DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

EDMUND G. BROWN JR. • GOVERNOR

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December 17, 2013

Mr. Chuck Dantuono, Director of Administrative Services
City of Highland
27215 Base Line
Highland, CA 92346

Dear Mr. Dantuono:

Subject: Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule

This letter supersedes the California Department of Finance's (Finance) Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule (ROPS) letter dated November 12, 2013. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code (HSC) section 34177 (m), the City of Highland Successor Agency (Agency) submitted a Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule (ROPS 13-14B) to Finance on September 30, 2013, for the period of January through June 2014. Finance issued a ROPS determination letter on November 12, 2013. Subsequently, the Agency requested a Meet and Confer session on one or more of the items denied by Finance. The Meet and Confer session was held on November 21, 2013.

Based on a review of additional information and documentation provided to Finance during the Meet and Confer process, Finance has completed its review of the specific items being disputed.

- Item Nos. 24, 27, 28, 31, 39, 40, 43, 44, 46, 47, 49 through 53, 57, 61 through 64, and 87 through 95 – Bond funded projects totaling $9,355,000. Finance no longer denies these items. The Agency received a Finding of Completion on May 24, 2013. During the Meet and Confer, the Agency provided additional documentation to support the use of their pre-2011 bond funds. Therefore, Finance approves these line items for funding with bond proceeds on this ROPS.

In addition, per Finance's letter dated November 12, 2013, we continue to deny the following items not contested by the Agency during the Meet and Confer:

- Item Nos. 83 and 84 – City of Highland (City) Loans totaling $2,238,040 are not allowed at this time. The Agency received a Finding of Completion on May 24, 2013. As such, the Agency may place loan agreements between the former redevelopment agency and sponsoring entity on the ROPS, as an enforceable obligation, provided the oversight board makes a finding that the loan was for legitimate redevelopment purposes per HSC section 34191.4 (b) (1). However, HSC section 34176 (e) (6) (B) specifies loan repayments shall not be made prior to the 2013-14 fiscal year. While ROPS 13-14B falls within fiscal year 2013-14, the repayment of these City loans is subject to the repayment formula outlined in HSC section 34191.4 (b) (2) (A).

HSC section 34191.4 (b) (2) (A) allows this repayment to be equal to one-half of the increase between the ROPS residual pass-through distributed to the taxing entities in that fiscal year and the ROPS residual pass-through distributed to the taxing entities in the 2012-13 base year. Since the formula does not allow for estimates, the Agency must wait until the ROPS residual pass-through distributions are known for fiscal year 2013-14 before requesting funding for these obligations. Therefore, the Agency may be able to request funding for the repayment of these City loans beginning with ROPS 14-15A.

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. The Agency's maximum approved RPTTF distribution for the reporting period is $1,567,276 as summarized below:

Approved RPTTF Distribution Amount For the period of January through June 2014		
Total RPTTF requested for non-administrative obligations		3,680,316
Total RPTTF requested for administrative obligations		125,000
Total RPTTF requested for obligations	**$**	**3,805,316**
Total RPTTF requested for non-administrative obligations		**3,680,316**
Denied Items		
Item No. 83		(715,623)
Item No. 84		(1,522,417)
		(2,238,040)
Total RPTTF approved for non-administrative obligations		**1,442,276**
Total RPTTF approved for administrative obligations		**125,000**
Total RPTTF approved for obligations		**1,567,276**
ROPS III prior period adjustment		
Total RPTTF approved for distribution	**$**	**1,567,276**

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/.

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 section 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 Evelyn Suess, Dispute Resolution Supervisor, or Derk Symons, Analyst, at (916) 445-1546.

Sincerely,

JUSTYN HOWARD
Assistant Program Budget Manager

cc: Ms. Terry Rhodes, Senior Accountant, City of Highland
Ms. Linda Santillano, Property Tax Manager, San Bernardino County
California State Controller's Office