

LOUISIANA RECOVERY AUTHORITY

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

February 12, 2008

OVERVIEW: A Resolution of the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board providing for the final approval of Action Plan Amendment No. 21 to Action Plan No. 1 to reallocate \$1.7 million of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds 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 \$11.3 million to \$13 million.

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, 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 to continue through 2008 will be approximately \$4 million, but the original allocation of \$11.3 million has been 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, however, as we continue to negotiate with the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), we recommend that \$1.7 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;

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 \$1.7 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. 21 to Action Plan No. 1 to reallocate \$1.7 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 \$11.3 million to \$13 million.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board does hereby approve Action Plan Amendment No. 21 to Action Plan No. 1 for the reallocation of \$ 1.7 million of CDBG funds originally allocated to Technical Assistance to Code Enforcement Activities, increasing the available funding to the Building Code Enforcement Program from \$11.3 million to \$13 million. This Amendment should be forwarded to the Governor and Louisiana Legislature for their consideration and approval.