



LRQA Independent Assurance Statement

Relating to AvalonBay communities, Inc. Environmental, Social and Governance Report for Calendar Year 2022

This Assurance Statement has been prepared for AvalonBay Communities, Inc. (AvalonBay) in accordance with our contract but is intended for the readers of this Report.

Terms of Engagement

LRQA was commissioned by AvalonBay to provide independent assurance on its 2022 Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Report (the report) to a limited level of assurance and materiality of the professional judgement of the verifier using LRQA's verification procedure. LRQA's verification procedure is based on current best practice, is in accordance with ISAE 3000 and ISAE 3410.

Our assurance engagement covered AvalonBay's operations in the United States specifically the following requirements:

- Verifying conformance with Global Reporting Initiative's (GRI) 1 Foundation 2021 Requirement 1 Reporting principles of Accuracy, Balance, Clarity, Comparability, Completeness, Sustainability Context, Timeliness and Verifiability;
- Confirming conformance with GRI Foundation Requirement 3 Determine material topics; and
- Evaluating the accuracy and reliability of data and information contained in the report.

Our assurance engagement excluded the data and information of suppliers, contractors and any third parties mentioned in the report.

LRQA's responsibility is only to AvalonBay. LRQA disclaims any liability or responsibility to others as explained in the end footnote. AvalonBay's responsibility is for collecting, aggregating, analysing, and presenting all the data and information within the report and for maintaining effective internal controls over the systems from which the report is derived. Ultimately, the report has been approved by, and remains the responsibility of AvalonBay.

LRQA's corresponding Environmental data Assurance Statement should be referred to in conjunction with this Assurance Statement.

LRQA's Opinion

Based on LRQA's approach nothing has come to our attention that would cause us to believe that AvalonBay has not, in all material respects:

- Met the requirements above;
- Disclosed accurate and reliable performance data and information as no errors or omissions were detected; and
- Covered all the issues that are important to the stakeholders and readers of this report.

The opinion expressed is formed on the basis of a limited level of assurance¹ and at the materiality of the professional judgement of the verifier.

LRQA's Approach

LRQA's assurance engagements are carried out in accordance with our verification procedure. The following tasks though were undertaken as part of the evidence gathering process for this assurance engagement:

- Assessing AvalonBay's approach to stakeholder engagement to confirm that issues raised by stakeholders were captured correctly. We did this through interviews with senior management and a review of procedures and processes in place to manage stakeholder engagement;
- Reviewing AvalonBay's process for identifying and determining material issues to confirm that the right issues were included in their Report. We did this by independently reviewing AvalonBay's internal materiality process, benchmarking

¹ *The extent of evidence-gathering for a limited assurance engagement is less than for a reasonable assurance engagement. Limited assurance engagements focus on aggregated data rather than physically checking source data at sites. Consequently, the level of assurance obtained in a limited assurance engagement is lower than the assurance that would have been obtained had a reasonable assurance engagement been performed.*



the report written by AvalonBay to ensure that sector specific issues were included for comparability, referencing the GRI Universal Standard and referencing SASB Real Estate sector standard;

- Auditing AvalonBay's data management systems to confirm that there were no significant errors, omissions, or misstatements in the Report. We did this by:
 - sampling specific source and aggregated data points referenced in the Report; supporting backup data for the report for all sections and topics was made available to LRQA;
 - speaking with key people responsible for compiling the data and drafting the Report;
 - reviewing LRQA verification of GHGs and environmental data for 2022; and
- Interviewing members of the management team and various other roles within the company by virtual meetings.

Observations

Further observations and findings, made during the assurance engagement, are:

- Stakeholder inclusivity:
We are not aware of any stakeholder groups that have been excluded from the stakeholder engagement process. A Materiality Analysis was completed in 2014 and again in 2018 and 2022. Material topic review is also evergreen based employee surveys, listening to residence, participation in ESG groups and ESG frameworks (e.g., SASB, GRI and GRESB).
- Materiality:
We are not aware of any material issues concerning AvalonBay's sustainability performance that have been excluded from the Report. The Report covers a range of ESG performance. The published annual PDF report provides highlights of key accomplishments and initiatives. The addition of the Appendix includes ESG data spanning the last four years or three years plus the baseline year. AvalonBay's 2022 ESG is relevant to the context of the real estate industry and regions in which it operates.
- Responsiveness:
AvalonBay engages regularly with internal and external stakeholders. AvalonBay considers input from stakeholders on an evergreen basis. Specific examples of an emerging issue included in the report for 2022 include biodiversity.
- Reliability:
We believe that the criteria applied are appropriate and sufficient to produce consistent, unbiased, understandable content for the end user.

LRQA's Standards, Competence, and Independence

LRQA ensures the selection of appropriately qualified individuals based on their qualifications, training, and experience. The outcome of all verification and certification assessments is then internally reviewed by senior management to ensure that the approach applied is rigorous and transparent.

The verification assessment along with GHG verification is the only work undertaken by LRQA for AvalonBay and as such does not compromise our independence or impartiality.

Signed

Dated: May 16, 2023

Andrea M. Bockrath
LRQA Lead Verifier

On behalf of LRQA Inc.

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The English version of this Assurance Statement is the only valid version. LRQA assumes no responsibility for versions translated into other languages.

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