ANALYSIS

This ordinance amends Title 2 – Administration of the Los Angeles County Code by establishing a Defaulted Property Tax Reduction Program requiring individuals and businesses entering into contract with the County to certify that they have fulfilled property tax obligations owing to the County of Los Angeles.

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BMM:plp

5/11/09 (Requested)

6/30/09 (Revised)

ORDINANCE NO. _____

An ordinance amending Title 2 – Administration, of the Los Angeles County Code, relating to the Defaulted Property Tax Reduction Program.

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 2.206 is hereby added to Title 2 – Administration, to read as follows:

Chapter 2.206

Defaulted Property Tax Reduction Program

SECTIONS:

2.206.010 Findings and declarations.

2.206.020 Definitions.

2.206.030 Applicability.

2.206.040 Required solicitation and contract language.

2.206.050 Administration and compliance certification.

2.206.060 Exclusions/Exemptions.

2.206.070 Enforcement and remedies.

2.206.080 Severability.

2.206.010 Findings and declarations.

The Board of Supervisors finds that significant revenues are lost each year as a result of taxpayers who fail to pay their tax obligations on time. The delinquencies impose an economic burden upon the County and its taxpayers. Therefore, the Board

of Supervisors establishes the goal of ensuring that individuals and businesses that benefit financially from contracts with the County fulfill their property tax obligation.

2.206.020 Definitions.

The following definitions shall be applicable to this chapter:

A. "Contractor" shall mean any person, firm, corporation, partnership, or combination thereof, which submits a bid or proposal or enters into a contract or agreement with the County.

B. "County" shall mean the county of Los Angeles or any public entities for which the Board of Supervisors is the governing body.

C. "County Property Taxes" shall mean any property tax obligation on the County's secured or unsecured roll~~.~~; except for tax obligations on the secured roll with respect to property held by a Contractor in a trust or fiduciary capacity or otherwise not beneficially owned by the Contractor.

D. "Department" shall mean the County department, entity, or organization responsible for the solicitation and/or administration of the contract.

E. "Default" shall mean any property tax obligation on the secured roll that has been deemed defaulted by operation of law pursuant to California Revenue and Taxation Code section 3436; or any property tax obligation on the unsecured roll that remains unpaid on the applicable delinquency date pursuant to California Revenue and Taxation Code section 2922; except for any property tax obligation dispute pending before the Assessment Appeals Board.

F. "Solicitation" shall mean the County's process to obtain bids or proposals for goods and services.

G. "Treasurer-Tax Collector" shall mean the Treasurer and Tax Collector of the County of Los Angeles.

2.206.030 Applicability.

This chapter shall apply to all solicitations issued 60 days after the effective date of the ordinance codified in this chapter. This chapter shall also apply to all new, renewed, extended, and/or amended contracts entered into 60 days after the effective date of the ordinance codified in this chapter.

2.206.040 Required solicitation and contract language.

All solicitations and all new, renewed, extended, and/or amended contracts shall contain language which:

A. Requires any Contractor to keep County Property Taxes out of Default status at all times during the term of an awarded contract;

B. Provides that the failure of the Contractor to comply with the provisions in this chapter may prevent the Contractor from being awarded a new contract; and

C. Provides that the failure of the Contractor to comply with the provisions in this chapter may constitute a material breach of an existing contract, and failure to cure the breach within 10 days of notice by the County by paying the outstanding County Property Tax or making payments in a manner agreed to and approved by the Treasurer-Tax Collector, may subject the contract to suspension and/or termination.

2.206.050 Administration and compliance certification.

A. The Treasurer-Tax Collector shall be responsible for the administration of this chapter. The Treasurer-Tax Collector shall, with the assistance of the Chief Executive Officer, Director of Internal Services, and County Counsel, issue written instructions on the implementation and ongoing administration of this chapter. Such instructions may provide for the delegation of functions to other departments.

B. Contractor shall be required to certify, at the time of submitting any bid or proposal to the County, or entering into any new contract, or renewal, extension or amendment of an existing contract with the County, that it is in compliance with this chapter is not in Default on any County Property Taxes or is current in payments due under any approved payment arrangement.

2.206.060 Exclusions/Exemptions.

A. This chapter shall not apply to the following contracts:

1. Chief Executive Office delegated authority agreements under $50,000;

2. A contract where federal or state law or a condition of a federal or state program mandates the use of a particular contractor;

3. A purchase made through a state or federal contract;

4. A contract where state or federal monies are used to fund service related programs, including but not limited to voucher programs, foster care, or other social programs that provide immediate direct assistance;

5. Purchase orders under a master agreement, where the Contractor was certified at the time the master agreement was entered into and at any subsequent renewal, extension and/or amendment to the master agreement.

6. Purchase orders issued by Internal Services Department under $100,000 that is not the result of a competitive bidding process.

7. Program agreements that utilize Board of Supervisors' discretionary funds;

8. National contracts established for the purchase of equipment and supplies for and by the National Association of Counties, U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance, or any similar related group purchasing organization;

9. A monopoly purchase that is exclusive and proprietary to a specific manufacturer, distributor, reseller, and must match and inter-member with existing supplies, equipment or systems maintained by the county pursuant to the Los Angeles Purchasing Policy and Procedures Manual, section P-3700 or a successor provision;

10. A revolving fund (petty cash) purchase pursuant to the Los Angeles County Fiscal Manual, section 4.6.0 or a successor provision;

11. A purchase card purchase pursuant to the Los Angeles County Purchasing Policy and Procedures Manual, section P-2810 or a successor provision;

12. A non-agreement purchase worth a value of less than $5,000 pursuant to the Los Angeles County Purchasing Policy and Procedures Manual, section A-0300 or a successor provision; or

13. A bona fide emergency purchase pursuant to the Los Angeles County Purchasing Policy and Procedures Manual section P-0900 or a successor provision;

14. Other contracts for mission critical goods and/or services where the Board of Supervisors determines that an exemption is justified.

B. Other laws. This chapter shall not be interpreted or applied to any Contractor in a manner inconsistent with the laws of the United States or California.

2.206.070 Enforcement and remedies.

A. The information furnished by each Contractor certifying that it is in compliance with this chapter shall be under penalty of perjury.

B. No Contractor shall willfully and knowingly make a false statement certifying compliance with this chapter for the purpose of obtaining or retaining a County contract.

C. For Contractor's violation of any provision of this chapter, the County department head responsible for administering the contract may do one or more of the following:

1. Recommend to the Board of Supervisors the termination of the contract; and/or,

2. Pursuant to chapter 2.202, seek the debarment of the contractor~~.~~; and/or,

3. Recommend to the Board of Supervisors that an exemption is justified pursuant to Section 2.206.060.A.14 of this chapter or payment deferral as provided pursuant to the California Revenue and Taxation Code.

2.206.080 Severability.

If any provision of this chapter is found invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

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