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## **CRA/LA Helps Manufacturer Expand, Add Jobs & Move to Sylmar**

### ***\$900,000 Grant/Loan Keeps Drapes 4 Show in California***

Los Angeles — With a \$900,000 conditional grant/loan approved Thursday, Jan. 17, by the Board of Commissioners of the Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles (CRA/LA), Drapes 4 Show, a manufacturer of commercial linens, will expand its business, remain in California, retain 24 jobs held by San Fernando Valley workers and add 10 new positions, all in a new, Sylmar location.

Drapes 4 Show, Inc., a 25-year-old, Calabasas-based manufacturer of finished and unfinished commercial and hospitality linens, was about to become yet another business leaving California. But by working closely with a broker and CRA/LA staff, company owners were able to find a new location for expansion within the Sylmar Area of the Earthquake Disaster Assistance Project for Portions of Council District 7 in the CRA/LA's East Valley Region.

“With help from the CRA/LA, the state and other city departments, we prevented the loss of a valuable business,” said Cecilia V. Estolano, CRA/LA's Chief Executive Officer. “Drapes will remain here and save 30 jobs for its experienced long-term employees – 24 of whom currently live in the San Fernando Valley – plus add another 10 new jobs,” she added.

The grant/loan approved by the CRA/LA Board, which also must be approved by the City Council, will enable the company, through the newly formed, KH Enterprises, LLC, to buy and rehabilitate an existing 16,800-sq.-foot industrial building at 12811 Foothill Blvd.

The \$3.6 million needed to relocate from Calabasas to Sylmar, obtain the new property and rehabilitate it will come from \$700,000 in owner investment, \$2 million from an industrial development bond loan from the City's Community Development Department and \$900,000 from the CRA/LA. The CRA/LA money is a conditional loan/grant to be forgiven over 10 years, as long as the company creates and maintains a minimum of 30 Living Wage jobs and complies with the CRA/LA's Local Hiring Policy.

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Drapes is a woman-owned business begun by Karen Honigberg, the company president, more than 25 years ago from her garage.

The company manufactures commercial linens (tablecloths, napkins, convention/display table draping and backdrop features, and bed linens) used at hotels, conventions and other event-oriented functions. Clients include the Ritz-Carlton, Four Seasons, MGM Grand (Las Vegas), Intercontinental Hotels and several other high-end hotel, convention and hospitality clients.

**About the Earthquake Disaster Assistance Area for Portions of Council District 7**

The Earthquake Disaster Assistance Project for portions of Council District 7 was adopted in 1994 to repair, restore, demolish or replace buildings and facilities damaged in the Northridge Earthquake, plus create affordable housing and revitalize commercial districts. It includes portions of the communities of Arleta, Lakeview Terrace, Mission Hills, North Hills, North Hollywood, Pacoima, Panorama City, Sun Valley, Sylmar and Van Nuys, all within the CRA/LA's East Valley Region.

**About CRA/LA:**

CRA/LA ([www.crala.org](http://www.crala.org)) is a public agency regulated by the State of California and operating within the City of Los Angeles. It attracts private investment into economically depressed communities to eliminate blight, revitalize older neighborhoods, build housing for all income levels and create and retain employment opportunities. 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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