DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

EDMUND G. BROWN JR. • GOVERNOR
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March 20, 2013

Ms. Colleen O'Donoghue, Assistant Finance Director
City of Costa Mesa
77 Fair Drive, 1st Floor
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Dear Ms. O'Donoghue:

Subject: Other Funds and Accounts Due Diligence Review

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code (HSC) section 34179.6 (c), the City of Costa Mesa Successor Agency (Agency) submitted an oversight board approved Other Funds and Accounts (OFA) Due Diligence Review (DDR) to the California Department of Finance (Finance) on January 11, 2013. 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.

HSC section 34179.6 (d) authorizes Finance to adjust the DDR's stated balance of OFA available for distribution to the taxing entities. Based on our review of your DDR, the following adjustment was made:

- Transfers totaling $2,609,617 are disallowed. The former redevelopment agency made loan payments to the City in March and November of 2011. Per HSC section 34171 (d) (2), any agreement or contract between the city, county, or city and county that created the redevelopment agency and the former redevelopment agency are not considered enforceable obligations.

- The request to retain funds has been adjusted by $435,926. The Agency has not adequately proven there will be insufficient property tax revenues to pay for these obligations. HSC section 34179.5 (c) (5) (D) requires an extensive analysis before retention of current unencumbered balances can be contemplated. This includes but is not limited to, providing a detail of the projected property tax revenues and other general purpose revenues to be received by the Agency, together with both the amount and timing of the bond debt service payments, for the period in which the oversight board anticipates the Agency will have insufficient property tax revenue to pay the specified obligations.

  Should a deficit occur in the future, HSC provides successor agencies with various methods to address short term cash flow issues. These may include requesting a loan from the city pursuant to HSC section 34173 (h), requesting the accumulation of reserves on the ROPS when a future balloon or uneven payment is expected, or

subordinating pass-through payments pursuant to HSC section 34183 (b). The Agency should seek counsel from their oversight board to determine the solution most appropriate for their situation if a deficiency were to occur.

If you disagree with Finance's adjusted amount of OFA balances available for distribution to the taxing entities, you may request a Meet and Confer within five business days of the date of this letter. The Meet and Confer process and guidelines are available at Finance's website below:

http://www.dof.ca.gov/redevelopment/meet_and_confer/

The Agency's OFA balance available for distribution to the affected taxing entities is $2,928,673 (see table below).

OFA Balances Available For Distribution To Taxing Entities		
Available Balance per DDR:	$	(116,867)
Finance Adjustments		
Add:		
Disallowed transfers	$	2,609,614
Requested retained balance not supported		435,926
Total OFA available to be distributed:	$	2,928,673

Absent a Meet and Confer request, HSC section 34179.6 (f) requires successor agencies to transmit to the county auditor-controller the amount of funds identified in the above table within five working days, plus any interest those sums accumulated while in the possession of the recipient. Upon submission of payment, it is requested you provide proof of payment to Finance within five business days.

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, the successor agency is required to take diligent efforts to recover such funds. A failure to recover and remit those funds may result in offsets to the other taxing entity's sales and use tax allocation or to its property tax allocation. If funds identified for transmission are in the possession of a private entity, HSC 34179.6 (h) (1) (B) states that any remittance related to unallowable transfers to a private party may also be subject to a 10 percent penalty if not remitted within 60 days.

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 do not in any way eliminate the Controller's authority.

Please direct inquiries to Nichelle Thomas, Supervisor or Alexander Watt, Lead Analyst at (916) 445-1546.

Sincerely,

STEVE SZALAY
Local Government Consultant

cc: Mr. Bobby Young, Finance Director, City of Costa Mesa
Ms. Willa Bouwens-Killeen, Principal Planner, City of Costa Mesa
Mr. Frank Davies, Property Tax Manager, Orange County
California State Controller's Office