

Special Meeting
North Richmond Waste & Recovery Mitigation Fee
Joint Expenditure Planning Committee

Thursday, September 24, 2009

1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Richmond City Hall

440 Civic Center Plaza

Richmond, CA 94804

Members in Attendance:

Richmond City Councilmember Nathaniel Bates, **Chair**

Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia

Unincorporated Area Representative Dr. Henry Clark

Richmond City Councilmember Alternate Mayor Gayle McLaughlin

Unincorporated Area Representative Alternate Maricela Navarro

Members Absent:

Unincorporated Area Representative Joe Wallace (*portion*)

Incorporated Area Representative Alternate Johnny White

Richmond City Councilmember Maria Viramontes

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Public Comment

- Harold Beaulieu addressed the Committee regarding the Popsicle Project - Safe Routes to School program. He reported that 1,094 residents responded to the project's survey. Mr. Beaulieu stated that he would like to formally release the survey scores and project report and to acknowledge the youth that participated in the project. Alternate Navarro asked if the results would be shared with Verde Elementary School in time for International Walk to School Day on October 7, 2009. Mr. Beaulieu stated that he would work with Verde School on this effort. Committee members Gioia and McLaughlin agreed to work with Mr. Beaulieu (directly or via their staff) on the Popsicle Project reception.
- Kevin Adkinson with the B.A.L.L. program (Baseball, Academics and Life Lessons) informed the Committee of his intent to submit a proposal regarding youth baseball, park rehabilitation and park stewardship.
- Barbara Becnel from the Neighborhood House of North Richmond notified the Committee of an upcoming grant opportunity that will be issued by Chevron for vocational training for green jobs. The grant is due on October 30, 2009 and organizations can apply for up to \$200,000. Ms. Becnel stated that she would like to apply for the grant and that she believes mitigation funds can be leveraged with this grant. The Committee directed Ms. Becnel to work with staff and bring the grant proposal back at the next meeting for the Committee's review.

- Iyalode Kinney, project manager for the North Richmond Lots of Crops Gardening Project, encouraged the Committee to continue to fund the project. Lots of Crops is currently funded through the Mitigation Fund. Staff reassured the Committee that they will continue to work with Ms. Kinney and the project to ensure that the project is implemented.
- Pete Margolis of Salad Bowl Farms and Gardens, Inc. presented information about his nonprofit organization and the proposal submitted to the Committee. He stated that he would like to focus on (1) helping people develop businesses, (2) changing the focus from gardens to farms, and (3) changing the concept from local to neighborhoods.
- Shyaam Shabaka with Eco Village Farms addressed the Committee about a “Green Team” for the North Richmond community and about the potential to grow more food in West County in order to supply the Farm 2 Table program. He stated that he would submit a proposal for funding to the Committee.
- Cece Sellgrem from the Contra Costa County Flood Control District requested an extension through June 2010 for work that was slated to be conducted during the 2008-2009 Expenditure Plan cycle.

3. Review and Approve May 6, 2009 Meeting Notes/ Minutes

Minutes from the meeting were approved (motion made by Alternate Navarro and seconded by Committee member Clark).

4. Receive report from City of Richmond Police Department staff regarding the North Richmond Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) project

Deputy Chief Ed Medina with the City of Richmond Police Department gave a brief report on the usefulness of the cameras. He stated that the cameras have assisted law enforcement with illegal dumping, homicide and narcotics investigations. He informed the Committee that the cameras are viewed 24 hours, 7 days per week either by retired police officers or by RPD dispatch. He stated that there is interaction between Richmond Police and the County Sheriff’s department and that the information from the cameras is being used by the County Sheriff’s department. The Deputy Chief recommended that the Committee authorize the installation of new cameras instead of moving the existing cameras to new locations.

5. Receive staff report regarding summary of 2008 – 2009 Expenditure Plan costs incurred to date by the City and County

The Committee received a brief presentation by Staff highlighting information provided in the staff report and attached budget table related to the expenditures incurred as of September 15, 2009 under the 2008-2009 Expenditure Plan. Committee staff shared that expenditures to-date equal \$912,121. Staff explained that many projects are currently underway and that the majority of funds in those strategies will likely be expended by December 31, 2009. Staff noted a complete and final summary of actual expenditures for 2008/2009 will not be available until the first quarter of calendar year 2010. In response to Committee member Clark’s inquiry, staff provided a verbal report regarding which financial intuitions Mitigation Funding revenue is held and what, if any, interest is being accrued on the funds. City staff informed the Committee that the City holds mitigation funds at Mechanics

Bank and interest is accrued and held with the funds. County staff stated that mitigation funds are held at Wells Fargo Bank and that the fund does not accrue separate interest. A motion to approve the staff report was made by Committee member Gioia and seconded by Committee member Clark.

6. Review and provide direction regarding the Preliminary 2010 – 2011 Expenditure Plan Budget & Strategies

Staff outlined the proposed phased approach regarding the development of the 2010/2011 Expenditure Plan which consists of (1) Phase 1 - only allocating the projected revenue expected to be collected in 2010 and 2011, and (2) Phase 2 – allocating any unexpended funding from the 2008/2009 Expenditure Plan cycle. Staff then presented the proposed preliminary budget and Expenditure Plan for 2010/2011 based on the recommendations provided by the Committee during previous meetings. Staff highlighted the creation of a new strategy entitled “North Richmond Community-Based Projects” which would allow for the development, oversight and implementation of a variety of community-based projects with specific focuses on environmental stewardship, blight reduction and/or beautification. This new strategy would include funding for both current and potentially some of the new strategies presented during the public comment section. The Committee was asked to provide direction on the expenditure plan and budget so that staff could revise and prepare both documents for adoption by the Committee at the next meeting in October. Committee members directed staff to research the possibility of (1) hiring youth from the Mitigation Area to assist with graffiti abatement, (2) allowing individuals that are involved in graffiti vandalism to abate graffiti for community service, and (3) moving funds allocated for stipends to the new community-based projects strategy allowing organizations to utilize stipends within proposed projects.

7. Adjourn

The Committee Chair adjourned the meeting.