shall be made or awarded only by the governing body of the contracting unit after public advertising for bids and bidding therefore, except as is provided otherwise in this act or specifically by any other Law. No work, materials or supplies shall be undertaken, acquired or furnished for a sum exceeding in the aggregate \$44,000 except by contract or agreement.

It is pointed out that the Members of the Authority have the responsibility of determining whether the expenditures in any category will exceed the statutory minimum within the fiscal year. Where question arises as to whether any contract or agreement might result in violation of the statute, the solicitor's opinion should be sought before a commitment is made.

The minutes indicate that bids were requested by public advertising and awarded by resolution.

The minutes also indicate that resolutions were adopted authorizing the awarding of contracts or agreements for "Professional Services," per *N.J.S.A.40A:11-5*.

In as much as the system of records did not provide for an accumulation of payments for categories for the performance of any work or the furnishing or hiring of any materials or supplies, the results of such an accumulation could not reasonably be ascertained. Disbursements were reviewed, however, to determine whether any clear-cut violations existed. The results of our examination did not disclose any discrepancies.

The examination of expenditures revealed individual payments, contracts or agreements in excess of \$44,000 "for the performance of any work or the furnishing or hiring of any materials or supplies", other than those where bids had been previously sought by public advertisement or where a resolution had been previously adopted under the provision of *N.J.S.A.40A:11-6.1*.

The supporting documentation indicates that quotes were requested for all items that required them.

Examination of Bills

A test check of paid bills was made and each bill, upon proper approval, was considered as a separate and individual contract unless the records disclosed it to be a partial payment or estimate. The results of the examination did not disclose any discrepancies with respect to signatures, certification or supporting documentation.

Payroll

The examination of the payroll account included the detailed computation of various deductions or other credits from the payroll of the Authority employees and ascertained that the accumulated withholdings were disbursed to the proper agencies. The results of the examination did not disclose any discrepancies.

Capital Assets

The capital asset subsidiary ledger was maintained properly and a reconciliation between the physical and perpetual inventory records was performed at year-end.

Budget Adoption

The State of New Jersey requires that the Authority's operating and capital budgets be approved and adopted for each fiscal year. The Authority introduced its 2024 operating and capital budget on September 28, 2023, and formally adopted its operating and capital budget on December 21, 2023.

Current Year Findings

There were no current year findings.

Follow-Up of Prior Years' Findings

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and audit requirements prescribed by the Local Finance Board and by the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey, our procedures included a review of all prior year findings. There were no prior year findings.

Acknowledgment

We received the complete cooperation of all the Authority officials and employees, and we greatly appreciate the courtesies extended to the members of the audit team. During our audit, we did not note any problems or weaknesses significant enough that would affect our ability to express an opinion on the financial statements taken as a whole.

Should you have any questions concerning our comments, please call us.

HOLMAN FRENIA ALLISON, P.C.
Certified Public Accountants

November 23, 2025
Lakewood, New Jersey