DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

EDMUND G. BROWN JR. • GOVERNOR
STATE CAPITOL ■ ROOM 1145 ■ SACRAMENTO CA ■ 95814-4998 ■ WWW.DOF.CA.GOV

March 2, 2012

Dear County Board of Supervisors, City Administrators, and Redevelopment Successor Agency Representatives:

The purpose of this letter is to provide information on some of the most important next steps required to implement Assembly Bill 26, First Extraordinary Session (ABX1 26, Chapter 5, Statutes of 2011), which dissolved redevelopment agencies (RDAs) effective February 1, 2012 and replaced them with successor agencies. According to our records, your city (or county) has chosen to act as the successor agency for your former RDA.

Before it was dissolved, your former RDA submitted to the Department of Finance (Finance) an Enforceable Obligation Payment Schedule (EOPS) which listed the various financial obligations that the RDA believed to be Enforceable Obligations, as that term is defined by ABX1 26. The EOPS should be extended until a Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule (ROPS) listing all enforceable obligations proposed for payment between January 1, 2012 and June 30, 2012 can be adopted and is valid.

Pursuant to the timeline in ABX1 26 as revised by the Supreme Court's order, the first ROPS must be approved in initial form by your successor agency's governing body no later than March 1, 2012. The ROPS must be approved by the oversight board in final form no later than April 15, 2012, and also must be submitted to Finance, the State Controller, and the county auditor-controller for review no later than the April 15, 2012. Beginning May 1, 2012, only those payments on an approved ROPS should be made for the period through June 30, 2012. The ROPS for the period July 1, through December 31, 2012 must be submitted to Finance and the county auditor as soon as possible but no later than May 11. This will leave 10 working days for our review and four working days for the county auditor-controller to prepare to make timely payments to successor agencies and taxing agencies on June 1, 2012, as required by ABX1 26. While Finance will make every effort to reach agreement with successor agencies on items to be included in the ROPS by those dates, additional time may be needed to review complex items. Thus we encourage agencies with complex issues to bring them to our attention as soon as possible.

In order to expedite our review of the ROPS, Finance auditors are currently reviewing the EOPS that has been submitted to identify any items which may require more information to assist our review. We request that your staff cooperate with requests for information. We anticipate that some items that we do not believe are enforceable obligations may be identified in this process and we will be providing you with notice of those so that they may be removed from the ROPS.

Finance staff will notify the staff contact for the successor agency within three days by e-mail if we are exercising our right to further review items in the ROPS. We will provide notice of which items we are reviewing within 10 days. After that notice and after May 1, no payment related to any such items should be made, even if they are on a previously adopted EOPS, until Finance agrees to the inclusion of the item on the ROPS.

While we hope that agreement can be reached on most items, there are likely to be some items included on the ROPS on which agreement cannot be reached by the time payments are to be made to successors and taxing agencies under the law. We believe that the fiduciary duty a successor agency owes to its undisputed creditors takes precedence over any right to dispute whether other items are enforceable obligations. We respect the rights of a successor agency to maintain a different position with regard to such items and recognize that litigation may be necessary to resolve some disputes. We will endeavor to minimize the cost of litigation by continuing to research and discuss any disputed items until it is clear that no mutually satisfactory resolution is possible. Once a payment date is reached, Finance views the undisputed items to be the ROPS for purposes of distribution of funds from the Redevelopment Property Tax Trust Fund for that six month period and will be providing notice to the county auditor of those items no later than five working days prior to a statutory distribution date. If resolution of the dispute later determines that an item is an enforceable obligation, it may be placed on the next ROPS.

The review of the ROPS by the public and the oversight board is very important and adequate time should be allowed for this to take place. Given these compressed timeframes, we believe it would be prudent for your oversight board to review, approve, and submit the ROPS to Finance at the earliest possible time. If we object to any items on your ROPS, this early submittal will help ensure any problems are resolved before May 1 and May 11 deadlines, thereby enabling your Successor Agency to make debt payments timely and to receive funding for all enforceable obligations.

Your successor agency's oversight board has seven members, of whom one is appointed by the city, two by the county board of supervisors, one by the county superintendent of education, one by the California Community Colleges, one by the largest special district by property tax share with territory in the former RDA's project areas, and one to represent the employees of the former RDA. Since the ROPS must be approved by the oversight board by April 15, and since the ROPS cannot be submitted to Finance until it has been approved by the oversight board, we encourage you to work expeditiously with the various appointing powers to ensure they name their oversight board members as soon as possible.

Finally, ABX1 26 states that the initial ROPS must be submitted to the auditor performing the agreed upon procedures audit for review. While it would be preferred that this take place in conjunction with the completion of the agreed upon procedures audit, this review of the initial ROPS is a separate action that should not be delayed pending completion of the audit.

County auditor-controllers have until July 1, 2012 to arrange for completion of these audits pursuant to the California Supreme Court's revised ABX1 26 timeline, and we understand many auditors may require even longer to actually complete the audits. Consequently, if the auditor designated by your county auditor-controller states the review of the ROPS cannot be completed by April 15, we advise you to submit your ROPS to Finance without waiting for the auditor's review. If, however, your auditor states they will complete the ROPS review by April 15, we advise you to not submit the ROPS until the review is complete. We advise you to consult your county auditor-controller on the timing of the agreed-upon-procedures audit.

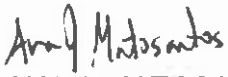
We would appreciate receiving a copy of the auditor's report when it is completed. This will help expedite review of your ROPS.

The Department of Finance website contains substantial additional information about ABX1 26 that is updated as we develop responses to questions and work with other parties. This can be found at the following link:

http://www.dof.ca.gov/assembly_bills_26-27/view.php

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please direct any questions to Finance staff at (916) 445-1546, or send an e-mail to: redevelopment_administration@dof.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



ANA J. MATOSANTOS
Director