



**PLANNING AND BUILDING  
REGULATIONS DEPARTMENT**

# AGENDA REPORT

**DATE:** November 3, 2009  
**TO:** Mayor McLaughlin and Members of the City Council  
**FROM:** Lori Reese-Brown, Principal Planner  
**SUBJECT:** REPORT ON MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT FUNDING

## **STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE:**

A delegation from Richmond traveled to Washington, DC in early October to conduct meetings with elected officials and federal agencies to discuss American Recovery & Reinvestment Act funding and other potential federal grant opportunities.

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

RECEIVE a report on meetings with elected officials and federal agencies in Washington, DC to discuss American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding and other potential federal grant opportunities, and RECEIVE an update on ARRA funding in the City of Richmond.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT OF RECOMMENDATION:**

There is no financial impact.

## **DISCUSSION:**

From September 29, 2009 through October 2, 2009, City of Richmond delegates visited Washington, DC to meet with Senators Feinstein and Boxer, Congressman Miller and federal department representatives to discuss future funding opportunities through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and other federally programs. The delegation included Vice-Mayor Ludmyrna Lopez, Councilmember Nathaniel Bates, Councilmember Jeff Ritterman, City Manager Bill Lindsay, and City staff member Lori Reese-Brown. Community and Economic Development Director Steve Duran and Housing Authority Executive Director Tim Jones also participated in meetings on a separate track focused specifically on housing programs.

Congressman Miller's staff assisted in setting up meetings that gave the delegates the opportunity to discuss the following:

- The status of the Pt. Molate project with the Department of Interior;
- Implementation goals for improving energy efficiency, and creating green technology jobs and alternatives to vehicle use with the Department of Energy;
- Environmental Protection Agency programs addressing environmental technology research and development, referencing the "Environmental Technology Research and Development Continuum Guide" to create new cost-effective environmental technologies;
- Current road and other possible transportation improvement projects underway in Richmond due to ARRA and other programs with the Department of Transportation;
- Richmond's job training initiatives and proposed projects to create jobs that the city has undertaken with the Department of Labor;
- Port projects and related programs administered by the Department of Homeland Security;
- The impact that the increased number of foreclosed homes is having on the community with the Departments of Labor and Housing and Urban Development; and
- Acknowledgement of the Department of Justice's grant to the City of Richmond for its receipt of nearly \$4 million for hiring additional police officers.

With the elected officials and/or their staff, the delegation discussed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, current economic conditions in Richmond, and the current federal proposals for health care insurance reform. The delegation felt that this trip increased Richmond's visibility with federal agencies and provided the opportunity to update elected officials firsthand regarding projects, programs, conditions, and needs in the Richmond community.

Attached for City Council review is an update on ARRA program activity in the City of Richmond.

**ATTACHMENT:**

Status Report on ARRA Funding