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Press Contact: Marcus Walton
510-874-1563

OAKLAND HOUSING AUTHORITY FIELDS EXTRA CREWS TO RESPOND TO STORM-RELATED PROBLEMS

Maintenance, police coordinate emergency response

(Oakland, CA) – Oakland Housing Authority maintenance crews and police officers have been working nonstop to protect its 3,221 public housing units from the storm currently battering Northern California. Between the storm’s arrival on Tuesday morning and 3:30 p.m., maintenance crews received more than triple their usual requests for service, 26 of which were considered emergency calls, including one downed power line.

OHA staff began preparing for the storm on Monday, when extra crews were scheduled and the agency’s command system was initiated. Employees staffed phone banks and a command center to coordinate maintenance and emergency crew responses to resident calls. “It is vitally important that we are ready to respond quickly and efficiently when storm-related problems arise. We have the health and safety of more than 3,000 families to protect,” Executive Director Jon Gresley said. “Our maintenance personnel and police officers have been proactive in their efforts to not only protect our residents, but in protecting these properties from long-term and potentially costly storm damage.”

On a typical day, OHA maintenance receives 20-25 calls for service. On Tuesday, there were 87 requests by 3:30 p.m. On Tuesday, Staff responded to a variety of storm-related problems, including flooded parking lots, clogged drainage systems and downed trees and limbs. A power line was reported down at a residence on 48th Street. OHA maintenance, with the support of PG&E, was able to respond and rectify the issue within an hour. Additional crews will be on duty throughout the night to respond to other storm-related problems.

Oakland Housing Authority recently celebrated its 70th Anniversary of providing quality, affordable housing to Oakland's residents. It has revitalized neighborhoods, offered life enrichment services to its residents and has contributed to the local economy. Presently, OHA

provides housing for approximately 10 percent of Oakland's families, with 3,221 public housing units in its stock. 11,142 of Oakland families, elderly and disabled rent with Section 8 vouchers, which is a public/private partnership allowing clients choice in the private rental market. The average income of OHA families is about \$15,000.