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# 2019 Inspection Brown Armstrong Accountancy Corporation

(Headquartered in Bakersfield, California)

May 19, 2021

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## 2019 Inspection

During the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (“PCAOB”)’s 2019 inspection of Brown Armstrong Accountancy Corporation, we assessed the firm’s compliance with laws, rules, and professional standards applicable to the audits of public companies.

We selected for review one audit of an issuer with a fiscal year ending in 2018. For the issuer audit selected, we reviewed a portion of the audit. We also evaluated elements of the firm’s system of quality control.

### 2019 Inspection Approach

In selecting issuer audits for review, we use a risk-based method of selection. We make selections based on (1) our internal evaluation of audits we believe have a heightened risk of material misstatement, including those with challenging audit areas, and (2) other risk-based characteristics, including issuer and firm considerations. In certain situations we may select all of the firm’s issuer audits for review.

When we review an audit, we do not review every aspect of the audit. Rather, we generally focus our attention on audit areas we believe to be of greater complexity, areas of greater significance or with a heightened risk of material misstatement to the issuer’s financial statements, and areas of recurring deficiencies. We may also select some audit areas for review in a manner designed to incorporate unpredictability.

Our selection of audits for review does not constitute a representative sample of the firm’s total population of issuer audits. Additionally, our inspection findings are specific to the particular portions of the issuer audits reviewed. They are not an assessment of all of the firm’s audit work nor of all of the audit procedures performed for the audits reviewed.

View the details on the [scope of our inspections and our inspections procedures](#).

# Overview of the 2019 Inspection and Historical Data by Inspection Year

The following information provides an overview of our inspection in 2019 of the firm’s issuer audits as well as data from the previous inspection. We use a risk-based method to select audits for review and to identify areas on which we focus our review. Because our inspection process evolves over time, it can, and often does, focus on a different mix of audits and audit areas from inspection to inspection and firm to firm. Further, a firm’s business, the applicable auditing standards, or other factors can change from the time of one inspection to the next. As a result of these variations, we caution that our inspection results are not necessarily comparable over time or among firms.

## Firm Data and Audits Reviewed

	2019	2016
<b>Firm Data</b>		
<b>Total issuer audit clients for which the firm was the principal auditor at the outset of the inspection procedures</b>	2	2
<b>Total engagement partners on issuer audit work<sup>1</sup></b>	1	1
<b>Audits Reviewed</b>		
<b>Total audits reviewed<sup>2</sup></b>	1	1
<b>Audits in which the firm was the principal auditor</b>	1	1
<b>Integrated audits of financial statements and internal control over financial reporting (“ICFR”)</b>	0	0
<b>Audits with Part I.A deficiencies</b>	1	0

If a deficiency is included in Part I.A of our report, it does not necessarily mean that the firm has not addressed the deficiency. In many cases, the firm has performed remedial actions after the issue was identified. Depending on the circumstances, remedial actions may include performing additional audit procedures, informing management of the issuer of the need for changes to the financial statements or

<sup>1</sup> The number of engagement partners on issuer audit work represents the total number of firm personnel (not necessarily limited to personnel with an ownership interest) who had primary responsibility for an issuer audit (as defined in AS 1201) during the twelve-month period preceding the outset of the inspection.

<sup>2</sup> The population of issuer audits from which audits are selected for review may differ from the issuer audits at the outset of the inspection procedures due to variations such as new issuer audit clients for which the firm has not yet issued an opinion or issuer audit clients lost prior to the outset of the inspection.

reporting on ICFR, or taking steps to prevent reliance on prior audit reports. Our inspection may include a review, on a sample basis, of the adequacy of a firm's remedial actions, either with respect to previously identified deficiencies or deficiencies identified during the current inspection. If a firm does not take appropriate actions to address deficiencies, we may criticize its system of quality control or pursue a disciplinary action.

The fact that we have included a deficiency in our report — other than those deficiencies for audits with incorrect opinions on the financial statements and/or ICFR — does not necessarily mean that the issuer's financial statements are materially misstated or that undisclosed material weaknesses in ICFR exist. It is often not possible for us to reach a conclusion on those points based on our inspection procedures and related findings because, for example, we have only the information that the auditor retained and the issuer's public disclosures. We do not have direct access to the issuer's management, underlying books and records, and other information.

## Audit Areas Most Frequently Reviewed

This table reflects the audit areas we have selected most frequently for review in the 2019 inspection and the previous inspection. For the issuer audits selected for review, we selected these areas because they were generally significant to the issuer's financial statements, may have included complex issues for auditors, and/or involved complex judgments in (1) estimating and auditing the reported value of related accounts and disclosures and (2) implementing and auditing the related controls.

2019		2016	
Audit area	Audits reviewed	Audit area	Audits reviewed
Long-lived assets	1	Long-lived assets	1
Revenue and related accounts	1	Accruals and other liabilities	1

# Part I: Inspection Observations

Part I.A of our report discusses deficiencies, if any, that were of such significance that we believe the firm, at the time it issued its audit report(s), had not obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence to support its opinion on the issuer's financial statements and/or ICFR. Part I.B discusses deficiencies, if any, that do not relate directly to the sufficiency or appropriateness of evidence the firm obtained to support its opinion(s) but nevertheless relate to instances of non-compliance with PCAOB standards or rules. Consistent with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act ("the Act"), it is the Board's assessment that nothing in Part I of this report deals with a criticism of or potential defect in the firm's quality control system. Any such criticisms or potential defects are discussed in Part II. Further, you should not infer from any Part I deficiency or combination of deficiencies that a quality control finding is identified in Part II. Section 104(g)(2) of the Act restricts us from publicly disclosing Part II deficiencies unless the firm does not address the criticisms or potential defects to the Board's satisfaction no later than 12 months after the issuance of this report.

## Classification of Audits with Part I.A Deficiencies

Within Part I.A of this report, we classify each issuer audit in one of the categories discussed below based on the Part I.A deficiency or deficiencies identified in our review.

The sole purpose of this classification system is to group and present issuer audits by the number of Part I.A deficiencies we identified within the audit as well as to highlight audits with an incorrect opinion on the financial statements and/or ICFR.

### Audits with an Incorrect Opinion on the Financial Statements and/or ICFR

This classification includes instances where a deficiency was identified in connection with our inspection and, as a result, an issuer's financial statements were determined to be materially misstated, and the issuer restated its financial statements. It also includes instances where a deficiency was identified in connection with our inspection and, as a result, an issuer's ICFR was determined to be ineffective, or there were additional material weaknesses that the firm did not identify, and the firm withdrew its opinion, or modified its report, on ICFR. This classification does not include instances where, unrelated to our review, an issuer restated its financial statements and/or an issuer's ICFR was determined to be ineffective. Any deficiencies identified in connection with our reviews of these audits would be included in the audits with multiple deficiencies or audits with a single deficiency classification below.

### Audits with Multiple Deficiencies

This classification includes instances where multiple deficiencies were identified that related to a combination of one or more financial statement accounts, disclosures, and/or important controls in an ICFR audit.

### Audits with a Single Deficiency

This classification includes instances where a single deficiency was identified that related to a financial statement account or disclosure or to an important control in an ICFR audit.

## Part I.A: Audits with Unsupported Opinions

This section of our report discusses the deficiencies identified, by specific issuer audit reviewed, in the audit work supporting the firm's opinion on the issuer's financial statements.

We identify each issuer by a letter (e.g., Issuer A) and industry sector. Each deficiency could relate to several auditing standards, but we reference the PCAOB standard(s) that most directly relates to the requirement with which the firm did not comply.

Issuer audits are presented below within their respective deficiency classifications (as discussed previously). Within the classifications, we generally present the audits based on our assessment as to the relative significance of the identified deficiencies taking into account the significance of the financial statement accounts and/or disclosures affected, and/or the nature or extent of the deficiencies.

### Audits with an Incorrect Opinion on the Financial Statements and/or ICFR

None

### Audits with Multiple Deficiencies

#### Issuer A – Consumer Discretionary

##### Type of audit and related areas affected

In our review, we identified deficiencies in the financial statement audit related to **Revenue** and **Deferred Revenue**.

##### Description of the deficiencies identified

The firm's substantive procedures to test two revenue categories and deferred revenue related to one of these categories included analytical procedures in which the firm compared the revenue and deferred revenue balances to the amounts in the prior year. The firm did not perform procedures to obtain evidence that the prior-year balances would be predictive of current-year balances. (AS 2305.13 and .14)

The firm identified a fraud risk related to one of these categories of revenue. The firm did not perform tests of details, beyond the procedures discussed below, over this revenue category in response to the fraud risk. (AS 2301.13)

The firm performed procedures to test deferred revenue by selecting a sample of monthly activity from a summary schedule. These procedures did not provide sufficient appropriate audit evidence of the completeness of deferred revenue because the firm only selected activity from recorded deferred revenue. Further, the firm did not test the transactions underlying the activity in the months selected for testing. (AS 2315.17 and .25)

### Audits with a Single Deficiency

None

## Part I.B: Other Instances of Non-Compliance with PCAOB Standards or Rules

In the 2019 inspection, we did not identify any deficiencies related to other instances of non-compliance with PCAOB standards or rules.

## Part II: Observations Related To Quality Control

Part II of our report discusses criticisms of, and potential defects in, the firm's system of quality control.

Deficiencies are included in Part II if an analysis of the inspection results, including the results of the reviews of individual audits, indicates that the firm's system of quality control does not provide reasonable assurance that firm personnel will comply with applicable professional standards and requirements. Generally, the report's description of quality control criticisms is based on observations from our inspection procedures.

Any changes or improvements to its system of quality control that the firm may have brought to the Board's attention may not be reflected in this report, but are taken into account during the Board's assessment of whether the firm has satisfactorily addressed the quality control criticisms or defects no later than 12 months after the issuance of this report.

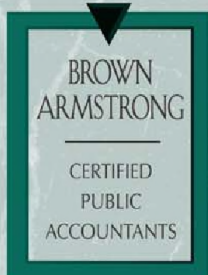
Criticisms of, and potential defects in, the firm's system of quality control, to the extent any are identified, are nonpublic when the reports are issued. If a firm does not address to the Board's satisfaction any criticism of, or potential defect in, the firm's system of quality control within 12 months after the issuance of our report, any such deficiency will be made public.

# Appendix A: Firm's Response to the Draft Inspection Report

Pursuant to section 104(f) of the Act, 15 U.S.C. § 7214(f), and PCAOB Rule 4007(a), the firm provided a written response to a draft of this report. Pursuant to section 104(f) of the Act and PCAOB Rule 4007(b), the firm's response, excluding any portion granted confidential treatment, is attached hereto and made part of this final inspection report.

The Board does not make public any of a firm's comments that address a nonpublic portion of the report unless a firm specifically requests otherwise. In some cases, the result may be that none of a firm's response is made publicly available.

In addition, pursuant to section 104(f) of the Act, 15 U.S.C. § 7214(f), and PCAOB Rule 4007(b), if a firm requests, and the Board grants, confidential treatment for any of the firm's comments on a draft report, the Board does not include those comments in the final report. The Board routinely grants confidential treatment, if requested, for any portion of a firm's response that addresses any point in the draft that the Board omits from, or any inaccurate statement in the draft that the Board corrects in, the final report.



BROWN ARMSTRONG  
*Certified Public Accountants*

March 12, 2021

George Botic  
Director, Division of Registration and Inspections  
Public Company Accounting Oversight Board

VIA EMAIL

Re: Firm ID #237, Response to Report on 2019 Inspection of Brown Armstrong Accountancy Corporation

To the Board,

Pursuant to section 104(f) of the Act, 15 U.S.C. SS 7214(f), and PCAOB Rule 4007(a), the firm hereby provides a written response to the Draft Report on 2019 Inspection of Brown Armstrong Accountancy Corporation (“Brown Armstrong” or the “firm”).

Part I.A. of the Board’s report identified deficiencies in the financial statement audit related to Revenue and Deferred Revenue. Each deficiency is noted below followed by the firm’s response.

**Description of the Deficiencies Identified**

The firm’s substantive procedures to test two revenue categories and deferred revenue related to one of the categories included analytical procedures in which the firm compared the revenue and deferred revenue balances to the amounts in the prior year. The firm did not perform procedures to obtain evidence that the prior-year balances would be predictive of current-year balances (AS 2305.13 and .14).

The firm identified a fraud risk related to one of these categories of revenue. The firm did not perform tests of details over this revenue category in response to the fraud risk (AS 2301.13).

The firm also performed a test of details of deferred revenue by selecting a sample of monthly activity from a summary schedule. These procedures did not provide sufficient appropriate audit evidence of the completeness of deferred revenue because the firm only selected activity from recorded deferred revenue. Further, the firm did not test the transactions underlying the activity in the months selected for testing (AS 2315.17 and .25).

**Brown Armstrong Response**

The firm disagrees with the identified deficiency:

The firm performed procedures to obtain evidence that the prior-year balances would be predictive of current-year balances in accordance with AS 2305.13 and .14 by verifying there were no changes in capacity and rates did not change materially from the prior year.

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Public Company Accounting Oversight Board  
March 12, 2021  
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The issuer's operations are consistent from year to year and revenues have not fluctuated materially for several years. Our understanding of the client operations provide evidence that prior-year balances are predictive of current-year balances. No material changes were expected and no material changes were noted during the analysis. We conclude the procedures performed are considered adequate evidence that the prior-year balances would be predictive of current-year balances.

In response to our presumption that improper revenue recognition is both significant and a fraud risk, we performed detailed tests of transactions in accordance with AS 2301 and determined the presumption of improper revenue recognition was overcome. This determination was documented both in our planning memo and in our engagement team discussion. Based on our tests of controls and detailed tests of transactions, we noted the risk of fraud was low and no additional detailed tests of transactions were necessary. Additionally, 10 adjusting journal entries were tested and determined they were valid and recorded in the proper accounting period, were appropriate, and supporting documentation agreed with the journal entries tested.

The firm performed a test of details of transactions related to the largest portion of revenue, representing 75% of deferred revenue and 72% of revenue for the category noted above. Tests performed included both individual transactions and monthly summaries. These procedures provided sufficient appropriate audit evidence of the completeness of revenue and deferred revenue.

Analytical procedures predicted an immaterial difference in monthly and total deferred revenue and our analysis determined the deferred revenue and revenue variances were less than our calculated tolerable misstatement, consistent with that prediction.

The procedures performed were adequate to provide reasonable assurance that revenue and deferred revenue were not materially misstated with respect to the financial statements taken as a whole.

If you have any questions or need further information, please let us know.

Sincerely,

BROWN ARMSTRONG  
ACCOUNTANCY CORPORATION



By: Ryan L. Nielsen, CPA

RLN:mmj  
Enclosure

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