DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

EDMUND G. BROWN JR. • GOVERNOR

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November 7, 2012

Ms. Susie L. Mears, Finance Director
City of Ojai
P.O. Box 1570
Ojai, CA 93024

Dear Ms. Mears:

Subject: Low and Moderate Income Housing Fund Due Diligence Review

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code (HSC) section 34179.6 (c), the City of Ojai successor agency (Agency) submitted an oversight board approved Low and Moderate Income Housing Fund Due Diligence Review (DDR) to the California Department of Finance (Finance) on October 9, 2012. The purpose of the review was to determine the amount of cash and cash equivalents available for distribution to the affected taxing entities. Pursuant to HSC section 34179.6 (d), Finance has completed its review of your DDR, which may have included obtaining clarification for various items.

Based on our review, Finance made no adjustments to the Low and Moderate Income Housing Fund (LMIHF) balance available for allocation to the affected taxing entities. As a result, the Agency's LMIHF balance available for distribution to the affected taxing entities is $1,720,007.

HSC section 34179.6 (f) requires successor agencies to transmit to the county auditor-controller the amount of funds identified above within five working days, plus any interest those sums accumulated while in the possession of the recipient.

If funds identified for transmission are in the possession of the successor agency, and if the successor agency is operated by the city or county that created the former redevelopment agency, then failure to transmit the identified funds may result in offsets to the city's or the county's sales and use tax allocation, as well as its property tax allocation. If funds identified for transmission are in the possession of another taxing entity, that taxing entity's failure to remit those funds may result in offsets to its sales and use tax allocation or to its property tax allocation.

Failure to transmit the identified funds will also prevent the Agency from being able to receive a finding of completion from Finance. Without a finding of completion, the Agency will be unable to take advantage of the provisions detailed in HSC section 34191.4. Specifically, these provisions allow certain loan agreements between the former redevelopment agency (RDA) and the city, county, or city and county that created the RDA to be considered enforceable obligations. These provisions also allow certain bond proceeds to be used for the purposes in which they were sold and allows for the transfer of real property and interests into the Community Redevelopment Property Trust Fund once Finance approves the Agency's long-range property management plan.

In addition to the consequences above, willful failure to return assets that were deemed an unallowable transfer or failure to remit the funds identified above could expose certain individuals to criminal penalties under existing law.

Pursuant to HSC section 34167.5 and 34178.8, the California State Controller's Office (Controller) has the authority to claw back assets that were inappropriately transferred to the city, county, or any other public agency. Determinations outlined in this letter and Finance's Housing Assets Transfer letter dated August 27, 2012 do not in any way eliminate the Controller's authority.

Please direct inquiries to Beliz Chappuie, Supervisor or Mindy Patterson, Lead Analyst at (916) 445-1546.

Sincerely,

STEVE SZALAY
Local Government Consultant

cc: Ms. Donna Logan, Accountant, City of Ojai
Ms. Sandra Bickford, Chief Deputy, Ventura County Auditor-Controller
California State Controller's Office