

# **CITY OF SALINAS**

Audit Report

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

*July 1, 2001, through June 30, 2012*

## **TRAFFIC CONGESTION RELIEF FUND ALLOCATIONS**

*July 1, 2001, through June 30, 2012*

## **PROPOSITION 1B FUND ALLOCATIONS**

*July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2012*



**JOHN CHIANG**  
California State Controller

October 2014



**JOHN CHIANG**  
**California State Controller**

October 14, 2014

The Honorable Joe Gunter  
Mayor of the City of Salinas  
200 Lincoln Avenue  
Salinas, CA 93901

Dear Mayor Gunter:

The State Controller's Office audited the City of Salinas' Special Gas Tax Street Improvement Fund for the period of July 1, 2001, through June 30, 2012. We also audited the Traffic Congestion Relief Fund (TCRF) allocations, recorded in the Special Construction Assistance Fund, for the period of July 1, 2001, through June 30, 2012, as well as audited the Proposition 1B Fund allocations, also recorded in the Special Construction Assistance Fund, for the period of July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2012.

Our audit found that the city accounted for and expended its Special Gas Tax Street Improvement Fund, TCRF allocations, and Proposition 1B Fund allocations in compliance with requirements, and that no adjustment to the funds is required.

If you have any questions, please contact Steven Mar, Chief, Local Government Audits Bureau, at (916) 324-7226.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by*

JEFFREY V. BROWNFIELD, CPA  
Chief, Division of Audits

JVB/mh

cc: Matt N. Pressey, Finance Director  
City of Salinas  
Steve Mar, Bureau Chief  
Division of Audits, State Controller's Office  
Mike Spalj, Audit Manager  
Division of Audits, State Controller's Office

# Contents

## Audit Report

<b>Summary</b> .....	1
<b>Background</b> .....	1
<b>Objective, Scope, and Methodology</b> .....	2
<b>Conclusion</b> .....	2
<b>Follow-Up on Prior Audit Findings</b> .....	3
<b>Views of Responsible Officials</b> .....	3
<b>Restricted Use</b> .....	3
<b>Schedule 1—Reconciliation of Fund Balance</b> .....	4

# Audit Report

## Summary

The State Controller's Office audited the City of Salinas' Special Gas Tax Street Improvement Fund for the period of July 1, 2001, through June 30, 2012. We also audited the Traffic Congestion Relief Fund, (TCRF) allocations, recorded in the Special Construction Assistance Fund, for the period of July 1, 2001, through June 30, 2012, as well as audited the Proposition 1B Fund allocations, also recorded in the Special Construction Assistance Fund, for the period of July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2012.

Our audit found that the city accounted for and expended its Special Gas Tax Street Improvement Fund, TCRF allocations, and Proposition 1B Fund allocations 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 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.

Government Code section 14556.5 created a Traffic Congestion Relief Fund in the State Treasury for allocating funds quarterly to cities and counties for street or road maintenance, reconstruction, and storm damage repair. Cities must deposit funds received into the city account designated for the receipt of state funds allocated for transportation purposes. The city recorded its TCRF allocations in the Special Construction Assistance Fund. We conducted our audit of the city's TCRF allocations under the authority of Revenue and Taxation Code section 7104.

Senate Bill 1266, Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, and Port Security Bond Act of 2006, was introduced as Proposition 1B and approved by the voters on November 7, 2006, for a variety of transportation priorities, including the maintenance and improvement of local transportation facilities. Proposition 1B funds transferred to cities and counties shall be deposited into an account that is designated for the receipt of state funds allocated for streets and roads. The city recorded its Proposition 1B allocations in the Special Construction Assistance Fund. A city also is required to expend its allocations within four years following the end of the fiscal year in which the allocation was made and to expend the allocation in compliance with Government Code section 8879.23. We conducted our review of the city's Proposition 1B allocations under the authority of Government Code section 12410.

**Objective, Scope, and Methodology**

Our audit objective was to determine whether the city accounted for and expended the Special Gas Tax Street Improvement Fund, TCRF allocations, recorded in the Special Construction Assistance Fund, and Proposition 1B Fund allocations, also recorded in Special Construction Assistance Fund, in compliance with Article XIX of the California Constitution, the Streets and Highways Code, and Government Code section 8879.23. To meet the audit objective, we determined whether the city:

- Properly deposited highway users tax apportionments and other appropriate revenues in the Special Gas Tax Street Improvement Fund;
- Properly deposited TCRF allocations into an account designated for the receipt of state funds allocated for transportation purposes;
- Expended funds exclusively for authorized street-related purposes; and
- Made available unexpended funds for future expenditures.

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.

We did not audit the city's financial statements. We limited our audit scope to planning and performing the audit procedures necessary to obtain reasonable assurance that the city accounted for and expended the Special Gas Tax Street Improvement Fund, the TCRF allocations recorded in the Special Construction Assistant Fund, and Proposition 1B Fund in accordance with the requirements of the Streets and Highways Code, Revenue and Taxation Code section 7104, and Government Code section 8879.23. Accordingly, we examined transactions, on a test basis, to determine whether the city expended funds for street purposes. We considered the city's internal controls only to the extent necessary to plan the audit.

**Conclusion**

Our audit found that the City of Salinas 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, 2001, through June 30, 2012.

Our audit also found that the city accounted for and expended its TCRF allocations, recorded in the Special Construction Assistance Fund, in compliance with Article XIX of the California Constitution, the Streets and Highways Code, and Revenue and Taxation Code section 7104 for the period of July 1, 2001, through June 30, 2012.

In addition, our audit found that the city accounted for and expended its Proposition 1B Fund allocations, also recorded in the Special Construction Assistance Fund, in compliance with Government Code section 8879.23 for the period of July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2012.

**Follow-Up on Prior Audit Findings**

Our prior audit report, issued on September 30, 2002, disclosed no findings.

**Views of Responsible Officials**

We discussed the audit results with city representatives during an exit conference on May 22, 2014. Miguel Gutierrez, Accounting Officer and Elizabeth Mariano, Supervising Accountant, agreed with the audit results. Mr. Gutierrez and Ms. Mariano 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 Salinas' management 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

October 14, 2014

**Schedule 1—  
Reconciliation of Fund Balance  
July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2012**

	Special Gas Tax Street Improvement Fund	Special Construction Assistance Fund	
	Highway Users Tax Allocations <sup>1</sup>	Traffic Congestion Relief Fund Allocations <sup>2</sup>	Proposition 1B Fund Allocations <sup>3</sup>
Beginning fund balance per city	\$ 1,847,524	\$ 368,742	\$ 320
Revenues	<u>4,358,966</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
Total funds available	6,206,490	368,742	320
Expenditures	<u>(3,700,089)</u>	<u>(368,742)</u>	<u>—</u>
Ending fund balance per city	<u>2,506,401</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>320</u>
Timing adjustment:			
Accrual of July 2012/Reversal of July 2011 highway users tax apportionment (Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 34)	<u>(26,567)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
Ending fund balance per audit	<u>\$ 2,479,834</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 320</u>

<sup>1</sup> The city receives apportionments from the State highway users tax account, 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 audit period was July 1, 2001, through June 30, 2012; however, this schedule includes only the period of July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2012.

<sup>2</sup> Government Code section 14556.5 created a Traffic Congestion Relief Fund (TCRF) in the State Treasury for allocating funds quarterly to cities and counties for street and road maintenance, reconstruction, and storm damage repair. The TCRF allocations were recorded in the Special Construction Assistance Fund. The audit period was July 1, 2001, through June 30, 2012.

<sup>3</sup> Senate Bill 1266, Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, and Port Security Bond Act of 2006, introduced as Proposition 1B, provided funds for a variety of transportation priorities. The audit period was July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2012.

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