



November 6, 2013

Mr. Pio Martin, Finance Director
City of Firebaugh
1133 P Street
Firebaugh, CA 93622

Dear Mr. Martin:

Subject: Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code (HSC) section 34177 (m), the City of Firebaugh Successor Agency (Agency) submitted a Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule (ROPS 13-14B) to the California Department of Finance (Finance) on September 24, 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. 19 – Infrastructure Improvement Projects funded with \$1,338,483 in bond proceeds. No documentation was provided to support the amount claimed. Therefore, this item is not eligible for bond proceeds funding on this ROPS.
- Item No. 20 – Redevelopment Property Tax Trust Fund (RPTTF) Shortfall Funding Loan in the amount of \$78,486. The Agency was unable to provide a loan agreement to support the amount claimed. Additionally, HSC section 34173 (h) states that a city that authorized the creation of a redevelopment agency may loan or grant funds to a successor agency for administrative costs or enforceable obligations, but the receipt and use of these funds is subject to the approval of the oversight board. It is our understanding the oversight board has not approved the loan regarding this item. Therefore, this item is not an enforceable obligation and is not eligible for RPTTF funding on this ROPS.

Additionally, according to the prior-period adjustment form approved by the Fresno County Auditor-Controller, \$13,340 of this shortfall was covered by Reserve Funds held in the Low and Moderate Income Housing Fund.

Pursuant to HSC Section 34186 (a), successor agencies were required to report on the ROPS 13-14B form the estimated obligations and actual payments (prior period adjustments) associated with the January through June 2013 period. HSC Section 34186 (a) also specifies that the prior period adjustments self-reported by successor agencies are subject to audit by the

county auditor-controller (CAC) and the State Controller. The amount of RPTTF approved in the below table includes the prior period adjustment resulting from the CAC's audit of the Agency's self-reported prior period adjustment.

Except for 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 \$350,343 as summarized below:

| Approved RPTTF Distribution Amount For the period of January through June 2014 | |
|---|-------------------|
| Total RPTTF requested for non-administrative obligations | 303,829 |
| Total RPTTF requested for administrative obligations | 125,000 |
| Total RPTTF requested for obligations | \$ 428,829 |
| Total RPTTF requested for non-administrative obligations | 303,829 |
| <u>Denied Items</u> | |
| Item No. 20 | (78,486) |
| Total RPTTF approved for non-administrative obligations | 225,343 |
| Total RPTTF approved for administrative obligations | 125,000 |
| Total RPTTF approved for obligations | 350,343 |
| ROPS III prior period adjustment | - |
| Total RPTTF approved for distribution | 350,343 |

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/>.

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 Nichelle Thomas, Supervisor or Alex Watt, Lead Analyst at (916) 445-1546.

Sincerely,



JUSTYN HOWARD
Assistant Program Budget Manager

cc: Ms. Tara Howard, Consultant, City of Firebaugh
Mr. George Gomez, Accounting Financial Manager, Fresno County
California State Controller's Office