The mission of the San José City Auditor’s Office is to independently assess and report on City operations and services.
The City Auditor’s Office conducts performance audits that identify ways to increase the economy, efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability of City government and provide independent, reliable, accurate, and timely information to the City Council and other stakeholders. The Office also oversees a variety of external audits including the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and the Single Audit.

The City Auditor’s annual work plan is posted online, along with copies of all issued audit reports and the semi-annual recommendation status reports. The Office’s 2017-18 operating expenditures totaled $2.3 million. In addition, the City Auditor’s Office was also responsible for $524,000 in other costs, including the annual financial audit, the grant compliance single audit, and the bond projects audit. Staffing remained at 15 positions; this was 3 positions fewer than 10 years ago.

In 2017-18 the City Auditor’s Office identified $1.4 million in monetary benefits from its audit recommendations, or $0.56 in savings for every $1 spent on audit costs in 2017-18 (target: $4 to $1). Identified monetary benefits vary from year to year based on the types of audits that are conducted.

Subject area audits issued in 2017-18 include:

- Police Activities League
- Pensionable Earnings
- Annual Report on City Services FY 2016-17
- San Jose International Airport Financial Projections
- Annual Performance Audit of Team San Jose FY 2016-17
- San Jose’s Tier 3 Defined Contribution Plan
- Employee Travel Expenses
- Clean Energy
- Retirement Services
- Environmental Services Department Consulting Services
- Open Government
- Residential High-Rises

KEY FACTS (2017-18)

- Number of audit reports issued: 19
- Number of audit recommendations adopted: 82
- Number of audit reports per auditor: 1.6
- Ratio of identified monetary benefits to audit cost: $.56 to $1
- Percent of approved work plan completed or substantially completed during the fiscal year: 59%

Improved Service Delivery, 5%
Operational Efficiency, 37%
Securing City…
Transparency and Accountability, 38%
Partly Implemented 46%
Implemented 24%
Not Implemented 30%