



Transmitted via e-mail

March 15, 2024

Aaron Felmlee, Finance Director
City of Fortuna
P.O. Box 545
Fortuna, CA 95540

2024-25 Annual Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code (HSC) section 34177 (o) (1), the City of Fortuna 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 9, 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 made the following determinations:

- Item No. 6 – Loan repayment in the amount of \$400,000 is partially allowed. HSC section 34191.4 (b) (3) (A) allows repayment to be equal to one-half of the increase between the ROPS residual pass-through distributed to the taxing entities in the preceding fiscal year and the ROPS residual pass-through distributed to the taxing entities in the fiscal year 2012-13 base year.

According to the Humboldt County Auditor-Controller's report, the ROPS residual pass-through amount distributed to the taxing entities for fiscal years 2012-13 and 2023-24 are \$173,080 and \$829,324, respectively. Pursuant to the repayment formula, the maximum repayment amount authorized for the ROPS 24-25 period is \$328,122. Therefore, of the \$400,000 requested, \$71,878 (\$400,000 – \$328,122) is not eligible for Redevelopment Property Tax Trust Fund (RPTTF) funding. The Agency may be eligible for additional funding on subsequent ROPS.

- 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 RPTTF distribution. The County Auditor-Controller's review of the PPA form submitted by the Agency resulted in no PPA.

The Agency's maximum approved RPTTF distribution for the reporting period is \$1,084,685, 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.

Except for the adjusted item, Finance approves the remaining items listed on the ROPS 24-25 at this time. If the Agency disagrees with our determination with respect to any items on the ROPS 24-25, except items which are the subject of litigation disputing our previous or related determinations, the Agency may request a Meet and Confer within five business days from the date of this letter. The Agency must use the RAD App to complete and submit its Meet and Confer request form. The Meet and Confer process and guidelines are available on our website:

http://dof.ca.gov/Programs/Redevelopment/Meet_And_Confer/

Absent a Meet and Confer, 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.

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

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

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

cc: Siana L. Emmons, City Clerk, City of Fortuna
Cheryl Dillingham, Auditor-Controller/Countywide Oversight Board
Representative, Humboldt County

Approved RPTTF Distribution July 2024 through June 2025			
	ROPS A	ROPS B	Total
RPTTF Requested	\$ 400,000	\$ 556,563	\$ 956,563
Administrative RPTTF Requested	100,000	100,000	200,000
Total RPTTF Requested	500,000	656,563	1,156,563
RPTTF Requested	400,000	556,563	956,563
<u>Adjustment(s)</u>			
Item No. 6	(71,878)	0	(71,878)
RPTTF Authorized	328,122	556,563	884,685
Administrative RPTTF Authorized	100,000	100,000	200,000
Total RPTTF Approved for Distribution	\$ 428,122	\$ 656,563	\$ 1,084,685