COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
of the County of Los Angeles
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Executive Director

June 12, 2007

Honorable Board of Commissioners
Community Development Commission of the
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Commissioners:

APPROVAL OF FUNDS FOR TRANSITIONAL HOUSING RENOVATION COSTS FOR UNITED STATES VETERANS INITIATIVE–COMPTON'S "COMPTON VETERANS EMPLOYMENT TRAINING PROGRAM" IN UNINCORPORATED COUNTY (2)
(3 Vote)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Acting as the responsible agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), certify that the Community Development Commission (Commission) has considered the attached Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS/ND), including any public comments, for the renovation of existing structures at 4116-4200 E. Compton Boulevard in unincorporated County, prepared by the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning as lead agency, and find that the project will not cause a significant effect on the environment.

2. Authorize the Commission to execute all required documents necessary to transfer a total amount of up to $500,000 in County General Funds (CGF) to the Commission for United States Veterans Initiative – Compton's (USVI – Compton) to fund renovation activities to create a transitional housing facility to accommodate 80 new transitional shelter beds and support services for homeless veterans with multiple physical and mental disabilities.

3. Authorize the Commission, upon transfer of funds from the Chief Administrative Officer, to incorporate up to $500,000 in CGF as needed to the Commission's approved budget.

4. Authorize the Executive Director to draft and execute a Grant Agreement with USVI-Compton, in a total amount of up to $500,000 in CGF allocated to the Second Supervisorial District to be effective following receipt of CGF from the Chief Administrative Office (CAO), approval of the Grant Agreement as to form by County Counsel, and execution by all parties.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

The purpose of the recommended actions is to authorize the Commission to enter into a Grant Agreement with USVI-Compton for the use of CGF allocated to the Second Supervisorial District to fund a portion of the costs of renovating existing buildings at 4116-4200 E. Compton Boulevard, for veterans who are homeless.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

The actions described herein will be funded with a portion of the $20,000,000 in CGF approved by the Board of Supervisors on June 20, 2005, to fund the construction and/or renovation of year-round emergency shelters and enhancements to the homeless support system.

On November 22, 2005, the Board of Supervisors approved allocating $3,600,000 in CGF to each Supervisorial District with a ten percent administrative fee, in the total amount of $2,000,000, reserved for the Commission.

The proposed Grant Agreement between the Commission and USVI-Compton will provide $500,000 in CGF for costs associated with rehabilitation of the site to provide 80 additional transitional beds for homeless veterans.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

In order to address the staggering numbers of homeless individuals and families and the corresponding critical shortage of beds in Los Angeles County, on June 20, 2005, the Board of Supervisors approved an allocation of $20,000,000 for the construction and/or renovation of year-round emergency shelters and enhancements to the homeless support system.

On November 22, 2005, the Board of Supervisors directed the Commission to administer the funding and oversee all of the projects. The Board also instituted a method by which each Board Office selects recipients of CGF based on agency experience and the need for homeless services in the community, among other considerations.

The Grant Agreement between the Commission and USVI-Compton will allocate $500,000 in CGF for construction costs for 80 new transitional beds in the unincorporated area of the County. The new beds and services will be located in two rehabilitated buildings totaling 24,025 square feet at 4116-4200 E. Compton Boulevard.

A complete description of the USVI-Compton Employment Training Program is provided as Attachment A.

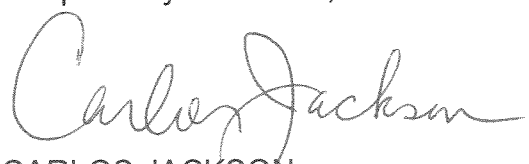
ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION:

As the responsible agency, and in accordance with the requirements of the State CEQA Guidelines, the Commission reviewed the IS/ND prepared by the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning and determined that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment. The Commission's consideration of the IS/ND, and filing of a Notice of Determination, will satisfy the State CEQA Guidelines as stated in Article 7, Section 15096.

IMPACT ON CURRENT PROJECTS:

Approval of these actions will allow for an increase in transitional housing, emergency beds and services available for homeless individuals, veterans and families in the County.

Respectfully submitted,



CARLOS JACKSON
Executive Director

Attachments: 1

ATTACHMENT A
UNITED STATES VETERANS INITIATIVE-COMPTON
COMPTON VETERANS EMPLOYMENT TRAINING PROGRAM

The Compton Veterans Employment Training Program is a public-private venture between the nonprofit 501(c)(3) United States Veterans Initiative (US Vets) and Cloudbreak Development LLC, a special needs housing developer. US Vets was formed in 1992, and has become a nationally recognized leader in providing services to homeless veterans and is the largest operator of homeless veterans programs in the nation. U.S. Vets provides transitional and long-term housing, as well as counseling for mental health issues, addiction treatment, and employment assistance.

US Vets and its Compton Veterans Employment Training Program in unincorporated County (USVI-Compton) will provide 80 new transitional housing beds and supportive services for homeless veterans with multiple physical and mental disabilities. This project will address a critical shortage of transitional housing and services to homeless veterans. This new 24 month program will offer a comprehensive continuum of care designed to break the cycle of homelessness and move the individual as quickly as possible into employment. The program expects to serve more than 160 homeless veterans annually. It will provide basic life skills training and includes education, employment, substance abuse, mental health, housing placement, and counseling, in order to move the veteran towards self-sufficiency and independence.

The facility is located at 4116-4200 E. Compton Blvd, in unincorporated County. This facility was once home to a medical clinic and is being renovated to accommodate the beds, kitchen, offices, showers, and meeting rooms.

Building 4200 is a two story building with 18,737 square feet of interior space. After renovation, eighty bed spaces will be located on the first floor in twenty rooms along with two common restrooms each containing multiple showers, sinks and toilets; ten private restrooms; two large common living areas; 24 hour resident assistance staff office space; and a small convenience kitchen area. Approximately one-third of the improved lower level will accommodate dining and food warming areas, recreation and meeting rooms, a laundry facility, and handicapped accessible bathrooms. The remaining lower level area will remain vacant until further funding becomes available, at which time it will be used for additional program support and/or residential occupancies.

Building 4116 is a single story building containing 5,388 square feet of interior space. It will provide for VA office clinical space, a job resource center with computer stations, intake and screening, outreach staff and overall site administration, as well as space for group meetings.

The grant of CGF will enable the Compton Veterans Employment Training Program to renovate the structures which will allow the program to open to assist homeless veterans in its transitional housing program. USVI-Compton will seek to expand its employment services to all eligible clients with additional funding from the Department of Labor and other State Employment funding.

Renovation Funds	$500,000
Total request	**$500,000**