IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE
North Richmond Waste & Recovery Mitigation Fee
2010/2011 Expenditure Plan
- March 2011 -

PREVENTION & EDUCATION

Strategy 1 - Bulky Clean-ups & Disposal Vouchers

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. Eligible residents can request up to twelve $5 vouchers for disposal at Republic's transfer station on Parr Blvd. per calendar year (vouchers expire after six months, Mitigation Fees only pay for vouchers that are actually redeemed).

Due to limited usage of these programs, the Bulky Clean-ups and the Voucher program were combined in order to increase effectives and program promotion and the allocated funding available in the current Expenditure Plan cycle was reduced by a substantial amount.

CHDC staff (in lieu of a Community Services Assistant) distributed 150 disposal vouchers in 2010 through March 2011.

RSS submits request for payment to City staff a few times per year for vouchers redeemed by residents at RSS. Currently, City staff has not received invoices for vouchers redeemed from January 2010 through March 2011.

Strategy 2 - Neighborhood Clean-up Events

On December 4, 2010, a community-wide neighborhood clean-up took place in which 40 tons of household trash was collected. A total of 14 loads was taken to the Bulk Materials Processing Center at the landfill. They City of Richmond assisted 13 seniors with trash removal/curbside pick-up form their homes.

Strategy 3 – Community Services Coordinator

The Community Services Coordinator (CSC) shall serve as a link between the community of North Richmond, the City of Richmond, and Contra Costa County for issues related to beautification, illegal dumping, and blight; assist the City and County in implementing specified strategies from the Expenditure Plan; and coordinate specified activities related to illegal dumping and beautification within the North Richmond Primary Mitigation Funding area.

The CSC is responsible for and has accomplished the following tasks (information is based on the CSC's progress report):

- Received information, complaints, and concerns from personal observation, residents and/or others related to illegal dumping and blight and submitted referrals on a weekly basis to staff at the Community Housing Development Corporation (CHDC) for input into the Illegal Dumping Database.
- Received and tracked community feedback and input about mitigation strategies, the Mitigation Committee, and/or City/County issues related to the mitigation fee.
- Attended various community meetings to inform residents about the need for resident input to combat these issues in an effort to encourage their feedback.
- Conducted dumping patrols on a weekly basis in an effort to identify mitigation issues, and ensure that they are referred to the appropriate mitigation related agency. Also, sent referrals to Richmond Sanitary Service of residents in the funding area whom are suspected of not having garbage collection service.
- Made presentations regarding beautification efforts, code enforcement issues, illegal dumping, and blight to local businesses and at community meetings such as the Verde Elementary School "Coffee Club," the Verde Elementary School English as a Second Language Adult Class, the North Richmond Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC), the "Guardian Circle" club, and at the "North Richmond Green Steering Committee," and at community events through outreach.
- Ensured that Spanish speaking referrals are documented and referred to the appropriate agencies for follow up.
- Distributed information related to Prescreening Forms about bulky item pick-ups and/or disposal voucher programs to residents in an effort to increase awareness and usage of the services.
- Organized and led monthly "North Richmond Green Meetings" with community members, City/County representatives, and mitigation-funded staff, to discuss related issues affecting North Richmond, to develop ideas of prevention, and to provide updates and get input on current North Richmond Green programs/events.
- Supported the "Lots of Crops" community garden project by encouraging resident involvement and owners of vacant lots to donate their properties temporarily for the development of the gardens.
- Identified additional opportunities for collaboration and partnership with agencies such as, "Recycle More," "Cure Me," "Sims Metal," "Richmond Sanitary Service," "Regional Parks," "CHDC," "Shields Reid Community Center", the "Guardian Circle" club, and the "North Richmond Green Festival Planning Committee".
- Provide input regarding changes and/or additions to the North Richmond Green website's current layout and content in an effort to develop a stronger connection amongst residents with the website, and to encourage the interest of learning about mitigation issues, and to increase usage of the mitigation related services that are included on the site. Identified the need for some materials/information to be translated into Spanish.

Strategy 4 - Community Services Assistant

The Bilingual Outreach Worker (now called the Community Services Assistant) resigned from the Community Housing Development Corporation (CHDC) in December 2009 and accepted a position with Neighborhood House of North Richmond as the Community Services Coordinator. CHDC posted the position and an initial screening was conducted by CHDC's Resident Services/Community Organizer. However, an administrative decision was made to have existing CHDC staff assume the responsibilities in the interim, as authorized in CHDC's contract.

CHDC receives referrals from Richmond Sanitary Services and the Community Services Coordinator for input into Comcate and the illegal dumping database system (including date, location, type and amount of illegally dumped materials), receives information, complaints and concerns from community residents, and handles English and Spanish speaking incoming calls and walk-ins regarding illegal dumping.

Staff reviewed Comcate daily and followed up with departments as necessary to ensure that complaints resolved. Letters were sent to offenders based on evidence collected by Richmond Sanitary. No repeat offenders identified during this report period.

Month	Reported occurrences noted in database	Evident Letters Mailed
January 2010	260	3
February 2010	262	1
March 2010	303	3
April 2010	275	3
May 2010	297	2
June 2010	296	4
January 2011	337	N/A
February 2011	315	N/A
March 23, 2011	229	N/A
TOTAL	1,693	16

Staff conducted outreach/participated in several events providing information/materials on the mitigation program, City, County, Richmond Sanitary and other community recycling resources available to the community to reduce illegal dumping. An information table was held at the following events: Earth Day, Juneteenth Festival and Cinco De Mayo Festival and the North Richmond Green Festival.

Presentations on recycling, illegal dumping, Richmond Sanitary extra pick ups days made to tenant resident councils at Community Heritage Senior Housing and Chelsey Mutual Housing. Additionally, residents were encouraged to use North Richmond Voucher Program and discouraged from illegal dumping on the streets.

Strategy 5 – North Richmond Green Outreach

City and/or County staff are currently working with the CSC to ensure successful implementation of the following public outreach activities before December 2011:

- Placing banners on City and County-owned light pole banners along Filbert and 3rd Ave. (priority project)
- Providing stipends for community members (youth and adults) for door-to-door outreach to promote mitigation-funded strategies
- Sponsoring a North Richmond Green Festival in August 2010 which may include information booths, fun activities for kids, food, and information about community-beautification/mitigation-related projects
- Design and printing of staff approved banners, signage and/or t-shirts which include NR Green website and local phone number for Community members to learn more about Mitigation funded programs/efforts

ABATEMENT & ENFORCEMENT

Strategy 6 – City/County Pick-up from Right-of-Way

The City of Richmond's Code Enforcement abatement team currently picks-up illegal dumping in the public right-of-way located within the unincorporated & incorporated Mitigation Fee Primary Funding Area to remove items not collected by the designated RSS Hot Spot Route crew. Code Enforcement responds to information/requests submitted into the City's COMCATE system and tracks the materials collected. Code Enforcement is reimbursed for personnel, mileage, administrative costs, and equipment rental as needed. Code Enforcement staff worked between 16 and 42 hours per month on illegal dumping abatement.

Strategy 7 – Code Enforcement

Effective September November 1, 2011 Mark Alford took over for Eduardo Franco as the full time County Building Inspector officially assigned to the dedicated Code Enforcement in North Richmond. The monthly status report submitted by Mr. Alford for April 1, 2010 through June 2010 indicated they had had opened 96 cases, closed 69 cases and had 93 total cases active. The County Code Enforcement Officer works with the Illegal Dumping Officer, City Code Enforcement and Contra Costa County Environmental Health staff to create a more comprehensive code enforcement system to address the illegal dumping problem in the North Richmond community.

Strategy 8 – Graffiti Abatement

The City of Richmond's Public Works graffiti abatement team currently abates graffiti in the public right-of-way located within the unincorporated & incorporated Mitigation Fee Primary Funding Area. The graffiti abatement team responds to requests submitted into the City's COMCATE system and also via observation. Code Enforcement has not requested to be reimbursed for personnel, mileage, administrative costs and equipment/materials.

Strategy 9 – Law Enforcement (*Investigation & Patrols*)

The Sheriff's Office remains committed to providing excellent service to the community and is actively implementing changes recommended by Supervisor Gioia intended to maximize law enforcement resources in North Richmond using a new Resident Deputy Team approach.

The Resident Deputy Team approach was officially launched in North Richmond on April 27, 2009. The Team consists of three pairs of deputies assigned to one of three shifts, either the Day Shift, Swing Shift or Weekends. All 6 deputies will 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.
- ✓ Attend and/or participate in community meetings and events.
- ✓ Exchange accurate information with residents about crime, the community and the goals of policing.
- ✓ Develop and/or assist in youth programs and activities.
- ✓ Work with the Richmond Police Department to monitor surveillance cameras to assist in illegal dumping, graffiti and other criminal cases.
- ✓ Develop operations to combat crime in North Richmond.

Strategy 10 – Surveillance Camera System

There are currently 8 surveillance cameras located throughout North Richmond. The City's Police Department has captured a significant amount of criminal activity directly attributable to the camera system. Details regarding the criminal activity cannot be provided due to the fact that most of these activities are currently under investigation or prosecution. Richmond Police Department has helped the Sheriff's office on numerous video related investigations in the North Richmond Mitigation Area. The Richmond Police Department, along with Councilmember Viramontes, is currently evaluating electronic graffiti detection devices which may be included as well.

Below is a sampling of the type of crimes captured:

- Homicides
- Stolen Vehicles
- Probation violations
- Illegal dumpings
- Assaults
- Public Intoxication
- Illegal drug possession / sale
- Body dumping
- Weapons discharge
- Stabbings

Richmond Police Department's plans for the Mitigation Area this fiscal year (FY 10-11) include several major initiatives in order of priority:

- Remove all current aging cameras to 10 Mega pixel digital IP cameras to improve evidence capture and suspect apprehension.
- Install fixed license plate recognition systems. This newer technology has proven to be very helpful in providing law enforcement solid leads in most of the types of crimes listed above during our evaluations of the technology.
- Expand existing system to more "hot spots". We are currently evaluating several data sources for locations including crime stats, Sheriff's detectives, County Probation detectives, County and City public works, Code Enforcement, Mitigation Committee staff, etc.
- Create budget model for maintenance of existing and additions to system for three more years.
- Share data with local law enforcement agencies on suspects detained for illegal dumping.

Strategy 11 – 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. 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 9). District Attorney Mark Peterson is the new Illegal Dumping Prosecutor assigned to illegal dumping in North Richmond.

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

Strategy 12 – Parks Rehabilitation Initiative

The City of Richmond Parks Division has conducted the following tasks between January 1, 2010 and June 30, 2010 at the North Richmond Ball field:

- Infield lighting repaired
- Electrical security enclosure installed.
- Various electrical vandal resistant devise install - in progress.
- 30 Redwood trees planted on south side of park
- Vandal resistant devices placed on five remaining trees

Although strides were made to rehabilitate the park during the time period, there were a few set-backs. 25 of the 30 trees planted were removed by thieves and two irrigation valves and several sprinkler heads were vandalized.

The Parks Division plans to do the following tasks prior to the end of this Expenditure Plan cycle:

- Install security cameras and building alarm
- Repair vandalized bathrooms.
- Install new fencing
- Install park lighting
- Re-landscape front of park.
- Install new vandal resistant score board

Strategy 13 – Capital Improvement Projects (*Infrastructure & Creeks*)

Committee directed staff to come back with recommendation on possible projects for these funds. No funds were initially allocated to specific capital improvement projects because City and County staff needed to determine the most efficient and effective use of the allocated funds within the Mitigation area. County staff has been approached by the County Flood Control District to explore whether any of this funding could be used for certain improvements and studies along Wildcat and San Pablo Creeks. Preliminary discussion with some committee members indicated a desire to possibly reallocate these funds to the Eco Academy project proposed by the Neighborhood House of North Richmond. At the July 26, 2010 meeting, the Committee voted to approve reallocation of this funding for Phase II of the Eco-Academy project proposed by NHNR. NHNR has notified the City that they will not be implementing the Eco-Academy Project as explained in the Staff Report for Agenda Item # 6 being considered at the March 28, 2011 Committee meeting.

Strategy 14 – North Richmond Community-Based Projects

All but two of the contracts for the Community-Based projects have been issued. The County expects to issue the contract to the Verde Partnership Garden upon receipt of an MOU with the new non-profit fiscal agent, Urban Tilth, is received. The County is working with the Golden Gate Audubon Society to establish a mutually acceptable service plan (project scope) which adequately addresses complications with aligning established funding priorities with the reduced budget amount authorized.

Entity	Award Amount Received
Athletes United for Peace	$30,000
Center For Human Development	$100,000
Communities United Restoring Mother Earth / Urban Tilth	$100,000
Golden Gate Audubon Society	$8,000
Harold Beaulieu / CHDC	$30,000
Neighborhood House of North Richmond*	$70,000
Social progress Inc.	$8,000
Verde Partnership Garden / Tides Center	$14,000
The Watershed Project	$40,000
TOTAL	**$400,000**

* NHNR has notified the City that they will not be implementing the Eco-Academy Project as explained in the Staff Report for Agenda Item # 6 being considered at the March 28, 2011 Committee meeting.

Strategy 15 – North Richmond Green Community Service Programs

City and/or County staff are working with the CSC to ensure successful implementation of the following North Richmond Green programs which were included in the Expenditure Plan:

- North Richmond Little League Baseball Program
    - The program was designed to increase the community support and involvement in beautification efforts, and blight reduction. The parents and community members who are apart of the "Guardian Circle" club, which was formed from support for the North Richmond Green Little League Teams, have learned the significance of North Richmond Green, and have set an example for the youth players of maintaining a clean environment, through the picking up of trash, and recyclable items at games and practices. The coaches, whom are also community members, have also encouraged sporadic cleanups at baseball games and practices amongst the youth players to remind them of the significance of North Richmond Green, and about their responsibility to improve the environment of North Richmond. (Information provided by the CSC)
- North Richmond Youth Eco Academy
    - The goal of the Academy is to serve as a environmental, hands on learning center for community members, especially for the youth in North Richmond. It will include education about recycling, creek restoration, and teach participants how to contribute to a cleaner, and healthier environment in North Richmond. It is planned for the North Richmond Green Little League players, which includes about 50 participants, to be the targeted group to participate in the Academy, although other youth and community members of all ages will be welcome from North Richmond. (Information provided by the CSC)
- North Richmond Adult Softball program

STRATEGIES WITH FUNDING AND ACTIVITIES THAT HAVE BEEN CARRIED FORWARD FROM TE 2008/2009 EXPENDITURE PLAN

Strategy 16A - Community Gardening Project – *Lots of Crops*

Lots of Crops is a community-oriented program designed to assist in the production of healthy food and medicine/native plants to residents of North Richmond by converting vacant lots to healing garden sites over a period of time. In addition, we want to encourage volunteerism, nutritious food preparation from the garden (including meatless dishes which are less expensive and healthier) and provide volunteer/` employment opportunities for residents.

Below is an example of tasks that have been accomplished between October 2009 and June 2010:

- Met with different community-based organizations, residents, and other entities regarding involvement with the Lots of Crops program
- Discussions with private property owners regarding additional potential garden sites
- Received mulch for both garden sites
- Met with five stipend applicants for orientation meeting
- Trained/ worked with five stipend participants
- Re-mulched garden sites where weeds have grown through
- Conducted community outreach and education
- Created a policy and procedures packet for garden site participants
- Harvested winter vegetables
- Worked on designing layout for 217 Vernon Site
- Worked with interested community members to reserve garden beds for planting
- Supervised volunteers and work
- Discussed financial planning for stipends received by participants
- Held a field trip to the Greenway Medicinal Garden

A garden blessing was held on April 19,l 2010.

Strategy 17A – Mentorship Project - YAEC

Funding to implement a Mentorship Program at the Young Adult Empowerment Center ($47,000). As reported to the Committee in October 2009, a draft proposal was submitted by the County Housing Authority to establish a Mentorship Program at the Young Adult Empowerment Center (YAEC). At that time, staff reported potential need for an extension through June 2010 the Mentorship Program. Staff from the YAEC and Supervisor Gioia's office may request that the Committee extend the timeframe beyond June 2010 because unfortunately staffing and workload issues have hindered YAEC staff from finalizing changes to their proposal, suggested by County staff. Staff identified changes were necessary in order to ensure the program design incorporates efforts to address and combat illegal dumping and blight in the community consistent with the language in the Expenditure Plan and the overall purpose for the mitigation fee.

Strategy 17G – West County Watershedz Program

Urban Creeks Council completed all proposed vegetation clearing efforts on the levees along Wildcat Creek in February 2010. UCC was able to clear all vegetation necessary to all the County Flood Control District to complete its survey work. UCC cleared vegetation from 20 survey transects between Giaramita Street and the Richmond Parkway, as well as the bridges at Giaramita and the Richmond Parkway. UCC utilized local Civicorps youth to help with the vegetation clearing efforts.

Strategy 17H – Wildcat and San Pablo Creek Enhancements

The Contra Costa County Flood Control District completed its topographic survey work and hydrological model in March of 2010. The FCD had planned to have its work completed in the Fall of 2009, however, due to the winter rains, that work was delayed. Thanks to the efforts of UCC, County Surveyors were able to conduct a topographic survey of each of the cross sections of the levees and the areas around each of the

bridges. FCD was then able to take this information and develop a detailed hydrologic analysis to determine how much vegetation that could be allowed to grow within the overall stream channel and near the brides. This information was also used to convey the 100-year flood areas as required by the US Army Corps of Engineers for levee recertification.

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