

---

**IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE**  
**North Richmond Waste & Recovery Mitigation Fee**  
**2008/2009 Expenditure Plan**  
**- October 2009 -**

---

---

***PREVENTION & EDUCATION***

---

**Strategy 1 - Bulky Clean-ups**

Bulky Clean-ups are used in conjunction with the Disposal Vouchers (Strategy 3) which were both launched on May 18, 2007. The Community Services Coordinator (CSC) will serve as the community's primary point of contact for this program and will handle requests on an appointment basis following prescribed procedures. The CSC will provide Committee Staff from the County and City (Staff) with documentation on monthly basis. Bulky Clean-ups are available to residents with an active residential account with Richmond Sanitary Service (RSS), are limited to one per household per year, and will be disbursed on a first come first served basis.

There has been limited interest in this program, only three community members have requested a Bulky Item Pick-up since the program was launched (only one within the 2008/2009 Expenditure Plan cycle). Staff, the future CSC and Bilingual Outreach Services Coordinator (BOSC) will work to seek new and different strategies to better inform local residents about this program. Staff is proposing to officially combine the Bulky Clean-ups and the Voucher programs in order to increase effectiveness and program promotion.

**Strategy 2 - Neighborhood Clean-ups**

On Saturday, October 25, 2008, the second community-wide Neighborhood Clean-up took place. Approximately 66 tons of household trash was collected. There were five drop-off locations throughout the North Richmond area.

A community-wide clean-up is planned for Saturday, November 7, 2009. The City, County and Community Housing Development Corporation (CHDC) will work with RSS, Sims Metal, Hi-Tech Recycling and others in the community to ensure the success of the clean-up. Volunteers are being sought from the Young Adult Empowerment Center (YAEC), the senior center, and other community members to work at the drop-off locations, participate in trash pick-up along neighborhood streets and in the park, and distribute handouts with information about local disposal and recycling resources, including details about the Mitigation Fee funded Disposal Voucher & Bulky-Item Pick-up programs.

**Strategy 3 - Voucher System**

The Disposal Voucher program officially began on May 18, 2007. Households are limited to twelve vouchers (\$5 each) per year. Disposal vouchers are disbursed on a first come first served basis and expire six months following issuance. The BOSC will

serve as the community's primary point of contact for this program and will distribute vouchers on an appointment basis and provides Staff with documentation as needed for verification at the time payments need to be processed.

To date, 26 requests for vouchers have been made (totaling approximately 312 vouchers). A total of 240 vouchers have been redeemed at Republic's Golden Bear Transfer Station on Parr Boulevard (about 127 have been redeemed within the current 2008/2009 Expenditure Plan cycle and the remaining 113 in 2006/2007). The majority of the vouchers requested have been by residents that are referred through code or law enforcement staff.

#### **Strategy 4 - Community Services Coordinator**

The Community Services Coordinator (CSC) position is currently vacant but is expected to be filled prior to the beginning of the 2010/2011 Expenditure Plan. The CSC is responsible for public outreach, illegal dumping prevention and acts as a liaison between the community, the City and County.

The CSC was employed by CHDC of North Richmond until May 2009 at which time CHDC terminated the individual serving as the CSC. This termination, which created discord among some members on the Committee and in the North Richmond community, resulted in the Committee's recommendation to revise the first bullet under Strategy #4 of the 2008/2009 Second Amended Expenditure Plan to remove CHDC as the entity providing oversight of the CSC position and replace it with reference to a "non-profit or public agency." As of October 6, 2009, the CSC will now be employed through the Neighborhood House of North Richmond (NHNR). The Richmond City Council approved a contract with NHNR for oversight of the CSC and City staff provided NHNR staff with a draft job description to assist with the recruitment and hiring process.

During the restructuring process, some of the responsibilities of the CSC related to illegal dumping/blight referrals and tracking, as well as oversight of the bulky clean-up and disposal voucher programs were reassigned to the BOSC.

#### **Strategy 5 - Bilingual Outreach Services/Coordinator**

Carla Orozco, the Bilingual Outreach Services Coordinator (BOSC), assists the CSC with illegal dumping referrals/tracking and public outreach by serving as a link between the Spanish speaking members of the community of North Richmond and the City and County. The BOSC is employed through CHDC of North Richmond. Ms. Orozco is dedicated to identifying and pursuing opportunities to outreach to the Latino community. Ms. Orozco prepares and translates into Spanish various outreach and resource materials for community-wide distribution to Latino community members, maintains the illegal dumping database, provides oversight for the bulky clean-up and disposal voucher programs, and supports staff on a variety of other mitigation-funded programs and projects.

### **Strategy 6 - North Richmond Outreach Campaign**

Mitigation staff, the CSC and the BOSC assists with the development of public outreach materials to help educate the North Richmond community about various mitigation strategies. The following are examples of outreach conducted in the community:

- Mitigation-funded staff continue to work at the street level to educate community members on available resources and to increase awareness.
- Collaboration with a variety of people and organizations within the community such as the Young Adult Empowerment Center to discuss strategies to prevent illegal dumping, to inform members about current beautification efforts and developments, and to discuss environmental concerns in the community.
- Continued development and implementation of an outreach campaign called "North Richmond Green" intended to build recognition for mitigation funded beautification projects as well as help build pride and rally community support around all beautification efforts. Mitigation Fee staff has registered a new website ([www.nrgreen.org](http://www.nrgreen.org)) to replace [www.stopdumping.org](http://www.stopdumping.org) in order to build upon this theme as a means of providing residents with an online resource for Mitigation Fee supported programs and services which are intended to compliment the printed outreach materials created.
- A variety of flyers and resource materials has been developed and will be reviewed for distribution to the community.
- Distribution of a newsletter to provide the North Richmond community with updates related to the implementation of Expenditure Plan strategies and other important information related to illegal dumping/blight in the community.
- Attendance at community meetings and events to update the community on mitigation-funded strategies.

---

## ***ABATEMENT & ENFORCEMENT***

---

### **Strategy 7 - City/County Pick-up from Right-of-Way**

The City's Illegal Dumping Abatement Crew receives work requests to pick-up materials that are not suitable for collection by Republic Sanitary Service's Hot Spot Crew such as tires, electronics, and unidentified liquids. The Abatement Crew supervisor provides monthly reports identifying the illegal dumping locations and invoices to the City for reimbursement of staff costs, equipment usage and mileage. The City Public Works Abatement Supervisor is working closely with the mitigation-funded staff to ensure the effective implementation of this strategy.

### **Strategy 8 - Vacant and Abandoned Lot and Properties Clean-up**

This strategy includes the clean-up of abandoned lots and properties within the Mitigation Area. CHDC staff is interested in utilizing some of the vacant lots for community gardens (See Strategy 16A update). No funds have been expended to date.

### **Strategy 9 – Vacant and Abandoned Lot Fencing**

No funds have been expended to date.

### **Strategy 10 - Code Enforcement Staff**

Conrad Fromme is the County Building Inspector that is officially assigned to the dedicated North Richmond Code Enforcement position. Since being assigned in January 1, 2008, he has taken a comprehensive approach to code enforcement working with other agencies as needed to address the illegal dumping and blight problems in the North Richmond community. Mr. Fromme opened 36 cases, closed 36 cases and had 81 active cases for the month of August. During the 20-months of this 2008 / 2009 Expenditure Plan cycle, he opened a total of 391 cases and closed 320 cases, with an average case load of about 62 cases. Eduardo Franco filled in for Conrad Fromme while Mr. Fromme was out on medical leave.

### **Strategy 11 - Graffiti Abatement**

The City Public Works Graffiti Abatement Crew cleans graffiti visible from the public right-of-way located within the incorporated and unincorporated portions of the North Richmond Waste & Recovery Mitigation Fee Primary Funding Area. Although reports show that graffiti incidents are very nominal in the community, the City's Graffiti Abatement Crew is very responsive to requests for abatement in order to ensure that the needs of the community are met in a timely manner.

### **Strategy 12 - Illegal Dumping Investigator/Officer**

Felipe Monroe no longer serves as the Illegal Dumping Officer due to circumstances involving the mandatory criteria the Sheriff's Office has to use when filling certain vacancies resulting from lay-offs forced by the current budget crisis. Sheriff Deputy Felipe Monroe served as the Illegal Dumping Investigator/Officer from April 30, 2007 to April 23, 2009.

Although Deputy Monroe is no longer working as the dedicated Illegal Dumping Officer in North Richmond, the Sheriff's Office has employed a new Resident Deputy Team approach in North Richmond consisting of three pairs of deputies assigned to one of three shifts effective April 27, 2009. All six deputies will have the same overall "Roles & Responsibilities" which include combating illegal dumping and other crime as well as routine patrols and community involvement/assistance. There are now two Resident Deputies assigned to the Day Shift that routinely patrol the entire North Richmond Mitigation Funding Area as well as periodically conduct investigations and surveillance to address illegal dumping.

Between April 2007 and April 2009, Deputy Monroe issued approximately 226 citations for illegal dumping, no parking/street sweeping, unsecured/uncovered loads, littering, transporting waste tires, as well as other criminal and traffic violations. During the months of May and June 2009, the six North Richmond Deputies issued approximately 51 citations for these same types of violations. The six deputies also had 26 vehicles towed because they were illegally parked, unregistered, in disrepair or for other violations.

Deputies have found that issuing verbal warnings can be effective in establishing accountability for those illegally dumping on the streets. Deputies instruct persons

suspected of dumping to remove and properly dispose of the debris within a specified timeframe in order to avoid receiving a citation. In most cases the illegally dumped material is removed accordingly by those alleged to be responsible. The Deputies coordinate with the Richmond Police Department who has staff routinely monitoring surveillance cameras as needed to assist in illegal dumping, graffiti and other criminal cases.

In October 2009, County Environmental Health staff conducted a training to assist coordinated law enforcement efforts in North Richmond based in part upon the knowledge and experience that Environmental Health staff and Deputy Monroe had gained working in conjunction with Deputy Monroe over the past two years serving as the Illegal Dumping Officer in North Richmond. Training was expected to provide insight into the overall approach as well as relevant tips/techniques, resources/contacts and other details found to be most effective in the fight against illegal dumping.

### **Strategy 13 - Increase Nighttime Patrols & Investigation**

Increased nighttime patrols are intended to complement the work of the Investigator/Officer (Strategy 12). At the meeting on October 27, 2008, the Committee voted to approve some changes to the 2008/2009 Second Amended Expenditure Plan and Budget which included Committee Member Gioia's suggestion to allocate an additional \$60,000 to Strategy 13 "Increase Nighttime Patrols & Investigations" in order to fund increased law enforcement presence during nighttime hours through 2009. Supervisor Gioia reported that there was a growing need for additional patrols in North Richmond which he and the Sheriff had just discussed at a meeting. Since that meeting, Supervisor Gioia has successfully helped secure enough funding from other sources, when combined with this \$100,000, to cover the cost of additional Resident Deputies dedicated to North Richmond. At least two of six Deputies that comprise the Resident Deputy Team launched on April 27, 2009 (see Strategy 12 above) will be working until midnight every Tuesday through Sunday (coverage provided by the two pairs assigned to Swing Shift & Weekends). The Deputies working at night have the same overall "Roles & Responsibilities" which include but are not limited to:

- ✓ Conduct illegal dumping surveillance and investigations.
- ✓ Build & file cases specific to instances of commercial dumping which are suitable for prosecution.
- ✓ Conduct sting operations to catch illegal dumpers.
- ✓ Target specific locations and/or time frames where illegal dumping occurs most regularly.

### **Strategy 14 - Surveillance Cameras**

The Mitigation Committee allocated funds for the purchase and installation of eight (8) surveillance cameras in the Mitigation Area via the City's contract with ADT Security Systems to help combat illegal dumping. The 8 camera locations were initially selected because they were considered illegal dumping "hot spots." As needed, the mitigation funds will be used to repair, maintain and move cameras and associated mounting kit/accessories but also to maintain the coverage network, purchase needed software

and additional deterrent mechanisms. Camera installation was completed in spring 2008.

At the May 6, 2009 Committee meeting, Deputy Chief Ed Medina from the City of Richmond's Police Department (RPD) asked Mitigation staff about the possibility of switching out 6 of North Richmond's 8 PTZ cameras for fixed (non-movable) cameras, viewing the same exact illegal dumping locations. Deputy Medina stated that the RPD believed they had a greater need for the PTZ cameras in the City's existing network and could better utilize the PTZ abilities in high crime areas where RPD is currently limited by a fixed camera view. At the September 24, 2009 meeting, Deputy Chief Medina provided an update on the usefulness of the North Richmond cameras, as well as the PTZ cameras currently being utilized by the city. He stated that the cameras have assisted law enforcement with illegal dumping, homicide and narcotics investigations. He stated the cameras are viewed 24 hours, 7 days per week either by retired police officers or by dispatch. It was also mentioned that North Richmond's dedicated illegal dumping officers work closely with the City's Police Department to monitor and utilize camera footage. There are other areas within the Mitigation Area that have been identified as locations for new or relocated cameras.

In October 2009, the CCTV cameras captured a man illegally dumping materials at the end of Alamo Ave. The footage helped Richmond law enforcement officers identify the person responsible for the dumping and charges were being filed.

#### **Strategy 15 - Illegal Dumping Prosecutor**

The Illegal Dumping Prosecutor works closely with the City Police Department and the North Richmond Illegal Dumping Officer to discuss various strategies and important information needed to prosecute illegal dumping cases. The allocated funds cover 15% of the full-time salary for 2 years. Derek Butts was assigned to this Prosecutor position from January 2, 2007 to August 15, 2008. The Illegal Dumping Prosecutor has filed cases on individuals found guilty of violating codes related to illegal dumping which have resulted in fines, jail time, and community service (details regarding some cases are included under Strategy 12). As of August 18, 2008, Mark Eichman replaced Mr. Butts as the Illegal Dumping Prosecutor.

- In late 2007/early 2008, the Illegal Dumping Prosecutor was successful at charging two individuals with a misdemeanor resulting in one defendant receiving 10 days of jail time and the other a \$2,000 fine. Both individuals were required to do community service as part of their probation.
- In late 2008, the Illegal Dumping Prosecutor began working with Deputy Monroe on a case involving a construction hauling company witnessed illegally dumping 7.1 cubic yards of construction debris containing dry wall and asbestos. This company was also operating an illegal transfer station. A community member informed Deputy Monroe that they witnessed a hauling company employee dump the debris on private property belonging to AT&T on Brookside Avenue. When approached by Deputy Monroe, the person responsible admitted to the dumping. The District Attorney's Office filed a felony case against the owner of the

company, a \$20,000 warrant was issued and the owner has since been arrested at his place of business in front of his peers.

---

## **COMMUNITY INVESTMENT**

---

### **Strategy 16 – Beautification**

#### **A. Neighborhood Landscaping & Gardening Projects**

CHDC and The Youth Adult Empowerment Center (YAEC) are working together to utilize neighborhood landscaping funds for a gardening project at the YAEC site and to discuss the possibility of using funds for other landscaping projects within the Mitigation Area. Funding is to be expended exclusively for plants/materials needed for pre-approved landscaping projects (labor to be provided by Mitigation-funded and approved stipend program participants through Strategy 17a).

A need was identified to implement a community gardening project to efficiently utilize vacant lots and turn them into community assets. At the May 2009 meeting, the Committee allocated Mitigation Fees to fund a proposal from Urban Tilth and Communities United Restoring Mother Earth (CURE) for the North Richmond “Lots of Crops” Gardening Program.

#### **B. Servicing, Maintenance and Moving/Removal of Street Cans**

In 2007, four (4) street cans, covered in tile art created by Verde Elementary School children, were located at the following sites within the Mitigation Area:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> & Market Ave
- 5<sup>th</sup> & Market Ave
- 6<sup>th</sup> & Market Ave
- Giaramita & Verde

Republic Sanitary Services (RSS) provided weekly collection service for all four street cans. However, due to increasing problems with the street cans in these locations, including substantial vandalism/damage (e.g. parts removed, turned over, burned, etc.) and misuse (e.g. overstuffed with household garbage rather than litter), the cans are no longer useable. As a result, Mitigation staff requested and RSS staff concurred, that service to these street cans would be terminated, unless needed. Instead of disposing of the street cans, CHDC and City staff are working to identify and secure new locations for them within the Mitigation Area. City staff will then work with City Public Works staff to move the cans to their new location(s). Staff anticipates the movement of the cans prior to January 1, 2010.

### **Strategy 17 - Community Involvement**

#### **A. Stipends and Mentorship Program**

Mitigation Fees are now allocated to fund stipends to West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) Transition Program students, YouthBuild and Young Adult

Empowerment Center (YAEC) participants, and other groups as identified and approved by Committee staff for illegal dumping abatement and beautification programs. However, since fall 2008, the WCCUSD decided not to allow their students to participate in Mitigation funded activities and the YouthBuild program is no longer in existence.

In October 2008, the County entered into contract with the County Housing Authority in the amount of \$24,978 to administer the Young Adult Empowerment Center (YAEC) Advisory Council Stipend Program. The purpose of the YAEC Advisory Committee is to provide a meaningful experience to each Member through service leadership, while establishing a valuable community resource that focuses on issues and projects intended to enhance the quality of life of all North Richmond residents. Members of the North Richmond YAEC Advisory Committee are between the ages of 17-25. The Stipend Program covers time spent by up to six YAEC Advisory Committee Members undertaking activities which are directly related to planning and conducting trash abatement and beautification activities on public property within the Mitigation Fee Primary Funding Area (activities can also be conducted on private property but only with pre-authorization from Committee staff).

Supervisor Gioia's Office and County staff has worked with the County Housing Authority regarding a draft proposal submitted for their Young Adult Empowerment Center (YAEC) Mentorship Program (copy attached). Various changes have been made to the draft proposal in an attempt to better tailor the proposed program to the Expenditure Plan language ensure it is designed to incorporate efforts to address and combat illegal dumping and blight in the community. Unfortunately, staff working on this Mentorship Proposal are also responsible for many other activities associated with the YAEC which has required majority of available resources to date.

### **B. Parks Rehabilitation Initiative**

The City of Richmond Parks and Landscaping Division currently is in the process of beginning a variety of projects at Shields-Reid Park. Three Requests for Bids went out for: (1) redesign and construction contract documentation, (2) demolition of specific areas of the park, and (3) lighting. The redesign of the park may include but is not limited to:

- Adult size soccer field and youth soccer practice area;
- Edible garden;
- Reconfigured baseball diamond;
- Skate park;
- New tot play lot;
- Lighting; and
- Other important features.

The Parks Division is also currently engaged in a variety of renovation projects at 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Ball Park to increase the usability of the field.

### **C. North Richmond Greening Project**

The North Richmond Greening Project consists of working with community stakeholders to create a greening plan for the area and installing and maintaining the selected plan. To-date, no funds have been allocated to any phase of this project. County staff has been approached by the County Redevelopment Agency to explore whether any of this funding could be used for certain streetscape improvements that the community has expressed interest in pursuing.

### **D. New Street Can and/or Tile Art Project**

The new street can project is currently on-hold due to the current issues, effectiveness and utilization of the four street cans. The tile art project was added to this strategy and approved in October/November 2008. The tile art project started in January 2009. Hand-painted tiles, based on themes of anti-littering and environmental stewardship, were created by Verde Elementary School students. The plan is to place the tiles in appropriate places throughout the community (such as benches).

### **E. Senior Center Improvements**

Staff attended a bidder's job walk-through with potential contractors on March 13, 2009 for proposed exterior improvements to the Senior Center. The two contractors present were Marvin Collins Construction of Hercules and Baines Group of Oakland. The walk-through was conducted by Charles Moore and Pamela Neyland from the Neighborhood House of North Richmond and Brenda Kain from the Contra Costa County Redevelopment Agency.

Staff from Neighborhood House outlined the proposed exterior improvements with the two contractors as follows: Remove and Replace 80' x 50' existing asphalt parking lot (includes new parking stalls and code compliant ADA parking stall and ramp to access senior center), replace or modify existing pole lighting in parking lot, replace wall mounted lighting in courtyard with new security lighting, remove and replace 1/2 of existing concrete driveway entrance, add new wrought iron gate and associated fencing over driveway and add new fence and gate in back of Senior Center along 5<sup>th</sup> Street, install new irrigation in front with drought resistant plants.

The exterior improvements are being jointly funded through a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) obtained by the Contra Costa County Redevelopment Agency and the North Richmond Mitigation Fee. Mitigation Fee funding in the amount of \$14,584 was used to purchase and install new wrought iron gate and fencing.

### **F. Safe Routes Program & Community Mural Project**

Both the Safe Routes Program and Community Mural Project are being implemented by Harold Beaulieu, founder of a nonprofit organization that coordinates community based art projects in the Bay Area and administered under contract between CHDC and the City. Mr. Beaulieu submitted budget/work plan for the Community Mural Project at the Young Adult Empowerment Center in second quarter of 2008 and began work during the third quarter of 2008. In April 2009, Mr. Beaulieu submitted a budget/work plan for the Safe Routes to School Project and began implementation.

Mr. Beaulieu provided brief updates to the Committee at various meetings. At the September 2009 meeting, Mr. Beaulieu reported the Popsicle Project surveyed 1,000 homes in North Richmond about how safe residents perceive their streets to be on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being "not safe" and 10 being "very safe." Beaulieu recruited about two dozen young adults between the ages of 15 and 23 to go door to door to about 1,000 houses over a 2 1/2-week period. They asked one question: On a scale of 1 to 10, how safe is it for a child to walk to a local store in North Richmond, buy a Popsicle and get back home unharmed?

The survey findings concluded the following with regards to resident perceptions about safety on specific streets:

Five safest streets:

Jade Street (only 1 response): 10

Battery Street: 7.81

Silver Street: 7.36

Giaramita Street: 7.05

Gertrude Avenue: 6.95

Five least safe streets:

Castro Street: 3.36

Alamo Avenue: 3.68

Fourth Street: 3.85

York Street: 3.92

Stanford Street: 4

Mr. Beaulieu partnered with Verde Elementary in North Richmond for International Walk to School Day on October 7, 2009.

### **G. West County Watershedz Program**

The Urban Creeks Council (UCC) submitted a new proposal (copy attached) which they would like to substitute for the one that was originally submitted as the basis for the \$15,000 funding allocation in the 2008/2009 Expenditure Plan. Budget uncertainties for both UCC and the County have prevented the implementation of the originally proposed project. Since that time, the County Flood Control District has committed to revising the maintenance agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers that governs the management of the Lower Wildcat Creek flood control channel. The County's decision to go ahead with the plan revision has created an important opportunity to make significant improvements to the site that is expected to enhance its value to the community. Consequently, UCC feels that assisting the County with the preliminary work necessary to move the plan revision forward is a much more viable project in the short term and of much greater importance than the small native plant garden originally proposed. UCC indicates that if they are allowed to use the funding allocated, as described in the attached proposal, they believe it may be feasible to accomplish the tasks proposed before the end of calendar 2009. However, they indicated that it would be helpful if they had the flexibility to use the funding during the first half of calendar

year 2010, if delays are necessary either due to weather or availability of local youth to provide needed assistance/support.

The proposal involves vegetation clearing in order to provide visibility needed for County Flood Control District to conduct topographic surveys in late 2009 and/or Spring 2010 (may be most ideal after the winter rains have ceased and vegetation has "leafed-out" to facilitate plant identification). Contra Costa County survey crews will identify and mark the location of the areas to be surveyed. UCC will hire local youth to assist with the trimming of vegetation and removal of trimmed vegetation to a staging area. County Maintenance staff will haul the trimmed vegetation for composting at a proper facility.

Their original proposal involved funding the design and implementation of a rehabilitation project within the Wildcat Creek riparian zone and trail corridor near Verde Elementary School. The proposed project would have employed North Richmond youth and was part of a larger environmental project in the North Richmond area. In early 2009, the UCC submitted a revised proposal entitled "Native Habitat Restoration Along the Wildcat Regional Trail" covering design, installation and short-term maintenance of native vegetation adjacent to the walking trail along Wildcat Creek between Giaramita Rd and 3rd Street. The proposal acknowledged that ongoing maintenance of a restoration project located on a small, heavily disturbed urban site like this is critical to the project's long-term success. Therefore, they are partnering with the County Flood Control District to solve this problem through development of a comprehensive management program for lower Wildcat (below the San Pablo city limit), which would include the proposed restoration site.

#### **H. Wildcat and San Pablo Creek Enhancements**

The Contra Costa County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (FCD) in cooperation with the Wildcat-San Pablo Watershed Council (Council) submitted a proposal (copy attached) to manage the stream facility to provide flood protection for North Richmond, habitat for plants and wildlife, and opportunities for the community to enjoy and learn from this natural resource. The FCD and the Council wish to modify the maintenance manual written by the US Army Corps of Engineers to ensure flood protection, improve wildlife habitat, restore more riparian forest, and increase recreation and education opportunities for the community. The FCD has recently submitted a new revised proposal requesting to use the funding allocated to help offset a portion of the cost to conduct more detailed cross section surveys than normal for a portion of Wildcat Creek in North Richmond in order to develop a comprehensive hydraulic model of the stream facility. This will enable the FCD and Council to determine the amount of riparian forest that can exist within the facility while still conveying 100-year storm flows. The FCD proposes to utilize mitigation fees to conduct the additional surveys required to develop the hydraulic model and to have County surveyors conduct a topographic survey of each of the cross sections and the areas around each of the bridges. County surveyors will create cross section diagrams and a digital terrain model around the bridges. FCD engineers will use the data obtained and processed by the County surveyors to develop a detailed hydrologic analysis to determine how much vegetation can be allowed to grow within the overall stream channel and near the bridges, while

still conveying the 100-year flood as required by the US Army Corps of Engineers. The results of this hydrologic model will set the boundaries for the development of the vegetation management plan by the Wildcat San Pablo Watershed Council (to occur in 2010 & 2011).

The Contra Costa County FCD originally submitted a proposal requesting funding for at least a portion of three creek-related projects. These projects would enhance fish passage, water quality or habitat preservation along Wildcat and/or San Pablo Creeks. The funding allocated was significantly less than the amount requested and therefore not adequate to fund a portion of all three creek projects. No funds have yet been spent because the District staff is currently exploring opportunities to provide the most effective enhancements to these creeks, including possible partnership with the Urban Creeks Council related to Wildcat Creek management program mentioned above under Strategy 17g.

### **I. Capital Improvement Projects**

Committee members recommended capital improvement projects to be considered should include fencing or alternate barriers, and street/sidewalk improvements related to railroad crossings. No funds have been allocated to specific capital improvement projects because City and County staff still need to determine the most efficient and effective use of the allocated funds within the Mitigation area. At the September meeting, City staff described a possible capital improvement project that the City's Engineering Department could explore developing regarding installing barriers and curbs at various dead ends abutting railroad crossings. The City's Engineering Department will conduct a feasibility study and provide a cost assessment for the project for the Committee's review. If the Committee decides that the project is feasible then the project could be constructed during the 2010/2011 Expenditure Plan cycle. County staff has been approached by the County Redevelopment Agency to explore whether any of this funding could be used for certain improvements that the community has expressed interest in pursuing.

At the May 2009 meeting, a presentation was made requesting the use of Strategy 17i funds to help create an "Eco-Academy". The Eco-Academy would be a "green vocational school" that is proposed to be a campus comprised of five schools located in five different vacant houses owned by the County Housing Authority. The houses would be rehabilitated as "green buildings" during the initial phase of the project and they would all be connected electronically using wireless computer network. Alternate committee member Luz Gomez explained that the availability and plans for the houses mentioned had not yet been determined by the County Housing Authority. She indicated that the language as written provided some flexibility and suggested that a written proposal and budget be developed. Committee members expressed support and asked that this be further explored, including identifying what elements of the overall project this funding would be used for and requested a progress report at the next Committee meeting. The Committee will review a draft proposal for the Eco-Academy from Barbara Becnel with the Neighborhood House of North Richmond at the October 26, 2009 meeting.