



AUDIT SUMMARY

Connecticut Port Authority

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Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2022 and 2023

ABOUT THE AGENCY



The Connecticut Port Authority (CPA) oversees three deep water ports (Bridgeport, New Haven, and New London) and various small and mid-size coastal and river harbors that make important contributions to the state's economy. The authority's mission is to develop and market the state's ports and promote its maritime economy.

CPA is classified as a quasi-public agency subject to the requirements in Chapter 12 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

ABOUT THE AUDIT

We have audited certain operations of the Connecticut Port Authority in fulfillment of our duties under Sections 1-122 and 2-90 of the Connecticut General Statutes. The scope of our audit included, but was not necessarily limited to, the fiscal years ended June 30, 2022 and 2023. The objectives of our audit were to evaluate the:

1. Authority's significant internal controls over compliance and its compliance with policies and procedures internal to the authority or promulgated by other state agencies, as well as certain legal provisions, including as applicable, but not limited to whether the authority has complied with its regulations concerning affirmative action, personnel practices, the purchase of goods and services, the use of surplus funds, and the distribution of loans, grants and other financial assistance;
2. Authority's internal controls over certain financial and management functions; and
3. Effectiveness, economy, efficiency, and equity of certain management practices and operations, including certain financial transactions.

We conducted this performance audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives.

[Link to full report](#)



Our audit identified internal control deficiencies; instances of noncompliance with laws, regulations, or policies; and a need for improvement in practices and procedures that warrant management's attention.

NOTEWORTHY FINDING



Finding

Our review of 60 expenditures, totaling \$2,765,111, identified the following:

- The Connecticut Port Authority (CPA) overpaid \$192 on an invoice due to the vendor applying the incorrect hourly service rate. We also noted the authority could not provide documentation to support the contracted hourly service rates for six invoices, totaling \$16,810. Therefore, we could not determine if CPA paid the proper amount.
- CPA reimbursed a vendor \$18,400 for subcontractor drilling services (within the budgeted contractual agreement) without reviewing or requiring proof of the vendor's payment to the subcontractor.
- Two invoices, totaling \$4,626, did not contain sufficient detail describing the provided services.
- The authority was unable to provide evidence of review and payment approvals for two invoices, totaling \$6,325.
- The authority last solicited communications and marketing services in October 2018 and executed a month-to-month contract with its current vendor on October 1, 2018. The authority paid \$19,880 and \$29,965 to its current vendor in fiscal years 2022 and 2023, respectively, without obtaining quotes from other vendors.

Additionally, there was no evidence the authority received board approval for its marine general or excess marine liability insurance policies for calendar years 2022 and 2023 before executing them. The annual premiums for these policies ranged from \$61,200 to \$138,771. We noted that the policies were within the board approved budgeted amounts.



Recommendation

CPA should strengthen internal controls to ensure compliance with established purchasing policies.



Effect

Noncompliance with purchasing and procurement policies **increases the risk** of improper purchases and incorrect payments.