

LOUISIANA RECOVERY AUTHORITY

Reallocation of Funding From Technical Assistance to the Building Code Enforcement Program

July 30, 2008

OVERVIEW: A resolution to request the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board to approve Action Plan Amendment No. 29 to Action Plan No. 1 to recommend that \$3.3 million of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds be reallocated from the Technical Assistance Budget to the Building Code Enforcement Program. This amendment will increase the available funding to the Building Code Enforcement Program from \$13 million to \$16.3 million to train parish code enforcement staff and provide resources to local communities with code enforcement issues.

Whereas, special assistance needs to be provided to local governments to prevent a major impediment to housing development through the lack of building, electrical and plumbing inspectors and permit processing staff;

Whereas, architects and builders will need inspectors and plan reviewers to help communities adapt to the new State Uniform Construction Code and to interpret the latest available advisory base flood elevations;

Whereas, it is expected that this amount will fund at least 40 field inspectors and plan reviewers, as well as a limited number of support staff;

Whereas, the State will also support the expansion of code enforcement capacity by sponsoring additional training opportunities for inspectors, engineers and architects;

Whereas, on April 26, 2006 the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board approved Action Plan Amendment No. 1 to Action Plan No. 1 which allocated \$11.3 million to Code Enforcement Activities for hiring such staff for local government over a number of years, based on the numbers of damaged/destroyed units in each parish;

Whereas, on February 12, 2008 the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board approved an additional \$1.3 million to continue to support Code Enforcement Activities that include hiring and training staff for local government in the most impacted parishes based on the number of damaged/destroyed units in each parish;

Whereas, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) has administered those funds to add capacity to the parishes through a non-profit contractor with the necessary expertise and staffing resources;

Whereas, according to DPS, the cost for these services will continue to be needed through 2008 and 2009 and with a total cost of approximately \$5 million, the original allocation of \$1.3 million will be exhausted;

Whereas, these services are an eligible cost under the delivery of the Road Home Program, since they are part of Action Plan Amendment No. 1 to Action Plan No. 1 which establishes the Road Home Program;

Whereas, as we continue to negotiate with the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), we recommend that \$3.3 million be reallocated from Technical Assistance to the Building Code Enforcement Program in order to avoid a lapse of these services;

Whereas, these services going forward will be focused primarily in the four parishes of Orleans, St. Bernard, Plaquemines, and Terrebonne, but maybe used in other rebuilding parishes if requested;

Whereas, building code enforcement by local authorities will be supported by permitting and inspection fees in the long run, however, this initial CDBG funding is necessary to immediately expand enforcement capacity to expedite the construction of safer and stronger homes where the storm impact was most concentrated; and

Whereas, the Louisiana Recovery Authority recommends that \$3.3 million be reallocated from Technical Assistance to the Building Code Enforcement Program to extend the Code Enforcement Activities which are currently being implemented.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board does hereby approve Amendment No. 29 to Action Plan No. 1 to reallocate \$3.3 million of CDBG funds originally allocated to Technical Assistance to the Building Code Enforcement Program increasing the available funding to the Building Code Enforcement Program from \$13 million to \$16.3 million.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board does hereby authorize staff to publish Action Plan Amendment No. 29 to Action Plan No. 1 for public comment.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board does hereby authorize the Chairman of the Board to approve staff changes to Action Plan Amendment No. 29 to Action Plan No. 1 requested in public comments and submit and recommend such Action Plan Amendment to the Governor and the Louisiana Legislature for approval.