

April 14, 2014

Ms. Teresa Binkley, Finance Director
City of Taft
209 East Kern Street
Taft, CA 93268

Dear Ms. Binkley:

Subject: Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code (HSC) section 34177 (m), the City of Taft Successor Agency (Agency) submitted a Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule (ROPS 14-15A) to the California Department of Finance (Finance) on March 1, 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. 1 – 1998 Revenue Bond debt service payment in the amount of \$263,455 is partially denied. According to the debt service schedule, the Agency is required to pay principal and interest payments totaling \$241,590 during 2014. The Agency was distributed \$210,476 in Redevelopment Property Tax Trust Fund (RPTTF) during ROPS 13-14B; therefore, only \$31,114 is eligible for funding during ROPS 14-15A. As such, the excess of \$232,341 for bond debt service payments is not eligible for RPTTF funding on this ROPS.
- Item No. 3 – City of Taft loan repayment in the amount of \$347,200 is not an enforceable obligation at this time. 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 approves the loan as an enforceable obligation by finding the loan was for legitimate redevelopment purposes. Neither requirement has been met; therefore, this item is not an enforceable obligation and not eligible for RPTTF funding on this ROPS.

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 on 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 adjustment self-reported by the Agency.

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 \$160,714 as summarized below:

Approved RPTTF Distribution	
For the period of July through December 2014	
Total RPTTF requested for non-administrative obligations	441,655
Total RPTTF requested for administrative obligations	125,000
Total RPTTF requested for obligations	\$ 566,655
Total RPTTF requested for non-administrative obligations	441,655
<u>Denied Items</u>	
Item No. 1	(232,341)
Item No. 3	(173,600)
	(405,941)
Total RPTTF authorized for non-administrative obligations	\$ 35,714
Total RPTTF authorized for administrative obligations	\$ 125,000
Total RPTTF authorized for obligations	\$ 160,714
ROPS 13-14A prior period adjustment	0
Total RPTTF approved for distribution	\$ 160,714

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: Mr. Craig Jones, City Manager, City of Taft
Ms. Mary B Bedard, Auditor-Controller, Kern County
California State Controller's Office