

# **CITY OF CHICO**

Audit Report

## **SPECIAL GAS TAX STREET IMPROVEMENT FUND**

*July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015*



**BETTY T. YEE**  
California State Controller

July 2016



**BETTY T. YEE**  
California State Controller

July 22, 2016

The Honorable Mark Sorensen  
Mayor of the City of Chico  
P.O. Box 3420  
Chico, CA 95927

Dear Mayor Sorensen:

The State Controller's Office audited the City of Chico's Special Gas Tax Street Improvement Fund for the period of July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015.

Our audit found that the city accounted for and expended its Special Gas Tax Street Improvement Fund in compliance with requirements, and that no adjustment to the funds is required.

If you have any questions, please contact Christopher Lek, Interim Chief, Local Government Audits Bureau, by telephone at (916) 284-0120.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by*

JEFFREY V. BROWNFIELD, CPA  
Chief, Division of Audits

JVB/as

cc: Frank Fields, Administrative Services Director  
City of Chico

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# Audit Report

## Summary

The State Controller's Office (SCO) audited the City of Chico's Special Gas Tax Street Improvement Fund for the period of July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015.

Our audit found that the city accounted for and expended its Special Gas Tax Street Improvement Fund in compliance with requirements, and that no adjustment to the funds is required.

## Background

The State apportions funds monthly from the Highway Users Tax Account (HUTA) in the Transportation Tax Fund to cities and counties for the construction, maintenance, and operation of local streets and roads. The highway users taxes derive from State taxes on the sale of motor vehicle fuels. In accordance with Article XIX of the California Constitution and Streets and Highways Code section 2101, a city must deposit all apportionments of highway users taxes in its Special Gas Tax Street Improvement Fund. A city must expend gas tax funds only for street-related purposes. We conducted our audit of the city's Special Gas Tax Street Improvement Fund under the authority of Government Code section 12410.

## Objectives, Scope, and Methodology

Our audit objectives were to determine whether the city accounted for and expended its Special Gas Tax Street Improvement Fund in compliance with Article XIX of the California Constitution and the Streets and Highways Code.

We audited the city's Special Gas Tax Street Improvement Fund for the period of July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015.

To meet the objectives, we performed the following:

- Gained a limited understanding of internal controls that would have an effect on the reliability of the accounting records of the Special Gas Tax Street Improvement Fund by interviewing key personnel, completing the internal control questionnaire, reviewing the city's organization chart, and assessing the reliability of computer-processed data;
- Conducted a risk assessment to determine the nature, timing, and extent of substantive testing;
- Performed analytical procedures to determine and explain the existence of unusual or unexpected account balances;
- Verified the accuracy of the fund balance by performing a fund balance reconciliation for the period of July 1, 2001, through June 30, 2014, and by recalculating the trial balance for the period of July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015;

- Verified whether the components of and changes to the fund balance were properly computed, described, classified, and disclosed by scheduling and analyzing the Special Gas Tax Street Improvement Fund;
- Reconciled the revenue recorded in the city ledger to the amounts reported in the SCO's apportionment schedule for FY 2014-15 to determine whether HUTA apportionments received by the city were completely accounted for;
- Reviewed city accruals and adjustments for validity and eligibility;
- Analyzed the system used to allocate interest and determined whether the interest revenue allocated to the Special Gas Tax Street Improvement Fund was fair and equitable, by interviewing key personnel and recalculating a sample of interest allocations;
- Reviewed the fund cash and liabilities accounts for unauthorized borrowing to determine whether unexpended HUTA funds were available for future street-related expenditures and protected from impairment; and
- Verified whether the expenditures incurred during FY 2014-15 were supported by proper documentation and eligible in accordance with the criteria above by testing 100% of the expenditure transactions that were equal to or greater than the significant item amount (calculated based on materiality threshold), and selecting samples of other transactions for the following categories based on our judgment (for the selected sample, errors found will not be projected to the intended population):
  - Services and Supplies – We tested \$341,037 of \$818,371 total services and supplies expenditures.
  - Indirect – We tested \$95,843 of \$139,230 total indirect costs.
  - Transfers – We tested \$492,134 of \$1,125,894 total transfers.

We did not audit the city's financial statements. We limited our audit scope to planning and performing audit procedures necessary to obtain reasonable assurance that the city accounted for and expended its Special Gas Tax Street Improvement Fund in accordance with the criteria above. We considered the city's internal controls only to the extent necessary to plan the audit.

We conducted this performance audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives.

**Conclusion**

Our audit found that the City of Chico accounted for and expended its Special Gas Tax Street Improvement Fund in compliance with Article XIX of the California Constitution and the Streets and Highways Code for the period of July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015.

**Follow-Up on Prior Audit Findings**

The city satisfactorily resolved the findings noted in our prior audit report, issued on April 16, 2003.

**Views of Responsible Officials**

We discussed the audit results with city representatives during a telephone exit conference on May 19, 2016. Scott Dowell, Accounting Manager, agreed with the audit results. Mr. Dowell further agreed that a draft audit report was not necessary and that the audit report could be issued as final.

**Restricted Use**

This report is intended for the information and use of the City of Chico and the SCO; it is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties. This restriction is not intended to limit distribution of this report, which is a matter of public record.

*Original signed by*

JEFFREY V. BROWNFIELD, CPA  
Chief, Division of Audits

July 22, 2016

**Schedule 1—  
Reconciliation of Fund Balance  
July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015**

	Special Gas Tax Street Improvement Fund <sup>1</sup>
Beginning fund balance per city	\$ 1,357,942
Revenues	<u>2,280,523</u>
Total funds available	3,638,465
Expenditures	<u>(2,083,495)</u>
Ending fund balance per city	<u>1,554,970</u>
Ending fund balance per audit	<u><u>\$ 1,554,970</u></u>

<sup>1</sup> The city receives apportionments from the State HUTA, pursuant to Streets and Highways Code sections 2103, 2105, 2106, 2107, and 2107.5. The basis of the apportionments varies, but the money may be used for any street purpose. Streets and Highways Code section 2107.5 restricts apportionments to administration and engineering expenditures, except for cities with populations of fewer than 10,000 inhabitants. Those cities may use the funds for rights-of-way and for the construction of street systems. The city must deposit its HUTA apportionments in its Special Gas Tax Street Improvement Fund.

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