

REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

DATE: APRIL 13, 2005

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: GREG RAMIREZ, CITY MANAGER

BY: MIKE KAMINO, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT: APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 05-1364, SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM AND URGING CONGRESS TO RESTORE ITS FUNDING

The request before the City Council is to approve the attached Resolution No. 05-1364, supporting the Community Development Block Grant Program and urging Congress to restore its funding.

The Los Angeles County Community Development Commission (CDC) has informed the City that the President's Fiscal Year 2006 Budget proposes to eliminate the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Since the City participates in the Los Angeles County CDBG program, CDC is requesting the City's assistance in saving its funding. At risk is the loss of \$4.7 billion nationally. The Housing and Community Development Act was enacted by President Gerald Ford in 1974, and the CDBG program has assisted over 23 million persons and households. The CDBG program has considerable flexibility to allow local communities to carry out activities that are tailored to address the needs of low and moderate-income households. The City has participated in the CDBG program since 1984 and it has proven to be a valuable asset in providing funding for community development and public service activities. The City receives approximately \$100,000 of CDBG funds annually, which is currently being used for operation of the senior citizen recreation program, and providing financial assistance to low and moderate-income residents for rehabilitation of their single-family residences.

The CDBG program has proven to be a benefit to the residents of Agoura Hills and staff recommends that the City Council adopt the attached Resolution urging Congress to restore its funding. If the Resolution is approved, a copy will be forwarded to Honorable Congressman Henry Waxman.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the attached Resolution No. 05-1364, supporting the Community Development Block Grant Program and urging Congress to restore its funding.

Attachment: Resolution No. 05-1364

RESOLUTION NO. 05-1364

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF AGOURA HILLS
SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM
AND URGING CONGRESS TO RESTORE ITS FUNDING**

WHEREAS, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program was enacted, and signed into law by President Gerald Ford, as the centerpiece of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974; and

WHEREAS, the CDBG program has as its primary objective "...the development of viable urban communities, by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income;" and

WHEREAS, the CDBG program has considerable flexibility to allow communities to carry out activities that are tailored to their unique affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization needs; and

WHEREAS, throughout its 30-year history, the CDBG program has been a partnership among the federal, state and local governments, business, and the nonprofit sector which carry out activities that improve the lives and neighborhoods of low and moderate income families; and

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), in FY 2004 CDBG provided funds for thousands of activities, assisting over 23 million persons and households through such activities as expanding homeownership, eliminating slums and blighting influences, improving infrastructure such as roads, water and sewer systems, libraries, community centers, adult day care and after school care for children, homeless housing facilities, employment training, transportation services, crime awareness, and business job creation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Agoura Hills uses CDBG funds in the amount of approximately \$100,000 for single-family residential rehabilitation and senior citizen recreation programs.

WHEREAS, the President's FY 2006 budget proposes to completely eliminate the CDBG program; and

WHEREAS, should such a proposal be enacted, it would have a devastating effect on the City of Agoura Hills' CDBG program in that it currently serves over 400 senior citizens who annually participate in the senior citizen recreation program, and provides financial assistance to City residents of low and moderate income to rehabilitate their single-family residences.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Agoura Hills hereby calls on the Congress to preserve the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program within the Department of Housing and Urban Development and provide a FY 2006 funding of at least \$4.7 billion overall, with no less than \$4.35 billion in formula funding.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2005 by the following vote to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Ed Corridori, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kimberly M. Rodrigues, City Clerk