



May 29, 2013

Ms. Karin Schnaider, Finance Director
City of Sierra Madre
252 West Sierra Madre Boulevard
Sierra Madre, CA 91024

Dear Ms. Schnaider:

Subject: Other Funds and Accounts Due Diligence Review

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code (HSC) section 34179.6 (c), the City of Sierra Madre 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 March 14, 2013. The purpose of the review was to determine the amount of cash and cash equivalents available for distribution to the affected taxing entities. Since the Agency did not meet the January 15, 2013 submittal deadline pursuant to HSC section 34179.6 (c), Finance is not bound to completing its review and making a determination by the April 1, 2013 deadline pursuant to HSC section 34179.6 (d). However, 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 adjustments were made:

- Property transfers to the City on May and June 2012 totaling \$5.2 million between the City and the former RDA is not allowed. HSC section 34171 (d) (2) states that agreements, contracts, or arrangements between the city that created the RDA and the former RDA are not enforceable, unless issued within two years of the RDA's creation date or for issuance of indebtedness to third-party investors or bondholders.

The non-liquid assets transferred to the City are subject to the California State Controller's Office review of asset transfers. To the extent these assets that transferred are not for a government purpose or pursuant to an enforceable obligation, these assets should be returned to the Agency and disposed of in a manner consistent to the Agency's Long Range Property Management Plan pursuant to HSC section 34191.5. As these are non-liquid assets, the OFA balance available for distribution to the taxing entities will not be adjusted.

- The request to retain \$5,194 to satisfy future obligations is not allowed. 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. It is not evident the thorough analysis required by HSC section 34179.5 (c) (5) (D) was conducted. Further, it is not evident that future property tax revenue will be insufficient or that there is an immediate need to retain these balances.

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), 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.

It is our understanding these bond trustee and legal fees have not been authorized through the ROPS process. To the extent these constitute enforceable obligations, the Agency should request funding for these in a future ROPS.

- Balances requested to be retained in the amount of \$442,500 for fiscal year 2012-13 obligations are partially denied. Included in this amount is \$392,500 of January through June 2012 Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule (ROPS) II period obligations. However, Finance only approved \$327,800 related to the 1998 refunding bond obligation. Therefore, the Agency is limited to retaining \$327,800 of approved funding for this obligation. As such, the OFA balances available for distribution to the taxing entities will be adjusted by \$64,700.

In addition, included in this amount is \$50,000 of January through June 2013 (ROPS III) expenditures that were approved with Redevelopment Property Tax Trust Fund (RPTTF) funding. Since the County Auditor Controller distributed RPTTF for approved ROPS III obligations on January 2, 2013, after the June 30, 2012 OFA balances delineated in the DDR, it is inappropriate for the Agency to retain current OFA balances for obligations that have already been funded through a separate process. Therefore, the OFA balances available for distribution to the taxing entities will be adjusted by an additional \$50,000, totaling \$114,700.

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 \$661,892 (see table below).

OFA Balances Available For Distribution To Taxing Entities	
Available Balance per DDR:	\$ 541,998
Finance Adjustments	
Add:	
Requested retained balance not supported:	119,894
Total OFA available to be distributed:	\$ 661,892

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.

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.

Ms. Schnaider
May 29, 2013
Page 4

Please direct inquiries to Kylie Le, Supervisor or Brian Dunham, Lead Analyst at
(916) 445-1546.

Sincerely,



STEVE SZALAY
Local Government Consultant

cc: Ms. Elaine Aguilar, City Manager, City of Sierra Madre
Ms. Kristina Burns, Manager, Los Angeles County Department of Auditor-Controller
California State Controller's Office