



Transmitted via e-mail

March 29, 2024

Geoffrey C. Buchheim, Administrative Services Director  
City of Desert Hot Springs  
11999 Palm Drive  
Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240

### **2024-25 Annual Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule**

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code (HSC) section 34177 (o) (1), the City of Desert Hot Springs Successor Agency (Agency) submitted an annual Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 (ROPS 24-25) to the California Department of Finance (Finance) on January 23, 2024. Finance has completed its review of the ROPS 24-25.

Based on a sample of line items reviewed and application of the law, Finance approves all the items listed on the ROPS 24-25 at this time. However, Finance notes the following:

- 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) has 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, 2021 through June 30, 2022 (ROPS 21-22) period. The ROPS 21-22 prior period adjustment (PPA) will offset the ROPS 24-25 Redevelopment Property Tax Trust Fund (RPTTF) distribution. The County Auditor-Controller's review of the PPA form submitted by the Agency resulted in no PPA.

- Based on our review of the PPA, Finance noted the Agency misspent a portion excess funds. Specifically, the Agency spent more than what was authorized for the ACA for the ROPS 21-22 period. Finance authorized \$250,000 pursuant to the cap; yet a total of \$259,126 was reported. This is \$9,126 in excess of the maximum amount allowed pursuant to HSC section 34171 (b) (3). Further, pursuant to HSC section 34177 (a) (3), only those payments listed on a ROPS may be made by the Agency from the funds and source specified on the ROPS, up to the amount authorized by Finance. Finance reminds the Agency that funds in excess of the amounts authorized on the ROPS cannot be expended. Any excess funds must be retained and expended once the Agency receives approval for their use on future ROPS.

The Agency's maximum approved RPTTF distribution for the reporting period is \$1,824,988, as summarized in the Approved RPTTF Distribution table (see Attachment).

RPTTF distributions occur biannually, one distribution for the July 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 period (ROPS A period), and one distribution for the January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025 period (ROPS B period), based on Finance's approved amounts. Since this determination is for the entire ROPS 24-25 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 24-25. 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 24-25 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 24-25 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.

Geoffrey C. Buchheim  
March 29, 2024  
Page 3

Please direct inquiries to [RedevelopmentAdministration@dof.ca.gov](mailto:RedevelopmentAdministration@dof.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Original signed by Marilyn Standing Horse for:

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

cc: Frank Luckino, City Manager, City of Desert Hot Springs  
Jennifer Baechel, Deputy Auditor-Controller, Riverside County  
Imelda Delos Santos, Countywide Oversight Board Representative

**Attachment**

<b>Approved RPTTF Distribution July 2024 through June 2025</b>			
	<b>ROPS A</b>	<b>ROPS B</b>	<b>Total</b>
RPTTF Requested	\$ 1,252,494	\$ 322,494	\$ 1,574,988
Administrative RPTTF Requested	125,000	125,000	250,000
<b>Total RPTTF Requested</b>	<b>1,377,494</b>	<b>447,494</b>	<b>1,824,988</b>
<b>RPTTF Authorized</b>	<b>1,252,494</b>	<b>322,494</b>	<b>1,574,988</b>
<b>Administrative RPTTF Authorized</b>	<b>125,000</b>	<b>125,000</b>	<b>250,000</b>
<b>Total RPTTF Approved for Distribution</b>	<b>\$ 1,377,494</b>	<b>\$ 447,494</b>	<b>\$ 1,824,988</b>