

December 17, 2014

Mr. Tom Weiner, Community Development Director
City of Walnut
PO Box 682
Walnut, CA 91788-0682

Dear Mr. Weiner:

Subject: Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule

This letter supersedes the California Department of Finance's (Finance) Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule (ROPS) letter dated November 10, 2014. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code (HSC) section 34177 (m), the City of Walnut Successor Agency (Agency) submitted a Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule (ROPS 14-15B) to Finance on September 29, 2014, for the period of January through June 2015. Finance issued a ROPS determination letter on November 10, 2014. 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 24, 2014.

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 No. 3 – Low and Moderate Income Housing Fund (LMIHF) loan repayment for purposes of the Supplemental Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (SERAF) in the amount of \$58,273 is not allowed. Finance continues to deny this item. 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 fiscal year 2012-13 base year.

According to the County Auditor-Controller's report, the amount distributed to the taxing entities for fiscal year 2012-13 and 2013-14 are \$0 respectively. During the Meet and Confer process, the Agency contended that there is a cap of \$4,000,000 on the tax increment the Agency can receive under the Walnut Improvement Agency Plan and as a result, there are no residual payments and there is no growth. However, pursuant to the repayment formula, the maximum repayment amount authorized for fiscal year 2014-15 is \$0. Therefore, \$58,273 in Redevelopment Property Tax Trust Fund (RPTTF) funding requested is not allowed.

- Item No. 12 – Housing administrative costs totaling \$150,000 continues to be denied as an enforceable obligation. Finance continues to deny this item. Finance initially denied

this item because the Agency has not provide any new supporting documentation since Finance's previously denial in the ROPS 14-15A Meet and Confer letter dated May 16, 2014. Pursuant to HSC section 34171 (p), the housing entity administrative cost allowance is applicable only in cases where the city, county, or city and county that authorized the creation of the redevelopment agency (RDA) elected to not assume the housing functions. Because the housing entity to the former redevelopment agency of the City of Walnut (City) is the City-formed Housing Authority (Authority) and the Authority operates under the control of the City, the Authority is considered the City under Dissolution Law (ABx1 26 and AB 1484).

The Agency contends that the City elected not to retain the housing functions, but the Authority, as a separate legal entity from the City, assumed the housing functions pursuant to HSC section 34176 (b) and should therefore be eligible for the housing entity administrative allowance. However, pursuant to HSC section 34167.10 (a), the definition of "city" includes, but is not limited to, any reporting entity of the city for purposes of its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR), any component unit of the city, or any entity controlled by the city or for which the city is financially responsible or accountable. HSC section 34167.10 (a) defines "city" for purposes of all of Dissolution Law, which includes HSC section 34171, as amended by AB 471, and HSC section 34176. The Authority is included in the City's CAFR, which identifies the Authority as a component unit of the City and states that the City is financially accountable for the component units.

Although the Authority is a separate legal entity from the City, HSC section 34167.10 (c) states that it shall not be relevant that the entity is formed as a separate legal entity. It should also be noted that HSC section 34167.10 (c) goes on to state that "the provisions of this section are declarative of existing law as the entities described herein are and were intended to be included within the requirements of this part [Part 1.8] and Part 1.85...and any attempt to determine otherwise would thwart the intent of these two parts." Therefore, based on our review, the City, by way of the Authority, elected to retain the housing functions pursuant to HSC section 34176 (a) and is not eligible for \$150,000 of housing entity administrative allowance.

In addition, per Finance's letter dated November 10, 2014, we continue to make the following determinations not contested by the Agency during the Meet and Confer:

- Item No. 11 – Reserve for debt service payment totaling \$252,225. Of the total \$3,610,350 requested, \$252,225 was requested as reserves for debt service payments due in the second half of the calendar year. Finance notes that pursuant to HSC section 34183 (a) (2) (A), debt service payments have first priority for payment from distributed RPTTF funding. As such, the \$252,225 requested to be held in reserve along with the amounts required for the current ROPS period should be transferred upon receipt to the bond trustee(s). The amounts approved for debt service payments on this ROPS are restricted for that purpose and are not authorized to be used for other ROPS items. Any requests to fund these debt service items again in the ROPS 15-16A period will be denied unless insufficient RPTTF was received to satisfy the approved annual debt service payments.

The administrative costs claimed are within the fiscal year administrative cap pursuant to HSC section 34171 (b). However, Finance notes the oversight board has approved an amount that appears excessive, given the number and nature of the 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 14-15B form the estimated obligations and actual payments (prior period adjustments) associated with the January through June 2014 period. HSC section 34186 (a) also specifies prior period adjustments self-reported by successor agencies are subject to review 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 review of the Agency's self-reported prior period adjustment.

Except for the items denied in whole or in part, Finance is not objecting to the remaining items listed on your ROPS 14-15B. The Agency's maximum approved RPTTF distribution for the reporting period is \$3,852,503 as summarized in the Approved RPTTF Distribution Table below:

Approved RPTTF Distribution For the period of January through June 2015	
Total RPTTF requested for non-administrative obligations	3,824,873
Total RPTTF requested for administrative obligations	250,000
Total RPTTF requested for obligations on ROPS	\$ 4,074,873
Total RPTTF requested for non-administrative obligations	3,824,873
<u>Denied Items</u>	
Item No. 3	(58,273)
Item No. 12	(150,000)
	(208,273)
Total RPTTF authorized for non-administrative obligations	\$ 3,616,600
Total RPTTF requested for administrative obligations	250,000
Total RPTTF authorized for administrative obligations	\$ 250,000
Total RPTTF authorized for obligations	\$ 3,866,600
ROPS 13-14B prior period adjustment	(14,097)
Total RPTTF approved for distribution	\$ 3,852,503

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. During the ROPS 14-15B review, Finance requested financial records to support the cash balances reported by the Agency; however, the Agency was unable to support the amounts reported as interest revenue. As a result, Finance will continue to work with the Agency after the ROPS 14-15B review period to properly identify the Agency's cash balances. If it is determined the Agency possesses cash balances that are available to pay approved obligations, the Agency should request the use of these cash balances prior to requesting RPTTF in ROPS 15-16A.

Please refer to the ROPS 14-15B 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 January 1 through June 30, 2015. This determination only applies 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 the 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 agency in the RPTTF.

Pursuant to HSC section 34177 (a) (3), only those payments listed on an approved ROPS may be made by the successor agency from the funds specified in the ROPS. However, if for whatever reason the Agency needs to make payments for approved obligations from another funding source, HSC section 34177 (a) (4) requires the Agency to first obtain oversight board approval.

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 Mary Halterman, Analyst, at (916) 445-1546.

Sincerely,



JUSTYN HOWARD
Acting Program Budget Manager

cc: Ms. Cheryl Murase, HdL-Fiscal Consultant, City of Walnut
Ms. Kristina Burns, Manager, Department of Auditor-Controller, Los Angeles County
California State Controller's Office