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## **OAKLAND HOUSING AUTHORITY SELECTED TO RECEIVE MAJOR GRANT FROM ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

### **\$200,000 from National Recovery Act will Help Clean Up Brownfield in Phase Four of Lion Creek Crossings Development in Oakland**

(Oakland, CA) – The Oakland Housing Authority (OHA) has been awarded a \$200,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Environmental Protection Fund to assist in the clean up of land for Phase Four of its award-winning HOPE VI development, Lion Creek Crossings, at 6888 Lion Way in Oakland, California.

The announcement of the grant was made today at a press conference held at the City of Oakland's Lion Creek Park, the centerpiece of OHA's Lion Creek Crossings development. During the event, Laura Yoshii, Acting Regional Administrator for U.S. EPA's Pacific Southwest Region, announced over \$12 million in grants for brownfield projects in the Pacific Southwest. The grants will be used to help assess, cleanup and revitalize former industrial and commercial sites, turning them from problem properties into productive community use. Recipients of \$5 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and nearly \$8 million from the EPA brownfields general program funding were announced at the event.

Congress recently approved the National Recovery Act 2009. For OHA, this means that funds will be used to put people to work on the remediation of the site at Lion Way and 69<sup>th</sup> Street. This land will be used for the next phase of Oakland Housing Authority's unique mixed-income, mixed use, transit-oriented housing development located adjacent to the Oakland Coliseum Airport BART Station.

The Oakland Housing Authority's Lion Creek Crossings site was chosen by the EPA as the site of the announcement because it demonstrates the creative use of partnerships and joint investments which helped to turn a former public housing project (and several underutilized industrial properties nearby), into mixed income housing which incorporates public housing.

Lion Creek Crossings is being developed by OHA partners, The Related Companies of California and East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation (EBALDC) with funding from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, the US Environmental Protection Agency, the State of California (CalHFA and HCD), the City of Oakland, Oakland Redevelopment Agency, the Oakland Housing Authority, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, and private investors and lenders. When complete, the development will include 467 affordable houses and apartments, 157 of which will be public housing units. The 22 acre site features a 5.7 acre City of Oakland park and open space, including a grassy ball field along with a restored creek and wetlands area. As part of the development, the offices of local social service agencies, a Head Start program, a child day care program and a computer lab for residents, were integrated into the site.

Lion Creek Crossings received EPA's Region 9 Phoenix Award in 2006. The development has started a renaissance in the neighborhood. The award recognized OHA's creativity as it brought together a diverse group of partners and involved the people living in the community in the planning for the multi-phased development. The award also recognized that the development did not displace or gentrify families from their home environment.

"We are very gratified the EPA has selected to support our work in Phase Four of Lion Creek Crossings," said Jon Gresley, Executive Director of the Oakland Housing Authority. "Lion Creek Crossings is a major investment of private and public funds dedicated to the revitalization of this neighborhood near the Coliseum BART Station," he said.

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

For more information about Lion Creek Crossings or Oakland Housing Authority, call 510-874-1512 or visit [www.oakha.org](http://www.oakha.org).