

For immediate release:
August 25, 2010

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CRA/LA Receives \$448,000 for Transportation Studies *Funds Will Be Used in Central City and Pacoima and Panorama City*

Los Angeles — The Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles (CRA/LA) received \$448,000 from the state for transportation planning studies within Downtown Los Angeles near the Clean Tech Corridor and in Panorama City in the San Fernando Valley.

The two grants come from the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) Community-Based Transportation Planning program. CRA/LA joined with the Central City East Association (CCEA) and Initiating Change in Our Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation on the project applications.

"Planning for safer and more attractive neighborhoods helps promote economic revitalization across our city," said CRA/LA Chief Executive Officer Christine Essel. "These grants allow CRA/LA and our partners to make smarter land-use decisions including how to better integrate industrial uses and housing, how to more efficiently move goods through the city and how to increase mobility for bikes and pedestrians."

"Downtown's eastern industrial core sorely needs a strategic plan for revitalization," added Estela Lopez, Central City East Association Executive Director. "This grant allows CRA/LA and CCEA to take the lead in developing a single comprehensive, community-based planning document focused on the Arts District."

CRA/LA received \$198,000 for examining transportation improvements to the Clean Tech area, which will involve streets within the Central Industrial Redevelopment Project Area and the Clean Tech Corridor, both in CRA/LA's Downtown Region. The funds will help further planning work begun by the CRA/LA's CleanTech Infrastructure Consultant and a recent Urban Land Institute study.

The study will look at the need for improvements on the I-10 freeway interchanges, Santa Fe and Mateo Street on and off ramps, and Alameda Street, as well as streetscape and walkway planning, design guidelines for desirable growth patterns and a priority list of proposed transportation improvement projects to serve the CleanTech Corridor.

Another \$250,000 was awarded to focus on an area along Van Nuys Boulevard, from the Van Nuys Amtrak/Metrolink Station to Nordhoff Street, a key transportation corridor, connecting the Van Nuys Amtrak/Metrolink station to the heavily used Van Nuys Boulevard corridor that runs through Panorama City. This project will focus on identifying improvements, programs and strategies that improve pedestrian safety and ameliorate the lack of amenities that burden the bus riders within Panorama City. The goal is to make Van Nuys Boulevard into a livable urban thoroughfare, where transit, bicycling, and walking are balanced with traffic.

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CRA/LA is required to provide at least 10 percent in matching funds, bringing the total amount for the transportation studies to \$492,800. Consultants will be hired to perform the work with reimbursement to CRA/LA once the work is completed.

About Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles

CRA/LA (www.crala.org) is a public agency regulated by the State of California and operating within the City of Los Angeles. CRA/LA makes strategic investments to create economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for the people who live and work in our neighborhoods. CRA/LA manages 32 redevelopment projects areas and three revitalization areas in seven regions: East Valley, West Valley, Hollywood & Central, Downtown, Eastside, South Los Angeles, and the Harbor.

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