

RIVERSIDE COUNTY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Review Report

ASSET TRANSFER REVIEW

January 1, 2011, through January 31, 2012



JOHN CHIANG
California State Controller

December 2014



JOHN CHIANG
California State Controller

December 26, 2014

Alex Gann, Deputy County Executive Officer
Riverside County Redevelopment/Successor Agency
4080 Lemon Street, 4th Floor
Riverside, CA 92501

Dear Mr. Gann:

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 34167.5, the State Controller's Office (SCO) reviewed all asset transfers made by the Riverside County Redevelopment Agency (RDA) to Riverside County (County) or any other public agency after January 1, 2011. This statutory provision states, "The Legislature hereby finds that a transfer of assets by a redevelopment agency during the period covered in this section is deemed not to be in furtherance of the Community Redevelopment Law and is thereby unauthorized." Therefore, our review included an assessment of whether each asset transfer was allowable and whether the asset should be turned over to the Successor Agency.

Our review applied to all assets including, but not limited to, real and personal property, cash funds, accounts receivable, deeds of trust and mortgages, contract rights, and rights to payment of any kind. We also reviewed and determined whether any unallowable transfers to the County or any other public agency have been reversed.

Our review found that the RDA transferred \$506,280,675 in assets after January 1, 2011, including unallowable transfers to the County totaling \$1,589,879, or less than 1% of transferred assets.

However, on July 11, 2013, the County turned over \$1,589,879 in cash to the Successor Agency. Therefore, no further action is necessary.

If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth González, Chief, Local Government Compliance Bureau, by telephone at (916) 324-0622 or by email at egonzalez@sco.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

JEFFREY V. BROWNFIELD, CPA
Chief, Division of Audits

JVB/sk

cc: Paul Angulo, Auditor-Controller
Riverside County
John J. Benoit, Oversight Board Chair
Board of Supervisors, Member, 4th District
Riverside County
David Botelho, Program Budget Manager
California Department of Finance
Richard J. Chivaro, Chief Legal Counsel
State Controller's Office
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Asset Transfer Review Report

Summary

The State Controller's Office (SCO) reviewed the asset transfers made by the Riverside County Redevelopment Agency (RDA) after January 1, 2011. Our review included, but was not limited to, real and personal property, cash funds, accounts receivable, deeds of trust and mortgages, contract rights, and rights to payments of any kind from any source.

Our review found that the RDA transferred \$506,280,675 in assets after January 1, 2011, including unallowable transfers to Riverside County (County) totaling \$1,589,879, or less than 1% of transferred assets.

However, on July 11, 2013, the County turned over \$1,589,879 in cash to the Successor Agency. Therefore, no further action is necessary.

Background

In January of 2011, the Governor of the State of California proposed statewide elimination of redevelopment agencies (RDAs) beginning with the fiscal year (FY) 2011-12 State budget. The Governor's proposal was incorporated into Assembly Bill 26 (ABX1 26, Chapter 5, Statutes of 2011, First Extraordinary Session), which was passed by the Legislature, and signed into law by the Governor on June 28, 2011.

ABX1 26 prohibited RDAs from engaging in new business, established mechanisms and timelines for dissolution of the RDAs, and created RDA successor agencies and oversight boards to oversee dissolution of the RDAs and redistribution of RDA assets.

A California Supreme Court decision on December 28, 2011 (*California Redevelopment Association et al. v. Matosantos*), upheld ABX1 26 and the Legislature's constitutional authority to dissolve the RDAs.

ABX1 26 was codified in the Health and Safety (H&S) Code beginning with section 34161.

H&S Code section 34167.5 states in part, ". . . the Controller shall review the activities of redevelopment agencies in the state to determine whether an asset transfer has occurred after January 1, 2011, between the city or county, or city and county that created a redevelopment agency or any other public agency, and the redevelopment agency."

The SCO identified asset transfers that occurred after January 1, 2011, between the RDA, the County and/or any other public agency. By law, the SCO is required to order that such assets, except those that already had been committed to a third party prior to June 28, 2011, the effective date of ABX1 26, be turned over to the Successor Agency. In addition, the SCO may file a legal action to ensure compliance with this order.

Objective, Scope, and Methodology

Our review objective was to determine whether asset transfers that occurred after January 1, 2011, and the date upon which the RDA ceased to operate, or January 31, 2012, whichever was earlier, between the city or county, or city and county that created an RDA or any other public agency, and the RDA, were appropriate.

We performed the following procedures:

- Interviewed Successor Agency personnel to gain an understanding of the Successor Agency's operations and procedures.
- Reviewed meeting minutes, resolutions, and ordinances of the County, the RDA, the Successor Agency, and the Oversight Board.
- Reviewed accounting records relating to the recording of assets.
- Verified the accuracy of the Asset Transfer Assessment Form. This form was sent to all former RDAs to provide a list of all assets transferred between January 1, 2011, and January 31, 2012.
- Reviewed applicable financial reports to verify assets (capital, cash, property, etc.).

Conclusion

Our review found that the Riverside County Redevelopment Agency transferred \$506,280,675 in assets after January 1, 2011, including unallowable transfers to Riverside County (County) totaling \$1,589,879, or less than 1% of transferred assets.

However, on July 11, 2013, the County turned over \$1,589,879 in cash to the Successor Agency. Therefore, no further action is necessary.

Details of our findings are described in the Findings and Orders of the Controller section of this report.

Views of Responsible Officials

At an exit conference on November 24, 2014, we discussed the review results with Imelda Delos Santos, County Management Auditor, who agreed with the review results. Ms. Santos further agreed that a draft report was not necessary and that the report could be issued as final.

Restricted Use

This report is solely for the information and use of Riverside County, the Successor Agency, the Oversight Board, 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 when issued final.

Original signed by

JEFFREY V. BROWNFIELD, CPA
Chief, Division of Audits

December 26, 2014

Finding and Order of the Controller

**FINDING—
Unallowable asset
transfers to the
Riverside County**

The Riverside County Redevelopment Agency (RDA) made an unallowable asset transfer of \$1,589,879 to Riverside County (County). The transfer occurred after January 1, 2011, and the assets were not contractually committed to a third party prior to June 28, 2011.

On various dates, the RDA transferred \$1,589,879 in cash to the County to repay loans for the Tech Park project.

Pursuant to Health and Safety (H&S) Code section 34167.5, the RDA may not transfer assets to a city, county, city and county, or any other public agency after January 1, 2011. The assets must be turned over to the Successor Agency for disposition in accordance with H&S Code section 34177(d) and (e).

Order of the Controller

Pursuant to H&S Code section 34167.5, the County is ordered to reverse the transfers totaling \$1,589,879 and turn over the assets to the Successor Agency.

However, on July 11, 2013, the County turned over \$1,589,879 in cash to the Successor Agency. Therefore, no further action is necessary.

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