

Community Development Commission

August 25, 2006

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: *Bobette A. Glaver*
ja Carlos Jackson, Executive Director

SUBJECT: PHA TENANT COMMISSIONER REQUIREMENT

This is a follow-up to the memorandum that I sent on July 10, 2006 regarding the Public Housing Authority (PHA) requirement to have a Section 8 or public housing resident on our Housing Authority's governing body.

As you know, we were working closely with our Washington D.C. advocate Eve O'Toole, the Chief Administrative Office's Washington D.C. advocates, and Senator Dianne Feinstein's office to pursue legislative language that would exempt the County from this requirement.

We are pleased to report that Senator Feinstein was successful in securing the inclusion of language in the Senate Transportation, Treasury, the Judiciary, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies 2007 appropriations bill that will exempt the County of Los Angeles from this requirement. The language was included in the bill that passed the Senate Appropriations Committee on July 20, 2006. The bill is now awaiting floor action and then will be reconciled with the House version of the bill.

The language adds the County of Los Angeles to a list of three states that are already exempted from this requirement. As part of the current exemption language there is a provision that an advisory board of not less than six residents of public housing or recipients of Section 8 be established to provide advice on issues related to public housing and Section 8. As you know, we have a Housing Commission that is comprised of two Section 8 participants and two public housing residents. As a result of this exemption language, we may need to increase the tenant membership by two individuals.

It is anticipated that the final bill will pass after the November elections. We will be working to ensure that the language is included in the final bill. In the meantime, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has agreed to release our Public Housing Capital Funds. In addition, since the language is included as part of an appropriations bill, we will need to ensure each year that the language remains intact.

Should you have any questions, please call me at (323) 890-7400.

c: David Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer, CAO
Raymond G. Fortner Jr., County Counsel
Each Deputy
Gerri Kariya, Assistant Administrative Officer, CAO
Housing Commissioners