



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Oakland Housing Authority Wins Prestigious NAHRO *Award of Excellence* for Mandela Gateway**

OAKLAND, CA, August 23, 2006 — The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) has announced that its *2006 National Award of Excellence* has been won by the Oakland Housing Authority (OHA) for the design of its Mandela Gateway affordable housing development.

The NAHRO Award of Excellence is given “to recognize outstanding innovation and achievement in housing and community development programs throughout the country.” The Award recognizes OHA for tearing down one of its most challenging public housing projects and replacing it with the high-quality Mandela Gateway apartment complex. The award will be presented during NAHRO’s National Conference in Atlanta, GA on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mandela Gateway’s community-oriented and transit-oriented design integrates 46 units of low-income public housing into a 168-unit complex for Oakland residents with a range of incomes. It includes 20,000 sq. ft. of much needed commercial and community space for West Oakland. The development even includes 14 first-time low-income homebuyer sites. Project partners included Michael Willis Architects, BRIDGE Housing Corporation, Robert-Obayashi General Contractors and the City of Oakland. Mandela Gateway is located at the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Mandela Parkway., directly across from BART’s West Oakland station.

OHA Executive Director Jon Gresley responded to the announcement, saying “We are excited that OHA is being recognized nationally for developing high-quality affordable housing.”

The Oakland Housing Authority (OHA) is the City of Oakland’s state-chartered and federally-funded agency to promote the availability of quality housing 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 is currently helping to house 14,000 of the city’s lowest income families. ([www.oakha.org](http://www.oakha.org))

The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) is the leading housing and community development advocate for 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. (<http://www.nahro.org/awards/index.cfm>)



7<sup>th</sup> Street and Mandela Parkway



7<sup>th</sup> and Center Streets

Photos by Bob Cantfield

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