## COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO CALIFORNIA

For the Agenda of: January 9, 2018

To:	Board of Supervisors
From:	Department of Finance
Subject:	Relief Of Accountability For Uncollectible Accounts For The Department Of Revenue Recovery In The Amount Of \$1,350,962.77 (Period Covering January 1, 2017 To June 30, 2017)
Supervisorial District(s):	All
Contacts:	Connie Ahmed, Department of Revenue Recovery, 875-7855 (Questions relating to the request for relief of accountability)
	Alan A. Matré, Department of Finance, 874-7259 (Questions relating to the review of the request)

### Overview

The Department of Revenue Recovery (DRR) requests relief of accountability for uncollectible accounts (ATT 1). DRR is authorized by Resolution No. 99-0158 to write-off account receivables that meet specific criteria, as outlined in the resolution. The Department of Finance reviewed DRR's relief of accountability for uncollectible accounts and finds the receivables appropriate for write-off. Relief of accountability does not eliminate the debt. DRR may reactivate an account if a debtor is located, receives a new charge, or receives a payment.

## Recommendation

Approve the attached request for relief of accountability from DRR for uncollectible account receivables and compromise adjustments totaling \$1,350,962.77 (ATT 2) for the period January 1, 2017 to June 30, 2017.

### **Measures/Evaluation**

Not Applicable.

## **Fiscal Impact**

The net fiscal impact to the County is an uncertain loss of revenue from the receivables that are being written-off or adjusted due to compromise settlements. Due to the fact that the realization of the revenues was always doubtful, they have never been "accrued" in the County's official account receivables. The County's estimated General Fund share of the receivables is approximately 42.33% or \$571,823.62 for the period January 1, 2017 to June 30, 2017. Granting relief of accountability does not eliminate debt for written-off amounts. DRR may reactivate a "bad debt" account if a debtor is located.

Relief Of Accountability For Uncollectible Accounts For The Department Of Revenue Recovery In The Amount Of \$1,350,962.77 (Period Covering January 1, 2017 To June 30, 2017) Page 2

## BACKGROUND

DRR is authorized by Resolution No. 99-0158 to write-off account receivables that meet specific criteria, as outlined in the resolution. The Department of Finance reviews these accounts for propriety prior to DRR writing them off. Department of Finance staff completed this review and finds the receivables appropriate for write-off. Resolution No. 99-0158 specifies that relief of accountability for any individual account (debt) with outstanding balances shall be approved by the Board of Supervisors. The County Executive shall present debt to be discharged by the Board of Supervisors periodically. The Board last approved DRR accounts receivable losses on October 17, 2017, for the period January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016.

## **DISCUSSION**

Attached is the request from DRR for relief of accountability for account receivables and compromise adjustments in the amount of \$1,350,962.77 for the period of January 1, 2017 to June 30, 2017. Of the total requested for relief, \$124,468.23 (approximately 9.21%) involves compromise settlements and/or adjustments. The remaining \$1,226,494.54 (approximately 90.79%) is for bad debts caused by the death of the debtor without the ability to collect from the debtor's estate. Or, the debt is legally uncollectible byway of court ordered discharge (including bankruptcy) or statute of limitations.

Relief of accountability does not eliminate the debt. DRR may reactivate an account if a debtor is located, receives a new charge or receives a payment.

Also attached is the Department of Finance's Internal Audits staff report (ATT 3) for this request. The results of the review confirmed that the circumstances related to the loss have been properly reported and reviewed as required by Volume IV, Chapter VII of the County's Accounting System and Procedure Manual. The results of that review did not indicate evidence of fraud or gross negligence on the part of County management.

## FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The net fiscal impact to the County is an uncertain loss of revenue from the receivables that are being written-off or adjusted due to compromise settlements. Due to the fact that the realization of the revenues from these receivables was always doubtful, they have never been "accrued" in the County's official account receivables. The County's estimated General Fund share of the receivables is approximately 42.33% or \$571,823.62. Granting relief of accountability does not eliminate debt for written-off amounts. DRR may reactivate a "bad debt" account if a debtor is located.

Relief Of Accountability For Uncollectible Accounts For The Department Of Revenue Recovery In The Amount Of \$1,350,962.77 (Period Covering January 1, 2017 To June 30, 2017) Page 3

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED: NAVDEEP S. GILL County Executive

BEN LAMERA, Director Department of Finance

By:

DAVID VILLANUEVA, Deputy County Executive

Attachments:

- ATT 1 Department of Revenue Recovery's Request for Relief of Accountability Memorandum January 1, 2017 to June 30, 2017
- ATT 2 Department of Revenue Recovery's Request for Relief of Accountability January 1, 2017 to June 30, 2017 in the amount of \$1,350,962.77
- ATT 3 Department of Finance, Auditor-Controller Division, Internal Audit's Staff Report January 1, 2017 to June 30, 2017

# **COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO**

Inter-Department Correspondence

- Date: August 04, 2017
- To: Ben Lamera Director of Finance
- From: Connie Ahmed Director of Revenue Recovery
- Subject: REQUEST FOR RELIEF OF ACCOUNTABILITY: Department of Revenue Recovery's Uncollectible Accounts (January 1, 2017 to June 30, 2017)

**Recommendation** That you submit to the Board of Supervisors for approval, the request for relief of accountability from the Department of Revenue Recovery (DRR) for uncollectible accounts receivable and compromise adjustments totaling \$1,350,962.77 for the following period:

January 1, 2017 to June 30, 2017

Background

The last request for relief of accountability submitted for DRR covered the period January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016. This request covers the period from January 1, 2017 to June 30, 2017.

Discussion

The Board of supervisors has established the following general criteria for relief of accountability:

- 1. Deceased, No Estate. There is no way to collect on these accounts.
- 2. <u>Legally Uncollectible</u>. This includes debts discharged by court order including bankruptcy discharge, debts where statute of limitations to enforce collection has expired or where the corporation is suspended by the Secretary of State or otherwise defunct.
- 3. <u>Compromise Adjustment.</u> Factors that support compromise adjustment include the financial condition of the debtor, his/her estate or responsible relative; or, in such circumstances where the material facts surrounding the occurrence of the debt indicate inappropriate or inequitable charges for services rendered; or, when such compromise is in the best interest of the County.
- 4. <u>Uneconomical to Pursue</u>. Several factors influence this determination including: the balance owed, if court action is required and/or residency outside of California. In some cases the write-off is done at the request of a customer department.

Request for Relief of Accountability

Page 2

This request for relief of accountability covers the period beginning January 1, 2017 to June 30, 2017.

Of the \$1,350,962.77 write off total:

- 7.76% (\$104,811.99) were removed due to debtor being deceased
- 84.91% (\$1,147,076.24) were due to Legally Uncollectible
- 9.21% (\$124,468.23) due to Compromise Adjustment
- -1.88% (-\$25,393.69) in the category Uneconomical to Pursue. This category is a negative amount for this period as a result of previous write-off transactions that were reversed during this period and which exceeded the total new write-off transactions in this category during this period.

Of the \$1,350,962.77 write off total:

- 57.67% (\$779,139.15) is Non-General Fund
- 42.33% (\$571,823.62) is General Fund

Conclusion

At this time, these uncollectible charges and compromise adjustments for the period January 1, 2017 to June 30, 2017 reported above require relief of accountability.

Questions

Any questions regarding this relief of accountability request, please contact Melina Turpin, Assistant Director DRR, at 875-0022.

Respectfully submitted,

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Connie Ahmed Director of Revenue Recovery

## COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO Department of Finance Request for Relief of Accountability

1 To:	Ben Lamera Director of Finance						
2 From:	Connie Ahmed - Director Department of Revenue Recovery	Date:	August 04, 2017				
<sup>3</sup> Subject:	REQUEST FOR RELIEF OF ACCOUNTABILITY						
4 We are requesting Relief of Accountability for the assets listed below: Cash (ignore Items 6a and 6c) Fixed Asset - Equipment (book value is \$10,000 and under) Controlled Equipment (Inventoriable non-fixed asset)							
5 in the amount of: \$1,350,962.77							

6 Background Information							
6a County identification tag number:	<sup>6b</sup> Date the asset was lost, stolen, or discovered missing:	6c Cost and net book value of asset:					
N/A	N/A	N/A					
<sup>6d</sup> Detailed description of missing asset(s): Uncollectible Accounts Receivable – from 01/01/2017 to 06/30/2017							
6e Unit or location where asset was assigned when discovered missing:							
N/A							

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## COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO Department of Finance Request for Relief of Accountability

7 Circumstances Surrounding the Loss					
7b Name(s) and telephone numbers of person(s) responsible for control of the asset(s) missing:					
Connie Ahmed 875 - 7855					
business environment					
ent asset losses:					
event future losses:					

We understand that the approval of this request for relief of accountability by the Director of Finance does not address the department's appropriations if the item(s) need to be replaced.

#### REQUEST FOR RELIEF OF ACCOUNTABILITY

	Facility Deceased Legally Uncollectible			Compromise Adjustment			onomical Pursue	Facility Total				
Code	Description	Count	Amount	Count	Amount	Count	Amount	Count	Amount	Count	Amount	GF
	NIMAL CARE FEES	19	2,750.00	4	600.00	•	•	•	•	23	3,350.00	YES
1	IRPORT RECOVERY - METRO		-	7	81,103.38	-	-	· ·		7	81,103.38	NO
		1	17.00		-	-	-	· ·		1	17.00 182.00	NO NO
	UPERIOR COURT DISSOLUTION FILING FEES OUNTY COUNSEL RECOVERY		•	1	182.00	-	-	-	(191.00)		(191.00)	SPLIT
	OUSING CODE ENFORCEMENT				-				(470.00)		(470.00)	SPLI
	OUSING CODE ADMIN FEES							1	(2,393.20)	1	(2,393.20)	SPLI
CEDJ IT	RECOVERY FEE - CED2	-		-	-		-	2	(85.90)	2	(85.90)	SPLF
	RECOVERY FEE - CED3		•	-		-	-	1	(14.96)	1	(14.96)	SPLI
	ONSOLIDATED UTILITY BILLING RECOVERY	15	7,951.57	358	140,043.47	3	867.66	-	•	376	148,862.70	NO
	ODE - HOUSING CODE ODE - ZONING CODE	26	770.90		-	-	-	11 18	(3,075.40)		(2,304.50)	SPLI
	ODE - ZONING CODE ODE - RENTAL HOUSING INSPECTION	11	1,410.00	1	470.00		-	6	(4,625.20) (1,501.25)		(2,745.20) (1,501.25)	SPLI
	ODE - VEHICLE ABATEMENT		- 1					5	3,135.48	5	3,135.48	SPLI
	ODE - IT RECOVERY FEE	37	89.05	1	21.15	6	537.75	23	(192.55)	67	455.40	SPLI
DCDN C	ODE - NOPEA FEE	5	(261.00)			-	-	1	(261.00)	6	(522.00)	SPLI
DCDP CO	ODE - ADM PENALTY	2	-			6	9,469.19			8	9,469.19	SPU
	AMAGE TO COUNTY PROPERTY	-	-	3	3,416.68	1	1,321.73	-	•	4	4,738.41	NO
		•		48	38,561.37	•	-	•	-	48	38,561.37	YES
	EDICALLY INDIGENT-SHARE OF COST	50	10,140.97	730	127,233.66	-	-	-	-	780	137,374.63	SPLF
	ACRAMENTO COUNTY HEALTH-PRIVATE PAY	33	5,266.77	51 3	5,114.14 48,229.08	-	•	· ·		84 3	10,380.91 48,229.08	SPLI
	HOME SOCIAL SERVICE EALTH PROVIDER OVERPAYMENT		-	3	48,229.08 540.19	•	-	1	-	1	48,229.08 540.19	SPLI
	ANDRA L. LARSON YOUTH CENTER				193.52		-		-	1	193.52	SPLI
	JVENILE HALL CARE & MAINTENANCE	8	1,948.98	215	75,400.40		-	.		223	77,349.38	SPL
	DYS RANCH CARE & MAINTENANCE		-	28	14,450.34		-	-		28	14,450.34	SPL
JDC3 W	M. K. MORGAN ALTERNATIVE CENTER		-	1	69.97		-		•	1	69.97	SPLI
	ETYC (YOUTH CENTER) CARE & MAINTENANCE		-	19	8,484.25	•	-	-		19	8,484.25	SPLI
	JVENILE PUBLIC DEFENDER-CRIMINAL CASE	13	1,430.23	124	21,751.68	•	•	•	-	137	23,181.89	SPLI
	JVENILE CT APPTD ATTORNEY-CRIMINAL CASE	1	177.74	81	33,040.37	•	-	-	•	82	33,218.11	SPLI
		7	973.00	67	11,730.50	•	-		-	74	12,703.50	SPLI
	IVENILE ELECTRONIC MONITORING RR BAD-DEBT RECOVERY	6	2,358.84	98 1	30,098.65	•	-	-	-	104 1	32,457.49 23.00	SPLI
	RR ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES	-		8	23.00 247.18					8	23.00	NO
	ROCESS SERVICE FEES	3	142.00	4	176.54		-	1	(16.00)	8	302.54	NO
	TEREST	2	844.28	21	19,861.49	-	-			23	20,705.77	NO
ORR7 RE	ESTITUTION ADMINISTRATIVE FEE	80	7,667.82	-	-	1	696.52	-	-	81	8,364.34	NO
ORR8 IN	STALLMENT FINE ADM FEE-MUNI COURT	142	5,169.90	-		1	8.75	3	(105.00)	146	5,073.65	NO
	DURT COSTS	-		1	4.00	•	-	-	-	1	4.00	NO
	STALLMENT FINE ADM FEE-SUPR CT	1	29.98	1	15.00	-	-	-	-	2	44.98	NO
	DTARY FEES	-		17	153.19	•	-	•	-	17	153.19	NO
	STALLMENT FINE ADM FEE-FORM PROB ACTO COUNTY SHERIFF PROCESS FEES	69	2,595.42	-	-	1.1	-		-	69	2,595.42	NO
	ETURNED CHECK FEE	1	53.00	5	172.73 925.89	·	-	1	(21.00)	6 9	151.73 978.89	NO NO
	JBLIC DEFENDER REIMB(MUNI CT)	41	5,177.94	63	12,711.34	1	- 14.58			105	17,903.86	SPLI
	JBLIC DEFENDER REIMB (SUPERIOR CT)	1	50.00	-	-				-	1	50.00	SPLI
PDR7 CC	DURT-APPOINTED ATTY (MUNI CT)	3	640.00	5	2,490.00		-			8	3,130.00	SPLIT
PSR1 PR	ROBATION SUPERVISION FEES	3	4,938.00	98	161,383.53	7	5,607.65	1	2,520.00	109	174,449.18	SPLIT
PSR2 PR	RE-SENTENCE REPORT FEES	4	2,072.00	65	28,991.28	5	726.52	1	358.00	75	32,147.80	SPLI
	VERSION PROGRAM FEES	7	1,449.46	17	3,240.21			-	-	24	4,689.67	SPLI
	ROP 36 PROGRAM FEES	-	•	12	1,044.96	•		•	-	12	1,044.96	SPLI
	DURTESY SUPERVISION			5	3,889.00	•		•	-	5	3,889.00	SPLI
	ROBATION ADULT DRUG TEST FEES	7	175.00	14	409.99 534.70	1	131.04	-	-	22	716.03	SPLIT
	JBLIC WORKS RETURNED CHECK JBLIC WORKS-BUILDING INSPECTION FEES	- 10	- 1,313.14	5 78	534.79 74,048.82	6	- 100,164.79	•	•	5 94	534.79 175,526.75	SPLI
	FUSE COLLECTION/SOLID WASTE - N. Area	2	1,313.14	78 5	1,333.72		100,104.19	1	- 50.00	94 8	1,497.32	NO
	DUNTY RECORDER - RETURNED CHECK	-		1	140.00					1	1,497.32	NO
1	SK MANAGEMENT RECOVERY - ATTORNEY FEES	-	-	1	3,036 31	-	-	-	-	1	3,036.31	SPL
SBFA BO	OOKING FEE - UNINCORP. AREA - M.J.		.	82	13,740.72			2	445.78	84	14,186.50	SPLI
SBFB BC	OKING FEE - UNINCORP. AREA - RCCC	-	-	4	470.10		-	-		4	470.10	SPLI
	NTAL CODE COMPLIANCE FEE	•		3	123.13	•	-		-	3	123.13	SPLI
	DNING ENFORCEMENT	2	362.17	6	(2,040.25)	1	3,400.00	9	(11,784.26)	18	(10,062.34)	SPL
	ENERAL ASSISTANCE REPAYMENT	1	1,233.00	8	27,999.83	-	-	5	(3,274.23)	14	25,958.60	YES
	IERIFF'S WORK-PROJECT ADMIN FEE	-	-	2	38.28	•	-	•	-	2	38.28	SPL
		•		1	151.81	-	-		-	1	151.81	SPL
	EEKENDER BOARD & ROOM CHARGE DNFINEMENT COSTS-PROBATIONARY SENTENCE	- 7	3,132.77	3 103	1,361.38 45,656.40		1 522 05	-	. (	3 118	1,361.38 50,311.22	SPLI
	AL-WORKS FRAUD RESTITUTION FG (PROBATION) - 1 Parent		J,132.11	103	43,030.40	8	1,522.05	1	(3,892.00)	118 1	50,311.22 (3,892.00)	SPLI
	L-WORKS PRADD RESTITUTION PG (PROBATION) - 1 Parent	8	18,999.00	- 28	16,604.63				(0,082.00)	36	(3,892.00) 35,603.63	SPLI
	AL-WORKS OVERPAYMENT - 1 Parent	13	13,629.46	93	76,471.96					106	90,101.42	SPLI
1	L-WORKS - FG EXEMPT FEDERAL - 0 Parent		-	1	73.50					1	73.50	SPLF
	OPTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - APP 03		.	1	10,857.00				-	1	10,857.00	SPLI
	Total	641	104,811.99	2,612	1,147,076.24	47	124,468.23	95	(25,393.69)	3,395	1,350,962.77	

7.76%

84.91%

-1.88%

9.21%

	_	GF
779,139.15	57.67%	NO
571,823.62	42.33%	YES
1,350,962.77		

Department of Finance Ben Lamera Director



Agenda Date: January 9, 2018 ATT 3 Auditor-Controller Division Joyce Renison Assistant Auditor-Controller

County of Sacramento

Intra-Departmental Memorandum

October 26, 2017

To: Ben Lamera Director of Finance

From: Alan A. Matré, C.P.A. Chief of Audits

## Subject: RELIEF OF ACCOUNTABILITY FOR UNCOLLECTIBLE ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH BOARD APPROVED POLICY FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2017 TO JUNE 30, 2017

On August 4, 2017, we were requested by the Department of Revenue Recovery (DRR) to perform a review of their write-off of uncollectible accounts and compromise adjustments in the amount of \$1,350,962.77 for the period of January 1, 2017 to June 30, 2017. The relief request is summarized as follows:

Relief Period	Fiscal Years	Amount
January 1, 2017 to June 30, 2017	2017	\$ 1,350,962.77

Our review was limited to assessing the propriety of these write-offs and compromises by interviewing departmental management concerning the accounting system used, evaluating the criteria used by the department to determine if the unpaid account should be written off, analyzing and documenting internal controls relating to the accounts written-off, and testing on a limited basis, individual write-offs and compromise reports. This review does not constitute an audit of the department.

There was a continuing issue noted during our review of DRR's submitted write-offs and compromise adjustments as it relates to write-off authorization, see Comments and Recommendations in the Attachment on the following page.

Based upon our review, we recommend that relief of accountability be granted for \$1,350,962.77.

## COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE RECOVERY RELIEF OF ACCOUNTABILITY COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2017 TO JUNE 30, 2017

Prior Comments and Recommendations Noted During the Previous Review of the Department of Revenue Recovery's Relief of Accountability Request For the Period January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016 Approved on October 17, 2017

## Write-Off Authorization

### Comment

44 of the 88 debtor accounts selected for testing were written-off by non-Department of Revenue Recovery (DRR) employees. DRR requested the Department of Technology (D-Tech) write-off debtor accounts associated with incident request authorization number 176253. Authorized DRR personnel should be performing the task of writing-off debtor accounts. The cause is due to DRR not having the necessary internal controls in place to have its own authorized staff write-off debtor accounts. By not writing off its own debtor accounts, DRR is exposing itself to the risk that accounts could be written-off by non-DRR personnel without knowledge of DRR management.

#### Recommendation

We recommend only authorized DRR staff write-off debtor amounts.

### Current Status

DRR continues to use D-Tech personnel to assist with writing off uncollectible accounts. 59 of the 87 write-off accounts selected for testing required assistance from D-Tech personnel. We reiterate our previous recommendation and recommend only authorized DRR staff write-off debtor accounts.

### Write-Off Accounts Lacking Supporting Documentation

#### Comment

The Department of Revenue Recovery (DRR) was unable to provide supporting documentation for 4 of the 88 debtor accounts selected for write-off testing. DRR should maintain supporting documentation for its debtor accounts. Supporting documentation maintained should be sufficient and consistent with Board Resolution #99-0158 that outlines approved reasons for account write-off and DRR's responsibility for maintaining records. By not maintaining supporting documentation, DRR is unable to substantiate debtor accounts submitted to the Board of Supervisors for write-off approval. DRR is citing the age of the debtor accounts as the contributing cause for not having supporting documentation.

### Recommendation

We recommend DRR maintain supporting documentation for all of the debtor accounts that it is responsible for tracking.

<u>Current Status</u> This issue appears to be resolved.

## COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE RECOVERY RELIEF OF ACCOUNTABILITY COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2016 TO DECEMBER 31, 2016

Prior Comments and Recommendations Noted During the Previous Review of the Department of Revenue Recovery's Relief of Accountability Request For the Period January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016 Approved on October 17, 2017 (Continued)

## **Supporting Documentation Retention**

Comment

DRR was unable to provide supporting documentation for 33 of the 88 debtor accounts selected for testing. Supporting documentation for debtor accounts was obtained from sources external of DRR. DRR should maintain supporting documentation for its debtor accounts that is sufficient and consistent with Board Resolution #99-0158 that outlines approved reasons for account write-off and DRR's responsibilities for maintaining its records. DRR is citing incident request authorization number 176253 and Board resolution numbers 2016-0193 and 2016-0194 (FY 2015-16 Appropriation Budget Request) approved on March 22, 2016 as support for the accounts that were submitted for write-off.

Recommendation

We recommend DRR maintain supporting documentation for all of the debtor accounts that it maintains and adhere to Board Resolution #99-0158.

<u>Current Status</u> This issue appears to be resolved