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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

To the Charleston County Council
County of Charleston, South Carolina

We have audited the accompanying basic financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information, other than the financial statements of the discretely presented component units, of the County of Charleston, South Carolina, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2003, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. We also have audited the financial statements of each of the County of Charleston's non-major governmental, non-major enterprise, internal service, and fiduciary funds presented as supplementary information in the accompanying combining and individual fund financial statements as of and for the year ended June 30, 2003, as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the County's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We did not audit the financial statements of the discretely presented component units included in the component unit column. Those financial statements were audited by other auditors whose reports thereon have been furnished to us, and our opinion, on the financial statements, insofar as it relates to the amounts included in the component unit column, is based solely on the reports of the other auditors.

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 the provisions of Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-profit Organizations*. Those standards and OMB Circular A-133 require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit and the reports of other auditors provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, based upon our audit and the reports of other auditors, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the County of Charleston, South Carolina, as of June 30, 2003, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, where applicable, thereof and the respective budgetary comparison for the general fund for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. In addition, in our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of each non-major governmental, non-major enterprise, internal service, and fiduciary fund of



the County of Charleston, South Carolina, as of June 30, 2003 and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, where applicable, thereof for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued a report dated November 15, 2003 on our consideration of the County of Charleston, South Carolina's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

The management's discussion and analysis listed in the table of contents is not a required part of the basic financial statements but is supplementary information required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the basic financial statements of the County of Charleston, South Carolina. The combining financial statements and schedules listed in the table of contents are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements of the County of Charleston, South Carolina. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and in our opinion, is fairly stated, in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

The information identified in the table of contents as the Introductory and Statistical Sections is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements of the County of Charleston, South Carolina. Such information has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the basic financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

November 15, 2003

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