



Building A Better Long Beach

January 20, 2011

REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY BOARD MEMBERS

City of Long Beach

California

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve and authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with the City of Long Beach to fund Neighborhood Code Enforcement and Graffiti Abatement services for 10 years, and adopt a resolution pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 33420.2 making certain findings regarding the use of tax increment for the purpose of graffiti abatement. (Downtown, Central, North and West Long Beach Industrial – Citywide)

DISCUSSION

In recent years, the Redevelopment Agency's (Agency) budgets and annual work programs have demonstrated an increased focus on strategic partnerships to further basic neighborhood revitalization initiatives in project areas, including code enforcement and graffiti abatement efforts that contribute to blight removal and quality of life enhancement.

Since Fiscal Year 2005 (FY05), the Agency has funded a proactive code enforcement program in the Central, North, and West Long Beach Industrial project areas. Code Enforcement staff has worked in conjunction with Project Area Committees (PACs), Agency and Neighborhood Services staff, and project area residents to review blighting conditions and determine priority cases. Staff coordinates these aggressive enforcement efforts with Neighborhood Services assistance programs such as Home Improvement Rebates and Home Security Locks and Lights. Program staff provides detailed monthly case reports to allow PACs and Agency Board members to monitor the program's effectiveness.

Since FY09, budgets for the Downtown, Central, North and West Long Beach Industrial Redevelopment Project Areas, which experience significant graffiti, have included a transfer totaling \$550,000 to the Department of Public Works for the City's Graffiti Abatement Program (GAP). Section 33420.2 of the California Community Redevelopment Law provides that the Agency may use tax increment revenue to abate graffiti if the Agency finds that this is necessary to effect the purposes of the redevelopment plans for the project areas and will assist in the elimination of blight. Approval of a resolution making such findings is recommended as part of this letter.

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In order to continue to support neighborhood revitalization in the Downtown, Central, North and West Long Beach Industrial Redevelopment Project Areas, it is recommended that the Agency fund these activities for ten years through FY21 at the currently budgeted FY11 levels indicated in the table below, with a three (3) percent annual increase.

Code Enforcement and Graffiti Abatement Funding FY11-FY21		
Project Area	Neighborhood Code Enforcement Program	Graffiti Abatement Program
North	\$350,000	\$175,000
West	\$100,000	\$125,000
Central	\$322,034	\$125,000
Downtown	\$0	\$125,000
Total	\$772,034	\$550,000

This action will allow the Agency to assure continued neighborhood revitalization initiatives in the most needy parts of the City in future years, while providing the City with financial stability to continue these initiatives. The City Council is expected to review and approve this agreement on January 18, 2011.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



ROBERT ZUR SCHMIEDE, AICP
ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



AMY J. BODEK, AICP
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AJB:RZ:LAF:AA

Attachment: Redevelopment Agency Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. R.A.

A RESOLUTION OF THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA, FINDING THAT THE USE OF TAXES ALLOCATED TO THE NORTH, CENTRAL, WEST LONG BEACH INDUSTRIAL AND DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF GRAFFITI ABATEMENT IS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THE REDEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR SUCH REDEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

WHEREAS, the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Long Beach, California (the "Agency"), adopted redevelopment plans for the North Long Beach Redevelopment Project (the "North Project"), the Central Long Beach Redevelopment Project (the "Central Project"), the West Long Beach Industrial Redevelopment Project (the "Westside Project") and the Downtown Long Beach Redevelopment Project (the "Downtown Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Agency desires to utilize funds presently allocated to the North, Central, Westside and Downtown Projects to perform graffiti abatement; and

WHEREAS, Section 33420.2 of the Community Redevelopment Law provides that the Agency may use such funds in this manner if certain findings are made;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Long Beach, California resolves as follows:

Section 1. Because of the magnitude and severity of graffiti on properties located in the North, Central, Westside and Downtown Projects, the use of tax increment for abatement of such graffiti in Fiscal years 2011 through 2021 is

necessary to effectuate the purposes of the plans for the Projects and will assist with the elimination of blight in the Projects.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Long Beach, California this _____ day of _____, 2011.

Executive Director/Secretary

APPROVED:

Chair