

# **LOUISIANA RECOVERY AUTHORITY**

## **Long-Term Community Recovery Funding Allocation**

**December 11, 2007**

**OVERVIEW:** A resolution to request the preliminary approval of an Action Plan Amendment to allocate an additional \$515 million of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds increasing the funding from \$200 million to \$715 million for the implementation of long-term community recovery projects to address long-term community recovery needs including, but not limited to the economy, environment, housing stock, public safety, education, health care, and transportation.

Whereas, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated the parishes of Louisiana and created long-lasting problems including, but not limited to; the economy, environment, housing stock, public safety, education, health care, and transportation among other problems;

Whereas, very robust planning efforts are on-going at the local, regional, and state levels to ensure a wise, forward-looking investment of very limited resources;

Whereas, these planning efforts have provided and continue to provide guidance to our recovery effort;

Whereas, prioritization of projects that drive local recovery must ultimately come from local communities;

Whereas, much of the damage inflicted by the storms was incurred in municipalities within the affected parishes;

Whereas, consistency between local priorities and projects and regional plans provides the best opportunities for wise recovery investments;

Whereas, Louisiana's local communities have requested \$200 million in CDBG funds for the purpose of implementing long-term community recovery projects to address problems, including but not limited to the economy, environment, housing stock, public safety, education, health care, and transportation; and

Whereas, at the board meeting held on February 12, 2007, the LRA Board approved Action Plan Number 1 Amendment No. 12 allocating \$200 million of CDBG funds for the implementation of long-term community recovery projects in the most heavily affected parishes to address long term community recovery needs, including but not limited to the economy, environment, housing stock, public safety, education, health care, and transportation.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the LRA Board hereby directs LRA and OCD staff to develop and publish for public comment an Action Plan Amendment for the

allocation of up to an additional \$515 million of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds increasing the funding from \$200 million to \$715 million for the implementation of long-term community recovery projects to address long-term community recovery needs including, but not limited to the economy, environment, housing stock, public safety, education, health care, and transportation. After final approval of this Action Plan Amendment by the LRA at a subsequent board meeting, it would be forwarded to the Governor and Louisiana Legislature for their approval, before submission to the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board does hereby recommend that the funding to be provided under this Action Plan Amendment be distributed among the most heavily impacted parishes based on a damage estimate formula which was approved at the February 12, 2007 board meeting.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board does hereby recommend that the additional allocation be made under the same conditions that were initially outlined for the implementation of long-term community recovery projects:

(1) The parishes, in cooperation and agreement with the impacted municipalities within their boundaries, select and submit projects to the LRA that address their local recovery needs;

(2) The local project prioritization must include broad-based community participation and approval, as indicated by inclusion in a broadly accepted recovery plan, public meeting and/or input opportunities, Council or Police Jury resolution, or other such mechanism;

(3) The projects prioritized by the parishes and local communities must be consistent with the LRA's priorities and with regional plans, as determined by the LRA;

(4) The projects prioritized must include direct benefits to the most affected municipalities and communities OR have the agreement from the elected officials of the most impacted municipalities;

(5) That the funding be provided for projects in parishes and municipalities that have adopted the latest available base flood elevations of the FEMA Flood Recovery Guidance unless exceptions are granted by the LRA based on reasonable alternatives where safety is not minimized;

(6) That the funding be provided for projects in parishes and municipalities that have adopted, implemented or are in the process of implementing the new statewide building code standards adopted in the 2005 1<sup>st</sup> Extraordinary Session of the Louisiana Legislature; and

(7) That each infrastructure project considers and/or proposes a mitigation plan to minimize damage in the event of future floods or hurricanes.