

Assembly Bill No. 1963

CHAPTER 146

An act to amend Sections 34176 and 34191.3 of, and to repeal Section 34178.8 of, the Health and Safety Code, relating to redevelopment, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

[Approved by Governor July 18, 2014. Filed with
Secretary of State July 18, 2014.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1963, Atkins. Redevelopment.

(1) The Community Redevelopment Law authorized the establishment of redevelopment agencies in communities to address the effects of blight, as defined. Existing law dissolved redevelopment agencies as of February 1, 2012, and provides for the designation of successor agencies, as defined. Existing law requires successor agencies to wind down the affairs of the dissolved redevelopment agencies, subject to review by oversight boards. The oversight board is required to direct a successor agency to, and a successor agency is required to, among other things, dispose of assets and properties of the former redevelopment agency as directed by the oversight board. Existing law suspends this requirement, except as it applies to the transfer of assets and properties for governmental use, until the Department of Finance has approved a long-range property management plan, as specified. Upon approval of a long-range property management plan, the plan governs and supersedes all other provisions relating to the disposition and use of the real property assets of the former redevelopment agency. If the department has not approved a long-range property management plan by January 1, 2015, existing law requires the property of a former redevelopment agency to be disposed of according to law.

This bill would instead require the property of a former redevelopment agency to be disposed of according to law if the department has not approved a long-range property management plan by January 1, 2016.

(2) Existing law requires the Controller to review the activities of successor agencies in the state to determine if an asset transfer has occurred after January 31, 2012, between the successor agency and the city, county, or city and county that created a redevelopment agency, or any other public agency, that was not made pursuant to an enforceable obligation on an approved and valid Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule, and if so, to order the return of the asset, except as specified. Existing law further requires an affected local agency, upon receiving such an order from the Controller, to reverse the transfer and return the applicable assets to the successor agency.

This bill would repeal those requirements and make a conforming change.

(3) This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 34176 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

34176. (a) (1) The city, county, or city and county that authorized the creation of a redevelopment agency may elect to retain the housing assets and functions previously performed by the redevelopment agency. If a city, county, or city and county elects to retain the authority to perform housing functions previously performed by a redevelopment agency, all rights, powers, duties, obligations, and housing assets, as defined in subdivision (e), excluding any amounts on deposit in the Low and Moderate Income Housing Fund and enforceable obligations retained by the successor agency, shall be transferred to the city, county, or city and county.

(2) The housing successor shall submit to the Department of Finance by August 1, 2012, a list of all housing assets that contains an explanation of how the assets meet the criteria specified in subdivision (e). The Department of Finance shall prescribe the format for the submission of the list. The list shall include assets transferred between February 1, 2012, and the date upon which the list is created. The department shall have up to 30 days from the date of receipt of the list to object to any of the assets or transfers of assets identified on the list. If the Department of Finance objects to assets on the list, the housing successor may request a meet and confer process within five business days of receiving the department objection. If the transferred asset is deemed not to be a housing asset as defined in subdivision (e), it shall be returned to the successor agency. If a housing asset has been previously pledged to pay for bonded indebtedness, the successor agency shall maintain control of the asset in order to pay for the bond debt.

(3) For purposes of this section and Section 34176.1, "housing successor" means the entity assuming the housing function of a former redevelopment agency pursuant to this section.

(b) If a city, county, or city and county does not elect to retain the responsibility for performing housing functions previously performed by a redevelopment agency, all rights, powers, assets, duties, and obligations associated with the housing activities of the agency, excluding enforceable obligations retained by the successor agency and any amounts in the Low and Moderate Income Housing Fund, shall be transferred as follows:

(1) If there is no local housing authority in the territorial jurisdiction of the former redevelopment agency, to the Department of Housing and Community Development.

(2) If there is one local housing authority in the territorial jurisdiction of the former redevelopment agency, to that local housing authority.

(3) If there is more than one local housing authority in the territorial jurisdiction of the former redevelopment agency, to the local housing

authority selected by the city, county, or city and county that authorized the creation of the redevelopment agency.

(c) Commencing on the operative date of this part, the housing successor may enforce affordability covenants and perform related activities pursuant to applicable provisions of the Community Redevelopment Law (Part 1 (commencing with Section 33000)), including, but not limited to, Section 33418.

(d) Except as specifically provided in Section 34191.4, any funds transferred to the housing successor, together with any funds generated from housing assets, as defined in subdivision (e), shall be maintained in a separate Low and Moderate Income Housing Asset Fund which is hereby created in the accounts of the housing successor.

(e) For purposes of this part, “housing asset” includes all of the following:

(1) Any real property, interest in, or restriction on the use of real property, whether improved or not, and any personal property provided in residences, including furniture and appliances, all housing-related files and loan documents, office supplies, software licenses, and mapping programs, that were acquired for low- and moderate-income housing purposes, either by purchase or through a loan, in whole or in part, with any source of funds.

(2) Any funds that are encumbered by an enforceable obligation to build or acquire low- and moderate-income housing, as defined by the Community Redevelopment Law (Part 1 (commencing with Section 33000)) unless required in the bond covenants to be used for repayment purposes of the bond.

(3) Any loan or grant receivable, funded from the Low and Moderate Income Housing Fund, from homebuyers, homeowners, nonprofit or for-profit developers, and other parties that require occupancy by persons of low or moderate income as defined by the Community Redevelopment Law (Part 1 (commencing with Section 33000)).

(4) Any funds derived from rents or operation of properties acquired for low- and moderate-income housing purposes by other parties that were financed with any source of funds, including residual receipt payments from developers, conditional grant repayments, cost savings and proceeds from refinancing, and principal and interest payments from homebuyers subject to enforceable income limits.

(5) A stream of rents or other payments from housing tenants or operators of low- and moderate-income housing financed with any source of funds that are used to maintain, operate, and enforce the affordability of housing or for enforceable obligations associated with low- and moderate-income housing.

(6) (A) Repayments of loans or deferrals owed to the Low and Moderate Income Housing Fund pursuant to subparagraph (G) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 34171, which shall be used consistent with the affordable housing requirements in the Community Redevelopment Law (Part 1 (commencing with Section 33000)).

(B) Loan or deferral repayments shall not be made prior to the 2013–14 fiscal year. Beginning in the 2013–14 fiscal year, the maximum repayment

amount authorized each fiscal year for repayments made pursuant to this paragraph and subdivision (b) of Section 34191.4 combined shall be equal to one-half of the increase between the amount distributed to taxing entities pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (a) of Section 34183 in that fiscal year and the amount distributed to taxing entities pursuant to that paragraph in the 2012–13 base year. Loan or deferral repayments made pursuant to this paragraph shall take priority over amounts to be repaid pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 34191.4.

(f) If a development includes both low- and moderate-income housing that meets the definition of a housing asset under subdivision (e) and other types of property use, including, but not limited to, commercial use, governmental use, open space, and parks, the oversight board shall consider the overall value to the community as well as the benefit to taxing entities of keeping the entire development intact or dividing the title and control over the property between the housing successor and the successor agency or other public or private agencies. The disposition of those assets may be accomplished by a revenue-sharing arrangement as approved by the oversight board on behalf of the affected taxing entities.

(g) (1) (A) The housing successor may designate the use of and commit indebtedness obligation proceeds that remain after the satisfaction of enforceable obligations that have been approved in a Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule and that are consistent with the indebtedness obligation covenants. The proceeds shall be derived from indebtedness obligations that were issued for the purposes of affordable housing prior to January 1, 2011, and were backed by the Low and Moderate Income Housing Fund. Enforceable obligations may be satisfied by the creation of reserves for the projects that are the subject of the enforceable obligation that are consistent with the contractual obligations for those projects, or by expending funds to complete the projects.

(B) The housing successor shall provide notice to the successor agency of any designations of use or commitments of funds specified in subparagraph (A) that it wishes to make at least 20 days before the deadline for submission of the Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule to the oversight board. Commitments and designations shall not be valid and binding on any party until they are included in an approved and valid Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule. The review of these designations and commitments by the successor agency, oversight board, and Department of Finance shall be limited to a determination that the designations and commitments are consistent with bond covenants and that there are sufficient funds available.

(2) Funds shall be used and committed in a manner consistent with the purposes of the Low and Moderate Income Housing Asset Fund. Notwithstanding any other law, the successor agency shall retain and expend the excess housing obligation proceeds at the discretion of the housing successor, provided that the successor agency ensures that the proceeds are expended in a manner consistent with the indebtedness obligation covenants and with any requirements relating to the tax status of those obligations.

The amount expended shall not exceed the amount of indebtedness obligation proceeds available and such expenditure shall constitute the creation of excess housing proceeds expenditures to be paid from the excess proceeds. Excess housing proceeds expenditures shall be listed separately on the Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule submitted by the successor agency.

(h) This section shall not be construed to provide any stream of tax increment financing.

SEC. 2. Section 34178.8 of the Health and Safety Code is repealed.

SEC. 3. Section 34191.3 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

34191.3. Notwithstanding Section 34191.1, the requirements specified in subdivision (e) of Section 34177 and subdivision (a) of Section 34181 shall be suspended, except as those provisions apply to the transfers for governmental use, until the Department of Finance has approved a long-range property management plan pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 34191.5, at which point the plan shall govern, and supersede all other provisions relating to, the disposition and use of the real property assets of the former redevelopment agency. If the department has not approved a plan by January 1, 2016, subdivision (e) of Section 34177 and subdivision (a) of Section 34181 shall be operative with respect to that successor agency.

SEC. 4. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

Because the Legislature's intent in passing Assembly Bill 1484 (Chapter 26 of the Statutes of 2012) was to prevent the "fire sale" of property through the approval of long-range property management plans, it is crucial that each successor agency that receives a finding of completion is also able to receive an approval for that successor agency's long-range property management plan as quickly as possible.