



AUDIT SUMMARY

Connecticut Port Authority

www.cga.ct.gov/apa

Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2020 and 2021

ABOUT THE AGENCY



Local Waters. Global Solutions.

The Connecticut Port Authority (CPA) is a quasi-public agency that 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.

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, 2020 and 2021. The objectives of our audit were to evaluate:

1. The authority's significant internal controls over compliance and its compliance with policies and procedures internal to the quasi-public or promulgated by other state agencies, as well as certain legal provisions, including as applicable, but not limited to whether the quasi-public 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. The authority's internal controls over certain financial and management functions; and
3. The 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](#)

3 Total Findings

1 Repeat Finding

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

NOTEWORTHY FINDINGS



Findings



Recommendations

1

Our review of the port authority's construction manager-at-risk contract found that the agreement allowed the construction manager to bid on its subprojects. The construction manager developed the projects' bid package strategy, qualitative criteria, and materials. If the construction manager is awarded a subcontract to perform work on its project, it monitors its own quality, safety, price, and completion schedule. When bidding to perform the work, the construction manager also managed the day-to-day advertising and pre-bid notices, reviewed and assessed bid packages, participated in the meetings with the lowest qualified bidders and recommended awards in writing to the construction administrator and CPA for the lowest, qualified, and responsible bidder for each bid package. The construction manager was required to submit a bid to perform work in the same manner as all other trade contractors except that it was required to submit a bid in advance of the official due date.

In instances in which a construction manager bids for subprojects, the Connecticut Port Authority should reassign the construction manager's development of bid requirements, and evaluation and oversight of the proposal and work to ensure objectivity and prevent the appearance of a conflict of interest.

2

The Connecticut Port Authority failed to comply with its operating policies when it did not seek competitive bids for a consultant's \$794,790 environmental permitting service contract in May 2019.

CPA should strengthen internal controls to ensure procurements comply with established policies.

3

The Connecticut Port Authority did not submit the quarterly reports to the legislative Office of Fiscal Analysis as required by Section 1-123(b) during the fiscal years ended June 30, 2021 and June 30, 2022.

CPA should comply with the reporting requirements of Section 1-123(b) of the General Statutes.