DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

EDMUND G. BROWN JR. • GOVERNOR

915 L STREET ■ SACRAMENTO CA ■ 95814-3706 ■ WWW.DOF.CA.GOV

April 1, 2014

Ms. Bonnie Luttrell, Director of Finance
City of Needles
817 Third Street
Needles, CA 92363

Dear Ms. Luttrell:

Subject: Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code (HSC) section 34177 (m), the City of Needles Successor Agency (Agency) submitted a Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule (ROPS 14-15A) to the California Department of Finance (Finance) on February 19, 2014 for the period of July through December 2014. Finance has completed its review of your ROPS 14-15A, which may have included obtaining clarification for various items.

Based on our review, we are approving all of the items listed on your ROPS 14-15A at this time.

Although the administrative costs claimed are within the fiscal year administrative cap pursuant to HSC section 34171 (d), Finance notes the oversight board has approved an amount that appears excessive, given the number and nature of the other obligations listed on the ROPS. HSC section 34179 (i) requires the oversight board to exercise a fiduciary duty to the taxing entities. Therefore, Finance encourages the oversight board to apply adequate oversight when evaluating the administrative resources required to successfully wind-down the Agency.

Pursuant to HSC section 34186 (a), successor agencies were required to report on the ROPS 14-15A form the estimated obligations and actual payments (prior period adjustments) associated with the July through December 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 table below includes the prior period adjustment resulting from the CAC's audit of the Agency's self-reported prior period adjustment.

In addition, adjustments were made to the Cash Balances Form based upon information provided by the Agency during our review. Although these adjustments have no effect on the amount of RPTTF the Agency receives, these adjustments will affect the Agency's cash balances for the funds sources involved. The Agency agreed with the following adjustments:

- The Agency's bond trustee statement shows $164,500 in bond reserves; however, the amount was omitted from the Cash Balance Form.

- The Agency received $141,378 RPTTF distribution for the ROPS 13-14A period. As such, the amount was adjusted accordingly on the Cash Balance Form.

The Agency's maximum approved RPTTF distribution for the reporting period is $243,813 as summarized below:

Approved RPTTF Distribution For the period of July through December 2014		
Total RPTTF requested for non-administrative obligations		123,813
Total RPTTF requested for administrative obligations		120,000
Total Requested RPTTF	**$**	**243,813**
Total RPTTF authorized for non-administrative obligations		123,813
Total RPTTF authorized for administrative obligations		120,000
Total RPTTF funding for obligations	**$**	**243,813**
ROPS 13-14A prior period adjustment		0
Total RPTTF approved for distribution	**$**	**243,813**

Please refer to the ROPS 14-15A schedule that was used to calculate the approved RPTTF amount:

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

This is Finance's final determination related to the enforceable obligations reported on your ROPS for July 1 through December 31, 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 Nichelle Thomas, Supervisor or Michael Barr, Lead Analyst at (916) 445-1546.

Sincerely,

JUSTYN HOWARD
Assistant Program Budget Manager

cc: Ms. Sylvia Miledi, Accountant, City of Needles
Ms. Linda Santillano, Property Tax Manager, San Bernardino County
California State Controller's Office