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## **OAKLAND HOUSING AUTHORITY WINS TOP NAHRO AWARD**

### **“AWARD OF EXCELLENCE” PRESENTED IN WASHINGTON DC HONORS LION CREEK CROSSINGS DEVELOPMENT**

(Oakland, CA) – The Oakland Housing Authority (OHA) has won one of the nation’s top prizes, an “Award of Excellence,” for its innovative transit-oriented development Lion Creek Crossings. The award, announced today, will be presented by the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO), the country’s largest organization of housing and community development agencies and professionals, in Washington, DC on Tuesday, October 6, 2009.

The “Award of Excellence” recognizes the outstanding innovation and achievement in the transit-oriented master plan that Oakland Housing Authority developed in cooperation with the City of Oakland and the Bay Area Rapid Transit Authority (BART) for Lion Creek Crossings. The planning for the development, which is located just steps away from a major mass transit hub, included the acquisition of adjacent underutilized industrial properties, the revitalization of a six acre City park with a grassy athletic field, and the restoration of a previously channeled creek. Now residents can easily access BART, AC Transit, the Oakland Airport Shuttle to the City’s International Airport, Amtrak’s Capital Corridor, and walk to games at the adjacent Oakland Coliseum, home of the Oakland A’s, Raiders and Warrior sports teams.

Lion Creek Crossings is a four-phase development which features 467 affordable homes and apartments, many arranged around interior courtyards. The mixed income development is set on 22-acres and includes supportive social services, a state-of-the-art computer lab, child care, and recreational facilities. The development has been created in partnership with The Related Companies of California and East Bay Asian Local Development Company (EBALDC).

“We are very elated to receive this coveted award which is a recognition of OHA’s leadership, innovation and effective partnerships,” said Oakland Housing Authority Commission Chair Moses L. Mayne, Jr. “It shows that the work of the staff and commission are in the forefront of putting together developments that are ahead of the field for low income and workforce housing. Our work went far beyond renovation of previous property; we replaced one

for one public housing units, added Section 8 housing and offered affordable rental units to the public. OHA worked closely with the City of Oakland's redevelopment plans for the Coliseum transit area and teamed with BART. As we look into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century we will see that helping OHA residents' access mass transit is of direct benefit to them, our community and our environment," Mayne said.

Oakland Mayor Ron Dellums said: "This 'Award of Excellence' presented by the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, is a testament to Oakland Housing Authority's mission to improve the quality of life of some of the most vulnerable residents in Oakland. The innovative work by OHA at Lion Creek Crossing is further proof of its willingness to collaborate with the city and is an impressive model for our community, state and nation. We are grateful to have such a strong partner to further our citywide efforts to make Oakland a better place to work and live."

This is Oakland Housing Authority's third national "Award of Excellence." The first recognized the uniqueness of OHA's Mandela Gateway development in East Oakland; the second focused on the project design of Phase One of Lion Creek Crossing. This third award acknowledges the effective design of the project's mass transit-orientation. OHA is one of eighteen programs nationwide to receive the 2009 award, out of an original pool of 212 merit winners.

Oakland Housing Authority recently celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> 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. 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.

For more information on the Oakland Housing Authority call 510-874-1512 or visit [www.oakha.org](http://www.oakha.org)

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