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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

State Auditor Otto Releases Report on Special District Finances

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ST. PAUL (9/30/2009) – State Auditor Rebecca Otto today released a comprehensive report on Minnesota’s special district revenues, expenditures and debt for fiscal year 2007. Special districts are local government units created or authorized by state law to perform specific duties or to provide specific services in a limited scope. Some special districts may levy taxes and/or special assessments. Examples of special districts include regional development commissions, hospital districts, soil and water conservation districts, and sanitation districts.

Highlights from the report include:

- Special districts had total governmental fund revenues of \$1.01 billion in 2007. The primary sources of revenues for special district governmental funds in 2007 were local grants (28 percent), state grants (23 percent), taxes (17 percent), and charges for services (11 percent).
- Special districts reported total governmental expenditures of \$920.0 million in 2007. Of this amount, \$639.3 million were current expenditures, \$208.2 million were capital expenditures, and \$72.6 million were debt service payments.
- In 2007, special district enterprise operations reported operating revenues of \$1.90 billion, operating expenditures of \$2.26 billion, and operating losses of \$364.5 million (operating revenues minus operating expenses). In addition, special district enterprises had non-operating revenues of \$727.3 million, non-operating expenses of \$257.8 million, and a net income of \$105.0 million. Non-operating revenues include sources such as taxes, intergovernmental grants, and interest income.
- Special districts reported \$5.68 billion in outstanding long-term debt (bonds and other long-term debt) in 2007.

To view the complete report, which includes an Executive Summary, charts and tables, go to:

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20091001.000>

The Office of the State Auditor is a constitutional office that is charged with overseeing more than \$20 billion spent annually by local governments in Minnesota. The Office of the State Auditor does this by performing audits of local government financial statements, and by reviewing documents, data, reports, and complaints reported to the Office. The financial information collected from local governments is analyzed and is the basis of statutory reports issued by the Office of the State Auditor.

Rebecca Otto is Minnesota's 18th State Auditor. A high-resolution official photo is available for download at http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/images/otto_hires.jpg. To learn more about State Auditor Otto, see <http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=bio>