



April 11, 2014

Mr. Gary Parsons, Project Manager
City of Ridgecrest
100 West California Avenue
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Dear Mr. Parsons:

Subject: Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code (HSC) section 34177 (m), the City of Ridgecrest Successor Agency (Agency) submitted a Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule (ROPS 14-15A) to the California Department of Finance (Finance) on February 28, 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 Nos. 17 and 18 – Wastewater loan repayments to the City of Ridgecrest (City) totaling \$3,405,616. Pursuant to HSC section 34191.4 (b), loan agreements between the former redevelopment agency and sponsoring entity may be placed on the ROPS if the following requirements are met: (1) The Agency has received a Finding of Completion; and (2) The Agency's oversight board (OB) approves the loan as an enforceable obligation by finding the loan was for legitimate redevelopment purposes.

The Agency received a Finding of Completion on December 9, 2013. However, HSC section 34191.4 (b) (2) (A) specifies this repayment to be equal to one-half of the increase between the ROPS residual pass-through distributed to the taxing entities in that fiscal year and the ROPS residual pass-through distributed to the taxing entities in the fiscal year 2012-13 base year. According to the County Auditor-Controller's reports of residual pass-through amounts distributed to the taxing entities for fiscal year 2012-13 and 2013-14, the Agency is not eligible to receive funding for these obligations at this time.

The administrative costs claimed are within the fiscal year administrative cap pursuant to HSC section 34171 (d). However, Finance notes the oversight board has approved an amount that appears excessive, given the number and nature of the other obligations listed in the ROPS. HSC section 34179 (i) requires the oversight board to exercise a fiduciary duty to the taxing entities. Therefore, Finance encourages the oversight board to apply adequate oversight when evaluating the administrative resources required to successfully wind-down the Agency.

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. The amount of RPTTF approved in the table below includes the prior period adjustment self-reported by the Agency. 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. Any proposed CAC adjustments were not received in time for inclusion in this letter. Therefore, the amount of RPTTF approved in the table below only includes the prior period self-reported by the Agency.

Except for the items denied in whole or in part as enforceable obligation or for the items that have been reclassified, 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 Redevelopment Property Tax Trust Fund (RPTTF) distribution for the reporting period is \$1,248,973 as summarized below:

Approved RPTTF Distribution For the period of July through December 2014	
Total RPTTF requested for non-administrative obligations	1,997,923
Total RPTTF requested for administrative obligations	125,000
Total RPTTF requested for obligations	\$ 2,122,923
Total RPTTF requested for non-administrative obligations	1,997,923
<u>Denied Items</u>	
Item No. 17	(220,000)
Item No. 18	(634,000)
	(854,000)
Total RPTTF authorized for non-administrative obligations	\$ 1,143,923
Total RPTTF authorized for administrative obligations	\$ 125,000
Total RPTTF authorized for obligations	\$ 1,268,923
ROPS 13-14A prior period adjustment	(19,950)
Total RPTTF approved for distribution	\$ 1,248,973

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 Veronica Green, Lead Analyst at (916) 445-1546.

Sincerely,



JUSTYN HOWARD
Assistant Program Budget Manager

cc: Ms. Tess Sloan, Assistant Finance Director, City of Ridgecrest
Ms. Mary B. Bedard, Auditor-Controller, County of Kern
California State Controller's Office