

Public Information

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For immediate release:
February 22, 2008

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Construction Policy Will Open Doors to New Workers on CRA/LA Projects

Effort Will Create Careers for Local Residents



Los Angeles — Opportunities for construction jobs for residents citywide will be created under a new policy adopted Thursday, Feb. 21, by the Board of Commissioners of the Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles (CRA/LA).

The Construction Careers and Project Stabilization Policy is a local hiring program to be undertaken with the Los Angeles/Orange County Building Trades Council and applied to all CRA/LA Board-approved projects that meet certain thresholds. It seeks to ensure that CRA/LA-created job opportunities benefit local residents, particularly those

living in or adjacent to CRA/LA project areas, and that residents with barriers to employment and new entrants have access to job opportunities, training and support to advance in construction careers.

While career opportunities have generally declined for people without a high school degree or for those who have had a brush with the criminal justice system, construction apprenticeship programs are a remaining pathway to good wages and lifelong benefits for those who want to turn their lives around.

“With approval of this policy, CRA/LA has taken a major step to ensure that our public involvement in our development projects will result in good paying jobs and construction careers for local residents,” said CRA/LA CEO Cecilia V. Estolano. “We are opening the doors to the middle class for Los Angeles residents who would not otherwise have access to apprenticeship programs that are the gateway to stability and opportunity,” she added.

Construction Careers Policy 2 – 2 – 2

Over 100 workers, community members, clergy, and business representatives including developers and contractors gathered at the CRA/LA board meeting to express support for the policy. Many speakers praised the extensive outreach efforts that created a consensus with multiple stakeholders with different interests.

Under the policy, developers and contractors would work with the community and construction unions to ensure that project area and local residents perform 30% of total project work. Further, 10% of all construction work hours would be performed by local residents with barriers to employment, and 50% of apprentice work hours by local residents. Their hours could be counted toward the overall, 30% requirement.

Projects subject to the requirement would include the CRA/LA's own public improvement contracts of \$500,000 or more and private development projects on CRA/LA-owned land or in which the CRA/LA has invested \$1 million or more. Exempt would be projects with fewer than 75 housing units and less than 50,000 square feet of nonresidential floor area.

The Construction Careers Policy will be implemented through a three-year Local Hiring and Project Labor Agreement negotiated between the CRA/LA and the Los Angeles/Orange County Building Trades Council. Construction unions have agreed to open their apprenticeship programs to the local and at-risk residents the CRA/LA is targeting. Once the Agreement has been successfully negotiated, it will be brought back to the CRA/LA Board and the City Council for approval.

The policy also requires that project developers hire an organization to act as a "Jobs Coordinator." Organizations will be selected on a project-by-project basis from the CRA/LA's pre-qualified list. The Jobs Coordinator will assist the employer in meeting the local hiring requirements through outreach and work-readiness programs.

About CRA/LA:

CRA/LA (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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