



April 17, 2014

Mr. Joe Perez, Community Development Director
City of Bell
6330 Pine Avenue
Bell, CA 90201

Dear Mr. Perez:

Subject: Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code (HSC) section 34177 (m), the City of Bell Successor Agency (Agency) submitted a Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule (ROPS 14-15A) to the California Department of Finance (Finance) on March 3, 2014 for the period of July through December 2014. Finance has completed its review of your ROPS 14-15A, which may have included obtaining clarification for various items.

HSC section 34171 (d) defines enforceable obligations. Based on a sample of line items reviewed and application of the law, the following do not qualify as enforceable obligations for the reasons specified:

- Item No. 5 – Contract for legal services in the amount of \$58,054 is partially denied. Per the Aleshire & Wynder firm the estimated legal cost for the ROPS 14-15A period is approximately \$10,000. Therefore, the excess of \$48,054 is not an enforceable obligation and not eligible for RPTTF funding.
- Item No. 14 – Property management plan expense in the amount of \$36,491 is partially denied. The Contract Services Agreement for the Property Management Plan submitted states the compensation for this agreement shall not exceed the maximum contract amount of \$30,000. Therefore, the excess of \$6,491 is not an enforceable obligation and not eligible for RPTTF funding.
- Item No. 17 – City of Bell (City) Pension Override in the amount of \$19,198,245. It is our understanding the Bell Public Financing Authority (Authority) issued 2005 Taxable Pension Revenue Bonds in order to provide a loan to the City to fund their unfunded safety employee pension liability. The bond debt service payments are payable solely from loan payments from the City to the Authority and is not an obligation of the Agency. As such, this line item is not an enforceable obligation and is not eligible for RPTTF funding.
- Item No. 18 – Housing Administrative costs allowance pursuant to AB 471 in the amount of \$75,000. Pursuant to HSC section 34171 (p), the housing entity administrative cost allowance is applicable only in cases where the city, county, or city and county that

authorized the creation of the redevelopment agency (RDA) elected to not assume the housing functions. Here, however, the City of Bell (City) elected to be the housing entity to the RDA and retained the housing assets by submitting the housing asset transfer form to Finance on August 1, 2012. Therefore, the City is not eligible for the housing entity administrative costs allowance of \$75,000.

Pursuant to HSC section 34186 (a), successor agencies were required to report on the ROPS 14-15A form the estimated obligations and actual payments (prior period adjustments) associated with the July through December 2013 period. HSC section 34186 (a) also specifies prior period adjustments self-reported by successor agencies are subject to audit by the county auditor-controller (CAC) and the State Controller. The amount of RPTTF approved in the table below includes the prior period adjustment resulting from the CAC's audit of the Agency's self-reported prior period adjustment.

Except for items denied in whole or in part as enforceable obligations, Finance is not objecting to the remaining items listed on your ROPS 14-15A. If you disagree with the determination with respect to any items on your ROPS 14-15A, you may request a Meet and Confer within five business days of the date of this letter. The Meet and Confer process and guidelines are available at Finance's website below:

http://www.dof.ca.gov/redevelopment/meet_and_confer/

The Agency's maximum approved RPTTF distribution for the reporting period is \$2,172,442 as summarized below:

Approved RPTTF Distribution For the period of July through December 2014	
Total RPTTF requested for non-administrative obligations	4,053,119
Total RPTTF requested for administrative obligations	125,000
Total RPTTF requested for obligations	\$ 4,178,119
Total RPTTF requested for non-administrative obligations	4,053,119
<u>Denied Items</u>	
Item No. 5	(48,054)
Item No. 14	(6,491)
Item No. 17	(1,772,622)
Item No. 18	(75,000)
	(1,902,167)
Total RPTTF authorized for non-administrative obligations	\$ 2,150,952
Total RPTTF authorized for administrative obligations	\$ 125,000
Total RPTTF authorized for obligations	\$ 2,275,952
ROPS 13-14A prior period adjustment	(103,510)
Total RPTTF approved for distribution	\$ 2,172,442

Pursuant to HSC section 34177 (l) (1) (E), agencies are required to use all available funding sources prior to RPTTF for payment of enforceable obligations. During the ROPS 14-15A review, Finance requested financial records to support the cash balances reported by the Agency; however, Finance was unable to reconcile the financial records to the amounts reported. As a result, Finance will continue to work with the Agency after the ROPS 14-15A

review period to properly identify the Agency's cash balances. If it is determined the Agency possesses cash balances that are available to pay approved obligations, the Agency should request the use of these cash balances prior to requesting RPTTF in ROPS 14-15B.

Please refer to the ROPS 14-15A schedule that was used to calculate the approved RPTTF amount:

<http://www.dof.ca.gov/redevelopment/ROPS>

Absent a Meet and Confer, this is Finance's final determination related to the enforceable obligations reported on your ROPS for July 1 through December 31, 2014. This determination only applies to items where funding was requested for the six-month period. Finance's determination is effective for this time period only and should not be conclusively relied upon for future periods. All items listed on a future ROPS are subject to a subsequent review and may be denied even if it was or was not denied on this ROPS or a preceding ROPS. The only exception is for those items that have received a Final and Conclusive determination from Finance pursuant to HSC section 34177.5 (i). Finance's review of items that have received a Final and Conclusive determination is limited to confirming the scheduled payments as required by the obligation.

The amount available from the RPTTF is the same as the amount of property tax increment that was available prior to enactment of ABx1 26 and AB 1484. This amount is not and never was an unlimited funding source. Therefore, as a practical matter, the ability to fund the items on the ROPS with property tax is limited to the amount of funding available to the successor agency in the RPTTF.

To the extent proceeds from bonds issued after December 31, 2010 exist and are not encumbered by an enforceable obligation pursuant to HSC section 34171 (d), HSC section 34191.4 (c) (2) (B) requires these proceeds be used to defease the bonds or to purchase those same outstanding bonds on the open market for cancellation.

Please direct inquiries to Kylie Oltmann, Supervisor or Hugo Lopez, Lead Analyst at (916) 445-1546.

Sincerely,



JUSTYN HOWARD
Assistant Program Budget Manager

cc: Mr. Josh Betta, Finance Director, City of Bell
Ms. Kristina Burns, Manager, Department of Auditor-Controller, Los Angeles County
California State Controller's Office