

LOUISIANA RECOVERY AUTHORITY

Allocation for Local Match of FEMA PA Grants for Categories A & B

January 12, 2006

OVERVIEW: A resolution to request the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board to approve and recommend to the Governor and the Louisiana Legislature for approval the Action Plan Amendment to allocate \$100 million of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to pay the required non-federal match for all FEMA Public Assistance (PA) grants for work performed in Categories A & B associated with hurricanes Katrina and Rita, as well as the non-federal match for all Natural Resources Conservation Service work performed to clean debris from drainage paths, and to request that the Louisiana Legislature appropriate funds to offset this commitment at its next opportunity, pursuant to the Governor's request for funding of these obligations.

Whereas, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated the parishes of Louisiana, destroying infrastructure that will take years to rebuild, and leaving large amounts of debris across the affected area.

Whereas, despite the great need and lack of local resources, FEMA elected to begin requiring, on July 1, 2006, a 10% non-federal match for most parishes on Category A work (debris removal) and for all parishes on Category B.

Whereas, FEMA assigned the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) the task of clearing debris from drainage paths in many rural areas after the storms.

Whereas, between December 2005 and February 2006, a 25% non-federal match was required for all such drain clearing work performed by NRCS.

Whereas, many local governments are financially unable to meet the non-federal match requirements imposed as described above.

Whereas, the current estimate for the non-federal match on FEMA grants from categories A & B, and NRCS drain clearing contracts through June 30, 2007 is approximately \$100 million.

Whereas, use of these funds to pay the non-federal match on FEMA grants from categories A & B and NRCS drain clearing contracts will create a shortfall in the LRA's Local Government Emergency Infrastructure program according to current estimates for Category C-G FEMA PA grants.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the LRA Board hereby approves the Action Plan Amendment allocating \$100 million of CDBG funds to pay the non-federal match on FEMA PA grants in Categories A & B, and on NRCS contracts for post-hurricane

drain clearing, and forwards it to the Governor, Louisiana Legislature, and federal Department of Housing and Urban Development for their approval.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board does hereby request that the Louisiana Legislature, in order to offset this reallocation of funds within the Infrastructure Program, appropriate funds in its upcoming session to fund the payment of \$100 million of the 10% match requirements of local governments on Category C-G FEMA Public Assistance Grants.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board does hereby recommend that funds be used under the following conditions:

- (1) That the funding be provided for cases of emergency need;
- (2) That the funding be provided as match for projects eligible for FEMA Public Assistance or for NRCS drain-clearing contracts;
- (3) That the funding be provided to parishes which have adopted the latest available base flood elevations of the FEMA Flood Recovery Guidance;
- (4) That the funding be provided to parishes or communities which have adopted, implemented, or are in the process of implementing, the new statewide building code standards adopted in the 2005 1st Extraordinary Session of the Louisiana Legislature;
- (5) That each infrastructure project considers and/or proposes a mitigation plan to minimize damage in the event of future floods or hurricanes.