

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0505

August 19, 2011

The Honorable Shaun Donovan
Secretary
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20410

**RE: City and County of Sacramento –
Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant Applications**

Dear Secretary Donovan:

I am writing to support the City and County of Sacramento as they apply for funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development's FY 2011 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant program. The City and County of Sacramento have applied for two grants through the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA).

Located just outside of downtown Sacramento is the Northwest Land Park neighborhood. It currently is comprised of an underutilized former industrial property, riverfront real estate, a lumber processing company, a produce distribution hub, and SHRA's Alder Grove and Marina Vista housing developments that have 751 severely distressed public housing units. If funded, the Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant will help create a plan that will transform the neighborhood into a vibrant mixed use community with strong Sacramento River connections and economic development opportunities. The projects partners' goal is to create a sustainable environment for people of all walks of life to live, work, and recreate. Importantly, it would also create an opportunity to upgrade hundreds of public housing units in need of repair, form additional employment opportunities for area residents, and improve the neighborhood school.

Sacramento's River District, located at the confluence of the American and Sacramento Rivers just north of downtown, is changing from a declining industrial area into one of the largest infill opportunities in the country. If funded, the Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant will help transform the River District neighborhood, improve the public housing units at SHRA's Dos Rios housing complex and better connect the neighborhood to the rest of Sacramento. In addition, the planning effort will help expand the area's interconnectivity and improve access to job training services. When transformed additional employment opportunities for local residents and new residential housing options will all exist in the neighborhood. Taken together, the projects outlined in the grant application will significantly enhance the livability of the community.

The Honorable Shaun Donovan

Page 2

August 19, 2011

I am pleased with the work of the City and County of Sacramento and their public and private partners in helping revitalize and redevelop some of Sacramento's most distressed neighborhoods and public housing units. I strongly support their applications for funding through the Department of Housing and Urban Development's FY 2011 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,



DORIS O. MATSUI
Member of Congress

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