



November 12, 2015

John Kopchik
Director
Department of Conservation and Development
30 Muir Road
Martinez, CA 94553

Dear Mr. Kopchik:

Thank you for your time exploring the possibility of the City of Richmond joining the Contra Costa Urban County for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Act (HOME) programs.

The purpose of this letter is to request your assistance in working with the City to carry out the necessary tasks to fully integrate the Richmond CDBG program into the Urban County and the HOME program into the HOME Consortium. The City has consulted with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) staff and HUD is supportive of this request.

The City understands that by joining the Urban County it will relinquish its own entitlement status. By joining the Urban County, the City will automatically be a member of the HOME Consortium. Currently, the City receives approximately \$1 million in annual CDBG grants. This amount will be added to the current County allocation of about \$3 million beginning in FY 2016/17. The City formula share of HOME is about \$400,000 per year. This amount would be added to the current County allocation of about \$1.8 million beginning in FY 2017/18.

County staff has briefed the City on the County process of soliciting applications and developing staff recommendations. County committees review staff recommendations and make final funding recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. CDBG funds are allocated in program areas as described in the FY 2015 – 2020 Consolidated Plan: 20 percent for Program Administration, 45 percent for Housing, 15 percent for Public Services, 10 percent for Economic Development, 8 percent for Infrastructure/Public Facilities, and 2 percent is discretionary. HOME funds are divided between administration (10 percent) and development activities (90 percent).

The City requests that the County public participation process include specific outreach to City staff and interested citizens or community groups and that their input be considered as County staff makes its funding recommendations. However, the City understands that the County cannot guarantee the amount of funds that will be awarded to City-based projects and services. I will bring a revised staff recommendation, resolution, and CDBG Cooperation Agreement to the City Council on Tuesday December 15, 2015.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. Lindsay".

William Lindsay
City Manager