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Press Contact: Jo Ann Driscoll
Office: 510-663-1473; Cell: 510-459-8144

OAKLAND HOUSING AUTHORITY SALUTES ITS PARTNERS

1.3 MILLION IN CONSTRUCTION GRANTS AWARDED FROM FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK OF SAN FRANCISCO TO HELP BUILD HOMES FOR OAKLAND RESIDENTS

**OHA PARTNERS INCLUDE:
UNION BANK & CHRISTIAN CHURCH HOMES OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
CITIBANK & OAKLAND HOUSING INITIATIVES
BANK OF THE WEST & HABITAT FOR HUMANITY EAST BAY**

(Oakland, CA) – The Oakland Housing Authority (OHA) announced that the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco's Affordable Housing Program has awarded OHA and its partners over \$1,345,000 in grants for affordable housing construction projects. When completed, these projects will result in the construction of 115 new units of affordable rental and ownership housing in Oakland.

"We are delighted that Oakland Housing Authority's partners and affiliates have received recognition and support for three very important projects," said Jon Gresley, OHA Executive Director. "This level of financial support is absolutely critical to spur vital new affordable housing for low income members of our community. Each award further complements and leverages funding already committed by the OHA," he concluded

Union Bank of California with **Christian Church Homes of Northern California** and **Oakland Housing Initiatives, Inc. (OHI)** received \$720,000 to support the construction of *Harrison Street Senior Housing*. This six-story, 73-unit affordable housing facility will be located at 1633 Harrison Street in the Central District Redevelopment Area of downtown Oakland. (This new senior housing facility also received commitments of funds from the City of Oakland and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to provide housing for Oakland's low income elderly households.) Christian Church Homes is a non-profit organization which was founded in 1961 to meet the needs of low-income seniors. OHI is a non-profit affiliate of OHA.

The application for funds to the Federal Home Loan Bank was sponsored by Union Bank of California. Construction of *Harrison Street Senior Housing* should commence in late 2009.

Oakland Housing Authority and its sponsor, **Citibank**, also received an award of \$200,000 towards the completion of *Tassafaronga Village Phase 2*, which includes the adaptive reuse of the former Alita Brand Macaroni factory at 1001 83rd Avenue in Oakland. The two-story, 20,000 sq. ft. facility will offer 20 housing units designated for people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and who will benefit from services provided by the AIDS Project of the East Bay. This project recently received \$500,000 in funding from Alameda County's Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids (HOPWA) Program. The building will also house a primary care clinic for residents. Tassafaronga Village is located on an eight-acre site in East Oakland, and the site plan has been certified at the Gold level in the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design – Green Building Rating System) Neighborhood Development Pilot Program. The OHA has been successful in applying for special housing funds for disabled individuals. Construction of this development is expected to start this month.

Bank of the West, the sponsor bank, and **Habitat for Humanity East Bay** received an award of \$425,000 to provide home ownership opportunities for 22 low- and moderate- income families who will be first-time home buyers at *Kinsell Commons at Tassafaronga Village*. Habitat will use its model in which community volunteers will join with homeowners (using self-help and sweat equity) to build new sustainable homes. Habitat is one of the Bay Area's leading green affordable home builders, serving Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.

Oakland Housing Authority provides housing for approximately ten percent of Oakland's families, with 3,221 public housing units in its inventory. It currently serves 11,142 of Oakland families, elderly and disabled residents, who rent with Section 8 vouchers, a public/private partnership allowing clients choice in the private rental market.

For more information about the Oakland Housing Authority, call 510-874-1512 or visit www.oakha.org.