

MEMORANDUM

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DATE: APRIL 17, 2008 C9 3900
TO: CRA/LA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CH 3900
FROM: CECILIA V. ESTOLANO, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER CR 3900
PC 3900

RESPONSIBLE PARTIES: DALILA SOTELO, DEPUTY CHIEF OF OPERATIONS - HOUSING POLICY
MARGARITA DE ESCONTRIAS, REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR
CAROLYN HULL, REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR
LESLIE LAMBERT, REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR
DAVID RICCIHELLO, REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

SUBJECT: VARIOUS ACTIONS RELATIVE TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROPOSITION 1C PROGRAM AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF FIVE INFILL INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS FOR THE CHINATOWN YALE STREET QUALIFIED INFILL LINKAGE, CENTRAL AVENUE HISTORIC CORRIDOR INFILL AREA, FIGUEROA CORRIDOR QUALIFIED INFILL AREA, CRENSHAW/ MID-CITY CORRIDORS INFILL INFRASTRUCTURE AREA, AND BLYTHE STREET QUALIFIED INFILL AREA PROJECTS IN THE CHINATOWN, COUNCIL DISTRICT 9 SOUTH OF THE SANTA MONICA FREEWAY, CITY CENTER, VERMONT/MANCHESTER REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT AREAS, AND THE EARTHQUAKE DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROJECT AREA FOR PORTIONS OF COUNCIL DISTRICT SEVEN DOWNTOWN, EAST VALLEY, HOLLYWOOD & CENTRAL AND SOUTH LOS ANGELES REGIONS (CD 1, 8, 6, 9, 10)

RECOMMENDATION

That the CRA/LA Board of Commissioners, subject to City Council review and approval:

1. Adopt, and request that the City Council adopt, the respective Resolutions that authorize the submittal of the applications, acceptance, and execution of agreements and award of Proposition 1C Infill Infrastructure Grant Program funding from the State of California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for the following:
 - a. Central Avenue Historic Corridor Qualified Infill Area Project in the amount of \$30,000,000;

- b. Linking South LA to Downtown - Figueroa Corridor Qualified Infill Area Project in the amount of \$30,000,000;
 - c. Chinatown Yale Street Qualified Infill Linkage Project in the amount of \$3,459,520;
 - d. Blythe Street Qualified Infill Area Project in the amount of \$4,241,920;
 - e. Crenshaw/Mid-City Corridors Infill Infrastructure Area Project in the amount of \$12,194,503;
2. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer, or designee, to execute Grant Agreements upon award with HCD and to take any other actions necessary to accept the grants; and
 3. Amend the CRA/LA Budget and Work Program to recognize up to \$80,236,423 of Proposition 1C Infill Infrastructure Grant Program Funds for the Chinatown Yale Street Qualified Infill Linkage (\$3,459,520), the Central Avenue Historic Corridor Infill Area (\$30,000,000), Figueroa Corridor Qualified Infill Area (\$30,000,000), Crenshaw/Mid-City Corridors Infill Infrastructure Area (\$12,194,503), and Blythe Street Qualified Infill Area Projects (\$4,241,920) and place such funds into budgeted line item "Public Improvements" when applications are approved, awarded, and funds are received.

SUMMARY

On February 28, 2008, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) announced the availability of approximately \$240 million in funding for the Infill Infrastructure Grant Program funded through Proposition 1C. In order to be eligible to submit a grant application for a Capital Infill Project, governing board resolutions are required as part of a Qualifying Infill Project or a Qualifying Infill Area. Grant applications are due on April 4, 2008 and the adopted governing board resolutions must be submitted by May 2, 2008.

The CRA/LA proposes to fund the following projects with the Infill Infrastructure Grant Program Funds administered by HCD:

Chinatown Yale Street Qualified Infill Linkage (\$3,459,520), the Central Avenue Historic Corridor Infill Area (\$30,000,000), Figueroa Corridor Qualified Infill Area (\$30,000,000), Crenshaw/Mid-City Corridor Infill Infrastructure Area (\$12,194,503), and Blythe Street Qualified Infill Area (\$4,241,920) for public improvements that include sidewalk and streetscape improvement, site preparation, utility relocation and pedestrian walkways.

In order to apply for the funds, it is requested that the CRA/LA Board adopt the attached resolutions (Attachments A to E) to authorize the CRA/LA to apply for and accept the grant funds for the above-described projects.

On April 1, 2008, the Los Angeles City Council in a motion (Parks for Wesson-Perry) authorized the CRA/LA to file and submit joint applications for the following: Blythe Street Qualified Infill Area, Central Avenue Historic Corridor Qualified Infill Area, Chinatown Yale Street Qualified Infill Linkage Project, Crenshaw/Mid-City Corridors Infill Infrastructure Area, and Figueroa Corridor Qualified Infill Area.

RE

Initial Action

SOURCE OF FUNDS

No CRA/LA funds are required.

PROGRAM AND BUDGET IMPACT

Once the grants are awarded and the funds received, the CRA/LA Budget will be amended to reflect the award amounts in the respective project areas.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The streetscape improvements contemplated for the Central Avenue Historic Corridor Qualified Infill Area Project were approved by the CRA/LA Board of Commissioners as standards and determined by staff to be categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") on April 3, 2008. The acquisition, through an agreement, of parcels for the expansion for Central Avenue Jazz Park and the Civic Plaza Park would not be a project pursuant to state CEQA Guidelines Section 15004(b)(2)(A). The demolition of the existing buildings and construction of improvements and/or disposition of the property would be subject to environmental review pursuant to CEQA and CRA/LA approval of the future project.

The public improvements contemplated by the Figueroa Corridor Qualified Infill Area Project were approved by the CRA/LA Board of Commissioners on April 3, 2008 and determined by staff to be categorically exempt from CEQA.

The public improvements contemplated for the public-right-of-way for the Chinatown Yale Street Chinatown Yale Street Qualified Infill Linkage Project were approved by the CRA/LA Board of Commissioners as a public improvement plan on April 3, 2008 and determined by staff to be categorically exempt from CEQA.

The public improvements contemplated by the Blythe Street Qualified Infill Area Project are categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to Article VII. 1. a. (3) of the CRA/LA CEQA Guidelines.

The public improvements contemplated for the Crenshaw/Mid-City Corridors Infill Infrastructure Area Project are categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to Article VII. 1. a. (3) of the CRA/LA CEQA Guidelines. The Buckingham Place Senior Housing Development, as a part of the Marlton Square project, was approved by the CRA/LA Board of Commissioners and a Mitigated Negative Declaration ("MND") was adopted on August 1, 2002. Rosa Parks Senior Housing was approved by the CRA/LA Board of Commissioners and the MND, prepared by the City of Los Angeles, was reviewed and considered on December 4, 2003.

BACKGROUND

The California State Legislature created The Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund of 2006 (Proposition 1C) with the intention that the proceeds of the bonds deposited in the fund shall be used to fund housing-related programs. The amount available under Proposition 1C is approximately \$1.35 billion.

The Infill Infrastructure Grant Program provides gap funding for infrastructure improvements necessary to facilitate new infill housing development for specific residential or mixed use infill development projects and areas. A total of \$850 million will be made available over three years under the Infill Infrastructure Grant Program with approximately \$240 million available during FY 2008. Funds are available for parks and open space development, utility improvements and relocation, streets and roads, transit linkages and facilities, facilities that support pedestrian and bicycle transit, traffic mitigation, site preparation or demolition, and sidewalk or streetscape improvements.

Forty-five percent of the total amount of each grant programs is designated for Southern California.

Attachments A through E summarize each of the proposed Infill Infrastructure Grant Program projects.

Cecilia V. Estolano
Chief Executive Officer

By:

Glenn F. Wasserman
Chief Operating Officer

There is no conflict of interest known to me that exists with regard to any CRA/LA officer or employee concerning this action.

Attachment A – Central Avenue Historic Corridor Qualified Infill Area Project
Attachment B – Figueroa Corridor Qualified Infill Area Project
Attachment C – Chinatown Yale Street Qualified Infill Linkage Project
Attachment D – Blythe Street Qualified Infill Area Project
Attachment E – Crenshaw/Mid-City Corridors Infill Infrastructure Area Project