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

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***PREVENTION & EDUCATION***

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**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 effectiveness and program promotion and the allocated funding available in the current Expenditure Plan cycle was reduced by a substantial amount.

The Community Services Assistant at CHDC distributed 160 disposal vouchers in 2010 through June 2011. The number actually redeemed can only be determined based upon invoices submitted by RSS which City staff only receives a few times per year.

**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 (40.34 tons of debris) were taken to Republic Services' Golden Bear Transfer Station located at the Foot of Parr Boulevard. The City of Richmond assisted 13 seniors with trash removal/curbside pick-up from their homes. The next scheduled Community-wide Clean-up is scheduled for November 5, 2011.

**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 in part on the CSC's most recent progress report):

- Submitted referrals related to illegal dumping and blight to the Community Services Assistant at the Community Housing Development Corporation (CHDC) in spreadsheet format via email. The referrals were based on resident input,

community feedback, or CSC's personal observation when driving or walking around the Mitigation Funding Area.

- Attended various regularly scheduled community meetings including the Shields-Reid Neighborhood meeting and the NRMAC, Guardian Circle Club meetings (guardians from children who attend the Verde Elementary). Made presentations about the mitigation related issues facing North Richmond. Meeting attendees were informed about the need for resident input to help combat these issues and encouraged to provide feedback. Feedback was documented in a spreadsheet and provided to CHDC, Richmond Sanitary, City/County Code Enforcement and the County Sheriff Depts. Provided attendees with information about the various roles of mitigation related agencies and positions to ensure residents were aware of who to contact for certain issues. Outreach material was developed and communicated to all individuals who attended these meetings to inform them of available services and programs regarding vouchers, little league program and clean-up, and the street light-pole banner project. Distributed mitigation outreach material to inform individuals of various resources available in addition to upcoming events and current programs, and to encourage community input for mitigation related issues pertaining to illegal dumping and blight.
- Developed educational and public outreach materials and presentations regarding trash, illegal dumping, beautification and code enforcement targeting residents and businesses within the Funding Area, including Verde Elementary School. Ensured the distribution of educational and public outreach materials at meetings and other community events.
- Provided input regarding changes and/or additions to the North Richmond Green website (NRGreen.org).
- Organized and led monthly "North Richmond Green Meetings" 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.

#### **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.

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**UPDATE: 2010/2011 Amended Expenditure Plan - North Richmond Waste & Recovery Mitigation Fee**

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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.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Reported occurrences noted in database</b>	<b>Evidence Letters Mailed</b>
January 2010	260	3
February 2010	262	1
March 2010	303	3
April 2010	275	3
May 2010	297	2
June 2010	296	4
July 2010	332	3
August 2010	300	2
September 2010	321	3
October 2010	264	3
November 2010	290	2
December 2010	336	2
January 2011	337	N/A
February 2011	315	N/A
March 2011	343	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,531</b>	<b>30</b>

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 Chesley 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 staff worked with the CSC on implementation of the following activities through June 2011:

- Printed and installed banners on City-owned light pole banners along Filbert and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave.
- Organized the NR Green parade and two clean-up projects in partnership with Richmond Sanitary Service (Community pick up project & NR volunteers). Organized the East Bay Regional Parks project and Watershed Project to engage volunteers in cleaning up the Wildcat Creek.

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

- Providing stipends for community members (youth and adults) for door-to-door outreach to promote mitigation-funded strategies
- Design and printing of staff approved banners, signage and/or t-shirts which may include NR Green website and local phone number for Community members to learn more about Mitigation funded programs/efforts

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## ***ABATEMENT & ENFORCEMENT***

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### **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 7a – Code Enforcement - County**

Effective June 1, 2011, Louis Reinthaler has been assigned to replace Mark Alford as the County's official dedicated Code Enforcement Officer for North Richmond. Status reports submitted by the County Code Enforcement Officers covering the period since the previous Implementation Update (March 28, 2011) through June 30, 2011, identified the following:

- 12 new cases were opened;
- 18 cases were closed; and
- 37 cases are active.

The County Code Enforcement Officer continues to work with the Illegal Dumping Officer, City Code Enforcement and Contra Costa County Environmental Health staff to help facilitate effective collaboration within a comprehensive code enforcement framework to address the illegal dumping problem in the North Richmond community.

### **Strategy 7b – Code Enforcement - City**

The City Council and Board of Supervisors approved the recommended Second Amended 2010/2011 Expenditure Plan in May 2011 incorporating changes to Strategy 7 and associated reallocation of funding pursuant to the City and County Working Group recommendations approved by the Committee in March. The Code Enforcement responsibilities will be handled by both the City and County (for their respective jurisdictional areas) effective July 1, 2011, rather than having one County staff person enforce codes in the City and County portions of the Mitigation Funding Area.

Approval of the Working Group recommendation is expected to increase the effectiveness of code enforcement efforts in North Richmond by providing additional staff needed to address noncompliance and blight, securing vacant/foreclosed properties, issuing residential foreclosure/vacant property notices, conducting weed abatement, investigating illegal dumping on private property and issuing administrative citations for noncompliance. The new dedicated staffing at the City will focus on handle the overwhelming amount of vacant/ foreclosed properties and blight that plagues the “city side” of the mitigation area. The cost of the City’s temporary non-benefited Code Enforcement Officer, for a period of approximately 6 months, will be funded with the reallocation of \$35,000 from two existing strategies (\$30,000 from Graffiti Abatement - Strategy 8 and \$5,000 from Right-of-Way Clean Up - Strategy 6).

### **Strategy 8 – Graffiti Abatement**

The City of Richmond’s Code Enforcement 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 CRW system and also via observation. Due to the reallocation of funding to support the part time code enforcement officer, Code Enforcement has not requested to be reimbursed for personnel, mileage, administrative costs and equipment/materials associated with graffiti abatement.

### **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.

Monthly Activity Logs have since been routinely submitted for the six Deputies working in North Richmond. The Deputy Logs provide various statistics including the number of

reports written, citations issued, persons arrested and various other law enforcement activities conducted by each Deputy. These Logs include statistics for potential violations/investigations related to littering and illegal dumping. In May 2011, Deputy Felipe Monroe took over for Deputy Justin Varady as the lead Deputy for illegal dumping issues in North Richmond. Deputy Monroe is continuing to work on investigating an ongoing case related to illegal dumping of potentially contaminated soil on multiple different pieces of property in North Richmond.

### **Strategy 10 – Surveillance Camera System**

There are currently eight (8) surveillance cameras located throughout the Mitigation Area. The Richmond Police Department (RPD) has captured a significant amount of criminal activity directly attributable to the camera system and assisted the Sheriff's office on numerous video related investigations.

Below is a sampling of the type of crimes captured with the current video investment:

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

### **Flash Cam Update**

City and County staff are in the final process of selecting and purchasing an additional five (5) cameras and associated equipment. Camera equipment is expected to be purchased sometime this month (July 2011). City and County personnel will then work with appropriate staff to determine the specific locations for cameras to be installed.

### **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 introduced Bruce Flynn, the new Illegal Dumping Prosecutor assigned to illegal dumping in North Richmond.

County staff is in communication with the District Attorney's Office regarding need to receive any invoices from their office requesting reimbursement for the Prosecutor's

staff time associated with the specific crimes/cases intended to be paid for with Mitigation Fee funding allocation. .

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## **COMMUNITY INVESTMENT**

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### **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 device 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*)**

No funding is currently allocated to this Strategy. The City Council and Board of Supervisors approved the Second Amended 2010/2011 Expenditure Plan in May 2011 incorporating reallocation of the \$105,000 funding previously allocated to this Strategy to Strategy 14 pursuant to the Committee's recommendation approved in March.

### **Strategy 14 – North Richmond Community-Based Projects**

All but two of the contracts for the Community-Based projects have been issued. County staff is awaiting feedback on proposed finalized Service Plan for the Verde Partnership Garden which will be attached to the contract between the County and their new non-profit fiscal agent, Urban Tilth. The County and Golden Gate Audubon Society have established mutually acceptable service plan (project scope) which adequately addresses complications with aligning established funding priorities with the reduced budget amount authorized. The following table briefly summarizes the status of each approved Community-Based Project.

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<b>Entity</b>	<b>Status Updates</b>
Athletes United for Peace	Contract Completed. No invoices or progress reports received.
Center For Human Development	Contract completed. Project in progress. Invoices have been received/paid (37% of Funding Awarded).
Communities United Restoring Mother Earth / Urban Tilth	Contract completed. Project in progress. Invoices have been received/paid (60% of Funding Awarded).
Golden Gate Audubon Society	Finalizing Contract
Harold Beaulieu / CHDC	Project completed at the end of the 2011 school year. Progress report submitted. Invoices have been received/paid (27% of Funding Awarded).
Social progress Inc.	Project completed. Progress report submitted. Invoice has been received/paid (100% of Funding Awarded).
Verde Partnership Garden / Tides Center	Preparing Contract with new Fiscal Sponsor
The Watershed Project	Contract Completed. Progress Report Received. Invoice has been received/paid (64% of Funding Awarded).
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$330,000</b>

**Strategy 15 – North Richmond Green Community Service Programs**

City staff is working with the CSC, in consultation with County staff, 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

**STRATEGY DESCRIPTIONS AND NUMBERING CARRIED FORWARD FROM THE 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, to the Lots of Crops project is intended to provide potential volunteer/employment opportunities for residents.

Prior to expending all of the funding previously allocated, the original Contract issued by the City expired at the end of June 2010. Remaining funding in the amount of \$42,589.56 can not be expended until new/amended Contract is finalized. 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 – 10 property owners in all – five (5) in all
- Received mulch for all gardens as needed
- Met with five stipend applicants for orientation meeting
- Trained/ worked with five stipend participants
- Between March and June lost two (2) participants, gained another two (2)
- Re-mulched garden sites where weeds have grown through (continuous)
- Conducted community outreach and education (continuous)
- Created a policy and procedures packet for garden site participants (revised)
- Harvested winter vegetables
- Harvested spring vegetables and fruit
- Community members harvest when necessary to keep the plants producing
- Worked on designing layout for 217 Vernon Site
- Dedicated 217 Vernon Street site to Ervin Coley III, stipend participant, murdered March 20, 2011
- Planted apple, biloba, fig, plum, orange, olive trees at 217 Vernon
- Planted watermelon, squash, strawberries, various herbs, passionflower vines, seasoning herbs, broccoli, lavender, various native plants at 217 Vernon
- Worked with interested community members to reserve garden beds for planting at all gardens
- Supervised volunteers and work – various organizations came out to give their support – reference past progress reports

- Discussed financial planning for stipends received by participants – financial planning still a part of the program
- Have encourage three (3) participants to open up savings accounts at a Richmond credit union
- Held a field trip to the Greenway Medicinal Garden
- Field trips to Stribing Arboretum in San Francisco to check out all the various gardens representing all parts of the world
- Field trip to Wildcat Canyon in Richmond to identify wildflowers/herbs
- Field trip to Keller Beach in Point Richmond to identity trees
- Bi-monthly field trip to Greenway Medicinal Garden created by CURME and maintained by George Washington Carver Plant Savers of Lots of Crops
- Weekly plant identification – participants can identify 75 – 100 medicine plants, food plants, native plants, wildflowers, poisonous plants, etc.
- Tabling events at Richmond Main Street Initiative, International Women’s Day, the Latina Center Health Fair, Peace Garden monthly Community Day where the George Washington Carver Plant Savers made sure all “green” waste was collected so CURME could compost it for all our gardens
- Weekly soil science/composting workshops to remind participants NOT to throw away “green” waste
- Vermicomposting (composting with worms) classes and basic (yard waste) composting techniques so participants can teach to community
- Prepared medicine from plants growing in our gardens – medicine bags, oils, tinctures, lotions, healing salve, lip balm, plant hydrosol
- At all gardens, have planted plants to attract wildlife (butterflies, dragonflies, ladybugs, hummingbirds, etc
- At all gardens, planted strawberries, squash, herbs, corn, tomatoes, all types of peppers, sunflowers, amaranth, roses (edible), other edible flowers for their vitamin C, plants for making herbal household products and products for animal care, medicine plants, watermelon, cantaloupe, okra, all kinds of greens, etc.
- A garden blessing event was held on April 19, 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 bridges. This information was also used to convey the 100-year flood areas as required by the US Army Corps of Engineers for levee recertification.