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OAKLAND HOUSING AUTHORITY'S PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT WINS NATIONAL AWARD FOR INNOVATION, PRODUCTIVITY AND LEADERSHIP

"ACHIEVEMENT OF EXCELLENCE" IN PROCUREMENT TO BE AWARDED IN ARIZONA , SEPT 16, 2009

(Oakland, CA) – The top national organization designed to recognize organizational excellence in procurement by public or non-profit organizations has bestowed its "Achievement of Excellence" Award on the Oakland Housing Authority. This 14th annual award, sponsored by the National Purchasing Institute, is earned by those whose innovation, professionalism, productivity, e-procurement and leadership attributes are recognized by an independent committee.

Oakland Housing Authority is the only housing authority in the country who has won this award. 2009 marks the second year it has earned this distinction. OHA first applied and won this national recognition in 2007. Counties, cities, school districts, states, universities and others are eligible to apply. Each applicant is judged by a rating of standardized criteria.

The OHA Purchasing Department, under the direction of Debbie Wellnitz, recently promoted to Manager of the Contract Compliance and General Services Department, has met a national criteria which includes: a website offering instruction "How to do Business," which includes a formally published procurement ethics policy; surveys of customers, specific staff training, vendor training, on-line bidding process, on-line vendor registration, environmental purchasing, and much more.

"Winning this award is very gratifying for our team which manages over twenty million in service contracts each year" said Debbie Wellnitz. "We have worked hard to meet the required evaluation criteria for the award. It means that we work smarter. We are efficient, cost-effective and streamlined," she said. "OHA is leading the way to a future which will be environmentally sound and paperless. The way we work saves staff time, resources and helps us serve our

vendors, our community and OHA residents. For example, in the rainy season, if repairs are needed for the properties, we can efficiently solicit vendors and process requests in a timely manner, serving our community better,” she said.

The Bay Area is the home to only a handful of other national award winners, including Alameda County Water District, East Bay Municipal Utility District, the City of Santa Rosa, and the City of Sunnyvale .

Oakland Housing Authority 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

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National Award
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