



November 14, 2013

Mr. Bryan Briggs, Economic Development Manager
City of Ceres
2720 2nd Street
Ceres, CA 95307-3292

Dear Mr. Briggs:

Subject: Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code (HSC) section 34177 (m), the City of Ceres Successor Agency (Agency) submitted a Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule (ROPS 13-14B) to the California Department of Finance (Finance) on September 30, 2013 for the period of January through June 2014. Finance has completed its review of your ROPS 13-14B, which may have included obtaining clarification for various items.

HSC section 34171 (d) defines enforceable obligations. Based on a sample of line items reviewed and application of the law, the following do not qualify as enforceable obligations for the reasons specified:

- Item No. 22 – Replenishment of draws from bond reserves is partially denied. The Agency requested \$572,157 to replenish a draw made on bond reserves due to insufficient funds. The Agency was only able to show that \$492,000 was due to replenish the draw. Therefore, \$80,157 is not an enforceable obligation and not eligible for funding on this ROPS.
- Item No. 23 – Debt Service insufficiency refund in the amount of \$99,977 is not an enforceable obligation. The Agency did not receive sufficient Redevelopment Property Tax Trust Fund (RPTTF) to cover bond payments last period. As such it was necessary for the Agency to utilize the pass-through subordination clause to make debt payments. The Agency placed the repayment of these pass-through obligations on their ROPS as Item No. 23. However, it is our understanding the CAC intends to take these funds off the top prior to the disbursement of ROPS 13-14B approved RPTTF to the Agency. Therefore, this item is not eligible for funding on the ROPS.

Pursuant to HSC Section 34186 (a), successor agencies were required to report the estimated obligations and actual payments (prior period adjustments) associated with the January through June 2013 period. The amount of RPTTF approved in the table below includes the prior period adjustment that was self-reported by the Agency. HSC Section 34186 (a) also specifies that the prior period adjustments self-reported by successor agencies are subject to audit by the CAC and State Controller. Any proposed CAC adjustments were not received in time for inclusion in

this letter. Therefore, the amount of RPTTF approved in the table below includes only the prior period adjustment that was self-reported by the Agency.

Except for the items denied in whole or in part as enforceable obligations, Finance is not objecting to the remaining items listed on your ROPS 13-14B. If you disagree with the determination with respect to any items on your ROPS 13-14B, 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 maximum approved RPTTF distribution for the reporting period is \$2,241,949 as summarized below:

Approved RPTTF Distribution Amount For the period of January through June 2014	
Total RPTTF requested for non-administrative obligations	2,297,083
Total RPTTF requested for administrative obligations	125,000
Total RPTTF requested for obligations	\$ 2,422,083
Total RPTTF requested for non-administrative obligations	2,297,083
<u>Denied Items</u>	
Item No. 22	(80,157)
Item No. 23	(99,977)
Total RPTTF approved for non-administrative obligations	2,116,949
Total RPTTF requested for administrative obligations	125,000
Total RPTTF approved for administrative obligations	125,000
Total RPTTF approved for obligations	2,241,949
ROPS III prior period adjustment	0
Total RPTTF approved for distribution	\$ 2,241,949

Pursuant to HSC section 34177 (l) (1) (E), agencies are required to use all available funding sources prior to RPTTF for payment of enforceable obligations. Beginning with the ROPS 13-14B period, Finance required successor agencies to identify fund balances for various types of funds in its possession. During our ROPS 13-14B review, Finance requested financial records to support the fund balances reported by the Agency; however, Finance was unable to reconcile the financial records to the amounts reported. As a result, Finance will continue to work with the Agency after the ROPS 13-14B review period to properly identify the Agency's fund balances. If it is determined the Agency possesses fund balances that are available to pay approved obligations, the Agency should request the use of these fund balances prior to requesting RPTTF in ROPS 14-15A.

Please refer to the ROPS 13-14B schedule that was used to calculate the approved RPTTF amount:

[http://www.dof.ca.gov/redevelopment/ROPS/ROPS 13-14B Forms by Successor Agency/](http://www.dof.ca.gov/redevelopment/ROPS/ROPS%2013-14B%20Forms%20by%20Successor%20Agency/).

Absent a Meet and Confer, this is Finance's final determination related to the enforceable obligations reported on your ROPS for January 1 through June 30, 2014. This determination applies only to items where funding was requested for the six month period. Finance's determination is effective for this time period only and should not be conclusively relied upon for future periods. All items listed on a future ROPS are subject to a subsequent review and may be denied even if it was or was not denied on this ROPS or a preceding ROPS. The only exception is for those items that have received a Final and Conclusive determination from Finance pursuant to HSC 34177.5 (i). Finance's review of items that have received a Final and Conclusive determination 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 that was available prior to enactment of ABx1 26 and AB 1484. This amount is not and never was an unlimited funding source. Therefore, as a practical matter, the ability to fund the items on the ROPS with property tax is limited to the amount of funding available to the successor agency in the RPTTF.

To the extent proceeds from bonds issued after December 31, 2010 exist and are not encumbered by an enforceable obligation pursuant to HSC section 34171 (d), HSC section 34191.4 (c)(2)(B) requires these proceeds be used to defease the bonds or to purchase those same outstanding bonds on the open market for cancellation.

Please direct inquiries to Wendy Griffe, Supervisor or Jenny DeAngelis, Lead Analyst at (916) 445-1546.

Sincerely,



JUSTYN HOWARD
Assistant Program Budget Manager

cc: Ms. Sheila Cumberland, Finance Director/Deputy City Manager, City of Ceres
Ms. Lauren Klein, Auditor-Controller, Stanislaus County
California State Controller's Office