



## L.A.'s CRA projects to require local, union workers

By Rick Orlov, Staff Writer

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Broadening efforts to create more higher-paying jobs, Los Angeles city officials put a new policy into place Wednesday that requires any project receiving funds from the Community Redevelopment Agency to agree to hire union workers.

At a rally with more than 100 union members, clergy and activists outside City Hall, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa said he will sign the measure.

"I promised to create 100,000 new jobs by 2010," Villaraigosa said. "This will help us make sure that a lot of those jobs are good-paying jobs held by residents of Los Angeles."

Under the policy, any project that receives \$1 million or more from the CRA will be required to have a project labor agreement and guarantee that 30 percent of all construction jobs go to residents within a three-mile radius of the development.

In addition, 10 percent of all the jobs must be filled by workers involved in apprentice programs.

CRA Administrator Cecilia Estolano estimated the program will create 5,000 new jobs over the next three years and potentially as many as 15,000 jobs in five years.

The CRA invests millions each year in a variety of projects, she said - such as its \$24 million contribution to the \$2.2 billion Grand Avenue project that will be required to abide by the labor agreements.

"We have to recommit to good wages and good jobs," Councilman Richard Alarcón said. "Henry Ford said, 'What good is it to mass-produce all these cars if the workers who make them can't afford to buy them?'"

"If more people make more money, they will invest it locally, and all of us will benefit."

The city has had a project labor agreement requirement in effect for a year for contracts issued by the Board of Public Works.

In that time, officials said they have awarded seven construction contracts and seen the number of hours worked by Los Angeles residents increase from 194,000 to 384,000.

Project labor agreements also have been used at Los Angeles International Airport, with its multibillion-dollar LAX remodeling program, as well as at the I.a. live project now under construction downtown.

*rick.orlov@dailynews.com 213-978-0390*

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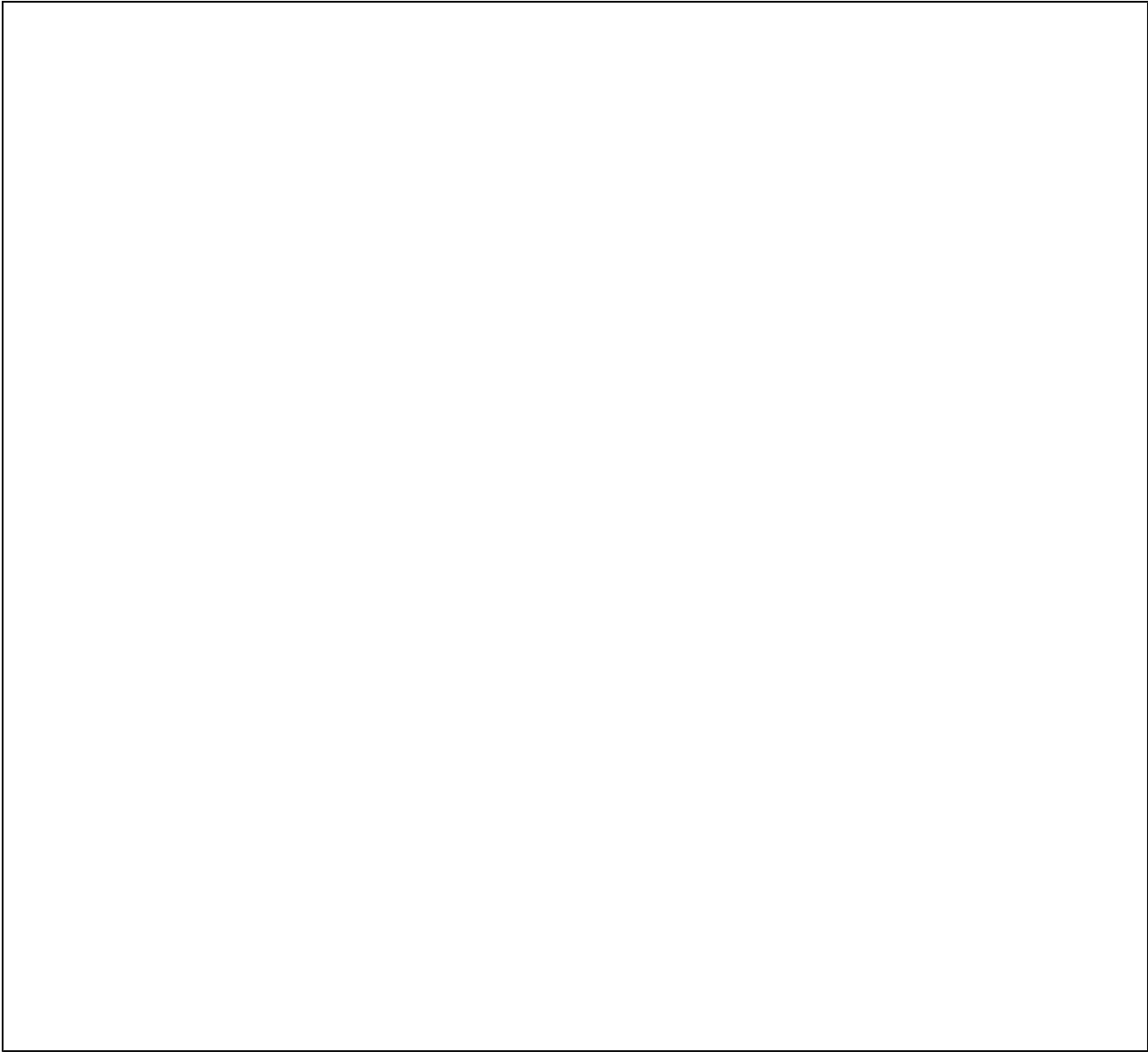
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