



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER**

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: County Executive Office
Department No.:
For Agenda Of: May 18, 2010
Placement: Set Hearing for May 25, 2010
Estimated Time: 30 minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Michael F. Brown, County Executive Officer
Director(s) 568-3400

Contact Info: Jason Stilwell, Assistant County Executive Officer/Budget Director
568-3413

SUBJECT: Housing and Community Development Department Reorganization Options

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: NA

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: NA

Other Concurrence: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors (Board) set a hearing for May 25, 2010 to consider a policy report on reorganization options for the Housing and Community Development Department, and give direction as the Board determines appropriate.

Summary Text:

On March 16, 2010, as part of the preliminary Fiscal Year (FY) 2010-11 Budget Workshops, the Santa Barbara County (County) Board of Supervisors (Board) directed the County Executive Office (CEO) to study the feasibility and cost-savings associated with integrating portions of the Housing and Community Development Department (HCD) and Redevelopment Agency (RDA) into the Planning and Development Department (P&D). In addition, the CEO was directed to review the impacts associated with moving the emerging emPowerSBC program, which is currently overseen by HCD, to the County Executive Office or the Auditor-Controller.

In response to the Board's direction, staff is preparing a policy report for the hearing of May 25, 2010, to assist the Board in its deliberations. The report will include:

- The background and context under which HCD was formed.
- The organizational structure currently used to deliver services to the public.
- Reorganization options for the Board's consideration, including the pros and cons associated with each option.

Background/Discussion:

HCD was established during FY 2001-02, in anticipation of forthcoming Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) entitlement funding. The Board and the County Executive Office (at the time, the County Administrative Office) recognized that this opportunity to access supplemental resources to support vital community programming in the areas of public infrastructure, affordable housing development, and the prevention of homelessness would also be coupled with ongoing complexities associated with federally funded programs. Accordingly, a separate department led by professionals and staff familiar with entitlement programs was needed to manage services to the public and ensure sufficient accountability regarding the use of federal resources.

Since becoming a department, HCD continues to play an important role in regional economic development, social services, affordable housing, and community enhancement activities. A summary of some of HCD's key services and programs include:

- Serving as lead agency for two regional partnerships with local cities: the CDBG Urban County partnership and the Santa Barbara County HOME Consortium. Through these partnerships, HCD oversees over \$15 million in revolving funding for local projects and supportive services, including over \$2.7 million annually in funding dedicated to combating homelessness.
- Managing over 400 affordable housing units, inclusive of qualifying low income renters and first-time homebuyers, ensuring the recording of appropriate restrictive covenants, and monitoring homeowner compliance with applicable policies and guidelines.
- Managing the Orcutt Community Facilities District.
- Overseeing the pass-through of Board-directed General Fund contributions to regional chambers of commerce and visitors bureaus as well as vital funding to area homeless shelters.
- Leading the implementation of emPowerSBC, one of the largest economic development initiatives in the County's history.
- Managing special studies, and policy reports such as the Chapter 44 report on the rights and duties of tenants and landlords.
- Overseeing the day-to-day operations of the County Redevelopment Agency (RDA) on behalf of the CEO, and in coordination with the County Auditor-Controller.
- Coordinating and facilitating countywide American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) activities and economic analysis on behalf of the CEO.

The policy report presented to the Board on May 25, 2010 will weigh the primary options available to manage the above programs in the most effective and efficient manner and provide ongoing services to the public.

Fiscal Analysis:

None with this set hearing letter; fiscal analyses of the various reorganization options will be presented with the May 25, 2010 Board letter

Staffing Impacts:

None with this set hearing letter; fiscal analyses of the various reorganization options will be presented with the May 25, 2010 Board letter

Attachments:

None

Authored by:

Chris Rich, County Executive Office

cc:

Robert Geis, Auditor-Controller

David Matson, HCD Director

Glenn Russell, P&D Director