



# **Financial Statements**

**For the Years Ended  
December 31, 2022 and 2021**  
With Independent Auditors' Report Thereon

# CALMATTERS

(A California Not-for-Profit Corporation)

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## **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT**

### **The Board of Directors CalMatters**

#### ***Opinion***

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of CalMatters (a California nonprofit organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as December 31, 2022, and the related statements of activities and changes in net assets, functional expenses, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of CalMatters as of December 31, 2022, and the changes in net assets and its cash flows for the year 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. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of CalMatters 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.

#### ***Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the 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 CalMatters' ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

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### **Auditors' 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 auditors' 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 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, including omissions, 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, 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 CalMatters' 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 CalMatters' 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.

### **Report on Summarized Comparative Information**

We have previously audited CalMatters' financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2021, and we expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those audited financial statements in our report dated October 22, 2022. In our opinion, the summarized comparative information presented herein as of and for the year ended December 31, 2021, is consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements from which it has been derived.

**Danville, California**  
**August 4, 2023**

*Regalia & Associates*

# CALMATTERS

## Statements of Financial Position December 31, 2022 and 2021

### ASSETS

	2022	2021
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 793,214	\$ 819,536
Investments	4,857,716	2,290,356
Accounts, grants, and pledges receivable	2,485,725	1,370,813
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	44,737	59,380
Deposits	19,947	19,947
Total current assets	<u>8,201,339</u>	<u>4,560,032</u>
Noncurrent assets:		
Account, grants, and pledges receivable, net	701,942	578,641
Right of use asset - premises	563,282	757,450
Property and equipment, net	26,938	24,386
Total noncurrent assets	<u>1,292,162</u>	<u>1,360,477</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 9,493,501</u>	<u>\$ 5,920,509</u>

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 42,513	\$ 13,636
Accrued payroll liabilities	365,330	223,429
Lease payable - current portion	232,324	218,245
Total current liabilities	<u>640,167</u>	<u>455,310</u>
Noncurrent liabilities:		
Lease payable - noncurrent portion	420,485	652,809
Accrued pension liability	268,458	304,172
Total noncurrent liabilities	<u>688,943</u>	<u>956,981</u>
Total liabilities	<u>1,329,110</u>	<u>1,412,291</u>
Net assets:		
Without donor restrictions	2,750,656	506,899
With donor restrictions	5,413,735	4,001,319
Total net assets	<u>8,164,391</u>	<u>4,508,218</u>
	<u>\$ 9,493,501</u>	<u>\$ 5,920,509</u>

**CALMATTERS**

**Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022**

*(with Summarized Financial Information for the Year Ended December 31, 2021)*

	<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>2022 Total</b>	<b>2021 Total</b>
	<b>Without Donor Restrictions</b>	<b>With Donor Restrictions</b>		
<i>Changes in net assets:</i>				
Contributed support:				
Contributions	\$ 6,909,927	\$ 6,093,813	<b>\$ 13,003,740</b>	\$ 9,383,623
Investment income	20,772	-	<b>20,772</b>	10,125
Realized losses on investments	(3,181)	-	<b>(3,181)</b>	(5,134)
Unrealized gains (losses) on investments	(6,353)	-	<b>(6,353)</b>	4,131
Other revenue	13,363	-	<b>13,363</b>	-
Net assets released from restrictions	4,677,698	(4,677,698)	-	-
Change in discount - multi-year receivables	-	(3,699)	<b>(3,699)</b>	(15,175)
Total contributed support	11,612,226	1,412,416	<b>13,024,642</b>	9,377,570
Total revenue and support	11,612,226	1,412,416	<b>13,024,642</b>	9,377,570
Expenses:				
Programs	7,619,075	-	<b>7,619,075</b>	6,957,720
General and administrative	401,700	-	<b>401,700</b>	381,147
Fundraising	1,347,694	-	<b>1,347,694</b>	1,021,435
Total expenses	9,368,469	-	<b>9,368,469</b>	8,360,302
Increase in net assets	2,243,757	1,412,416	<b>3,656,173</b>	1,017,268
Net assets at beginning of year	506,899	4,001,319	<b>4,508,218</b>	3,490,950
Net assets at end of year	<b>\$ 2,750,656</b>	<b>\$ 5,413,735</b>	<b>\$ 8,164,391</b>	<b>\$ 4,508,218</b>

# CALMATTERS

## Statements of Cash Flows For the Years Ended December 31, 2022 and 2021

	2022	2021
<i>Operating activities:</i>		
Increase in net assets	\$ 3,656,173	\$ 1,017,268
Adjustments to reconcile to cash used for operating activities:		
Change in discount on multi year grants and pledges	3,699	15,175
Unrealized losses (gains) on investments	6,353	(4,131)
Amortization and depreciation	17,832	11,038
Accounts, grants, and pledges receivable	(1,241,912)	(1,109,994)
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	14,643	(59,380)
Deposits	-	29,200
Right of use asset - premises	194,168	185,753
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	28,877	(98,777)
Accrued payroll liabilities	141,901	24,209
Refundable advances	-	(535,141)
Cash provided by (used for) operating activities	2,821,734	(524,780)
<i>Investing activities:</i>		
Acquisition of property and equipment	(20,384)	(10,251)
Acquisition of investments	(2,573,713)	(35,166)
Cash used for investing activities	(2,594,097)	(45,417)
<i>Financing activities:</i>		
Adjustments related to accrued pension liability	(35,714)	151,318
Principal payments applied against lease payable	(218,245)	(198,841)
Cash used for financing activities	(253,959)	(47,523)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(26,322)	(617,720)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	819,536	1,437,256
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	\$ 793,214	\$ 819,536
<i>Additional cash flow information:</i>		
Interest paid	\$ -	\$ -
State registration taxes paid	\$ 200	\$ 175

**CALMATTERS**

**Statement of Functional Expenses  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022**

*(with Summarized Financial Information for the Year Ended December 31, 2021)*

	<b>Programs</b>	<b>Management and General</b>	<b>Fund- raising</b>	<b>2022 Total</b>	<b>2021 Total</b>
Amortization and depreciation	\$ 17,832	\$ -	\$ -	\$ <b>17,832</b>	\$ 11,038
Bad debt expense	-	-	-	-	5,000
Bank charges and processing fees	-	787	-	<b>787</b>	1,454
Conferences, Conventions, and meetings	-	1,564	5,670	<b>7,234</b>	8,206
Fundraising and marketing	-	-	175,406	<b>175,406</b>	68,093
Insurance	23,383	1,184	5,032	<b>29,599</b>	55,525
Office expenses	-	101,026	-	<b>101,026</b>	45,504
Personnel and benefits	6,082,853	261,641	1,122,519	<b>7,467,013</b>	6,533,171
Professional services	7,179	26,306	-	<b>33,485</b>	108,289
Rent	181,550	9,192	39,067	<b>229,809</b>	248,960
Reporting and production	1,209,382	-	-	<b>1,209,382</b>	1,134,598
Technology	96,896	-	-	<b>96,896</b>	140,464
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 7,619,075</b>	<b>\$ 401,700</b>	<b>\$ 1,347,694</b>	<b>\$ 9,368,469</b>	<b>\$ 8,360,302</b>



Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2022 and 2021

**1. Organization**

CalMatters is a nonprofit nonpartisan public interest journalism venture focused on California state politics and policy based in Sacramento, California.

The organization launched in July 2015. Its stories have been published in more than 140 newspapers statewide and broadcast on radio in Los Angeles, the Bay Area, Sacramento, and elsewhere. The organization has more than 180 media partners. It is the largest media organization covering California state government and policy issues as measured by staff size or audience reach (broadcast, print, online).

CalMatters endeavors to:

- Increase public awareness about state policy issues
- Create more transparency of the policymaking process
- Shine new scrutiny on the campaign trail
- Experiment with new distribution, revenue, and media collaboration models

**2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

**Basis of Presentation** – The financial statements of CalMatters have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ("US GAAP").

**Measure of Operations** – The statement of activities reports all changes in net assets, including changes in net assets from operating and nonoperating activities. Operating activities consist of those items attributable to CalMatters' ongoing operations which include a variety of programmatic activities. Nonoperating activities are limited to resources that generate return from interest-bearing deposits and other activities considered to be of a more unusual or nonrecurring nature.

**Cash and Cash Equivalents** – CalMatters' cash and cash equivalents consists of cash on deposit in checking and savings accounts. Cash equivalents represent money market funds or short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less from the date of purchase.

**Reclassifications** – Certain reclassifications have been made to the 2021 financial statements in order to conform to the presentation used in 2022.

**Concentrations of Credit Risk** – Financial instruments that potentially subject CalMatters to concentrations of credit risk consist principally of cash and cash equivalents and deposits. CalMatters maintains its cash and cash equivalents in various bank accounts that, at times, may exceed federally insured limits. CalMatters manages deposit concentration risk by placing cash and money market accounts with financial institutions believed to be creditworthy.

To date, CalMatters has not experienced losses in any of these accounts. Credit risk associated with accounts receivable and grants receivable considered to be limited due to high historical collection rates and because substantial portions of the outstanding amounts are due from reputable organizations and foundations supportive of CalMatters' mission.

Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2022 and 2021

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (*continued*)

**Receivables and Credit Policies** – CalMatters determined that no allowance for doubtful uncollectible accounts receivable is needed based on historical experience, an assessment of economic conditions, and a review of subsequent collections. It is the policy of the organization to periodically assess receivables to determine proper carrying value.

**Accounts, Grants, and Pledges Receivable** – CalMatters records receivables that are expected to be collected within one year at net realizable value. When material, receivables expected to be collected in future years are initially recorded at fair value using present value techniques incorporating risk-adjusted discount rates designed to reflect the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset.

In subsequent years, amortization of the discounts (when applicable) is included in contribution revenue in the statement of activities. The allowance for uncollectible receivables is based on historical experience, an assessment of economic conditions, and a review of subsequent collections. Receivables are written off when deemed uncollectible.

**Investments** - CalMatters follows the provisions of [ASC 958.320, Investments – Debt and Equity Securities of Not-for-Profit Entities](#) and has estimated the fair value of its investments using available market information and other valuation methodologies. Accordingly, the estimates presented are not necessarily indicative of the amounts that CalMatters could realize in a current market exchange.

The use of different assumptions and/or estimation methods may have a material effect on the estimated fair value amounts. The estimates are based on pertinent information available to management as of December 31, 2022 and 2021. Economic conditions can vary throughout the year, impacting the carrying value of investments. Although management is not aware of any factors that would significantly affect the estimated fair value amounts, current estimates of fair value may differ significantly from the statements presented.

**Comparative Financial Information** - The accompanying financial statements include certain prior-year summarized comparative information in total but not by functional category. Such information does not include sufficient detail to constitute a presentation in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Accordingly, such information should be read in conjunction with the audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2021, from which the summarized information was derived.

**Contributions of Nonfinancial Assets** - Donated services and in-kind contributions are reflected at the fair value of the contributions received in accordance with [ASU 2020-07, Not-for-Profit Entities \(Topic 958\): Presentation and Disclosures by Not-for-Profit Entities for Contributed Nonfinancial Assets](#). The contributions of services, equipment, and other materials are recognized if they (a) create or enhance nonfinancial assets or (b) require specialized skills that are provided by individuals possessing those skills and would typically need to be purchased if not provided by donation.

**Use of Estimates** - The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of 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, and those differences could be material.

Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2022 and 2021

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (*continued*)

**Functional Allocation of Expenses** - The costs of providing program and other activities have been summarized on a functional basis in the statements of activities in accordance with the requirements of *ASU 2016-14, Not-for-Profit Entities (Topic 958) – Presentation of Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Entities*, which requires CalMatters to report expenses by their natural classification. Every natural expense must be broken out into individual functional categories on an analysis of expenses by their nature and function. Accordingly, certain costs have been allocated among services and supporting services benefited. Such allocations are determined by management on an equitable basis. A majority of expenses (salaries, wages, and payroll taxes, professional services) have been allocated based on time and effort using CalMatters' payroll allocations. Other expenses (such as depreciation and amortization, insurance, occupancy, etc.) have been allocated based on other supportable direct and indirect allocation methods.

**Fair Value Measurements** – Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset in the principal or most advantageous market for the asset in an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date. Fair value should be based on the assumptions market participants would use when pricing an asset. US GAAP establishes a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes investments based on those assumptions.

The fair value hierarchy gives the highest priority to quoted prices in active markets (observable inputs) and the lowest priority to an entity's assumptions (unobservable inputs). CalMatters groups assets at fair value in three levels, based on the markets in which the assets and liabilities are traded and the reliability of the assumptions used to determine fair value. These levels are:

Level 1

Unadjusted quoted market prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets as of the measurement date.

Level 2

Other observable inputs, either directly or indirectly, including:

- Quoted prices for similar assets/liabilities in active markets;
- Quoted prices for identical or similar assets in non-active markets;
- Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset/liability; and,
- Inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by other observable market data.

Level 3

Unobservable inputs that cannot be corroborated by observable market data.

In some cases, the inputs used to measure the fair value of an asset or a liability might be categorized within different levels of the fair value hierarchy. In those cases, the fair value measurement is categorized in its entirety in the same level of the fair value hierarchy as the lowest level input that is significant to the entire measurement. Assessing the significance of a particular input to entire measurement requires judgment, taking into account factors specific to the asset or liability. The categorization of an asset within the hierarchy is based upon the pricing model of the asset and does not necessarily correspond to our assessment of the quality, risk or liquidity profile of the asset or liability.

Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2022 and 2021

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (*continued*)

**Net Assets** - Net assets, revenues, gains, and losses are classified based on the existence or absence of donor or grantor-imposed restrictions. Net assets and changes therein are classified and reported as follows:

Net Assets without Donor Restrictions

Net assets without donor restrictions represent funds which are available for use in general operations and not subject to donor (or certain grantor) restrictions. The governing board has the ability to designate, from net assets without donor restrictions, net assets for an operating reserve and board-designated endowment, and it has not opted to do so as of December 31, 2022 and 2021.

Net Assets with Donor Restrictions

Net assets with donor restrictions represent funds which are subject to donor- (or certain grantor-) imposed restrictions. Some donor-imposed restrictions are temporary in nature, such as those that will be met by the passage of time or other events specified by the donor. Other donor-imposed restrictions can be perpetual in nature, where the donor stipulates resources be maintained in perpetuity. Gifts of long-lived assets and gifts of cash restricted for the acquisition of long-lived assets are recognized as revenue when the assets are placed in service. Donor-imposed restrictions are released when a restriction expires, that is, when the stipulated time has elapsed, when the stipulated purpose for which the resource was restricted has been fulfilled, or both.

**Revenue and Revenue Recognition** – Revenue is recognized in accordance with authoritative guidance, including *ASU 2018-08, Not-for-Profit Entities (Topic 605)* and *ASU No. 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606)*.

Contributions are recognized when cash, securities or other assets, an unconditional promise to give, or notification of a beneficial interest is received. Conditional promises to give are not recognized until the conditions on which they depend have been substantially met. A transfer of funds with a conditional promise to contribute are accounted for as a refundable advance until the conditions have been substantially met. Certain payments received include both elements of contributed income and earned income, and management evaluates such transactions to determine the proper revenue rules to apply and to bifurcate the revenue components. When applicable, revenue earned under a contractual arrangement (an “exchange transaction”) is recognized when earned and therefore measured as services are provided in accordance with *Topic 606*.

Contributions received are recorded as net assets without donor restrictions or net assets with donor restrictions, depending on the existence and/or nature of any donor-imposed restrictions. Contributions that are restricted by the donor are reported as an increase in net assets without donor restrictions if the restriction expires in the reporting period in which the contribution is recognized.

**Property, Equipment and Leasehold Improvements** – CalMatters’ policy is to record acquisitions of property and equipment at cost or, if donated, at fair market value on the date of donation. Depreciation expense is calculated using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets. Costs of maintenance and repairs are expensed currently. CalMatters reviews the carrying values of all assets for impairment whenever events or circumstances indicate that the carrying value of an asset may not be recoverable from the estimated economic utility. When considered impaired, an impairment loss is recognized to the extent carrying value exceeds the fair value of the asset. CalMatters has determined that no long-lived assets were impaired during the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021.

Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2022 and 2021

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (*continued*)

**Income Taxes** – CalMatters is organized as a California nonprofit corporation and has been recognized by the IRS as exempt from federal income taxes under IRC Section 501(a) as organizations described in IRC Section 501(c)(3), qualify for the charitable contribution deduction under IRC Sections 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) and (viii), and has been determined not to be private foundations under IRC Sections 509(a)(1) and (3), respectively. CalMatters is required to annually file a Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax (Form 990) with the IRS. In addition, the entities are subject to income tax on net income that is derived from business activities that are unrelated to their exempt purpose. CalMatters may periodically receive unrelated business income requiring CalMatters to file an Exempt Organization Business Income Tax Return (Form 990-T) with the IRS. Under such conditions, CalMatters calculates and accrues the applicable taxes.

CalMatters has received notification from the Internal Revenue Service and the State of California that it qualifies for tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and Section 23701d of the California Revenue and Taxation Code. The exemptions are subject to periodic review by the federal and state taxing authorities and management is confident that CalMatters continues to satisfy all federal and state statutes in order to qualify for continued tax exemption status.

**Recent and Relevant Accounting Pronouncements** – The following pronouncements represent relevant current accounting guidance applicable to nonprofit organizations:

In August 2016, the FASB issued *ASU 2016-14, Not-for-Profit Entities (Topic 958) – Presentation of Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Entities*. The update addresses the complexity and understandability of net asset classification, deficiencies in information about liquidity and availability of resources, and the lack of consistency in the type of information provided about expenses and investment return. CalMatters has adjusted the presentation of these statements accordingly.

In November 2016, the FASB issued *ASU 2016-18, Restricted Cash*. This guidance requires entities to show the changes in the total of cash, cash equivalents, restricted cash, and restricted cash equivalents in the statement of cash flows. As a result, entities will no longer present transfers between cash and cash equivalents and restricted cash and restricted cash equivalents in the statement of cash flows. When cash, cash equivalents, restricted cash and restricted cash equivalents are presented in more than one line item on the balance sheet, the new guidance requires a reconciliation of the totals in the statement of cash flows to the related captions in the statement of financial position.

In February 2016, the FASB issued *ASU 2016-02, Leases (Topic 842) Accounting for Leases*, which requires lessees to recognize leases on-balance sheet and disclose key information about leasing arrangements. Topic 842 was subsequently amended by *ASU No. 2018-01, ASU No. 2018-10, and ASU No. 2018-11*. This standard establishes a right-of-use model (ROU) that requires a lessee to recognize a ROU asset and lease liability on the statements of financial position for all leases with a term longer than 12 months. Leases are required to be classified as finance or operating, with classification affecting the pattern and classification of expense recognition in the statement of activities and changes in net assets.

Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2022 and 2021

**2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies** *(continued)*

In August 2014, the FASB issued *ASU 2014-15, Presentation of Financial Statements—Going Concern (Subtopic 205-40) Disclosure of Uncertainties about an Entity's Ability to Continue as a Going Concern*, which requires an organization's management to evaluate whether there are conditions and events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about an entity's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are issued (or within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued, when applicable). As of August 4, 2023 (the date of the Independent Auditors' Report), management has made this evaluation and has determined that CalMatters has the ability to continue as a going concern.

In June 2018, the FASB issued *ASU 2018-08, Not-for-Profit Entities (Topic 605) – Clarifying the Scope and the Accounting Guidance for Contributions Received and Contributions Made*. The FASB issued this update to clarify and improve the scope and the accounting guidance for contributions received and contributions made. The amendments in this Update should assist entities in (1) evaluating whether transactions should be accounted for as contributions (nonreciprocal transactions) within the scope of *Topic 958, Not-for-Profit Entities*, or as exchange (reciprocal) transactions subject to other guidance and (2) determining whether a contribution is conditional. Accordingly, CalMatters has incorporated these clarifying standards within the audited financial statements.

In May 2014, the FASB completed its Revenue Recognition project by issuing *ASU No. 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606)*. This guidance establishes the principles to report useful information to users of financial statements about the nature, timing, and uncertainty of revenue from contracts with customers. The guidance (1) removes inconsistencies and weaknesses in existing revenue requirements, (2) provides a more robust framework for addressing revenue issues, (3) improves comparability of revenue recognition practices across entities, industries, jurisdictions, and capital markets, (4) provides more useful information to users of financial statements through improved disclosure requirements, and (5) simplifies the preparation of financial statements by reducing the number of requirements to which an organization must refer.

In September 17, 2021, the FASB issued *Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2020-07; Presentation and Disclosure by Not-for-Profit Entities for Contributed Nonfinancial Assets*. The Update increases transparency around contributed nonfinancial assets (also known as "gifts-in-kind") received by non-profit organizations, including transparency on how those assets are used and how they are valued. The Update requires that an organization to present contributed nonfinancial assets as a separate line item in the statement of activities, apart from contributions of cash or other financial assets. It also requires enhanced disclosures of amounts, descriptions, and other relevant factors pertaining to such in-kind contributions.

**3. Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents are maintained in a noninterest-bearing checking account and amounted to \$793,214 and \$819,536 at December 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively. Concentration risk: Balances at the end of each year exceeded federal insurance limit of \$250,000 but management monitors its exposure throughout the year.



# CALMATTERS

## Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2022 and 2021

### 4. Investments

Investments consist of the following at December 31:

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Money market deposits	\$ 307,955	\$ 1,536,067
Mutual funds principally in equities	231,235	196,709
Certificates of deposit	4,318,526	557,580
Total investments	\$ 4,857,716	\$ 2,290,356

Composition of investments is summarized as follows at December 31, 2022:

	<b>Fair Value</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Money market deposits	\$ 307,955	\$ 307,954
Mutual funds principally in equities	231,235	192,907
Certificates of deposit	4,318,526	4,325,000
Total investments	\$ 4,857,716	\$ 4,825,861

Composition of investment income is summarized as follows for the years ended December 31:

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Dividends	\$ 6,580	\$ 98
Interest	14,192	10,027
Net realized gains (losses)	(3,181)	(5,134)
Net unrealized gains (losses)	(6,353)	4,131
Total investment income (net)	\$ 11,238	\$ 9,122

During the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, earnings on investments were reinvested. Investments are recorded at cost when purchased. Investments received by gift are recorded at fair value upon notification that a donation has been made (generally at or near the date of contribution). Money market accounts include funds held in highly liquid investments with maturity dates of three months or less bearing interest at variable rates. At December 31, 2022 and 2021, certificates of deposit had maturity dates of twelve months or less.

**Restricted Investments:** CalMatters established a 457(b) Eligible Deferred Compensation Plan to attract and retain personnel by providing deferred compensation. At December 31, 2022, three people were covered under the Plan. At December 31, 2021, three people were covered under the Plan. The balance in the 457(b) Plan investment account amounted to \$268,458 and \$304,172 at December 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively, and these amounts are included with investments.

**Finance Committee:** CalMatters has a Finance Committee which has the responsibility for establishing the CalMatters' return objectives (generally lower rates of return associated with more stable and safer investments) and to define the risk parameters (generally low risk securities such as money market mutual funds and certificates of deposit). The Finance Committee routinely oversees investment performances and reviews cash flows necessary to sustain the CalMatters' operating activities.

**Strategies Employed for Achieving Objectives:** To satisfy its long-term rate of return objectives, CalMatters relies on a total return strategy in which investment returns are achieved through current yield (interest and dividends). CalMatters invests to achieve its long-term return objectives within prudent risk constraints.

## CALMATTERS

### Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2022 and 2021

#### 5. Accounts, Grants, and Pledges Receivable

Accounts, grants, and pledges receivable are estimated to be collected as follows at December 31:

	2022	2021
Year ending December 31, 2022	\$ -	\$ 1,370,813
Year ending December 31, 2023	2,485,725	596,000
Year ending December 31, 2024	723,000	-
Total	3,208,725	1,966,813
Less: amounts due in current year	(2,485,725)	(1,370,813)
Less: discount applied to multi-year receivables	(21,058)	(17,359)
Total accounts, grants, and pledges receivable – noncurrent	\$ 701,942	\$ 578,641

Accounts, grants, and pledges receivable due in more than one year are reflected at the present value of estimated future cash flows using a discount rate of 3.0%. The discount related to the present value calculation will be accreted back into income over the estimated collection period of the promises to give. The change in discount for multi-year receivables amounted to (\$3,699) and (\$15,175) for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively, and is reflected as a change impacting net assets with donor restrictions on the statement of activities and changes in net assets.

CalMatters determines the allowance for uncollectable accounts, grants, and pledges receivable based on historical experience, an assessment of economic conditions, and a review of subsequent collections. Accounts, grants, and pledges receivable are written off when deemed uncollectable. There was no allowance for doubtful accounts at December 31, 2022 and 2021. Bad debt expense amounted to \$5,000 for the year ended December 31, 2021. There were no write-offs and thus no bad debt expense for the year ended December 31, 2022.

At December 31, 2022, three donors accounted for 76% of total accounts, grants, and pledges receivable. There were no related party receivables at December 31, 2022. At December 31, 2021, six donors accounted for 85% of total accounts, grants, and pledges receivable. There were no related party receivables at December 31, 2021.

#### 6. Property and Equipment

Property and equipment consist of the following at December 31:

	2022	2021
Leasehold improvements	\$ 22,794	\$ 22,794
Equipment	20,384	-
Website development	20,251	20,251
Less: accumulated amortization and depreciation	(36,491)	(18,659)
Property and equipment, net	\$ 26,938	\$ 24,386

Amortization and depreciation expense amounted to \$17,832 and \$11,038 for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively.



# CALMATTERS

## Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2022 and 2021

### 7. Fair Value Measurements

Composition of assets utilizing fair value measurements at December 31, 2022 is as follows:

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>
Investments	\$ 4,857,716	\$ 539,190	\$ 4,318,526	\$ -
Accounts, grants, and pledges receivable (current)	2,485,725	-	2,485,725	-
Accounts, grants, and pledges receivable (noncurrent)	701,942	-	-	701,942
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 8,045,383</b>	<b>\$ 539,190</b>	<b>\$ 6,804,251</b>	<b>\$ 701,942</b>

Composition of assets utilizing fair value measurements at December 31, 2021 is as follows:

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>
Investments	\$ 2,290,356	\$ 1,732,776	\$ 557,580	\$ -
Accounts, grants, and pledges receivable (current)	1,370,813	-	1,370,813	-
Accounts, grants, and pledges receivable (noncurrent)	578,641	-	-	578,641
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 4,239,810</b>	<b>\$ 1,732,776</b>	<b>\$ 1,928,393</b>	<b>\$ 578,641</b>

#### Assets Classified as Level 3

The significant unobservable inputs used in the fair value measurement of Level 3 assets are based on calculations involving the net present value of the long-term portion of accounts, grants, and pledges receivable whereby anticipated future cash flow receipts are discounted to a net present value under an assumed rate of return (using a discount rate of 3.0% per annum as disclosed in Note 5 above).

### 8. Prepaid Expenses and Other Current Assets

Prepaid expenses and other current assets of \$44,737 and \$59,380 at December 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively, primarily consist of prepaid insurance and are scheduled to be used during the subsequent fiscal year.

### 9. Related Party Transactions

During the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, certain employees of CalMatters' staff and members of the Board of Directors made charitable contributions to the organization totaling \$383,143 and \$363,230, respectively. Such amounts are included with contributions on the statement of activities and changes in net assets.

## CALMATTERS

### Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2022 and 2021

#### 10. Liquidity

CalMatters regularly monitors liquidity required to meet its operating needs and other contractual commitments, while also striving to maximize the safeguarding of its available funds. CalMatters has various sources of liquidity at its disposal, including cash, certificates of deposit, mutual funds, and the future collection of receivables. For purposes of analyzing resources available to meet general expenditures over a 12-month period, CalMatters considers all expenditures related to its ongoing activities of providing nonpartisan journalism as well as the conduct of services undertaken to support those activities to be general expenditures.

In addition to financial assets available to meet general expenditures over the next 12 months, CalMatters operates with a balanced budget and anticipates collecting sufficient revenue to cover general expenditures not covered by donor-restricted resources. Refer to the statement of cash flows which identifies the sources and uses of CalMatters' cash and shows positive cash generated by operations for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021.

The following table shows the total financial assets held by CalMatters and the amounts of those financial assets could readily be made available within one year of the balance sheet date to meet general expenditures:

	2022	2021
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 793,214	\$ 819,536
Investments	4,857,716	2,290,356
Accounts, grants, and pledges receivable	2,485,725	1,370,813
Less: amounts not available to be used within one year:		
Restricted cash	-	(304,172)
Net assets with donor restrictions for programs	(5,313,735)	(3,581,903)
Financial assets available to meet general expenditures over the next twelve months	<u>\$ 2,822,920</u>	<u>\$ 594,630</u>

CalMatters receives a substantial amount of support by way of restricted contributions. Because donor restrictions require resources to be used in a particular manner or in a future period, CalMatters must maintain sufficient resources to meet those responsibilities to its donors. Thus, financial assets may not be available for general expenditure within one year. CalMatters has a policy to structure its financial assets to be available as its general expenditures, liabilities, and other obligations become due.

#### 11. Compensated Absences (Accrued Payroll and Related Benefits)

Financial statement presentation follows the recommendations of *ASC 710.25, Compensated Absences*. Under *ASC 710.25*, CalMatters is required to record a liability for the estimated amounts of compensation for future absences. Employees are permitted to accrue a specific number of hours of vacation which is payable upon termination of the employee. Sick leave is not paid upon termination. Annual leave accruals are recorded in the financial statements as an accrued liability on the statements of financial position based on hourly rates in effect at the end of the year. Accrued vacation liabilities amounted to \$298,252 and \$223,429 at December 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively. Total accrued payroll liabilities (which include the accrued vacation) amounted to \$365,330 and \$223,429 at December 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively.

# CALMATTERS

## Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2022 and 2021

### 12. Refundable Advances from SBA under Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)

During April 2020, CalMatters applied for and received \$535,141 in a forgivable loan under the Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program (“PPP”), the total amount of which was funded through Beneficial State Bank. Based on the guidance in *FASB ASC 405-20-40-1*, the proceeds from the loan of \$535,141 were initially treated a liability titled “refundable advance” and reflected as a current liability on the statements of financial position. During April 2021, CalMatters received notification from Beneficial State Bank that its application for forgiveness had been accepted by the SBA. The refundable advance was transferred to government contributed income and is included with contributions on the statement of activities and changes in net asset for the year ended December 31, 2021.

### 13. Employee Benefit Plans

CalMatters has a defined contribution pension plan covering all employees. In accordance with rules sanctioned by the Internal Revenue Service, CalMatters maintains a 457(b) Eligible Deferred Compensation Plan in order to attract and retain personnel by providing deferred compensation. The Plan provides for matching employer contributions of up to 4% of wages. CalMatters contributed \$62,932 and \$107,459 to the 457(b) Plan during the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively. At December 31, 2022 and 2021, three people were covered under the Plan.

### 14. Net Assets

#### Net Assets without Donor Restrictions

Net assets without donor restrictions of \$2,750,656 and \$506,899 at December 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively, represent the cumulative retained surpluses since the organization’s inception.

#### Net Assets with Donor Restrictions – Time and Purpose

Net assets with donor restrictions are restricted for the following purposes or periods at December 31:

	2022	2021
Passage of time	\$ 100,000	\$ 436,775
Subject to expenditure for specified purpose	5,434,793	3,581,903
Discount on multi-year pledges	(21,058)	(17,359)
	<u>\$ 5,413,735</u>	<u>\$ 4,001,319</u>

During the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, CalMatters received \$6,093,813 and \$4,660,381, respectively, in donations with restrictions. Donations released from restrictions amounted to \$4,677,698 and \$3,641,937 for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively. The change in the discount on multi-year pledges amounted to (\$3,699) and (\$15,175) for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively.

Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2022 and 2021

**15. Right of Use Asset and Lease Commitments**

CalMatters is obligated under a 67-month lease agreement for corporate office space in Sacramento through October 2025. As of December 31, 2022, the lease requires a monthly payment of \$20,796 with annual increases of approximately 2.0% each April 1st. CalMatters has the option to renew the lease for a period of five years at prevailing market rates. CalMatters is also responsible for its proportionate share of building, maintenance, and operating expenses which includes insurance, taxes, and utilities.

In accordance with *ASU 2016-02, Leases*, CalMatters reflects the present value of future operating lease payments (discounted at an appropriate borrowing rate) as a "Right of Use" asset and a corresponding lease liability. Accordingly, CalMatters has recorded a total lease liability in the amount of \$652,809 and \$871,054 at December 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively, for its Sacramento office (split between current amount of \$232,324 and \$218,245 and noncurrent amount of \$420,485 and \$652,809 at December 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively) and a right of use asset for the premises in the amount of \$563,282 and \$757,450 at December 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively. The weighted average discount rate associated with the calculation of the present value of the future lease payments was 4.0%.

At December 31, 2022, future minimum lease payments are summarized as follows: Year ending December 31, 2023: \$253,367; Year ending December 31, 2024: \$258,460; and Year ending December 31, 2025: \$219,415. Rent expense amounted to \$229,809 and \$248,960 for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively.

**16. Commitments and Contingencies**

In the normal course of business CalMatters could be subject to certain commitments and contingencies which might not be fully reflected in the financial statements. Such commitments and contingencies also include risks associated with various economic and operating factors, which include (a) grant restrictions and donor conditions which obligate CalMatters to fulfill certain requirements as set forth in grant instruments, (b) funding levels which vary based on factors beyond CalMatters' control, such as generosity of donors and general economic conditions, (c) employment and service agreements with key management personnel, including executive officers of the organization, and (d) financial risks associated with funds on deposit in accounts at financial institutions. Certain of the grants and contracts (including current and prior costs) are subject to adjustment upon review and final acceptance by the granting agency. Management believes that such commitments, contingencies, and risks will not have a material adverse effect on the financial statements.

**17. COVID-19**

As a result of COVID-19 and its variants, the worldwide threat continues to (a) influence financial markets, (b) threaten revenue streams, and (c) impact private enterprises with which CalMatters conducts operations. Business continuity, including supply chains and consumer demand across a broad range of industries and countries, may present challenges. These financial statements reflect certain economic ramifications which impacted the year ended December 31, 2021.

**18. Subsequent Events**

In compliance with ASC 855, *Subsequent Events*, CalMatters has evaluated subsequent events through August 4, 2023, the date the financial statements were available to be issued. In the opinion of management, there are no subsequent events which are necessitate disclosure.