



Transmitted via e-mail

April 5, 2024

Cheri Freese, Finance Director
City of Ridgecrest
100 West California Ave
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

2024-25 Annual Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code (HSC) section 34177 (o) (1), the City of Ridgecrest 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 25, 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:

- On the ROPS 24-25 form, the Agency reported cash balances and activity for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 (ROPS 21-22). According to our review, the Agency has approximately \$15,915 from Other Funds available to fund enforceable obligations on the ROPS 24-25. HSC section 34177 (l) (1) (E) requires these balances to be used prior to requesting Redevelopment Property Tax Trust Fund (RPTTF) funding. This item does not require payment from property tax revenues; therefore, with the Agency's concurrence, the funding source for the following item has been reclassified in the amount specified below:
 - Item No. 43 – 2018 Tax Allocation Refunding Bonds- Series B in the amount of \$1,786,594 is partially reclassified. Finance approves RPTTF in the amount of \$1,770,679 and the use of Other Funds in the amount of \$15,915, totaling \$1,786,594.
- 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.

The County Auditor-Controller did not provide its review of the Agency's prior period adjustments (PPA) for the ROPS 21-22 period as required by HSC section 34186. On the ROPS 24-25 form, the Agency reported cash balances and activities for ROPS 21-22. Therefore, we reviewed ROPS 21-22 expenditures. The amount of RPTTF approved includes the PPA as adjusted by Finance. Specifically, for Item No. 9 - Continuing Disclosure Reporting, the Agency reported expenditures of \$5,600. However, per a review of supporting documentation, the Agency expended \$5,478. As a result, the PPA was increased by \$122 (\$5,600 - \$5,478) from \$8 to \$130.

The Agency's maximum approved RPTTF distribution for the reporting period is \$3,644,550, 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.

Cheri Freese
April 5, 2024
Page 3

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: Monroe Roush, Consultant, City of Ridgecrest
Aimee Espinoza, County Auditor-Controller, Kern County
Amanda Ruiz, Countywide Oversight Board Representative

Approved RPTTF Distribution July 2024 through June 2025			
	ROPS A	ROPS B	Total
RPTTF Requested	\$ 2,219,489	\$ 1,191,106	\$ 3,410,595
Administrative RPTTF Requested	125,000	125,000	250,000
Total RPTTF Requested	2,344,489	1,316,106	3,660,595
RPTTF Requested	2,219,489	1,191,106	3,410,595
<u>Adjustment(s)</u>			
Item No. 43	(15,915)	0	(15,915)
RPTTF Authorized	2,203,574	1,191,106	3,394,680
Administrative RPTTF Authorized	125,000	125,000	250,000
ROPS 21-22 prior period adjustment (PPA)	(130)	0	(130)
Total RPTTF Approved for Distribution	\$ 2,328,444	\$ 1,316,106	\$ 3,644,550