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Oakland Housing Authority Wins Prestigious NAHRO *Award of Excellence* for Lion Creek Crossings Development

OAKLAND, CA, November 1, 2007 — The Oakland Housing Authority (OHA) announced today that it received a 2007 National Award of Excellence from the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) for the design of Lion Creek Crossings Phase I, a mixed-income, mixed-use, affordable family housing development at the Coliseum BART station.

The NAHRO Award of Excellence is given to recognize outstanding innovation and achievement in housing and community development programs throughout the country. Lion Creek Crossings Phase I was one of only 22 programs nationwide selected to receive the 2007 award, presented last month's NAHRO's national conference held in San Diego.

Located adjacent to the Oakland Coliseum BART station, Lion Creek Crossings Phase I is the first in a multi-phase, mixed-income, mixed-use, transit-oriented neighborhood developed by The Related Companies and the East Bay Asian Development Corporation for the Oakland Housing Authority. The new redevelopment replaces a 40-year old public housing complex, and incorporates adjacent under-utilized industrial properties to shape a new community with medium-density housing around a large City of Oakland park and restored creek. Included in the development are supportive social services, child care, and recreational facilities. Phase I, completed and occupied in the spring of 2006, includes 115 affordable apartments, 45 of which are public housing units dispersed throughout.

“We are pleased to receive this national recognition for the efforts of our team to provide beautiful and affordable housing to the residents of the City of Oakland,” said Executive Director Jon Gresley. “Our hope is not just to provide housing units, but to provide high quality homes to Oakland’s low-income families while greatly improving the larger east Oakland neighborhood.”

This is the second NAHRO Award of Excellence received by the Oakland Housing Authority. The Authority received its first award in 2006 for the Mandela Gateway development, located across from the West Oakland BART station.

Project partners at Lion Creek Crossings include East Bay Asian Local Development Corp., The Related Companies of California, Chambers Construction, Cahill Contractors Inc., Pyatok Architects Inc., and KodamaDiseno.

Phase II is now completed and being occupied. Phase III of the development is to be completed and occupied in June 2008. A homeownership phase and a fourth phase of rental apartments are also planned and will round out the total development.

The Oakland Housing Authority (OHA) (www.oakha.org) is the City of Oakland's state-chartered and federally funded agency to deliver quality housing and housing assistance for low-income persons. OHA works to promote the civic involvement and economic self-sufficiency of its residents and to further the expansion of affordable housing within Oakland. The Authority currently assists 14,000 of the city's lowest income families. Since 1998, the Authority has been successful in leveraging three U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) HOPE VI grants to demolish 307 obsolete public housing apartments on three sites and to replace these developments with five mixed-income, mixed-use developments with approximately 900 rental apartments and 60 for-sale homes.

The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) is a leading housing and community development association advocating the provision of adequate and affordable housing and strong, viable communities for all Americans—particularly those with low- and moderate-incomes. Its members administer HUD programs such as Public Housing, Section 8, CDBG and HOME.

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