

## LAURA BOWERS, CPA, CPFO

### Professional Summary

Accomplished CPA and CPFO with over 20 years of experience in governmental accounting and auditing. Proven expertise in managing governmental funds, audits, preparing countywide budgets, implementing accounting systems, and leading high-performing teams. Skilled in public finance strategy, internal controls, and compliance.

### Education

San Jose State University – B.S. Business Administration, Accounting

Cabrillo College – General Education

### Certifications

- Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- Certified Public Finance Officer (CPFO)
- Credentialed California County Senior Executive

### Professional Experience

#### County of Santa Cruz, CA

##### *Chief Deputy Auditor-Controller | 2017–Present*

- Lead department operations, fiscal strategy, and systems modernization
- Supervise staff and act as department head as needed
- Guide accounting, budget, and audit practices for County departments

##### *Audit & Systems Manager / Senior Accountant-Auditor / Auditor II–IV | 2001–2017*

- Directed audits and financial reviews across departments and districts
- Managed annual budget prep, cost allocation, and ACFR contributions
- Trained and supervised audit teams; developed internal control procedures
- Led audit planning, reporting, and system enhancements

#### Crawford Pimentel & Co., San Jose, CA

##### *Senior Staff Accountant | 1999–2001*

- Prepared tax returns and financial statements for multiple entities
- Conducted audits and trained junior staff

#### Arthur Andersen LLP, San Jose, CA

##### *Intern | Summer 1999*

- Supported tax preparation and financial research projects

### Leadership & Presentations

- Fiscal Training Presenter, Santa Cruz County
- Former President, Institute of Internal Auditors – San Jose Chapter
- Speaker: Government Careers, SJSU & Local Schools
- Chair, Deferred Compensation Oversight Commission, County of Santa Cruz