



Transmitted via e-mail

April 4, 2025

Karen Pinkos, City Manager
City of El Cerrito
10890 San Pablo Avenue
El Cerrito, CA 94530

2025-26 Annual Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code (HSC) section 34177 (o) (1), the City of El Cerrito Successor Agency (Agency) submitted an annual Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule for the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 (ROPS 25-26) to the California Department of Finance (Finance) on February 21, 2025. Finance has completed its review of the ROPS 25-26.

Based on a sample of line items reviewed and application of the law, Finance approves all the items listed on the ROPS 25-26 at this time. However, Finance notes the following:

- ROPS 25-26 was not submitted to Finance until February 21, 2025. Pursuant to HSC 34177 (o) (1) (B), if the Agency does not submit a ROPS within ten days of the deadline, the Agency's Administrative Cost Allowance (ACA) shall be reduced by 25 percent. Therefore, the ACA in the amount of \$125,000 has been reduced by \$31,250 ($\$125,000 \times 25\%$) to \$93,750.
- The administrative costs claimed are within the fiscal year administrative cap pursuant to HSC section 34171 (b) (3). However, Finance notes the Oversight Board (OB) approved an amount that appears excessive, given the number and nature of the obligations listed on the ROPS. HSC section 34179 (i) requires the OB to exercise a fiduciary duty to the taxing entities. Therefore, Finance encourages the OB to apply adequate oversight when evaluating the administrative resources necessary to successfully wind-down the Agency.

Pursuant to HSC section 34186, successor agencies are required to report differences between actual payments and past estimated obligations (prior period adjustments) for the July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 (ROPS 22-23) period. The ROPS 22-23 prior period adjustment (PPA) will offset the ROPS 25-26 Redevelopment Property Tax Trust Fund (RPTTF) distribution. The amount of RPTTF authorized includes the PPA resulting from the County Auditor-Controller's review of the PPA form submitted by the Agency.

The Agency's maximum approved RPTTF distribution for the reporting period is \$1,152,897, as summarized in the Approved RPTTF Distribution table (see Attachment).

RPTTF distributions occur biannually, one distribution for the July 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025 period (ROPS A period), and one distribution for the January 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026 period (ROPS B period), based on Finance's approved amounts. Since this determination is for the entire ROPS 25-26 period, the Agency is authorized to receive up to the maximum approved RPTTF through the combined ROPS A and B period distributions.

This is our final determination regarding the obligations listed on the ROPS 25-26. This determination only applies to items when funding was requested for the 12-month period. If a determination by Finance in a previous ROPS is currently the subject of litigation, the item will continue to reflect the determination until the matter is resolved.

The ROPS 25-26 form submitted by the Agency and this determination letter will be posted on our website:

<http://dof.ca.gov/Programs/Redevelopment/ROPS/>

This determination is effective for the ROPS 25-26 period only and should not be conclusively relied upon for future ROPS periods. All items listed on a future ROPS are subject to Finance's review and may be adjusted even if not adjusted on this ROPS or a preceding ROPS. The only exception is for items that have received a Final and Conclusive determination from Finance pursuant to HSC section 34177.5 (i). Finance's review of Final and Conclusive items 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 available prior to the enactment of the redevelopment dissolution law. Therefore, as a practical matter, the ability to fund the items on the ROPS with property tax increment is limited to the amount of funding available to the Agency in the RPTTF.

Please direct inquiries to RedevelopmentAdministration@dof.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Cheryl L. McCormick, CPA
Chief, Office of State Audits and Evaluations

cc: Claire Coleman, Budget/Financial Services Manager, City of El Cerrito
Bob Campbell, Auditor-Controller, Contra Costa County
Deidre Hodgers, Countywide Oversight Board Representative

Attachment

Approved RPTTF Distribution July 2025 through June 2026			
	ROPS A	ROPS B	Total
RPTTF Requested	\$ 1,066,397	\$ 0	\$ 1,066,397
Administrative RPTTF Requested	125,000	0	125,000
Total RPTTF Requested	1,191,397	0	1,191,397
RPTTF Authorized	1,066,397	0	1,066,397
Administrative RPTTF Requested	125,000	0	125,000
25% Admin Penalty	(31,250)	0	(31,250)
Administrative RPTTF Authorized	93,750	0	93,750
ROPS 22-23 Prior Period Adjustment (PPA)	(7,250)	0	(7,250)
Total RPTTF Approved for Distribution	\$ 1,152,897	\$ 0	\$ 1,152,897