March 21, 2006

To: The North Richmond Waste and Recovery Mitigation Fee Joint Expenditure Planning Committee

From: Janet Schneider, Administrative Chief, City of Richmond

The City of Richmond's current resources dedicated to anti-blight in N. Richmond

- a. The City's Public Works Department, Parks and Landscaping division, maintains Shields-Reid Park and Community Center and the N. Richmond ball fields. It also has a MOU with Keep N. Richmond Beautiful for park maintenance and enhancements.
- b. The City's Public Works Department, Streets Division, is responsible for litter abatement. A city truck regularly travels through N. Richmond collecting litter and debris and responds to calls regarding illegal dumping in North Richmond. It is also coordinates an annual neighborhood cleanup consisting of a drop-off dumpster and City crews to help those not able to bring their materials to the dumpster.
- c. The City's Redevelopment Agency is currently implementing the N. Richmond Transportation and Urban Design Plan ("Plan"). The Plan forms the physical framework for a community economic development strategy for N. Richmond. These improvements will upgrade the area's visual appearance and create unity through architectural and landscape improvements. Briefly, this Plan calls for major street improvements to Filbert/Third and Kelsey streets. These improvements include landscaping, gateways, curb and sidewalk modifications, street bulb outs, lighting and new bus shelters. These should be completed at the end of 2006. The Plan contains a host of ideas for physical improvements that could possibly be funded through mitigation fees.
- d. The City's Pretreatment Program responds to complaints of illegal dumping migrating into the storm drain. Richmond residents are educated through the Contra Costa Clean Water Program's public media campaign "Rant" that informs people about the consequences of polluting the storm drains. The City has also funded "Kids for the Bay" at Verde Elementary School, which addresses issues of illegal dumping.
- e. In 2004, the City of Richmond adopted a zero tolerance policy on illegal dumping. The blight abatement function was moved from the Police Department to Public Services. \$600,000 was used by to the Public Services Department and the Police Department to: 1) increase maintenance workers to a total of 10 to handle blight abatement, 2) provide new equipment for code enforcement and abatement issues, and 3) set up a formal expeditious system for the police to communicate with Public Services regarding situations requiring abatement. A reward system for information leading to arrests was approved but never implemented.

The City of Richmond had a "Blight to Bloom" project to prevent blight and illegal dumping. This was a cooperative concentrated effort between the Police, Public services, and the community targeted. It was often time specific. The Police Department set up Community Action Teams (CAT) assigned by area and charged with eliminating illegal dumping. They worked closely with Code Enforcement officers. CAT members worked with Neighborhood Councils and attended their meetings regularly. This was disbanded due to lack of funds.

- f. The City has a Good Neighbor brochure that lists the hotline number and explains the importance of people reporting violators. This is being updated in 2006. There is also a Code Violation brochure that is being updated. The City's call line 231-3010 for abatement issues will be publicized.
- g. Parkway Maintenance-The City maintains the Richmond Parkway. This includes street sweeping, drainage structure cleaning, street, streetlight, and landscaping maintenance.

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