

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA: FEBRUARY 4, 2014

CONSENT CALENDAR

SUBJECT: CDBG CITIZENS' ADVISORY AND HOUSING OPPORTUNITY COMMITTEE AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN

SOURCE: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

COMMENT: In preparation for the development of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2014 Action Plan to be submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the following items are required: 1) the adoption of the 2014 Citizen Participation Plan and 2) the annual designation and appointment of a Citizens' Advisory and Housing Opportunity Committee.

HUD requires each jurisdiction that receives formula grants through its Community Development Block Grant Program to prepare and adopt a Citizen Participation Plan. The Plan provides guidelines for the participation of citizens in determining the use of CDBG funds. This Plan is reviewed annually for necessary revisions prior to Council's adoption of the CDBG Action Plan. In 2000, the adopted Citizen Participation Plan incorporated numerous revisions to bring it into compliance with Federal regulations. Since 2000, only minor revisions to update the information have been necessary and the same is being recommended for the 2014 Citizen Participation Plan (Attachment 1). Revisions are highlighted in bold font in the attachment and consist of changing scheduling dates and additions of program activity (Attachment 2).

The 2013 Citizen Participation Plan adopted by the City Council established a committee of seven (7) members (this has been the number since the original Citizen Participation Plan was adopted in 1981). The Citizen Participation Plan places particular emphasis on obtaining representation of low and moderate income persons residing in slum and blight areas, members of minority groups, the elderly, the disabled, and residents of areas where use of funds is proposed.

All seven members of the 2013 committee have expressed their willingness to serve as 2014 committee members:

Pat Contreras  
John Dennis  
Doug Heusdens  
Kelle Jo Lowe  
Grace Munoz-Rios  
Linda Olmedo  
Rebecca Vigil

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The 2014 Action Plan is in the process of being developed by staff in accordance with the Five Year Consolidated Plan (2010 - 2015) adopted by the City Council in May 2010. It is anticipated that expenditures for activities will be consistent with past experience. Almost half of the entitlement will be allocated to the debt service for the Section 108 loan for the Heritage Center, and the balance of the entitlement and program income will be allocated between the programs adopted in the Five Year Consolidated Plan, which include the Housing Rehabilitation Program, the First Time Low Income Homebuyer Program, the Public Utility Assistance Program, the Homebuyer Education Program, Permanent Supportive Housing Program for the Homeless, the Neighborhood Improvement Program, the Park Improvement Program, the Business Assistance Program, and the Porterville Youth Center. As is typical of each year, not all programs in the Consolidated Plan would be allocated funding.

The Citizens' Advisory and Housing Opportunity Committee will meet in March to hold a Public Hearing on the proposed 2014 Action Plan. The Plan will then be available for a 30 day public comment period and will be taken to the City Council for final adoption in May.

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council:

1. Adopt the 2014 Citizen Participation Plan; and
2. Appoint existing committee members Pat Contreras, John Dennis, Doug Heusdens, Kelle Jo Lowe, Grace Muños-Rios, Linda Olmedo, and Rebecca Vigil, to the Citizens' Advisory and Housing Opportunity Committee for a one-year term.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft 2014 Citizen Participation Plan
2. Citizen Participation Schedule 2014

## **CITY OF PORTERVILLE**

### **2014 CITIZENS' ADVISORY AND HOUSING OPPORTUNITY COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION PLAN**

This Plan describes how the City of Porterville will involve citizens in the planning, implementation, and assessment of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnership Act (HOME) Programs. The funds must be used for projects which benefit low and moderate income persons and/or aid in the elimination or prevention of slum and blight. These programs are intended to assist cities in undertaking neighborhood improvement, economic development, and homeowner assistance programs. Program regulations give ultimate responsibility for the design and implementation of the program to local elected officials, and also require that citizens be given an opportunity to serve in a key advisory role to these elected officials.

#### **ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

To ensure that Porterville residents are given a full opportunity to participate in the Program, a Citizens' Advisory Committee was established in 1981 to function in an advisory capacity to the Mayor and Council regarding program design, implementation, and assessment. This Committee consists of seven (7) residents of the City, appointed annually by the Mayor and City Council. Citizens and civic organizations are urged to make recommendations for appointments prior to February 4. The Committee has been responsible for making recommendations on allocation of the City's multi-purpose Community Development Block Grant since 1981/82. The Committee has provided direction in establishing the Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program (HRLP) and other worthwhile projects under the CDBG Entitlement Cities and HOME Programs which have benefitted low and moderate income households within the city of Porterville. In addition to the HRLP, the Committee has recommended the establishment of several revolving loan funds since 1982, including the Sewer and Water Connection Fund, the Underground Utility Connection Fund (merged in 2000 into one fund known as the Public Utilities Revolving Loan Fund), the First-Time Low-Income Home Buyer Program, and the Business Assistance Program. The Committee has also recommended the allocation of funds toward remodeling the Santa Fe Plaza Senior Citizens Center, an inventory of Industrial Land Resources, the Low Income Residential Smoke Detector Installation Program, the Porterville Enterprise Zone Area Infrastructure Improvement Program, the rehabilitation of the Porterville and Glennwood Hotels, the opening of the Porterville Youth Center, and four targeted Curb, Gutter, Sidewalk and Street Light Neighborhood Improvement Projects, Lime Street Park Improvement Project, and Santa Fe Facility Improvement Project. In addition, the Committee has supported the establishment of economic development programs and public improvement activities such as the completion of the Heritage Center with Section 108 Loan Guarantee funds. Several years ago, the Committee recommended the establishment of the Homebuyer Education Program and the Murry Park Improvement Project. An expansion to the Park Improvement Program was approved in 2010 to include the Lime Street Neighborhood Park.

The City has taken steps to secure the services of concerned individuals to form the Advisory Committee for the purposes of program model design, implementation, assessment, and

**ATTACHMENT  
ITEM NO. 1**

development of the Community Development Block Grant Program under the Entitlement Cities criteria. The City places particular emphasis on obtaining representation of low and moderate income persons residing in slum and blight areas, members of minority groups, the elderly and persons with disabilities, and residents of areas where use of funds are proposed. In continuing its efforts to serve the needs of the public, the City Council has expanded the role of the Committee to incorporate efforts to expand housing opportunities, thereby changing the name to the Citizens' Advisory and Housing Opportunity Committee.

## **SCOPE OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

Citizens will be involved in all stages of the Community Development Block Grant Program, including the development of the consolidated plan, inclusive of the annual action plan, substantial amendments to the plan, program implementation, assessment of performance, and design of the citizen participation plan. Mechanisms for citizen involvement include: The Citizens' Advisory and Housing Opportunity Committee, public hearings and ad hoc community meetings, individual citizen efforts in the form of comments, complaints, or inquiries submitted directly to the Mayor and/or Community Development Department, and input through staff-conducted neighborhood surveys. The Community Development Department is located in City Hall, 291 N. Main Street, and the telephone number is (559) 782-7460.

### **Public Hearings**

At least two (2) public hearings, open to the entire community, will be held annually. The hearings will provide an opportunity for citizens to identify community development needs, proposed projects, and assist in the development of an overall strategy for Porterville. The hearings will also be used to solicit comments on the citizen participation plan to determine what, if any, amendments may be in order to make the citizen participation plan more sensitive to local needs and to realign the plan with changes in Federal regulations, and to review the HUD annual community assessment, if available. The hearings will be held in February or March and April or May of each program year.

### **Consolidated Plan**

Participation in the development of the consolidated plan, inclusive of the annual action plan, will occur as follows: at least one (1) public hearing will be held before the proposed consolidated plan is published for comment. Before the City adopts a consolidated plan, the City will make available to citizens, public agencies, and other interested parties information that includes the amount of assistance the jurisdiction expects to receive and the range of activities that may be undertaken, including the amount that will benefit persons of very low and low income.

The City will ensure that plans will be available to minimize the displacement of persons and to assist any persons displaced according to Federal Regulation standards.

A summary of the proposed use of CDBG funds and, when applicable, HOME funds, will be made available in Spanish, which is the predominate non-English language spoken in Porterville, at all public hearings.

Advisory Committee proposals and comments, with regard to development of the consolidated plan, will be obtained at Committee meetings or hearings scheduled either at the request of Committee members or program officials. The public is invited to attend these meetings.

The public will be notified of the period, not less than thirty (30) days, in which to receive comments from citizens on the consolidated plan. Any comments or views of citizens received in writing or orally at the public meetings will be considered. A summary of these comments or views, and a summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons therefore, will be attached to the final consolidated plan.

### **Amendments**

In the case of proposed substantial amendments to the consolidated plan, the City shall provide reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment on substantial amendments. The public will be notified of the period, not less than thirty (30) days, in which to receive comments on the substantial amendments before the amendment is implemented. The meetings regarding the proposed amendments are not required to be public hearings, but will be open to the public to attend. The City will consider any comments or views of citizens received in writing, or orally at public hearings, if any, in preparing the substantial amendment of the consolidated plan. A summary of these comments or views, and a summary of any comments or views not accepted, and the reasons therefore, will be attached to the substantial amendment of the consolidated plan.

Amendments to the plan will be necessary whenever one of the following decisions is made:

- 1) To make a substantial change in the allocation priorities or a substantial change in the method of distribution of funds;
- 2) To carry out an activity using funds from any program covered by the consolidated plan (including program income) not previously described in the consolidated plan; or
- 3) To substantially change the purpose, scope, location, or beneficiaries of an activity.

### **Performance Report**

Reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment on performance reports will be given to the public. The public will be notified of the period, not less than fifteen (15) days, in which to receive comments from citizens on the performance report that is to be submitted to HUD before its submission. Any comments or views of citizens received in writing or orally at public meetings will be considered, and a summary of the comments and views will be attached to the performance report.

## **Citizen Participation Plan**

The Annual Action Plan includes noticing and public hearings. All meetings and hearings are publicized in accordance with applicable HUD, state and local regulations. Specifically the Action Plan includes community meetings, public noticing for 30 days, and a public hearing. The City will provide citizens a reasonable opportunity to comment on amendments or revisions to the citizen participation plan and will make the plan public.

## **Other Methods of Participation**

Informal, individual contact with citizens, initiated either by citizens or program officials, will also provide input to the consolidated plan. For example, an individual may contact the Community Development Department at (559) 782-7460 to request consideration of a special project; or program officials may seek the opinion of local business persons as to the need for commercial revitalization.

Program officials will also be available to advise citizens of the procedures for filing objections to the consolidated plan with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Area Office. Citizen participation in program implementation will occur primarily through consultation with the Citizens' Advisory and Housing Opportunity Committee. Citizens will be asked to review and comment on specific strategies for approved projects. They will also meet to review any substantial program amendments. All such changes will be discussed with the committee and their comments considered prior to the City taking final action. These meetings will be held on an as-needed basis.

Program assessment activities by citizens will occur in a variety of ways. Citizens will have the opportunity to comment on the City's performance for the prior program year during the public hearings for the consolidated and action plan adoption. The public will also be notified of the public comment period for the annual performance report before its submission to HUD.

The Citizens' Advisory and Housing Opportunity Committee shall function as a forum for public participation in the City's efforts to affirmatively further fair housing. Prior to the submission of the consolidated plan, the Committee shall discuss and recommend for Council adoption suggested methods of furthering fair housing. As part of the orientation to the program offered at the public hearing, citizens will be invited to submit comments on all aspects of program performance throughout the program year.

Public comments or complaints regarding the consolidated plan, substantial amendments to the plan, the performance report, or the citizen participation plan should be submitted in writing to the Community Development Director, City of Porterville, 291 N. Main Street, Porterville, CA 93257. If a public hearing is held, comments should be submitted within fifteen (15) working days from the date of the public hearing. A timely, substantive written response will be provided by the City within fifteen (15) working days. If the response is unsatisfactory, correspondence may then be addressed directly to the Mayor, City of Porterville, 291 N. Main Street, Porterville, CA 93257. The Mayor shall respond within fifteen (15) working days. If the citizen is still dissatisfied, he/she should write to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Area Office, 600 Harrison Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, San Francisco, CA 94107-1300 requesting investigation of the issue. Program staff will also be available during normal business hours to respond to citizen inquiries.

## **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

Citizen organizations, non-profit organizations, and groups of low/moderate income persons or target area residents may propose their own specific program(s). The proposal for a specific program should include the program's design, its budget, and the scope of proposed activities. Also, the proposal should identify the specific individuals anticipated to carry out activities and provide a summary of their experience and training.

Technical assistance which may be provided by City staff is limited to proposals that are considered eligible uses of CDBG funds, and not intended to assist citizen organizations, non-profit organizations, and groups of low/moderate income persons or target area residents applying for funding from other grant sources. The Citizens' Advisory and Housing Opportunity Committee may direct staff to provide technical assistance that may consist of staff or local expert presentations, informational handouts, research of a specific issue, or other short-term efforts.

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION**

The City will also undertake the following public information efforts to promote citizen participation:

- The public noticing pertaining to the community meetings, Council work session and public hearing are published in both English and Spanish. Public notices of all public hearings will be published in the *Porterville Recorder* and *Noticiero Semanal* at least ten (10) days before the scheduled hearing. These notices will indicate the date, time, location, and topics to be considered. Upon notification, arrangements will be made by the City to accommodate persons with disabilities. The public notices also will be made available in the form of press releases and as a public service announcement to local radio stations. Public hearing notices will indicate that summary statements of projected use of CDBG and/or HOME funds will be available in Spanish, the predominant non-English language spoken within the city. Additional efforts will be made by providing notices to our local non-profit partners to share and publish for public viewing, and publishing on the City website which includes the Agenda and meeting minutes.
- Notices will also be published in the *Porterville Recorder* to notify the public of the period, not less than thirty (30) days for the consolidated plan or substantial amendments to the plan, or fifteen (15) days for the performance report, in which to receive comments from citizens before submission of the plan or report to HUD. All notices will include information that complete copies of the proposed plan or report will be available for public review at City Hall, 291 N. Main Street

or at the City Library at 41W.Thurman Avenue. A reasonable number of free copies of the plan or report will be provided to citizens and groups that request it.

- Orientation information will be provided at the first public hearing conducted by the Citizens' Advisory and Housing Opportunity Committee. City staff will make a presentation which covers: the total amount of funds available and the basis for award; the range of eligible activities and those previously funded in the community; the planning process and the schedule of meetings and hearings; the role of citizens in the program, a summary of other important program requirements, such as: environmental policies, fair housing provisions, and contracting procedures. Some of these topics will be covered in written materials.
- A public file containing program documentation for the preceding five (5) years will be available for review at City Hall during normal business hours. Included will be copies of the consolidated plan, environmental review record, the citizen participation plan, and the consolidated annual performance evaluation report. Other program documents are also available for citizen review on request at City Hall consistent with applicable State and local laws regarding personal privacy and obligations of confidentiality. Upon request, materials will be made available in a form accessible to persons with disabilities.



**CITIZENS' ADVISORY AND HOUSING  
OPPORTUNITY COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION PLAN  
SCHEDULE 2014**

Advisory Committee Meetings	Annually or as deemed necessary by Committee
Public Hearings (2)	<b>March - May 2014</b>
Adoption of Action Plan	<b>May 2014</b>
Submission of Action Plan	<b>May 2014</b> (date is determined by HUD)

City Council hearings, unless otherwise specified, will be held in the City Hall Council Chambers at 6:30 p.m.

Citizens' Advisory Committee meetings and/or hearings, unless specified otherwise, will be held in the Hamamatsu Conference Room in City Hall at 5:30 p.m.